

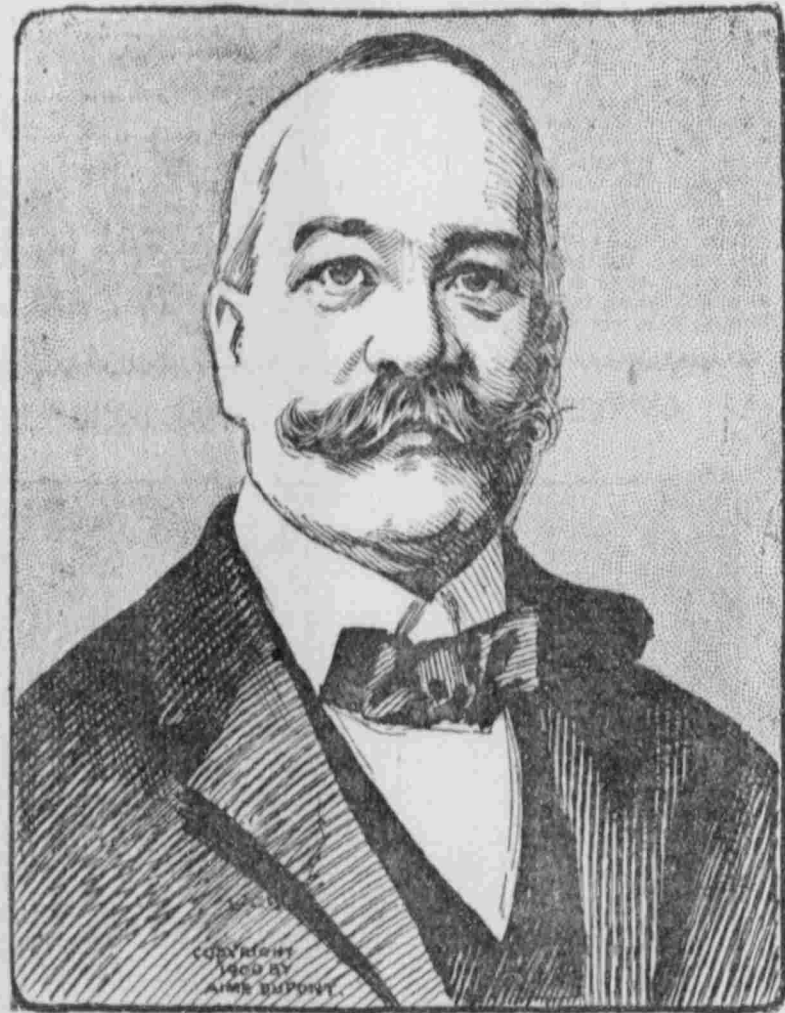
## THE CAUSE OF THE BATTLING BOER

Views of Montagu White, Representative of the South African Republic in the United States.

MR. MONTAGU WHITE is the able representative of the South African Republic in the United States, and although he takes an active part in the discussion of the situation relative to South Africa, he has done so in such a diplomatic manner as to give no offense to the United States government. When there is a disposition to make political capital out of every situation and when the Boer sympathizers in this country often indulge in unjustifiable attacks upon the administration, Mr. White is careful not to become involved. To avoid such complications he has been obliged to exercise a great deal of discretion. Mr. White was consul general of the Transvaal in London previous to the war. Since it began he has served his country in various capacities.

He would be taken for an Englishman almost anywhere, and his name indicates English rather than Dutch blood, but then there are many men of English blood who are working and fighting for the Boer cause.

Mr. White was asked for an interview concerning the military situation in South Africa. He replied by saying that, not being a military man in any



MONTAGU WHITE.

way, he was not quite competent to discuss military affairs. Besides, it took about six weeks for communications from the Transvaal to reach him. These came first to Brussels and were then forwarded to him. Naturally, such communications, bearing more particularly upon diplomatic affairs, did not disclose military conditions or probable movements.

"The relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith," said Mr. White, "were not serious reverses for the Boers. It is because of the effect they have on the wavering more than anything else that they are to be regretted. I believe there was a minority in the Free State opposed to the war, and there are always some who determine their position according to the success or failure of the cause. It was believed from the beginning that we must at one time or another fall back upon our strongholds in the Transvaal. Our resources are excellent. We had supplies of arms and provisions, both for offense and defense. That set apart for offense has not yet been exhausted, and the defensive stores have not yet been drawn upon. It is quite plain that the Boers can make a strong defensive campaign and extend the war for a long time.

"Time is of great importance to us. The longer we hold the British forces in check the greater opportunity there is for something to happen which will help us and embarrass the English. Who can tell what may occur in Afghanistan? Not long ago there was a little flurry on the Canadian border at Esquimaux. Possibly that did not amount to much, but it showed how many things may occur which might trouble Great Britain.

"While I do not know what is to be the plan of campaign, I should think that there will be no stubborn resistance to the British advance before it reaches the neighborhood of Pretoria, although a sufficient force will be in the field at all times to make it impossible for the British to move forward with any speed. They will have to fight at every point where resistance can be made."

Mr. White was asked if it were likely that the Boers would have any force in fortified places to resist and possibly come behind the British lines.

His reply was: "The Boers, being in a ridiculous minority, would be in danger of being outflanked by Roberts, and, while it might hold some of his army in check for a time, it would not meet the actual purpose, and a portion of the army left to hold a place in a country practically left to the enemy would be captured, as was Cronje's army. Probably the first resistance of any dimensions will be made at the Vaal river. There are natural lines of defense in this neighborhood. Even here the Boers may find it advantageous to withdraw, for the large army of Roberts might be able to outflank them. Pretoria is the impregnable position of the Boers, and here the resistance of the Boers will not only be stubborn, but effective.

"The advances of Buller is a very difficult one compared to the advance of Roberts, because there is the natural rampart of the Drakenberg range, which is considered an almost insurmountable barrier. In that country a small force will be able to check effectively a much larger one of the enemy.

"Our main forces will be concentrated in the Transvaal, while smaller ones will harass the advance and check the enemy. Cold weather will soon be very trying to the forces of the British on the high veldt. The seasons have a great effect upon the campaigns. The men must live in tents in bad weather, which will make it very uncomfortable for them.

"I have been criticised for saying that Johannesburg would probably be destroyed as a preliminary to the defense of Pretoria. Of course, when war occurs there are certain laws to be observed, and there should not be a needless destruction of property. Johannesburg, on account of its proximity to Pretoria, will make an excellent base of attack for the British. It will furnish barracks and quarters, storehouses and a most favorable base of supplies. If left intact, it would make the campaign most comfortable and charming for the British. The buildings would be used for the soldiers, thus avoiding tents and other camp accessories. If you are at war, you cannot provide cozy corners for your enemies. The burning of a city as a military necessity is not a rare occurrence. It has always been regarded as a legitimate means of defense. Everybody knows that Moscow was burned for that reason. It was a desperate, but heroic, undertaking and accomplished the purpose. The burning of the capital and a part of this city of Washington in 1814, on the other hand, was described by the English historian Greene as a disgraceful and wanton act. I cannot see how the Boers can be expected to furnish the British with a very pleasant camp, with all the necessities for prosecuting a siege within such a short distance from the capital where the main defense is to be made.

"The important matter for the Boers now is time. The longer they hold out the greater will become the sympathy with the Boers in all parts of the United States. The people of the United States naturally sympathize with the oppressed, and under prolonged oppression their sympathies will rise. Even now this feeling of sympathy is growing in strength. But I think there is nothing like a well organized campaign in their behalf."

Mr. White's attention was called to the recent demonstrations in England on St. Patrick's day, when the English people outdid the Irish in the "wearing of the green."

"England will not succeed in capturing the Irish by the demonstration," he said, "but it will naturally entitle the soldiers. The Irish members of parliament and the priests will not be caught by the shadow. They will still agitate for the substance.

"Whatever may be the outcome of the war," said Mr. White, "it will have a very far-reaching effect. It will tend to strengthen the military power of England. It will for a time consolidate the empire, but I think it is bound to have a disintegrating effect. It will give rise to problems that will be difficult to solve. The colonies, knowing their strength, will make demands that cannot be complied with by the home government. The inevitable tendency will be toward the independence of the colonies, and it will be difficult to check this.

"In England itself this war is bound to have unexpected results. Under the influence of yellow journals and Ciesarism the character of the English seems to be undergoing a change, and that for the worse. There will be a rude awakening some day."

Washington, D. C.

### JOTTINGS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Senator Beveridge is to spend his next vacation abroad, where he will make a tour of Germany, England, France and Italy.

Representative Jefferson M. Levy of New York, who owns Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, says that he maintains it "in keeping with its distinguished traditions."

Ted Sloane is going to build a mag-

nificent villa on Coney Island. He has already bought the ground, engaged an architect and deposited \$10,000 with a trust company for the commencement of the work.

Rev. Dr. Curtis, the pastor of the Mount Auburn Presbyterian church at Cincinnati, has been devoting his church services to the special interest of street railway employees. The Cincinnati

### A HERO OF LADYSMITH.

When the British were shut up in Ladysmith, their only means of communication with the outside world was by helicopter and the native runner. It was no easy thing for these Kafir runners to steal through the Boer lines by night, and the risk they ran can easily



be imagined. Any black carrying letters from the beleaguered garrison knew well enough what was in store for him if he happened to be captured, but, notwithstanding this, there was many a black skinned hero ready to carry the messages of his white masters. The accompanying picture shows "James" Molife, a native runner who succeeded at a great risk in crossing the Boer lines no less than three times during the siege.

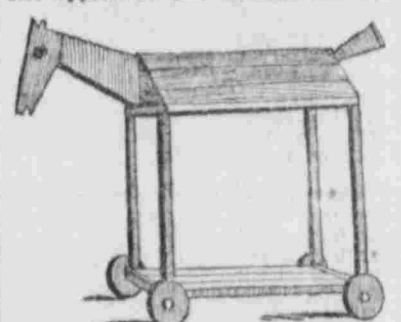
### A PRIMITIVE POSTOFFICE.

Here is a picture of probably the smallest and most primitive postoffice in the world. It was established by Colonel Anderson, who was in command of the Briska column in South Africa on the march to the relief of Kimberley. This postoffice is nothing more than an old shell box, with a lid and padlock attached, and was put up along the line



of march at Schilderspan, ten miles from Howwater. Crude as is this little postoffice, all soldiers' letters dropped into it are sure of delivery, since the stamp of the imperial authorities has been put on one end of the little box.

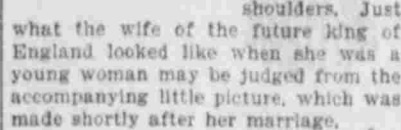
**AN OLD METHOD OF DISCIPLINE.**  
The nineteenth century soldier is a much better treated man than was his predecessors of a hundred years ago. The oppressive and often brutal con-



duct of the old fashioned drill sergeant of the last century may be judged from some of the practices then prevalent for breaking in obstreperous members of an "awkward squad." The accompanying illustration shows a wooden horse formerly used to punish refractory soldiers. The unhappy culprit was set astride this steed, with a musket attached to each foot.

### THE PRINCESS OF WALES IN YOUTH

Besides being the recognized leader of the aristocracy of Great Britain, the Princess of Wales is also looked upon as one of the most beautiful women in England. But the Princess of Wales is no longer a young woman, since for some time now she has been a grand-mother and has had the care of a very large family on her tall and regal shoulders. Just what the wife of the future King of England looked like when she was a young woman may be judged from the accompanying little picture, which was made shortly after her marriage.



### HOW OOM PAUL SIGNS HIS NAME.

Here is the autograph of President Kruger of the South African Republic, signed, as the correspondent who sent it to America observed, "by the president himself, with one hand." Like several other great men, Oom Paul's handwriting is not the clearest in the world.

street railway companies grant free transfers to employees and their families to and from the church.

John H. Reagan of Texas, the sole surviving member of the Confederate cabinet, is writing his recollections of the civil war. He knew Jefferson Davis and the other southern leaders of 1861-5 better than any other man now alive.

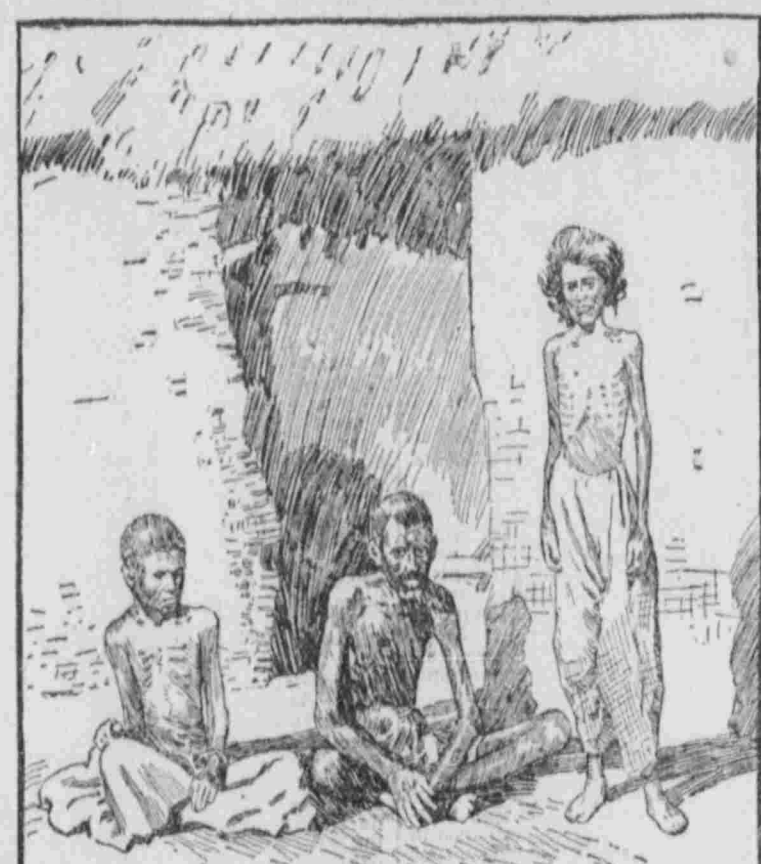
Professor John Snelling Popkin was professor of Greek at Harvard some years ago, and he was not without a

# THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

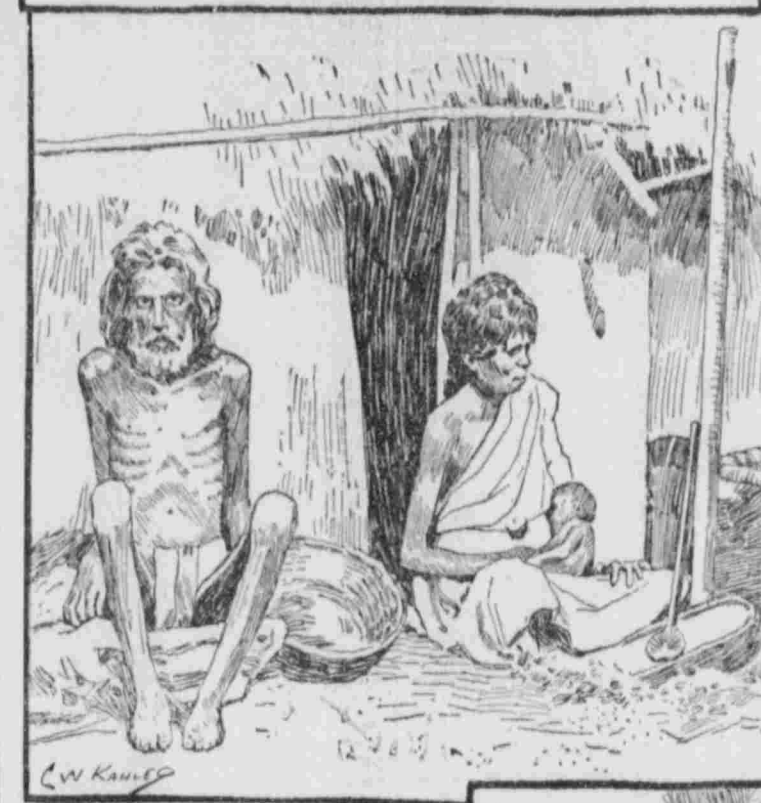
UNHAPPY India is once more writhing in the throes of famine. Had England heeded the advice of General Lord Roberts, who is now leading her troops in South Africa, there might have been no starving mil-

lions in the Indian empire at the present time.

Ten years ago, when Lord Roberts was the military administrator of the great Asiatic colony of England, he foresaw the ever threatening danger of a failure of the food supply among those teeming millions of blacks and suggested a means of obviating, or at least diminishing, such a danger.



FAMILIAR SCENE IN THE FAMINE DISTRICT



A STARVING FAMILY AT JUBBULPORE



ABANDONED BABIES AT RELIEF STATION

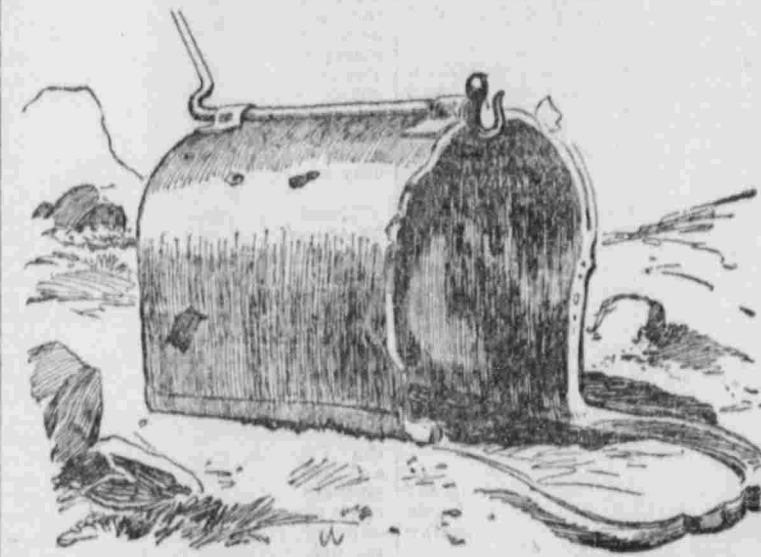
The latest dispatches from India report that millions of natives are dying in that country from starvation. Streams are dried up, the crops have failed utterly, children have been abandoned, men and women are lying about, too weak to walk, starving in their pitiable rags, and there is every reason to believe that this terrible condition will keep up until perhaps even June, when

people following after the grain carts and fighting among themselves for the stray kernels that fall in the dust. Over this ancient country of fabled

destitution be reported to the proper authorities and fixed fines upon mayors and councils permitting deaths by starvation in their districts these methods

rainfall of that sun parched country. But this, even though the money for such works were forthcoming, would take many years.

### A BOER'S BULLET PROOF BED.



The ordinary Boer is a very clever and ingenious individual, as has been shown time and time again during the present South African campaign. One of the most recent proofs of this was the remnants of a Boer bullet proof bed found in Ollantfontein laager by the British. Some inspired sharpshooter among the burghers in that laager, when unpleasantly menaced by British bullets, had furnished himself with a very safe and comfortable bed by simply taking one of the small iron mining trucks of the place and overturning it.

### COWS THAT WEAR SPECTACLES.

The idea of cows wearing spectacles seems most ridiculous. Nevertheless, there are cows that do wear spectacles, and they may be seen on the plains or steppes of Russia, which are covered with snow six months of the year.

The cows subsist on the tufts of grass which crop above the snow, and the rays of the sun on the snow are so dazzling as to cause blindness. To obviate this it occurred to a kind hearted man to provide the cattle with smoke colored spectacles.

### EASTER IN KING MENELIK'S COUNTRY.



An Abyssinian Easter is a very strange sight. The Easter of the land of King Menelik occurs just eight days after that of the civilized world and follows many days of the severest fasting and, in fact, two days of total abstinence. The Abyssinian clergy then officially announce the resurrection of Christ to the emperor, who sits, supported by cushions, in a tent carpeted with red and gold mats. The tent is put up on a large platform, so that the emperor may look out over the assembled populace.

ed by the enemy can in a few seconds wreck this expensive weapon beyond all hope of repair.

A Chicago newspaper asserts that out of a total of 4,000 lawyers in that city \$500 are handling all the litigation brought before the courts, and only about 200 are making \$5,000 or over each year. The enactment of the national bankruptcy law, it is claimed, cut off a large and profitable source of revenue for lawyers.

effect to the buildings that cedar will be substituted, it being claimed that the ants will not attack cedar. It is also claimed by some that hemlock is ant-proof. Should this fact be proved, the question of a market for hemlock would be solved.

It is stated that the cost of a 12 inch breechloading gun, with its disappearing carriage, amounts to \$140,000, and each shot is fired at an expenditure of \$560. Yet a single shell accurately aim-

those who are seeking them, while the most strenuous shouts of the former fall to penetrate under a few feet of snow.

A Washington mill has taken an order from the United States government for 500,000 feet of cedar for use at Manila, says The Mississippi Valley Lumberman. The first government buildings were built of fir, but the white ants, which infest that country ate it with apparent relish and with so disastrous