The Transvaal last week the South African Republic received a reply from Mr. Chamberlain, British Colonial Secretary, to the proposals of the Transvaal's Government made on September 2. It is understood that the Transvaal proposals for a five years' retroactive franchise, a share for Outlanders in the election of the President and equal rights, and increased representation for the gold fields to the extent of eight new seats, are now withdrawn. Great Britain rejected all the Boer proposals made on the assumption that the Transvaal is a sovereign international State. The Government, therefore, is unable to consider any proposal made conditionally on the acceptance of this view." Great Britain will accept the offers taken by themselves, provided the inquiry proposed shows that they are not encumbered with conditions which would nullify the intention to give immediate representation to the Outlanders. Then follows a well-put clause in which Great Britain assumes that the new members of the Volksraad will be permitted to use their own language. The acceptance of these terms, it is added, would immediately remove the tension and probably render unnecessary any further intervention by Great Britain to secure the redress of the grievances, which the Outlanders would then be able to bring to the notice of the
Transvaal had been refused consideration; and expresses entire willingness for a Joint Commission or for arbitration.

A Possible Armed Conflict In the event of war, the Boers declare that an offensive and defensive treaty between the Transvaal and the Orange Free State will compel the latter to furnish troops. They furthermore declare that to the forty thousand Transvaal burghers and the thirty thousand from the Orange Free State there will be added ninety thousand from Cape Colony, thus precipitating a general conflagration throughout South Africa. The Boers add that these Dutch Afrikanders are essentially one people, and that they will fight to the last gasp. They do not deny that Great Britain may ultimately conquer them, but in this case it will be by the utter ravaging of the country and by the practical extermination of every loyal Afrikander. In saying this the Boers are quite conscious of the fact that their prowess at Laingsnek and at Majuba Hill dictated the terms of the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, terms which certainly were a setback and a humiliation to British "forward" policy. Again, the facts that the Boers know every inch of their country thoroughly, that they are not only the bravest of fighters but are also the most astute in the conduct of guerrilla warfare, and, above all, that they are unexcelled marksmen, make it necessary for their adversary to have at least the showing of great numbers. Therefore England is now getting together the largest army of white men which she has put into the field since the Crimean campaign. The War Office announces that the total fighting force now in or on its way to South Africa consists of 49,400 men. The remembrance of unreadiness at the beginning of the Indian Mutiny and at the beginning of recent African wars—the Ashanti, the Zulu, and the unsuccessful Gordon relief expedition—has already borne fruit in Lord Kitchener's ideally planned and prosecuted campaign against the Khalifa, and a prodigious effort is being made to have the South African forces equally well equipped. Its reward should be in the greatest triumph yet achieved by British arms—the preservation of peace.

Transvaal Trade Owing to the long-continued tension, trade in the Transvaal is now practically at a standstill, and distress prevails among the poor throughout the country. A despatch from Cape Town says that prices for foodstuffs and other necessaries of life are going up at an alarming rate on the Rand, and that famine threatens persons remaining at Pretoria and Johannesburg. Thousands of people have left the Transvaal since the crisis began. On the Boer side of the Natal frontier camps of refuge have been established in several localities. Large stocks of provisions have been supplied as precaution against starvation in case of war and its consequent long sieges. Mobilization of the Boer Staats Artillery has already begun. The total force of Transvaal fighting men is believed to be in the neighborhood of thirty-five thousand. The mobilization has caused a panic across the frontier in Natal, and many families are leaving so hurriedly as to abandon their household goods. Referring to the distress—commercial, social, and political—on both sides of the frontier, Sir Alfred Milner, British High Commissioner, has telegraphed to his Government as follows:

I am receiving representations from many quarters to urge the Imperial Government to terminate the suspense. British South Africa is prepared for extreme measures, and is ready to suffer much more in order to see the vindication of British authority. It is the prolongation of the negotiations, endless and indecisive, that is dreaded. I fear seriously that there will be a strong reaction of feeling against the policy of the Imperial Government if matters drag. Please understand that I invariably preach confidence and patience, and not without effect. But if I did not inform you of this increasing difficulty of doing this, and of the unmistakable growth of uneasiness about the present situation, and of the desire to see it terminated at any cost, I should be failing in my duty.

The Dérouléde Trial On Monday of this week M. Paul Dérouléde appeared before the French Senate sitting as the High Court of Justice. In architectural surroundings, at least, the occasion was more impressive than was that of the recent court martial at Rennes. Since the beginning of the century the Senate's sessions have been held at the Luxembourg Palace, built by the famous architect Jacques de Brosse for Marie de' Medici.
The court was held in the splendid Senate Chamber itself. About five hundred years ago this court was established. Among its chief judges may be mentioned Louis XIII. himself, and among those arraigned before it, revolutionary characters like Babeuf, Danté, Bouillé, and Drouet; such Napoleonic personages as Polignac and Marshal Ney; the Ministers of Charles X. who precipitated the revolution of 1830; the political offenders of 1834 and 1835: Louis Napoleon himself, after his ill-fated landing at Boulogne in 1840; Second Republic martyrs like Ledru-Rollin and Louis Blanc; Third Republic would-be overthrowers like Boulanger, Rochefort, and Dillon, ten years ago, and now M. Paul Déroulede and his accomplices. They are charged with attempting to overthrow the Republic, supplanting it by another form of government. That form may be imagined when one reads the names of M. Déroulede’s friends also summoned before this bar of justice: Count de Chevilly and M. André Buffet, leaders of the Royalist party; M. Marcel Habert, who, with M. Déroulede, is at the head of the Nationalists; and M. Jules Guérin, chief of the Anti-Semitic League. The last named is still in his house, barricaded against all comers. For a month he has thus defied the Government.

The Dreyfus Affair

In France, the first nation of Europe to allow Jews the rights of citizenship; in France, where one reads on churches and schoolhouses the device, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, a Hebrew has been condemned by a travesty of justice. Nor is that the worst; there is an apparently disheartening symptom of national apathy, namely, in the complete calm that has prevailed since the verdict. Yet the sturdy defenders of justice still persist in their denunciations. One of their leaders, M. Zola, has written an open letter, a worthy pendant to his famous epistle of 1897. The novelist passionately affirms that the court martial’s infamy shall not be final. He warns the Government that—

The Ministry which has forgotten that to govern is to foresee has only to hasten to act if it does not wish to abandon to the good pleasure of Germany the fifth act of the drama—the dénoncément before which every Frenchman should tremble.

The Government, he says, can procure the documents. “Whenever it ventures to ask for those enumerated in the bordereau, they will be given,” and this would furnish the “new fact” required for a second revision before the Court of Cassation. As to the proposed international boycott of the Exposition, much will depend upon the action of the French Government. Despite public calm, the Rennes verdict has really not been ratified by the Government and people of France. The work of militarists and clericals is not the work of the entire people. The best Frenchmen are indignant; so are men everywhere. Great public meetings have been held at London, Brussels, Washington, Chicago, and other places; but it is not thought that these meetings will do lasting good. Disapproval of the verdict, many Dreyfus sympathizers believe, would be more effectively shown by a declination on the part of Dreyfusard exhibitors to send anything to the Paris Exhibition. This course has already been decided on by a number of intending exhibitors. No official action has been taken in this country, and it would be unwise that any should be; it would be an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of another country. However, when Congress next meets, unless the Rennes injustice shall have been nullified, it is said that an effort will be made to have the unexpended balance of our Government’s appropriation for an exhibit at Paris covered back into the Treasury.

William II.

Versus the Agrarians

Last week witnessed an intensification of the conflict between the German Emperor, as King of Prussia, and his recalcitrant Agrarians. William II. is as resolved as ever to prosecute his system of canal-building in Prussia, rightly believing that it will be of signal help to the industrial and commercial development of that country, even if thereby manufacturers gain more than agriculturists. On the other hand, the Agrarians, representing the owners of vast estates, the old Prussian squirearchy, and the farmers, are apparently more frightened than ever at the thought of foreign grain being introduced so easily into the heart.