

into the Transvaal believing that the Conventions secured them the ordinary rights of citizens in civilized States. Such guarantees can best be afforded by the presence of the British flag and by the permanent establishment of British principles, as practised successfully in Cape Colony and Natal. Only by effective control over the government of the Transvaal and Free State can we prevent the accumulation of arms and stores to be used against us. Not again shall we make a stick for our own back in South Africa. The peaceful inhabitants of Natal and Cape Colony are entitled to demand, and assuredly they will have no need to emphasise the demand, that they shall be protected for all time against such irruptions as they are now exposed to. Have the magnanimity mongers no thought for the duties of an Empire towards its citizens? Have such citizens fewer and weaker claims than those who have warred against us with the insane idea of usurping the place we hold under "the divine right of good government?"

On the authority of Lord Kimberley we have learned that the "magnanimity" of 1881 bore a striking likeness to pusillanimity. Mr. Balfour aptly remarks that as we have ignored the element of fear and exaggerated that of generosity in the 1881 settlement, it is not surprising if the Boers have reversed the process. They have misgoverned and set the Conventions at naught because they believed no one dare say them nay. The shame of misusing the liberties granted in 1881 falls on the Boers; but the shame will be ours if we give a second opportunity to those who do not know how to use it. If fear were the determining motive of the fatuous policy of 1881, we have no such motive now, and Lord Kimberley deserves our gratitude for showing plainly that the inspiration of those days is the very last by which we should now be guided. The people "rightly struggling to be free" have proved themselves consistently antagonistic to freedom in others. What we gave them they have refused to our subjects within their borders. Our aversion to "blood-guiltiness" has not been shared by those who benefited by it. Where we sowed peace we have reaped war; where we sowed freedom the crop has been tyranny. The tares have swallowed up the grain, and it is our task to clear the ground for a more hopeful harvest. Leave one root of corruption, and the baneful weeds will spread and flourish again. Unless we are to connive at everything we have protested against for years past, to welcome and encourage the evils that have come to a head in a devastating war, we must make a complete end of every vestige of the Transvaal Government as we have known it. To restore authority to those who have misused it, to leave in untrustworthy hands the power to wreck at will the peace and harmony of our Colonies, would be a political crime, with consequences more terrible than those flowing from the pusillanimity of 1881. The country must look to it that no such crime is consecrated with the blood of our soldiers."

As we go to press, a cablegram from London states that Ladysmith has been relieved by General Clery, and a small army of Boers captured. The news is very palatable, and is being swallowed with an evident mental relish by crowds of readers of the bulletin boards. Verification of the welcome story by the War Office will cause great rejoicing in every part of British Empire, and we hope the coming day may bring confirmation of such glad tidings from the seat of war.

LET US BE READY.

When our volunteers for the defense of the Empire were leaving for South Africa, we ventured to say that the services of her sons are appreciated in the Motherland, and that the time was opportune for Canada to equip a second contingent ready for service.

The "Times" now says:—"At least 30,000 additional men must be sent out. The entire available reserve must be called up and the militia and volunteers turned to account. Efforts must be made to increase the local colonial forces, and further offers of troops from Canada and other colonies must be sought and accepted."

If the Empire requires further aid, let us be ready.

MUNICIPAL EXEMPTIONS.

The question of municipal exemptions goes to the root of such institutions, and involves principles upon which any rational system of political economy must be based. There are some persons who hold that a majority of the rate payers in any municipality ought to have the right and the power to levy taxes, or incur obligations for any purpose which they, as a majority, desire to carry out. The municipal legislation passed by different legislative bodies in Canada, and by the Imperial Parliament, is, to a large extent, directed to the establishment of regulations in restraint of the power of majorities either of the rate payers at large or of city councils, over the pockets of their fellow-citizens. Under the wide franchise which prevails so generally it is frequently the case that a numerical majority of municipal voters represents chiefly those who will contribute a small proportion of the cost of some popular scheme, while they will reap by far the larger part of any benefits it may confer. On the other hand, those voters who will pay the bulk of the cost of such a scheme may object to it as imprudent and as calculated to confiscate property without any compensation to the owners. The bonusing of manufacturing enterprises out of civic taxes, or, adding to a municipal debt for this purpose, is especially open to these objections, as it is to others of a deeper nature. As illustrative of the necessity of restraining popular majorities, we may point out that this city, at the last meeting of the Provincial Legislature, introduced legislation to prevent adjoining municipalities from granting a bonus to manufacturing concerns. This was found necessary to restrain those suburban municipalities from drawing any factories which already exist in this city, by