

no further serious discussion of the Democratic proposal that America should withdraw from the Philippines, and her share in the solution of the grave problems in the Far East will be taken frankly and ungrudgingly. At the same time the interpretation of the Munroe Doctrine will be increased in rigidity, and the disposition of a certain Court to obtain a footing in South America will be frowned down even more effectively.

Though the Chinese must by this time have fairly got to work in the mines of the Rand, we have not heard that the sky has fallen on the Transvaal. A great deal of mischievous nonsense has been written upon this subject, not as affecting the abstract principle of employing yellow in preference to white labour, but about the alleged menace to civilisation involved in the Chinese immigration. The circumstances of the case are less favourable to the Chinese in South Africa than they were in California at any time, and Mr. H. H. Bancroft, the historian of the West, and an acknowledged authority upon Californian affairs, has shown conclusively that the apprehensions of the white population of that State, from the earliest days of the mining boom until now, have never been justified in the slightest degree by the facts. The very qualities that were imputed to the Chinese as faults are those which should have entitled them to benevolent toleration. They do not assimilate with the Europeans, do not ask for the franchise, and desire only to make so much money as will enable them to return to their native land with a competency that we would think exceedingly modest. In return they give labour worth to the community that employs them many times the value of the remuneration paid. The unionist labourer in Africa is not likely to be trained to appreciate the Chinaman, but the presence of the latter

will not, we may safely conclude, provoke a rebellion.

The fiscal reform propaganda makes little or no appreciable progress in Great Britain. Mr. Chamberlain, apparently, has abated none of his zeal and energy in the cause, and he is seconded by many distinguished men, while he has the thinly-veiled support of Mr. Balfour and his Ministerial colleagues. But the opposing party-cry of "no increase in the price of the people's food," has produced the effect it was intended to have, and the sympathy of the working-classes has been largely diverted to the side of men who are not quite worthy of it. It cannot be to the ultimate advantage of any section of the British people, even supposing that some temporary benefit might be obtained, to transfer the helm of state to the hands of the Little Englanders. Our foreign policy is weak and vacillating enough in the care of the Marquis of Lansdowne, but what it would become under the guardian-angelship of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman we might well tremble to think. The alternative presented by the selection of Lord Rosebery for the post is not more encouraging, because in that case there would be the grave possibility of a breach with France. The attitude of the Commonwealth towards Mr. Chamberlain's scheme is somewhat curious. The Federal Government, which is, as we know, the creature of compromise, is virtually pledged to let the tariff dog lie, but the Labour Party, or at least some considerable part of it, including the leader, ex-Premier Watson, favours the principle of Preference. Labour in Australia has nearly always been Protectionist, but the problem of an Imperial tariff has never before been put before the Party in set terms. It will be interesting to watch the contest between the British Radicals and their counterparts on this side of the