

BOERS MAY TREK TO THE NORTH.

Story that Already they are Preparing to Move Out of Britain's Country—Men Have Been Sent Ahead—They May Go to the Dutch East Indies—Reported Invitation to Algeri.

According to F. L. Oswald, in the Cincinnati Enquirer, England may conquer the two South African republics, but will never rule the Afrikanders. Four months ago, when the first war clouds were above the southern horizon, a party of Transvaal prospectors crossed the Zambesi river to take a look at the Nyazulu country, the land of lake shores, pastures and park-like plateaus that stretches from the fifteenth parallel of southern latitude to regions included in Kaiser Wilhelm's "space of influence." They seemed to have conferred with German officials and also with sundry independent chiefs of the Livingston Mountains (west of Mozambique). A summary of their report has recently been published by several Holland parliaments of the endangered republics, and in case of defeat the Boers will probably make a dash for another northward trek.

But in the meantime other colonial projects have been discussed by the victims of British aggression and revived new hope of reaching a land of abiding peace. French newspapers, "semi-officially" invite them to Algeria. The Dutch materializes them to abandon the dark continent altogether and take refuge in the Gardens of the Sun, the vast and exhaustively fertile islands of the Sunda archipelago, where their countrymen have founded a number of flourishing settlements.

There was a time when Transvaal patriots lamented the discovery of gold as a national calamity. It excited the greed of their unscrupulous neighbors, and made their exclusion practically impossible. But they have now come

horse in this country unless you have a stable like a jail and make it a rule to sleep in the stable every night, and after some reflection, even then they will steal it if you don't sleep on top of the horse.

THE LAKE REGION.

But, then, the "Lake Region" comprises a considerable slice of geography, with limitless no man's lands, north and west, and therein has the advantage of the Algerian highlands. The Morocco border tribes fiercely resist intrusion, and south of the mountains begins the Bil-el Shayan, the outskirts region of the great desert, with undulating gravel fields and just water enough to produce weeds and snakes.

LIBERAL LAND GRANTS ASSURED.

But, besides, the home-seekers can rely on liberal land grants. Exemption from taxes for the first ten years will not be the only inducement to permanent settlers. Their European sympathizers may emulate the agents of the czar, who colonized the Caucasus by offering immigrants free seed corn and agricultural implements. But, withal, the Hollanders are the most cautious people on earth, and their Transvaal relatives naturally prefer to look before they leap into emigrant ships.

As a herder's first choice the Nyazulu country is hard to beat. Four of the great inland lakes are bordered by grassy terrace lands, where springs abound and groves are just accessible enough to furnish cheap building material. Beasts of prey would soon vanish before the voice of the Krag-Jorgensen, and the tsetse fly has lost its terrors in this age of antidotes. The great trouble would be with the natives. The lake shore dwellers are less warlike than the Zulu Kafirs, but thievish, treacherous, and unreliable.

Their able-bodied adults are mostly men too troops, who steal cat naps in the daytime and cattle after sunset, but are themselves often collared by the slave-hunters of the fierce highland tribes. It would take half a century to eliminate such neighbors. And then?

Great Britain might be ready for another landgrab by that time (on general moral principles, of course) unless the colonists should take the precaution to head off cant by selecting a strictly nonauriferous district or putting up an

THE BICYCLE OUTLOOK FOR 1900

The advent of the American Bicycle company in the field has already begun to show results in an increased favorableness of the outlook for the coming bicycle season. Although its formation has been expected to effect a revival of interest in bicycling, the general public is certainly not prepared for the figures which Mr. Theodore P. Merceles, vice president of that company, quoted in an interview, to show by advance orders how great was the promise for a lively season in 1900. Reports from agents all over the country showed that the orders received up to the third week in December, 1899, surpassed those for the same period in 1898 by over 50 per cent. This, too, in spite of the incision early in the season for ordering, on account of the doubt as to the policy to be pursued by the company. Mr. Merceles backed his statement by exhibiting, not for publication, however, reports from the several sales departments.

Another surprise was the fact that orders were confined to no single line of wheels or groups of these, but were spread just as generally as in other years. The rate of increase varied, but all those makes popular in other years appear in similar demand this year. The increase is general, and reflects, Mr. Merceles said, the agents' confidence in the A. B. C.

Mr. Merceles said: "The question of bicycle prospects for the season of 1900 must be taken from the wholesale standpoint, because it is the only one thus early in the season which will furnish figures for an intelligent forecast. We are enabled to sum up, even at this

partition of Samoa as a gross violation of the law of nations only equal to the dismemberment of Poland, Denmark and France. He thinks that if it is for the great powers to promote wars and annexations to distract the minds of the people, then the Hague conference was the greatest farce of the century.

The writer also asserts that the civilization introduced by the great powers in their annexations in the south seas, Africa and elsewhere is inferior to the primitive state of the countries stolen leading to war through breach of faith on the part of the government officials, and to the decimating of the peoples by contagious diseases and spirituous liquors.

BOERS SURPRISING A "SURPRISE PARTY."



Here is seen the peculiarly effective Boer manner of meeting and repelling an attack. The puzzled British soldiers see nothing to shoot at but rocks and stones, while all the time their men are being picked off like rabbits. The British complaint that the enemy won't come out to fight like men. The Boers know too well the advantage they have in guerilla fighting to abandon their methods unless forced into the open.

METHUEN KEEPING HIS LINE CLEAR.



The position of the British at Modder river is only maintained by constant fighting with roving bands of Boers who appear in the most unexpected places at the most unexpected times. The above pictures one of the daily recurring skirmishes between Methuen's armored train and the mobile enemy.

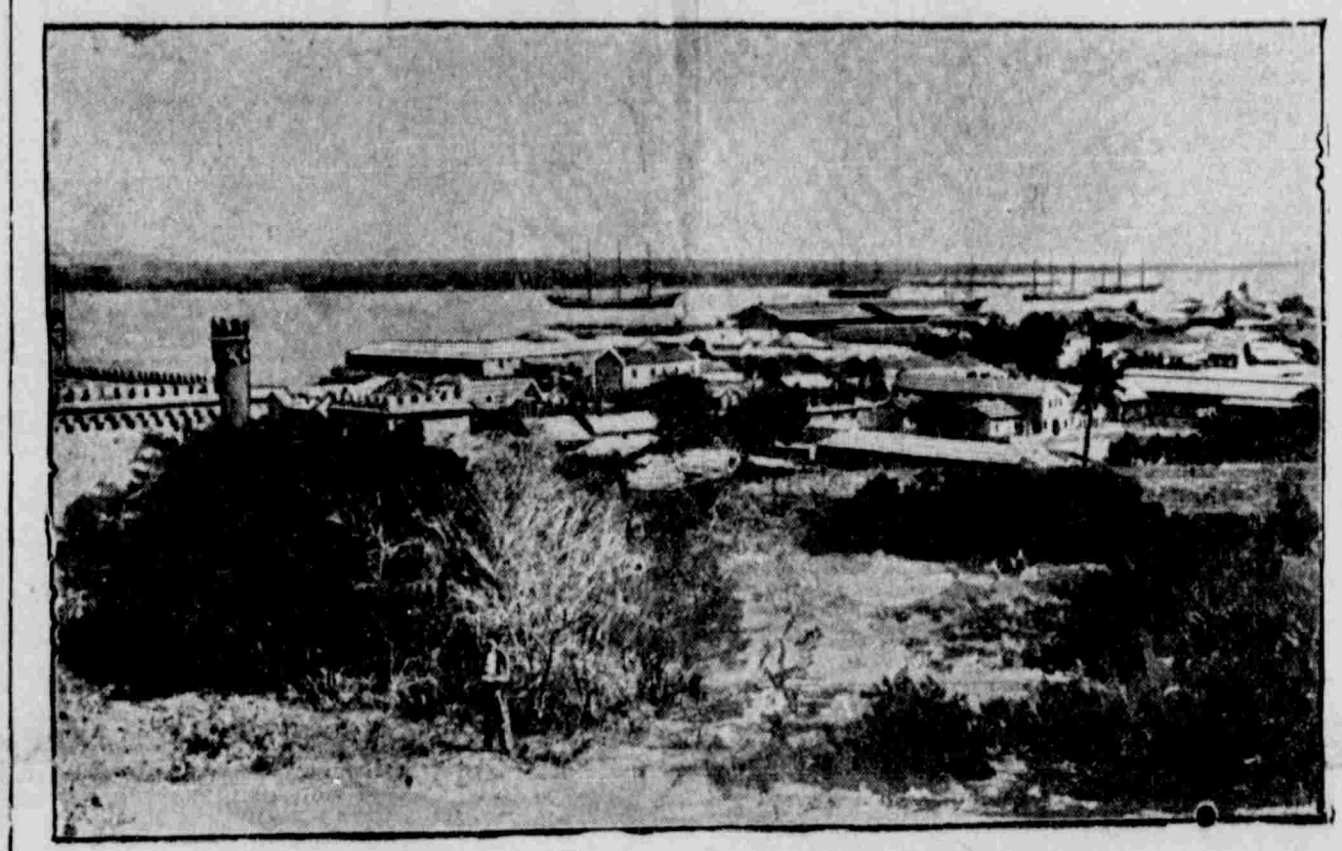
to the conclusion that a pretext for further encroachments would have been made to order under all circumstances, and if reeking had to be done the mining boom might have been a blessing in disguise. It has filled the country with Dutchers, but also with Boer million-

SIEGE GUN.



The confidence of the British in the ultimate success of the queen's forces in South Africa is shown by the shipment there of a siege train of howitzer guns for the reduction of the immensely strong fortifications at Pretoria. These siege guns throw lyddite shells at short intervals in a constant stream.

THE TRANSVAAL "BACK DOOR."



Here is a fine picture of Delagoa Bay, through which neutral territory the Boers are constantly receiving supplies, guns and men. With this port closed by British ships the end of the Boer war would be only a question of time, for the Transvaal and the Orange Free State would be surrounded by hostile forces and starved into submission. Great Britain realizes this but she can find no excuse for seizing the port and cannot shut out help that the Boers receive through this avenue.

would let them have homesteads on pre-emption terms, and put them in every possible way—just to spite John Bull.

BERRIES IN ABUNDANCE.

Berries, too, must be pretty abundant on the great divide of the Mediterranean and the Sand Sea. In 1894 Colonel Duchalet, of the military surveying expedition, was taken sick at Wad-el-Kamr, on the north side slope of the Atlas, and at the advice of his doctor, sent out a few scouts to interview the hill shepherds and offer 10 coppers a quart for any kind of edible berries. The result surprised him. Men, women and children began to trudge up the approaches of his surveyor's camp, and before he could countermand his offer had brought raspberries enough to run a first class canning factory. They had strawberries, too, and some novel varieties of strawberries, and in reply to inquiries stated that there were other kinds, but growing on trees and not so easy to get at.

There, too, flourishes the algiora, a species of locust with edible pods, about as nourishing as string beans. The crop hardly ever fails and in protracted droughts has saved many a wanderer of the wilderness, including John the Baptist, whose staple diet of "honey and locusts," according to Richard Burton, had nothing to do with grasshoppers. A Yuma Indian might stick to the elder, but in the star of a significant fact in several European languages the pods of the algiora are known as "St. John's Bread."

Great chunks of resinous pine wood are found in the gullies of the upper Sierras, and are sometimes loaded on donkeys and hauled to the markets of the coast towns like charcoal from the woods of the Apennines. It would not be difficult to keep the pots boiling in a country of that sort, and the abundance of game could almost reconcile the Afrikanders to the loss of their velvet. Antelopes are not as numerous as in the Orange River mountains, but there are countless conies, squirrels, black cocks, badgers, pigeons, and a few deer and wild goats. A variety of they still haunt the rocky highlands, and on the border of Tunis there are small herds of the curious creature known as the bubalus or bubalis, that seems to form a connecting link between the steer and the star. Bekkel-el-Wash, "wild ox," the Arab calls it, and often hunt it at the time of the year when the herds are incumbered with helpless fawns, but are afraid to domesticate it, as grown-up specimens, no matter how tame, are apt to yield to a roaming instinct and lead black cattle astray.

PRACTICALLY SOUTHERN EUROPE.

Prof. Brehm's objection to southern Africa as a permanent home was that it "seemed too much like living out of the world; settlers in the mountains of the Moon might as well remove to the moon itself, and be done." But Algeria has become almost a part of southern Europe. The capital (Algiers) is only a trifle further south than Cincinnati, and can be reached from Minorca in ten hours; from Marseilles in a day and a half. Settlers would remain in touch with civilization, and Europe would object to see butchery going on at her door.

To outbid all those advantages the Hollanders urge the inexhaustible sources of their colonies on the west coast of Sumatra.

early stage, the business done in advance orders. This was never possible before, because, I presume, of different business methods in the several bicycle houses. Figures for December business were rarely available until the season was well advanced. We are able this year to compare the figures for orders received up to Dec. 23, 1899, with those for the same period last year, with the result wonderfully in favor of this year.

Agents seem practically unanimous in prospecting that the coming year will be an exceptionally good one. Not only is this indicated by their correspondence, which is in many cases enthusiastic, but it is amply borne out by the size of sample orders. These show an average increase of over 50 per cent, or in other words, that where an agent ordered 20 bicycles last year to begin the season with, he this year starts out with nearly double that number, without any special inducements having been made to place stock orders.

"These figures furnish a reply to a question frequently put to me, 'What are the prospects for the coming season?' I might talk for a long time and not answer the query so well. These are facts that permit only one inference. Agents do not buy readily in a bad year. They are in the best position to judge of the sentiment in their own districts. Their advance orders are the outcome of interested canvases of the several localities in which they do business. They do not guess, I presume, but prosecute investigations to be used by them in the business."

"As for 1899, the general opinion, also borne out by facts, is that last year was the best bicycle season since 1896, which was a remarkable sales year. This state of affairs was also generally anticipated. It was attributable probably to more prosperous times and the cessation of hostilities against Spain, quite as much as the low prices on high grade bicycles, which reached the lowest notch.

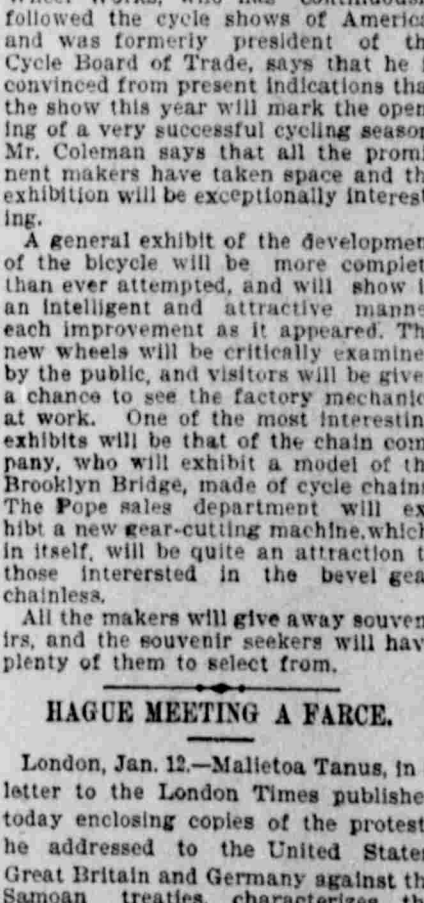
"Another question recently put to me refers to the effects the American Bicycle company is going to have on the sale of bicycles. I have practically answered this already. I will add that the cause of the increased advance orders appears to be the result of an augmented confidence on the part of agents, due largely to the existence of the American Bicycle company. The idea that prosperity alone could cause the increase must be rejected. The removal of certain conditions strengthens the market. Agents know they can safely deal with a company whose financial standing is not only above question, but is material, not mystical, nor taken on faith. Agents also know from their acquaintance with the directors of the American Bicycle company, with whom they formerly did business while dealing with the companies now included in the American Bicycle company, that they will be treated with the same consideration as in other years."

"As the agent in forming his opinion relies entirely upon public sentiment, it is really the public's confidence that is manifested in the large advance sales. This is bound to become more marked as the season advances. To any thinking person it must occur that if ever it were advantageous to a person to exercise the greatest care for the quality of the goods issued from its factories, it is so with the American Bicycle company. I believe the general public understands this and approves of the careful system of inspection and

HAGUE MEETING A FARCE.

London, Jan. 12.—Mallieto Tanus, in a letter to the London Times published today enclosing copies of the protests he addressed to the United States, Great Britain and Germany against the Samoan treaties, characterizes the

ARMORED TRAIN WITH NAVAL BRIGADE.



In order to overawe the disloyal Dutch the train seen above, manned by "Jackies" from the British warships, is kept constantly moving about Cape Colony. When a suspected settlement is reached the men march around armed to the teeth to remind the disloyal farmers that the British lion is still in the ring.

cycles is brought about by new invention—not a contingency that is likely to occur in a great many years, if at all."

The fifth annual bicycle show that is to be held at Madison Square Garden commencing January 26, 1899, gives every promise of being one of the most attractive exhibitions ever held in the country.

Mr. R. L. Coleman of the Western Wheel Works, who has continuously followed the cycle shows of America, and was formerly president of the Cycle Board of Trade, says that he is convinced from present indications that the show this year will mark the opening of a very successful cycling season. Mr. Coleman says that all the prominent makers have taken space and the exhibition will be exceptionally interesting.

A general exhibit of the development of the bicycle will be more complete than ever attempted, and will show in an intelligent and attractive manner each improvement as it appeared. The new wheels will be critically examined by the public, and visitors will be given a chance to see the factory mechanics at work. One of the most interesting exhibits will be that of the chain company, who will exhibit a model of the Brooklyn Bridge, made of cycle chains. The Pope sales department will exhibit a new gear-cutting machine, which, in itself, will be quite an attraction to those interested in the bevel gear chainless.

All the makers will give away souvenirs, and the souvenir seekers will have plenty of time to select from.

THEY'RE AFTER HIM.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

Then Cecil Rhodes looked all around. He bit his lip and slightly frowned. "Says he, 'They're after me!'"

His voice sank to a whisper low. He turned as if to flee. Then paused like one who hates to go. "Says he, 'They're after me!'"

He bent his head and opened the door. And then, as he'd remarked before, He said, "They're after me!"

He cried, "A price is on my head. A lot of hard money. And that is why, as I have said, The Boers are after me!"

He continues: "The missionaries who graced our country with their holy and unholo presences introduced the same religious differences and hatreds against each other as pertained at the hour in civilised states. The missionaries live in palatial concrete houses with all the luxuries their countries can afford and charge us for Bibles and prayer books which we understand are sent as free offerings."

Mallieto Tanus further charges the missionaries with extracting all the money possible from them in return for which they only received a Bible, a prayer book or a "Pilgrim's Progress."

He instances the Wesleyan missionaries with collecting 27,000 pounds sterling at a single meeting at Tonga, adding: "The missionaries aroused a great spirit of emulation, telling the natives that the largest givers would be the most acceptable in the sight of God, thus revealing the spirit of the 'widow's mite.'"

The Samoan chief concludes: "These be thy Gods, O Israel. 'Mallieto Tanus, 'Faalogoai, Samoa.'"

POW.

Frighful night to Sa n.

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