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TALK TO AMERICANS

Why They Should Mind Their Own Business

AND NOT INTERFERE

With Great Britain's Efforts for Liberty and Justice in South Africa.

New York, October 11.—The New York Journal has given the advocates of interference by the United States in the Transvaal a bad black eye. It says, editorially, under the heading "Let Us Mind Our Own Business" —

The editor of the Journal has been requested to sign a petition to President McKinley urging him to interfere between England and the Boers, to use the influence of the United States to prevent England from interfering in Boer arrangements.

The editor of the Journal declines. He believes that interference by England is legitimate, that civilization and progress demand it. This belief is based on the following facts:

The constitution and laws of the Transvaal, which really reflect the personal wishes and religious prejudices of Paul Kruger and a few other Dutchmen forbid any Catholic to share in the law making for the country. England demands that this discrimination against Catholics cease.

The Transvaal laws forbid any Jew to share the law making power. England demands this discrimination against the Jews cease.

There are 250,000 whites in the so-called Boer Republic, but only 60,000 are Boers.

The Boers declare that they are "merely asking the right to live." What they really ask is the right of six men to tyrannize over a majority of 60,000 to rule 200,000, and to rule them unjustly.

The Boer attitude is not a demand for freedom. It is strictly an attitude of denying freedom to others. The Boer bosses controlled by Kruger maintain a government by trustocracy, an aristocracy based on birth—Dutch birth.

If the Dutch who settled this island had insisted on keeping the island strictly Dutch; if they had refused to any save Protestant Dutchmen all share in the law-making power; if they had forbidden children in the public schools to be taught anything save Dutch, and miserable, bastard Dutch, they would have acted in America precisely as the Boers are now acting in South Africa.

Could they have hoped to maintain such an attitude? Could civilization, morality, or any form of decency, have justly upheld them merely on the ground that a power greatly superior desired to compel the adoption of common sense methods? The appeal is made and signed by eminent politicians "to save a little Republic from destruction at the hands of a ruthless Empire." Kruger's country is not a Republic. Kruger has been an absolute ruler there for seventy years. All power is his hands, and that of a council of seven. They can and do ignore the laws and orders of even the Upper House of Representatives. The land of the Boers is no Republic. It is a mediaeval, bigotry-ridden Dutch settlement, as great an anachronism as any in existence. This is the question at issue in the Transvaal.

Can six white men arbitrarily tax twenty white men? Can six white men arbitrarily govern twenty white men? Should a settlement of profoundly ignorant Dutch Boers be encouraged in the disfranchisement of Jews and of Catholics and believers in all other religions than that which they inherited with their other prejudices? The Journal thinks not.

Cuba has a population of fewer than two millions. Suppose eight million Americans should ultimately settle there Cuba remaining an independent nation. Suppose the eight million Americans should develop the country, introduce manufactures, open mines, foster commerce, and suppose that nine-tenths of the wealth and nine hundred and ninety-nine one-thousandths of the brains should be American. Suppose the Americans paid nine-tenths of the taxes and yet were denied all place in the levying of the taxes and the passing of laws in the government of the country. Would the United States tolerate this treatment of citizens? Why should the United States demand that England tolerate similar treatment of her citizens?

The Englishman, the American, the Irish, the Scotch, the Jews of various nationalities who have settled in the Transvaal found the Dutch Republic a bankrupt institution. They have made it prosperous. They have made it

ruler, Kruger, a multi-millionaire. They are forbidden to share in the government of the country which they have created.

President Kruger is trying to enforce upon 200,000 progressive, intelligent liberty-loving men the primitive bucolic Dutch ideas which mark the progress of the great trek of which he is a survivor. The idea of liberty entertained by him and his associate bosses is "liberty for the Dutch and for nobody else." His Government is the incarnation of A. P. Aism on a working basis. President McKinley will not interfere to uphold the Dutch bosses in overriding the decisions of their own Supreme Court, in taxing those who are not represented, in oppressing citizens for their religious beliefs.

He will reject any petition to interfere that may be presented. Those politicians who have signed such a petition, setting in dense ignorance of Transvaal matters, will do well "to revise and withdraw their action."

The man of Irish or American birth who has helped build up the Transvaal cannot vote for a member of the First Volksraad. But a pudding-headed Dutch boy sixteen years old can vote for the law maker, provided he has such and such a requisite brand of Dutch blood.

If two hundred thousand Yankees in Central America were ruled by the votes of sixteen-years-old native lads, merely because those lads had parents of such and such a breed; if those Yankees had made the country, would it be unreasonable for this Government to intervene in their behalf?

Can we blame the English for doing what we should do ourselves? The non-Dutch in the Transvaal would be perfectly satisfied if they could be treated as they would be treated under English laws. Can we blame England for asking that the Dutch treat her subjects as well as we treat them?

If a Roman Catholic, a Jew, a Musliman, a Quaker or any other worker comes here, obeys the law and takes out his papers, we give him as much say in our affairs as any one has. We don't say: "You can't vote unless your grandfather was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, unless you have been for thirty years a member of the Dutch Protestant Church."

The Boer system is a dead one. It has got to go anyhow. Our interference would produce no result save making us ridiculous.

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