

"was raised to five years, and in 1887 to fifteen. * * *

"The effect of the legislation of 1890 and subsequent years down to 1894 has been to debar any immigrant from acquiring the right to vote for the First Volksraad until he has passed the age of forty and resided for at least twelve years in the country after taking the oath. * * *

"President Kruger hated all foreigners and foreign ways, seeing in them the ruin of the ancient customs of his people. * * *

All sorts of abuses sprang up, while the primary duties of a Government were very imperfectly performed. * * *

When 100,000 white immigrants were congregated along the Witwatersrand, and were employing some 60,000 native work people, an efficient police, an abundant water supply, good sanitary regulations and laws to keep liquor from the natives became urgently needed; and none of these things were provided, although taxation continued to rise and the Treasury was overflowing.

"All the Uitlanders had substantial grievances to redress. Food was inordinately dear. * * * Water supply, police, sanitation were all neglected. * * *

"There was also much opposition among the legal profession, Dutch as well as English, for attacks had been made upon the independence of the judiciary, and the reckless conduct of legislation gave displeasure."

I cheerfully rest my case against the Boer Government upon this description of it by Mr. Bryce. Is there any man who knows what freedom and justice and progress mean, who could be content to live under such a government; to have the laws to which he must submit made and administered by such people?

I am often asked by my American friends why it is, if England is right, that Mr. Bryce, one of ourselves, (who is accepted in the United States as an able and impartial historian), declares the war to be an unjust one provoked by Great Britain. I see the difficulty and deplore it; but I cannot pretend to offer an explanation. I can only reply that there are three things I am entirely unable to understand. The first is that any one who has carefully looked into the facts, (which, both as a member of the British Parliament and as a writer on the subject, Mr. Bryce was in duty bound to do), can justify the Boers; the second is that any man with the slightest pretensions to patriotism should, after the die has been cast, deliberately throw his voice and his influence on the side of the enemies of his country; the third is how Mr. Bryce reconciles his former with his present utterances.