

South African Industry.

The Orange Free State forms one of the two independent republics in South Africa. The Transvaal is the other. The former is bounded on the south by the Orange River, which divides it from Cape Colony, a British South African Colony. On the north it is separated from its sister republic, the Transvaal by the Vaal River. Basutoland and the range of the Drakensberg (Dragon Mountains) divide it from Naal on the east. On the west it is bounded by the Griqualand West, which is better known as the Diamond Fields, a recently purchased British possession.

This little republic has an area of about 50,000 square miles. It is an elevated table land 4,000 feet above the sea level, and is 400 miles long by 200 miles wide, running north and south. The present population of the country is estimated, by its government at about 93,000, whites and 140,000 natives of Basuto and Barolong tribes. Bloemfontein, which is 750 miles north of Table Bay, 450 miles north of Port Elizabeth, and 400 north of East London, is the capital. The only mountain ranges in the Orange Free State are the Stall mountains in the eastern portion of the Republic. From the Drakensberg the country slopes gradually to the Vaal River on the northern and western boundaries. The southern part of the Free State is dotted with detached kopjes or individual hills. Otherwise the interior is an undulating prairie or prairies, formerly covered with coarse grass. This is changed in the south to a scrubby brush or copse, which is excellent grazing for sheep, a sweeter grass supplementing the sour or coarser grasses in places. The Orange Free State is not a forest country. It is virtually treeless. The species of forest now found on the hill sides and in the moist valleys of the rivers is a scant scrub of mimosa thorn, the wild olive, the willow and the camel thorn, which is a species of wild acacia.

The principal lands are best adapted to pastoral purposes, though there is a 30 by 100 mile strip of soil on the Basutoland border considered to be second to none in the world for grain producing purposes. The pursuits of the people being principally stock raising and grain growing, the burghers have leisure for war. The strip noted above produces, without irrigation or fertilizing, and after planting for nearly forty consecutive years, from thirty eighty bushels to the acre. This fertile strip of land is known as the Conquered Territory. It was taken from the Basutos about 1894. This little belt of land is the granary of the Orange Free State and of the Transvaal. In this belt of country, thirty miles wide by 100 miles long, are grown wheat, oats, barley, maize, and Kaffir corn. It also carries large herds of cattle, horses, sheep, angora goats and ostriches. Peas, apples, peaches and grapes are likewise grown to a large extent. This is the Boer base of supplies, and the mountains which face British South Africa are depended upon with Boer endurance and Boer strategy to hold these fields inviolate to the homes of the twin republics of the same blood.

Diamonds are extensively mined on the fields of Jagersfontein, where the famous 900 carat Jagersfontein Excelsior was found, on May 30, 1893, and Koffyfontein, in the district of Fauresmith, which is in the southwestern part of the Republic. The importance of these mines can be seen when it is known that the diamond output of the Jagersfontein field for January was 15,189 carats, valued at \$150,000, while that for Koffyfontein for the same period was 1,500 carats, valued at \$11,000. This is part of the contemplated war prize in the present conflict.

The inhabitants of the Orange Free State are, like the Boers of the Transvaal, a peaceful, educated and well governed people. The country is divided into nineteen districts, each one of which is presided over by a landdrost, or magistrate. Each of these magisterial districts is again subdivided into one, two or more wards, according to its size or importance. Each of these wards send a member to the Volksraad, or Legislature. In addition to this each town also sends a member to the

Volksraad. To this Legislature the people delegate the government of the country. The President, who is the responsible head of the executive department, is advised by an Executive Council, and by the High Court, which is composed of a chief justice and two puisne judges.

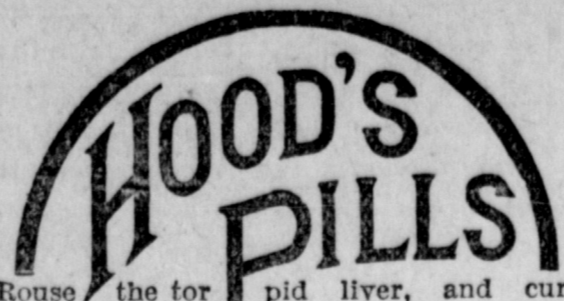
The Government obtains about \$2,000,000 annually from the revenue of the State to meet its expenditures. This revenue is mainly derived from the following sources: Quit-rent on farms, at the rate of 48 cents for each 100 morgen, or 200 acres; transfer dues on unmoveable or fixed property, at the rate of 4 per cent; a 2 per cent rate on moveables, that is all goods sold by auction; a hut or occupation tax of \$2.50 a head on natives. From the Custom House there is received about \$600,000 a year. This is obtained from a 12 per cent ad valorem levy on all over-sea goods crossing the border. These dues are by virtue of a treaty with the Cape Colony Government levied at the ports of Cape Colony. They are also levied on the Natal border by Orange Free State officers in accordance with the provisions of the customs union existing between the Cape Government and the Free State. The former retains three per cent of the 12 per cent duty levied to recoup itself for the expense of collecting these customs dues for the Republic.

The Orange Free State expends about \$250,000 annually on roads, \$300,000 on bridges, and large sums, for so small a country, on public buildings. It has nearly one-third of the entire revenue of the State is absorbed by educational grants and public works. This would be a very fine showing for countries outside of Africa.

The government of this Boer State is very careful about the education of the children of the land. For this purpose a permanent fund of \$1,000,000 is set aside. The educational department is a very thorough one. This department is under a superintendent who has under him a corps of inspectors and sub-inspectors. There are now about eighty fine government schools with a staff of 150 teachers. These schools are exclusive of private and non-aided schools, such as those which are maintained by the Catholics, the Anglicans and other religious denominations. The government schools are of three kinds, viz: town, ward and peripatetic schools. To teach them, the instructors are divided into first, second and third class according to the grade of their certificates from the board of State examiners. This board is composed of nine members who are appointed by the President of the Republic. This board has wide powers. It can grant certificates of proficiency in law, land surveying, and in science and literature generally. The only higher education schools supported by the State are Dames Institute (Ladies Seminary) and Grey College, both of which are at Bloemfontein. In these institutions the students are prepared for matriculation at the Cape University in Cape Colony. Students desiring a university education must, therefore, go to the South African College at Cape Town, or to Victoria College at Stellenbosch.

The great authority of the citizens of the Orange Free State are, from the circumstances of their Dutch origin, members of the Dutch Reformed Church. This is the established church of the land. There is a congregation in nearly every little village of the country. The government annually contributes about \$40,000 to the support of this religious sect. It is paid into the church synod to be used as that body deems fit. This synod meets every other year in the month of May at Bloemfontein, the capital. It is composed of the pastor and a lay member of each congregation. The following denominations also have churches in the Orange Free State: The Episcopalians, Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians. Their individual memberships are small. The Episcopal Church has a respectable following; at Bloemfontein it has several school buildings. Among them are St. Andrew's College for boys, and St. Michael's Home for girls. The Separatist Dutch Church also has several important congregations in the country. The Dutch Reformed Church has a mission established at Witzenbosch. The Berlin Mission Society has important missions at Bethany Maboela (in the Ladybrand district) and other places.

The climate of the Orange Free State is dryer and colder than that of its neighbors. This is due to the altitude and inland position. It is therefore, healthful for weak lungs. Its dry season is in winter time,



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but its period of rain, and moisture is uncertain. The high elevation is affected by the evaporation of the lower countries which drifts up into the Wittebergen (White Mountains), Rooodebergen (Red Mountains) and the Drakensberg, where it condenses and frequently floods the streams causing them to run bankers ten to twenty feet above their normal watermark. The last named peaks rises to 11,000 feet and are popularly called Monts aux Sources or mounts of sources from the number of streams which rise in them. In the winter time the rivers are shallow. Some of them hardly flow. They degenerate into what are called pans, (a low or hippopotamus water holes) which have drifts or fords here and there. This is due to the dryness of the season. In the summer these water courses are dangerously swollen often rising in a single night from ten to twenty feet above the normal. The pans or peculiar circular water basins found in the middleveldt or watershed territory between any two rivers are sometimes salt or brackish. These middleveldt pans are numerous in the Bloemfontein, Jacobsdal, Fauresmith and Beohof districts. One of these depressions, the Hagans Pan is worked by a large salt company, which exports its product to Johannesburg. This salt according to Prof. Hahn's analysis is the best in the world. The pan from which it is taken is about two miles across. It is located about twenty miles from Bloemfontein. The salt from it is made after this fashion: A trench eight or ten feet deep is made in the pan. The brine percolates into this trench, from which it is subsequently pumped up on a huge buck or tent rails. Here the water evaporates and the salt sediment is left deposited on the soil and surface.

While the rivers of the Orange Free State are not navigable, they are well stocked with fish, some of which are peculiar to them. The (Clarius capensis) is only found in the Orange River and its tributaries. This fish is as long as seven feet. It has very few bones, and no scales. The barber has a large ungainly head with eight curli-feelers on the lower lip. The yellowfish found in all the Free State waters. It sometimes weighs as much as twenty pounds. Among the more important of the other fish are the whitefish, calveshead and the undermouth. The iguana and the river turtle also abound. The Free State is not notable for fierce or dangerous wild animals. The chief animals are antelopes, wildebeest, porcupines, hedgehogs, jackals, hyenas, wild dog (the three last being almost extinct) and armadillos.

During these forty-five years of independence the Orange Free State has experienced the following events: There was a string of Basuto wars with spasms of peace from 1858 to 1868. After these ten years of tribal wars the republic triumphed. The Basutos had been so completely whipped that the British Government at the earnest entreaty of Chief Moshesh, the paramount of the tribe, proclaimed the unannexed part of Basutoland as British territory. In 1871 the Government of Queen Victoria annexed Griqualand West or the Diamond Fields, which was then nominally under the rule of Waterboer, chief of the Griqua tribe. The Free

State demanded this country, having acquired it by cession and purchase from the predecessor of this chief. To settle this dispute Great Britain agreed to pay to the Free State \$450,000 for a clear title to this land. In 1889 the Orange Free State formed its customs union with Cape Colony. In the railway union the Cape Government agreed to build a railway through the Free State at its own expense and risk at a certain sum per mile. The tariff of passengers and goods over this line was to be mutually agreed upon. The Orange Free State had the option of taking over this railroad if it liked after its completion at a stated sum per mile. The Cape Government in the meantime worked the line and equally divided the profits on it with the republic for seven years. This road was opened in July, 1892. Since then it has produced an estimated annual profit of \$800,000. This is due largely to the development of the gold mines in the South African Republic. This line and its feeders connect all the harbors of Cape Colony with Pretoria and the rich gold mine of Johannesburg which glister so much in the British eye, and which are the incentive for the present war in South Africa. There are two short lines in the Free State in addition to this trunk line. One of these runs from the Orange River at Bethulie to the main line at Springfontein. It connects the port of East London with the Central line. The other short line connects the Natal line, from Durban over Ladysmith with Harrismith.

The people of the Free State, like those of the Transvaal, are very simple and sincere in their dealings. In the country districts this simplicity is of so innocent a character that a stranger, even, who is trusted and accepted as worthy to be a guest, may even be allowed to sleep in the same room with the single daughters of the family. For any violation of the sanctity of hospitality of the Boer home the culprit will barely escape with his life. While under welcome the visitor is treated like a son or a daughter. The Boers are not immoral people. They are a plain, simple severe but kind and hardy race. An infusion of Haueuot blood in the burghers of the Free State makes them an active and enterprising community of sturdy yeomen.

THE PROFESSOR'S WAY.

Extremely Simple Method of Solving a Troublesome Cat Problem.

"I never heard a cat caterwauling," said Col. Calliper, without thinking of how my old friend, Professor Lucius Griggobler, circumvented the cats that had been accustomed to congregate on his back fence, in Storkville Centre, Vermont. Professor Grig—That's what we all called him,—used to come there summers only; in winter he would shut up the house, or else give it rent free to somebody to take care of it.

"For some reason or other, I don't know why, the back fence of this house had always been a favorite resort for cats. The first night the professor slept in the house—so he afterwards told some of the neighbors—he was amazed at the number of cats on the fence, and at the noise they made; he said he had never seen or heard anything like it. The next day the neighbors saw a man at work taking off the top finishing strip from the fence, along which the cats walked, and carrying it away. Before night the man was back there, putting on along the top of the fence another strip, that looked, however, very much like the one that had been taken off, except that it was perhaps a little more rounded. The neighbors couldn't see any practical difference between the two strips; but it turned out that the professor knew what he was about.

"I was living in the second house from Prof. Grig's, and on the same side of the street; I could see his back fence from my second story rear window easily. That night, as I had expected, with everybody else that knew about the change, there was just as much noise as ever; as a matter of fact, there was more than ever before. My gracious! You never heard anything like it in your life. I should think they had there not only all the cats in creation, but that individually they were making more noise than any cats had ever made before; and there was a new note in their voices, and an added sound that I had never heard before at all; and when I went to the window to see what these things meant, I saw something very singular.

"The cats would come up from the fences on either side and start along on the professor's fence, as they had always done, howling in just the ordinary way, but before they'd gone three steps I'd see 'em begin to paw that top piece and grab at it, slipping around this way and that, and all the time making desperate efforts to hold on. At first, they'd be breathless with surprise and astonishment, and then as they began to slip about and despite their most frantic efforts to cling to it, to lose their hold entirely, they'd get wild and frenzied and begin to howl and shriek like wild cats. And then presently would come that new note, the most unearthly and hair raising cat whoop I ever heard, this coming when the cat was finally compelled to go, and

drop, as it had to at last. Those whoops we heard then were the wild shrieks of rage as the discomfited cat went down; and that new, added sound, was its dull thud as it struck the ground.

"Some of 'em got up and tried it again, only to fall again; and every cat that tried it went down. For a while there was the greatest uproar and turmoil you ever heard of, and then there was quiet, perfect quiet, and the next night there wasn't a cat on the Professor's fence, not a cat, and quiet reigned all through that neighborhood. And all Storkville wondered. Some people said one thing, some said another, most folks thought there must be electricity about it somehow, but we couldn't see any wires, nor anything else, for that matter, and that made it seem all the more wonderful. Prof. Griggobler was a man of science, and everybody agreed that, though they didn't know just what it was, he must have put into operation, right here in Storkville Centre, the most wonderful thing ever.

"But one night one of the neighbors saw the Professor out in his back yard by the fence, with a pan full of something and a brush at work on the fence and then it all came out. That smooth top strip was simply the old strip covered with a covering of sheet iron carefully rounded, and the stuff in the pan was kitchen grease, that's all, which the erudite Professor put on with a paint brush, and that's all there was to it, the cats simply couldn't stay on the fence, and so they stayed away from it.

"I think it was a little shock to some of us, to have the Professor go about it in this way; we would have expected him to bring to bear on the solution of this cat problem some of his scholarly and logarithmic and all sorts of scholarly and scientific aids; whereas he had really gone at it in the simplest way in the world. And then there were others of us to whom this fact was a comfort; who found pleasure in the reflection that when it came to the practical affairs of life algebra didn't count so much as gumption.

"But, however they might regard the means by which the result was reached, everybody conceded that the method was successful; and at once all over the village people began putting up, on their back fences, what was called, by common consent, the Professor's cat rail; and for a time, in fact, as people paid attention to these rails and kept them greased, the back fences of Storkville Centre were comparatively free of cats."

As Seen by Others.

Lewis Carroll, author of "Alice in Wonderland" told with keen relish of a rebuff given him by a little girl who knew him only as a learned mathematician.

"Have you ever read 'Through the Looking Glass?'" he asked her, expecting an outburst of delight.

"Oh, dear, yes!" she replied. "It is even more stupid than 'Alice in Wonderland!'" Don't you think so?"

Wordsworth could not conceal his chagrin when he heard his neighbors, the farmers described him as "a daff idle body, who went moaning about the hills and had not wit enough to raise a field of oats."

The following anecdote of Henry Clay was told by one of his personal friends.

While making the journey to Washington on the National road, just after his nomination as candidate for the Presidency, he was travelling one stormy night, wrapped up in a huge cloak, on the back of the stage coach, when two passengers entered. They were Kentuckians, like himself. He fell asleep, and when he awoke found them discussing his chances in the coming campaign.

"What did Henry Clay go into politics for?" said one. "He had a good bit of land; he had a keen eye for stock. If he had stuck to stock raising he'd have been worth his fifty thousand. But now he doesn't own a dollar."

"And," the great Kentuckian used to add, "the worst of it was, every word of it was true."

It was characteristic of the man that at the next stopping place he took another coach, lest his critics should recognize him and be mortified at their unintentional rudeness.

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Mrs. Plymouth—How did your last eggs turn out?

Mrs. Cochin—Pretty bad. Out of a dozen 3 were stolen by bad boys, 3 got mixed up in a Clark St. omelet, and 6 got stage struck by coming in contact with heavy tragedians.

Snooks—What a mean practical joker Smiles is! He told me if I came out to Daisybloom he would have a horseless carriage at the station for me.

Tooks—Well, did he?

Snooks—Yes; a perambulator!

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