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Amnesty for the Boers. The most interesting feature of the debate on the address in the British House of Commons was a vigorous speech by Mr. Chamberlain in defence of the war. The Colonial Secretary intimated that the Boers would be deluded if they concluded from Lord Rosebery's Chesterfield speech, that they could at any time secure a repetition of the terms which had been offered them some time ago by Lord Kitchener. Mr. Chamberlain added, however, that the Government's policy was not one of extermination. It was not proposed that there should be a general confiscation of property, and while justice would be meted out for military offences and other crimes, there would be large amnesty, and the Government would expect to extend to the conquered people full political rights as soon as practicable. There was no foundation, Mr. Chamberlain said, for the reports that overtures for peace had been made by the Boer envoys.

Boers and Filipinos. There appear to be a good many people in the United States who are very anxious that Great Britain shall be set right in respect to her treatment of the Boers in South Africa, but who see nothing to find fault with in the action of the United States toward the Filipinos. Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, however, is evidently not of that sort. He has been telling Congress that the nation is "fighting a Christian people for their independence in the Philippines," and is "engaged in the unholy office of crushing out a republic—the first great republic ever established in the Eastern Hemisphere." Senator Hoar does not accept the view that the war with the Filipinos was thrust upon the United States, but charges the Government with having brought it on, and with having broken faith with the Filipinos who, he asserts, were promised their independence through General Anderson, an accredited representative of the United States Government. Mr. Hoar is also of the opinion that the national honor demands a rigid investigation into the conduct of the war in the Philippines. "I get some dreadful stories," he is reported as saying, "from brave soldiers and officers of high rank about the manner in which the war is being conducted. I have heard of an investigation going on in regard to one transaction, which, if true, has covered with a foul blot the flag which we all love and honor." Many people whose ears are wide open to every most absurd story of British injustice and cruelty toward the Boers are of course utterly deaf to these responsible words of one of the most eminent and honorable men of their nation, seriously and deliberately spoken in his place in Congress. Whatever may be the ultimate verdict of history as to the necessity or the justice of the Boer war, it would seem impossible that any well informed and impartial observer of events could deny that Great Britain's right of interference in the Transvaal is much more apparent than that of the United States in the Philippines.

Cause of Consumption. No doubt but that the practice of dealing with consumption as if it were not at all contagious has been altogether a mistake, and is in some measure responsible for the prevalence of that terribly fatal disease. The isolation of consumptive patients and the observance of other safe-guards against contagion, which physicians now generally advise, are doubtless wise and should be adopted so far as practicable. At the same time it seems to us highly probable that the danger from contagion has been exaggerated and that there is little ground for the panicky fear of consumption which exists in some quarters, as if it were necessary for persons in good

health to avoid intercourse with tuberculous patients as they would persons suffering with scarlet fever or the smallpox. The Toronto Globe calls attention to a recent article on this subject in the Dominion Medical Monthly, in which the writer antagonizes that view of consumption which tends to produce an hysterical dread in the public mind which would ostracise persons afflicted with the disease as if smitten with leprosy. The writer emphasizes the influence of constitutional predisposition in the spread of consumption, and expresses the belief that thorough enquiry will show that a person in normal health is practically free from liability to infection. Persons who have given much attention to the matter will doubtless be able to recall many facts of experience which go to support this conclusion. 'Among the victims of consumption,' to quote from the Globe, 'there is a small group with inherited predisposition, and so weak in their powers of normal resistance to the invasion of the disease that with all the advantages of good homes, good food and freedom from exposure they are almost sure to develop consumption. The great body of tuberculous patients are those who, with or without hereditary taint, are compelled to spend a large portion of their time in ill-ventilated workshops or bedrooms, perhaps in both. In such people a pre-tubercular condition appears, the resisting power is lessened, and infection, impossible under healthy conditions, readily takes place. The removal of persons afflicted with the disease will effect some cures, will prolong the lives of others, and will provide needed care and attention for those whose recovery is seen to be impossible. But it is contended that the influence of such isolation in preventing the spread of the disease must be comparatively slight. The writer holds that isolation, if possible, would be unnecessary, and that the only means of attacking the disease with the idea of diminishing its prevalence is by preventing people from falling into such a condition as to admit of infection. The whole tenor of the article impresses the need of dealing with those who are not tuberculous, and thus lessening susceptibility to infection. To that end the writer advocates the strict enforcement of factory acts and building regulations, and the enactment of legislation preventing overcrowding in boarding and tenement houses. He also gives some needed advice against the unnecessary agitation and alarm which have been spread abroad with regard to the danger of infection.'

Dairy School Instruction. The Provincial Dairy School work which is being carried on in New Brunswick under the direction of Hon. L. P. Farris, Commissioner of Agriculture for the Province, should prove a valuable factor in promoting intelligent methods and satisfactory results in an important branch of agricultural industry. The school is located at Sussex, with Mr. Harvey Mitchell as resident Superintendent. There are four other instructors and the courses include Butter Making; Cheese Making; Separators and Boilers; Milk Testing; and Animal Husbandry. There are two courses, the Factory Course beginning February 25th, and closing March 26th, and the Home Dairy Course beginning February 25th, and closing March 7th. In the Factory Course theoretical and practical instruction is given in Cheese Making, Cream Separation, Butter Making, Milk Testing, Preparation and Use of Starters, Factory Records and Accounts, and the management and care of Engines, Boilers, etc. Before entering upon this course students are advised to spend at least one season in a cheese factory or creamery, as students who have no practical experience are not considered competent to manage either a cheese factory or

creamery. The Home Dairy Course is intended especially for those who are engaged in the manufacture of butter in a private dairy. Instruction will be given in the handling of Cream Separators, Butter Workers, Babcock Milk Tester, etc. Ladies are especially invited to take this course. The teaching will be free to all students from the Maritime Provinces. Certificates of standing will be given to those who pass all prescribed, written and practical examinations, and manage a creamery or cheese factory successfully for one season after taking the course. The number of pupils for the course is limited to sixty. For admission to the school the applicant must be not less than seventeen years of age, be able to read and write and have some knowledge of arithmetic. Applications for admission are to be addressed to Superintendent of the Dairy School, Sussex, N. B.

An Important Capture. The most important recent news from South Africa is the capture, reported by a note from Lord Kitchener, dated January 26, of the Boer General Viljoen. Concerning the capture, which occurred in the neighborhood of Lydenburg, in the Transvaal Colony, no particulars are given. It does not appear that any large number of the Burghers were taken, though the surrender of small bodies of the enemy is reported from time to time. Viljoen has been regarded as one of the ablest of the Boer leaders, and his capture must be a rather serious blow to their cause. With the gradual weakening of the Boer forces in the field, it would appear that the disposition to make peace is strengthening among those who have surrendered. A despatch from Pretoria of January 25 states that Lord Kitchener has authorized General Vilonel, a surrendered Burgher, to raise an additional Boer corps of 1500 men. General Vilonel is said to have written a note to ex-President Steyn warning the latter of his intention to form such a corps, and adding that the Boers in the concentration camps are tired of the useless struggle and are determined to help the British end it.

The Prince of Wales in Germany. The Prince of Wales went to Berlin on Saturday last to be present at the German Court as representative of King Edward at the celebration of the Emperor's birthday on Monday. According to the despatches the Prince was received with the greatest cordiality and even elaborate attention by the Emperor and the Royal family. But so far as the German people generally were concerned, the reception was characterized by a chilliness that might be felt. No overt act of ill-feeling was indulged in, but the people indicated their attitude toward the Prince and his nation by a silence and absence of all enthusiasm, which in the usually demonstrative Germans might be regarded as very expressive. To Prince George this chilling reception must have appeared in marked contrast to the enthusiasm which his presence everywhere evoked during his recent colonial tour.

—It is gratifying to observe that some men of wealth are devoting a portion of their means to the support of efforts which look to the deliverance of the world from that terrible foe of the white race—consumption. It is reported that Hon. E. N. Bronson of Ottawa, has given a considerable sum to McGill University for investigation into the causes and cure of tuberculosis. The sum of £200,000 placed by Sir Ernest Cassel in the hands of King Edward for philanthropic purposes, will be expended, it is said, in the establishment of a hospital for consumptives.