

**GREAT BRITAIN AND THE DUTCH REPUBLICS.**

In a few issues ago, THE DISPATCH contained an epitome of the first of a series of articles appearing in the London Times, giving a complete history of the relations between Great Britain and the Transvaal and Orange Free State. It ended with the Sand River Convention of 1852, and the Bloenfontein Convention of 1854 by which Great Britain by virtue of a potential authority over the whole, and an established authority over a part, and which was recognized by the acceptance on the part of the Dutch Republics of their independence as a gift from Great Britain, accorded independence to the Republics. It was still contended that the republics lay "within the British sphere of action," and the condition was freedom for blacks and equal rights for whites throughout the conceded territory. "In the case of the Orange Free State, they are believed to have been generally observed and up to the time of the present crisis our relations with that Republic have been almost uniformly good. In the case of the Transvaal the conditions were broken from the beginning. Khanna, the Christian chieftain of Bechuanaland asked for British protection. He said "Their actions" (the Boers) are cruel amongst our black people. We are like money. They sell us and our children." A clergyman of the Dutch church writing in a book published at Utrecht describes the system as "slavery in the fullest sense of the word." The famous Dr. Livingstone gave similar evidence. Moreover Pretorius, the son of the rebel commandant in 1859, seven years after the Sand River Convention was obliged to bring the notices of the local magistrates to the provision against slavery, and to call for its observance.

The provision for freedom of travel and residence in the country for missionaries and traders was also ignored. Traders were fined for publishing descriptions of the trade roads. A law was passed to prevent Englishmen and Germans from holding land. Fights among the Transvaalers led to the country being divided into four republics, and anarchy prevailed for eight years after the grant of independence. There was a quarrel with the Free State and Paul Kruger was commandant of a force led against their Dutch neighbours. In 1864 the government of the South African Republic was established under the presidency of Marthinus Pretorius. Paul Kruger became commandant general. From this time war with the natives in which the Boers got much the worst were of constant occurrence. In 1871 the boundary was under dispute and the President powerless to effect an arrangement of his difficulties, agreed to submit to British arbitration. The result of the award was unsatisfactory to the Boers. Pretorius resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Burgers.

Up to this time there was no development of the Transvaal. There were no bridges, few roads, no public buildings, no telegraphs, no schools. The treasury was always empty. Commerce was carried on by means of barter, and taxes were not collected. Pres. Burgers who was a man of quite a little cultivation did his best to amend matters. He raised a loan in Europe for the part construction of a railway. He engaged a European instructor with the intention of establishing a system of education, but his efforts were about fruitless. Another native war, led by the formidable chief, Sikukuni, broke out. The President led an expedition against the chief, but nothing could keep his men in the field. A heavy war tax was imposed, but could not be collected. The interest on the public debt could not be paid. Administration charges could not be met. The one pound notes issued by the government as currency sank to the value of one shilling. The condition of affairs became utterly desperate. Sikukuni, the Matabelle, the Zulus under Cetewayo were all ready to attack the Transvaal. In its extremity an important section of the country, a section headed by the principal officials, turned to Great Britain for protection. "There can be no doubt in the mind of any one who reads the official report relating to the annexation of the Transvaal that the transaction was carried through on the invitation and with the sympathy of the ruling factions, and it must be remembered that the Transvaal from the beginning of its history had always been ruled by faction. Unanimity in any of its public movements was practically unknown. The English faction, the Dopper faction, and the official faction all favoured annexation. The "Irreconcilable" the back country Boers opposed it. A petition bearing 3000 signatures out of a total white population of 8000 was presented in favour of annexation. The act of annexation, proclaimed on April 12, 1877, was put in operation without force. Shortly afterward, the leading Boer officials, including Paul Kruger, but with one exception of the present commandant, General Joubert, took office under the British government. President Burgers retired to Cape Colony. As the result of annexation the financial difficulties of the Transvaal came to an end. Interest on the public debt was paid. Traders came in to invest capital and energy, under the

guarantee of the British flag. The Zulu war, of which the result was to destroy the military power of the most formidable of the native enemies of the Transvaal, followed in 1879 at a cost of upwards of £6,000,000 to Great Britain. The power of Sikukuni was broken. Certain advantages had been brought by the sacrifice of independence. A monster petition bearing 6500 signatures, many of them having signed the previous petition for annexation was dispatched to England asking that annexation might be cancelled. In 1879, in his Midlothian campaign, Mr. Gladstone condemned the annexation of the Transvaal and pledged himself to repudiate it. Slips containing portions of his speech were circulated in the Transvaal, and were accepted as a direct invitation to revolt. Mr. Gladstone came into power in the spring of 1880. The Boers looked for him to give them their independence, but the British High Commissioner in South Africa was notified that "under no circumstances can the Queen's authority in the Transvaal be relinquished." A great meeting was held. Messrs. Paul Kruger, Pretorius and Joubert were elected a triumvirate to conduct the affairs of government, and on Dec. 16, 1880, the independence of the Transvaal was declared. War followed ending on Feb. 27, 1881, with the British disaster at Majuba Hill. 420 British soldiers were overwhelmed and driven from a strong position by 155 Boers. It was taken for proved that the Transvaal desired to be independent and the country was given back to them. Certain conditions were attached to the retro-cession. The Transvaal was not to be entirely independent. It was to have internal self-government, subject to the suzerainty of the British crown. White men of all nationalities were to have equal rights with the Transvaal burghers to reside, travel and carry on business in the country and were to be subject to no special taxation. Black men were to have freedom. At that time equality of political rights prevailed, and Mr. Kruger, spokesman for the Transvaal undertook that political equality should be maintained, and satisfied with his assurances the British negotiators failed to require that an express provision regarding political rights should be inserted in the Convention signed August 1881. The first breach of the Convention was when the Boers established in Bechuanaland two republics, known as Stellaland and Gopher. It was found necessary to send out an expedition under Sir Charles Warren, which settled the matter without fighting in 1885. This breach of the Convention cost Great Britain £2000,000 in money. In 1883 a deputation from the Transvaal visited England with a view of getting relief from some of the conditions of the Convention which they thought onerous. They asked for entire independence, but were informed that the right of the Queen to veto their foreign treaties must be maintained. Minor points were conceded and a second Convention was signed on Feb. 27, 1884. It maintained the condition of the treaty of 1881 regarding the rights of aliens, the rights of natives, freedom of religion. "There has been much discussion as to whether a direct expression of the suzerainty of the crown was or was not retained in the modified Convention. The discussion may be dismissed as beside the mark for there is no question that, whether the preamble containing the word was retained or eliminated, the substance expressed by the word was definitely retained." Mr. Kruger was pleased with this Convention and in the London newspapers invited Englishmen to settle in the Transvaal, promising them a welcome and protection. The Boers failed to observe this treaty, as they had failed to observe the previous treaties. They invaded Zululand and Swaziland. A special clause of the Convention guarded the independence of this latter native state. In 1890 they tried to establish a Boer republic in chartered territories. The High Commissioner and Dr. Jameson foiled this attempt meeting the Boers, with a body of British Bechuanaland police, and informing Kruger that for his people to cross the Limpopo would mean war. Remember the Convention of 1884 had laid down a frontier which the Transvaal bound itself faithfully to respect. In 1885 things had become as bad as possible again. Mr. Joubert charged Kruger with an anti-English retrogression policy, which was ruining the country. Taxes were not paid and bankruptcy seemed inevitable. Then came the discovery of the Johannesburg gold fields. Matters were changed. In 1884 the Transvaal owed £396,000, the revenue of the country was £143,000, expenditure £184,000. In 1897, the revenue had risen to £4,480,000, the expenditure was £4,394,000, and interest on the debt, which in 1894 could not be paid, and was now £3000,000 was of course assured. The immense mining development has been by the Uitlanders, the Boers had no part in it, nor have they permitted the Uitlanders to take any part in the administration of the country. The Uitlander population before the war was supposed to outnumber the Boer population by over two to one. Their money was taken to build forts, to buy ammunition, and pay soldiers who have been fighting the British in this war, declared by President Kruger.

T. Milburn & Co.,—Your Rheumatic Pills did me more good than any other remedy, and I consider them a perfect cure for Rheumatism. Mrs. Joseph Pearce, Collingwood, Ont.

**Mr. Brittain's Mill.**

To the Editor of The Dispatch:—

BRISTOL, March 10th, 1900.

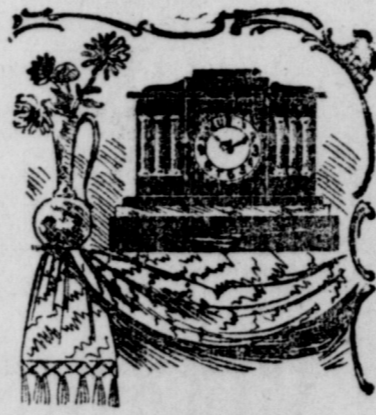
I have seen some reports of a discussion that took place in the legislature in regard to the bonus for a wheat mill in this section of Carleton County and in one report which I read in THE DISPATCH of the 7th inst. H. H. McCain, M. P. P., is reported as saying that the bonus was not given to Brittain because "Brittain's water power was not sufficient and he declined to guarantee to increase it." Now I have the following statement to make and I make it not with any hopes of inducing the government to give me the bonus but merely in the interest of truth and justice so that the people who are the most interested in the establishment of a roller mill for the grinding of wheat in this vicinity may be able to judge between the representatives of the government and myself as to the facts of the matter. Mr. McCain told me in my own mill in the presence of my son before the last general local election to go on and make my preparations and he would see that I would get the bonus. Some time after this and before said election I met him on the platform at Florenceville station and he said "my brother tells me that you think I will not favour you in getting the bonus but I tell you now I will do all I can for you." No word was said about my power not being sufficient at any time by Mr. McCain. On the strength of Mr. McCain's promises I procured the lumber necessary and built a reserve dam. After the election in question Mr. McCain in conversation with McEwen, traveller for Greey, to whom I expected to give my order for the rollers for the wheat run, said he would not give the bonus to me for some reason but would give it to my son. My son in company with McEwen at once waited on Mr. McCain and Mr. McCain would give them no satisfaction whatever. Mr. Smith who was at that time a representative of the county also told me to put in my application for the bonus and he would do all he could for me. These are the facts in regard to this matter as between myself and the gentlemen I have named representing the government in this county.

I may say further and those who know me I am sure will have no hesitation in believing the statement, that I have no intention of spending eighty per cent. for the purpose of obtaining a bonus of twenty per cent. in an enterprise of this kind without knowing that I have sufficient power to run it. This section of country needs an improved mill for grinding wheat and with your permission, Mr. Editor, I take this opportunity of notifying my numerous patrons throughout the county that it is my intention to furnish my mill with the most modern appliances in order to meet their wishes. I have the power necessary and am located in the most convenient section for the accommodation of the middle and northern residents of the county.

In conclusion I have this to say to the government:—Send an expert to examine my site, privilege and power and if his report is adverse I will pay the expenses.  
GEO. A. BRITAIN.

**A Good Time Piece is a Faithful Servant.**

We make a Specialty of Reforming the "won't-go" kind. When we repair a watch or a clock we guarantee it to go accurately, and guarantee it to keep a-going accurately.



**Carr & Gibson,**  
Jewelers and Scientific Opticians,  
Woodstock, N. B.

**John P. Pickel, PLUMBER,**

Will attend to all orders left at Burt's Hardware Store.

**Jobbing a Specialty.**

Prices reasonable, and work done promptly.

**LIVERY AND HACK STABLE, H. E. & Jas. W. Gallagher, Props**

Outfits for commercial travellers, Coaches in attendance at arrival of trains. All kinds of Livery Teams to let at Reasonable Rates.  
A First-Class Hoarse in connection.

Carlisle Hotel, - - Woodstock, N. B.



**SPRING IS COMING!**

And to welcome her arrival The Vegetable World will begin to put on its Heavy Clothing, while men will begin to

**SHED HEAVY GARMENTS.**

Do not disclose the defects under that enveloping winter overcoat, until you select a Spring Costume, which you can do better and from a greater variety than in any other place, at the **Fit-Reform**

**Wardrobe** see that array of garments, every one of which is equal in style and finish to the best merchant tailor-made goods of London, Paris or New York.

Suits \$10, 12, 15.

Trousers \$3, 4, 5.

**FIT-REFORM WARDROBE.**

**B. B. MANZER**

Sole Proprietor,

Woodstock.

**New Suitings, Trouserings, Spring Overcoatings, Fancy Vesting.**

—ALSO—

**New Nobby Spring Hats, Cambric & Dress Shirts.**

**WANTED in the Tailoring Department, a PRESSMAN and BOY to learn the Tailoring business—Recommendations needed.**

**R. B. JONES.**

**Churns.**

**Churns.**

**Churns**

100

"Favorite" and "Daisy" IN STOCK.

This cut represents the "Favorite" Can be operated either with the hand or foot lever, or both. The foot lever keeps the churn entirely steady. Fitted with BALL BEARING and is the easiest operated and simplest churn made.



The Dairy Industry never was more prosperous, and you haven't one of these Celebrated Churns you need one.

**Balmain Bros.**

WOODSTOCK.

March 7, 1900.

**Victoria-Montreal Fire Insurance Co**

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, \$1,000,000. CAPITAL FULLY SUBSCRIBED, \$400,000.

**George Anderson,**

Manager for THOS. A. TEMPLE & SON

General Agents for the Maritime Provinces, 92 Prince William Street, ST. JOHN, N. B.