

NEW THEATER OF ACTION IN THE ANGLO-BOER WAR

Peculiar Position of the Orange Free Staters—They Will Probably Be Obligated to Defend Their Own Country Now Instead of the Transvaal.

THE Orange Free State had no quarrel with Great Britain. The Transvaal's quarrel was not her quarrel. She was a free and independent state, living her own life and worshipping her own legislative and administrative gods. Her people, however, spoke the same tongue as the Transvaal. A shadow of the Anglophobia that lurked on the north of the Vaal was also to be found north of the Orange, and Martinus Th. Steyn, the far-seeing and courageous president of the Free State, firmly believed that if the South African Republic were wrested from Dutch control, either by armed force or by awe of Great Britain's prowess, the next victim of the slogan

great things are to take place and mighty issues are to be decided. The Orange Free State is like and yet unlike the Transvaal. Its people, like those north of the Vaal river, are simple, bucolic and sincere. An infusion of Huguenot blood makes them a slightly more active and progressive people than the Transvaalers. The republic has an area of about 50,000 square miles. This is all practically an elevated tableland, 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, 400 miles long and 200 miles wide. Its present population is estimated to be 95,000

bushels of grain to the acre! Wheat, oats, maize, barley and Kafir corn can all be grown, while herds of cattle, horses, Angora goats, ostriches and sheep can live and flourish on the veldt. Never was a country so laid out to enjoy the arts of peace. Its inhabitants are peaceful enough, it is true, and have a love for their quiet homes and their farms, but the very prosperity and the stability of the country in which the Free State burgher lives give him both the leisure and the desire for military life and excitement. In this, perhaps,

ly systematized one, and for this purpose a permanent fund of \$1,000,000 is set apart—which is not a bad showing for a new and diminutive South African republic. There are besides about 80 very fine and large government schools. These schools are exclusive of the many private and nonstate aided institutions of learning, most of which are maintained by the different religious denominations represented in the republic.

There are three kinds of regular government schools. One is the town school, another the ward school, and the third the peripatetic school. At Bloemfontein there is a very fine college, known as Grey college, where higher education is carried on.

The vast majority of the Free Staters are, of course, of Dutch origin, and accordingly are members of the Reformed Dutch church. In fact, this is the established church of the state. Even the smallest village has its devout congregation, and the government contributes each year \$40,000 for the support of its Dutch religious institutions.

The climate of the Orange Free State is perhaps the most healthful in all South Africa. It is both drier and colder than that of the neighboring colonies, due to the fact that the veldt of the Free Staters is so high above the sea level. The time for its rainy season is rather uncertain, but its dry season always comes in the winter. It is not generally known that the constitution of the Orange Free State is founded upon that of the United States. This constitution was adopted on April 16, 1854, and gave to every one living in the country before the date of its adoption the right to vote for a president and members of the new legislature. The commando law is unique. This law, which was put into successful operation at the opening of the campaign for the raising of Orange Free State troops, regulates the calling out of burghers at all times of danger. Every male inhabitant of the state between 16 and 60 years of age is, under this law, subject to the call of the field cornet. The number that were found available for the last call to arms is said to have been 23,000. The holding of reviews for these burgher soldiers is rigidly established by law. These reviews or "wepenschouwingen" in times of peace are held in each district every four years, while

of 1858, and their chief duties are to prevent the theft of stock on the open veldt and to see that the pass laws of the state are properly administered.

Although the Free Stater is often described as a peace loving and simple minded individual, he had his share of South African war even before the present bloody campaign broke out. During the half century that the Orange Free State has been in existence as an independent republic the burghers have seen plenty of active fighting. From 1858 to 1888 there were ten years of tribal warfare with the ever obstreperous Basutos. At the end of that decade of blood the Basutos were so thoroughly whipped that the British government had to step in and save the Basuto chief, Moshesh, and his ill-starred people from utter annihilation. When the English government in 1871 annexed the newly discovered diamond fields of West Griqualand, the Free State demanded the country, and preparations were made for a stout resistance to Anglican aggression. In the end, however, Great Britain agreed to pay the sum of \$450,000 to the Free State for a clear title to the land, a thing which John Bull as a rule is not inclined to do when out in search of new territory. Then came more settled times and more friendly relations with the British colonies of the neighborhood. In 1889 the Free State formed its customs union with Cape Colony and by a railway agreement between the two governments the Cape agreed to build a railroad through the Free State at its own expense. The Orange Free State had the option of taking over the line after its completion if it so wished, the road to be paid for at so much per mile, while before any such purchase should take place the tariff of passengers and all freight goods was to be mutually agreed upon by the authorities at Bloemfontein and Cape Town. This road was opened about eight years ago. Since that time it has earned profits of over \$500,000 a year. Strange to say, this great earning capacity of the Free State road has been due to the development of the gold mines of the South African Republic, for this line and its feeders connect Pretoria and the gold mines of the Transvaal with all the harbors of Cape Colony. So the very thing that was causing dissension and warfare at Pretoria was quietly pouring good money into Bloemfontein. It is this same railway that is playing an important part in the execution of the campaign now taking place in South Africa. However the war may turn out, it seems hard to discern in just what the Free Stater will be the gainer. With the Transvaal it was different. Oom

CZAR NICHOLAS

AND THE MOUJIKS

Nearly 70 years ago Czar Nicholas I had gone to Moscow to review some troops. The weather was wet and nasty and the time was passing very slowly for the monarch shut up inside the walls of the Kremlin. As he was looking through the window at the gray scraps up the mud in the yard, and a funny idea struck him.

He sent for the men, who arrived, half dead with fright, in the room where he was sitting, and to their utter astonishment, he said to them, "My children, I never felt so dull in my life and I thought that you might perhaps amuse me." He then plunged his hands in his pockets, and out came notes and gold, which he threw on the table. "Open your eyes wide," he said, "all this will belong to the one who will remain absolutely quiet, like a statue, in front of me for an hour. I will count six, and the show will begin."

The moujiks turned all sorts of colors in their efforts to remain still, and in a quarter of an hour one of the hearties fell in a swoon; soon a second one uttered a groan. Nicholas laughed and signaled for these to be removed. The third one kept on a few minutes longer,

then he threw himself on his knees, while a flood of tears ran down his cheeks, till, unable to stand any longer, and against all rules of etiquette, he began to claw his legs until they bled. The sentry at the door, at a sign from his imperial master, pushed the man out of the room. A lone Adam Wolodsko remained. He was purple, but he did not move. However, Nicholas found the joke rather slow. "Adam Adamovitch," he said, "mind, this is not a trap; do not move, but tell me a little story to make the time pass quicker; we have another 20 minutes before us." Wolodsko thought awhile. Then he began a most dramatic narration. It was the story of a man who had been attacked by wolves in a wilderness of snow. Nicholas was just beginning to feel interested when the voice of Wolodsko grew hurried and weak, like that of a madman. Nicholas smiled. "Look here," he said; "you may illustrate your story by a few gestures if you like."

At these words the face of the moujik was transfigured. "And the wolves," he said, "put their paws on his breast—so—and the nails of Wolodsko began to tear into his own chest. "Then they seized him round the neck—so—and Wolodsko scratched his throat vigorously. "Some got hold of his legs—so"—and again he suited the action to the word. Soon the man was busy working all over his body, while tears of intense relief shone in his bloodshot eyes.

Meanwhile Nicholas was holding his sides and laughing so heartily that Wolodsko, whose nerves had been weakened by his previous efforts, lost all feelings of awe and began to laugh also in quite a brotherly fashion. The czar was so pleased with the man and with the manner in which he had conducted himself that, on dismissing the moujik, he gave him a thousand rubles. This money the man handled in such a way that it quickly increased, and in time he became a very rich man. His son became quite a prominent man and was given the title of count, and now the family holds a very high position in the empire.

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LORD KELVIN'S ROMANCE.

There is a romantic and pretty little story about the second marriage of Lord Kelvin, the English scientist. In the early seventies he, then Sir William Thompson, was in West Indian waters on board his schooner yacht, the Lalla Rookh. His first wife, the daughter of Mr. Walter Crum of Thornlie Bank, had been dead about two or three years, and he had been absorbed in electrical engineering in connection with the Atlantic cable. The Brazilian and river Plate cables, and, lastly, with the West Indian cables. As a light recreation he took up the question of simplifying the method of signals at sea.

To him it might have been light work, but it was pretty puzzling to the minds of ordinary landmen. He had been talking of it at the dinner table of a friend in Madeira, and the only apprehension that seemed able to grasp it was that of his host's daughter, a lady he greatly, but silently, admired.

"I quite understand it, Sir William," she said. "Are you sure?" he questioned, half doubtfully. "If I sent you a signal from my yacht, do you think you could read it and could answer me?" "Well, I would try," she responded. "I believe I should succeed in making it out."

The signal was sent, and she did succeed in making it out and in transmitting the reply. The question was, "Will you marry me?" and the answer was "Yes."

COMPETITORS OF MARCONI.

Competitors of Marconi have appeared whose names are Tobias Ur and Sazabadi Ur, who have taken abroad a new wireless telegraph process. Instead of a coherer, for which Marconi used a tube filled with metal filings, they use a detector consisting of a small piece of silvered glass having a mercury film on it divided by a slight scratch. They use Hertzian waves and claim positive results in every case.

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A FARM SCENE IN THE FREE STATE.



BLOEMFONTEIN MARKET SQUARE.

"British pre-eminence in South Africa" would be his own little republic, the Orange Free State. Furthermore, the two republics were bound by a treaty made in 1857, after the Jameson raid, which provided that if either state were attacked the other was to come to its assistance with its full fighting force, which at that time meant a combined army of about 44,000 men—27,000 Transvaalers and 17,000 Free Staters.

So the Orange Free State and the Transvaal joined hands. In this act of the Orange Free State there was no trace of self-seeking. Their little republic was the buffer state between the South African Republic and Cape Colony, the quarter from which it was naturally expected England would pour forth her troops when war at last broke out, as break out it must. That the Free Staters were not the first to suffer by this racial coalition was due to one of those mere accidents of war or caprices of fate that can never be anticipated. Ladysmith and Colenso, Kimberley and Mafeking chanced to be the points where the storm burst. Since that time the British have been busily engaged in attempting to repair their fallen fortunes. But at last they have realized that the time for a change of front has arrived. The tide has turned. Instead of being the hemmed-in defender, the English have found it profitable to turn aggressor.

So, when it comes to striking instead of being struck at, the first place to feel the change will be the capital of the little Orange Free State, lying as it does in the pathway between Cape Town and Pretoria. At the beginning of the war the English were to take their Christmas dinner in the Transvaal capital. The Boers, on the other hand, were to sweep the ruins of Table Mountain into the sea. Neither thing has been done. The possibilities of the Boers were limited. The vaster empire with its center in Downing street could afford to wait, recover from its first shock of surprise and pour down the necessary number of men. Then, unless the great powers intervened, there was bound to come a turning point.

At the very time, however, when the Boers were so brilliantly penning up the British at Mafeking and Ladysmith and Kimberley there were certain incipient dissensions taking place in the ranks of the burghers themselves. The president of the Transvaal complained that the Orange Free State troops were not pushing forward their campaign as vigorously as they might. Even from the first there were certain points on which President Steyn and President Kruger were not in perfect agreement.

At best it is always painfully difficult to manage the forces of two different independent states operating in the field as allies. There can be no unified and absolute control. There is no one commander in chief vested with the necessary supreme control to carry a campaign out to a successful issue. It has been reported that a large number of the Orange Free Staters have left the field and have returned to their farms, tired of the war and sick of their alliance with the Transvaal. Just how true this may be it is impossible to

Johannesburg had been practically unknown at Bloemfontein. This was particularly true up to the time of the Jameson raid, after which a perfectly justifiable feeling of distrust crept into the breast of the Free Stater. Anglican methods and Anglican influences had been apparent in administrative and financial affairs. In Bloemfontein the Afrikaner passion for South African supremacy had all but died a natural death by the time Jameson and Rhodes dealt their deadly backhanded blow at British interests by their little buccaneering act that came to such an untimely climax at Krugersdorp. It was Kruger's ready hand that drove the wedge into the old racial line of cleavage and showed how superficial had been the union of the two races.

Yet when the breach did come the Free Stater would seem to have had everything to gain from a policy of non-interference. A continuance of the steady internal development which had raised the state to her existing position of prosperity and affluence was most desirable. Her entire national debt had dwindled down to some \$5,000,000, most of which was due to the Cape government as the balance of the purchase price of her railways, which were giving her actual net returns of over 50 per cent. She had treated the uitlander decently and with her uitlander had in turn been decent. After a term of probation briefer than that demanded by the United States from prospective citizens the Free State admitted uitlanders to a footing of perfect equality with the Boer himself. Judiciary and educational affairs were liberally and fairly carried on. The independence of the country had been absolutely and irrevocably proclaimed by Great Britain, written down in black and white, and it was known that there could be no satisfactory Anglo-Saxon federation of colonies in the lower half of the dark continent so long as the Free State flag flew above Bloemfontein. Here would always have been a harbor for the Boer, and such a burgher nation planted in the very core of any confederation of Anglican colonies would always be a danger spot and a menace.

In the face of all these things the Free Stater crossed his Rubicon and decided to rise or fall with Oom Paul. Many eyes are now bent on this intrepid little republic, for within its borders

whites and some 140,000 blacks of the Basuto and Barolong tribes. The capital, Bloemfontein, is 750 miles north of Table Bay. It is a curious, old world looking little city, with a railway leading from the south into the town and again starting north. Unlike Kimberley and Johannesburg, the visitor gets no impression of mushroom growth from Bloemfontein, for the city is rich in statuary and public monuments and possesses a national museum and a well stocked public library. The Bloemfontein railroad, or council chamber of the legislature, is a handsome edifice, designed in the Greek style and costing almost a quarter of a million dollars. The buildings in the city are substantial and prepossessing, for near by are great beds of freestone, admirable for building purposes. The presidency, where President Steyn resides, is also a very palatial building.

The Orange Free State is not a forest country, for, like the Transvaal, it is very sparsely wooded. The only mountain ranges in the state are the Stall mountains, which lie in the eastern portion of the republic. The watershed of the country is toward the northern and western boundaries, the land sloping down from the Drakenberg to the Vaal river. The south of the republic is studded with small detached kopjes, while the great body of the interior is made up of gently undulating prairie land, covered, where not under cultivation, with a coarse grass. Practically all of these plains are well adapted for pastoral purposes. On the Basutoland border there is a golden strip of land, 50 miles broad and 160 miles long, which is considered to be the best bit of grain producing soil in the world.

It has been one of the happiest misfortunes for the Free Stater that no Kimberley has ever been built up in his republic. There has been some diamond mining, but no great inrush of adventurers and uitlanders. The prevailing conditions have attracted only the sober minded and serious settler, so the result is that, while the Transvaal has had to bear with its newer population of gold seekers and gamblers and speculators, the Orange Free State has gone along on its peaceful way, raising its grain and herding its sheep and enjoying life to the full. Think of land that without irrigation and with scarcely any cultivation will raise from 70 to 80

may dwell the secret of his willingness to join fortunes with his less contented brother Boer of the Transvaal. Each year the Orange Free State expends at least \$150,000 on roads, \$300,000 on bridges and equally large sums, when the smallness of the republic is considered, on municipal and governmental buildings. Almost one-third of the entire revenue of the state, in fact, is expended on educational grants and public works of different kinds. Education is a very carefully considered subject with the Free Staters. The educational department is a very thorough-

in each ward or subdistrict they are held every year. The stringency of the demand of these examinations as town men are not made to parade on their mounts, and only those burghers ranging in age from 18 to 40 years are made to put in an appearance. Each member of this burgher army is supplied with a rifle by the government at cost price, which is just \$12. The state has also a special mounted police corps of 125 men under the direction of a commandant. They were brought into existence by an act

Paul and his people above the Vaal realized that sooner or later must come the ultimate struggle for existence. The Free Stater had his own free and independent existence well established by treaty and tradition. He is now learning that what General Sherman once called it. WILLIAM J. RUDOLPH.

According to The Hawaiian Gazette there are ordinarily from 30 to 40 varieties of fish on sale in the Honolulu market. A large percentage of the natives make their living by fishing.

men over 25 have one vote, married men and widowers with families have two votes, and priests and other persons of position and education have three votes. Severe penalties are imposed on those who fail to vote. The heels of the shoes of the sultan of Turkey are made five inches in height. In order to give him the appearance of a tall man. He dyes his head of hair

and beard, is hard of hearing and has a temper. Doctors say that cold ankles kill more women than nerves and diseases put together. Humming birds in Mindoro, one of the Philippines, are very pugnacious. Hundreds of them simultaneously attack a huntsman and seriously injure him.

BITS ABOUT EVERYTHING.

Two grandsons of Li Hung Chang arrived in San Francisco from China recently with Dr. Walter Lambuth, secretary of the Southern Methodist Episcopal board of missions. Mr. Lambuth's son is in Nashville, and the young men will prepare themselves there for a course in Vanderbilt university. They

are accomplished Chinese scholars, but have studied English only two years. Prince Louis Napoleon, who wanted to go to Africa and fight for the Boers, is the most promising member of the Bonaparte family. He is a man in his early thirties, of a reticent and even saturnine disposition. He is a colonel

of one of the Russian guard regiments, and it was the czar that refused him leave to fight the English.

The president of Switzerland only gets \$2,000 per year, and the law forbids him to succeed himself.

One of the many hobbies attributed to Emperor William is the collection of playing cards. It is said that his collection is one of the most complete and

exhaustive in existence, and that he has samples of many of the rarest of the old cards, besides specimens of all those that are in common use today.

The stand of colors won by Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth's United States Zouave cadets in competition in Chicago in 1893 and the next year on an extensive tour in the United States and Canada has been entrusted by the sur-

viving members of the company to the Chicago Historical society for perpetual keeping.

An automobile that cost when new \$3,000 sold at auction recently in Paris for \$13,200, after making a fast record. It appears, comments The Trotter and Pacer, that developed speed is valuable in machines as well as in horses.

Under the Belgian law unmarried

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