

contained also an offer to guarantee the Transvaal against any attack on its independence. On September 27, Mr. Kruger, without replying to this dispatch, mobilised the Boer commandos; on the 29th he took over the railways and expelled the Uitlanders; on October 7 the Reserves were called out in England; on October 11 the Boer Ultimatum was issued.

The pro-Boers were almost silenced for a time. During the earlier stages of the war their efforts were put forth chiefly in the formation of Conciliation Committees and Stop-the-War Societies. Their main line of argument was that war is never necessary, is always unjustifiable; a contention, in any case, discreditable to their intelligence and judgment, and now maintained with a violence which had nothing to do with peace in any true sense of the word. A period of military success followed, and then the General Election. The Liberal Party could never have expected a substantial success, but some impression might have been made upon a majority handicapped by so many miscalculations and disasters. It was a great opportunity for leaders, and the leaders failed lamentably. Mr. Morley had by June come to believe that our Government had practically declared war by calling out the Reserves. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had not yet come to believe anything definitely. The result was that the Government gained the unparalleled success of a second term of office with an undiminished majority, not as the reward of merit, but in recognition of the fact that there was no possible alternative party.

The pro-Boers, exasperated by this failure, passed into a frenzy of unreason; they held meetings at which De Wet was cheered and English generals were hissed; they boasted that they preferred the title of pro-Boer to that of Christian; their Press grasped unscrupulously at the most palpably false accusations not of our politicians but of our soldiers. Anonymous statements were printed alleging orders for "no prisoners" from Lord Kitchener; a proclamation that the nation was "wearying of the war" was founded on a letter from a single Noncon-