

The Thorn in England's Flesh

Possibility of War With the Transvaal Republic.

The Transvaal, which bids fair to become one of the principal centers of the next war in which English-speaking people will be concerned is about the size of France. It is rich in natural resources, aside from its gold and diamond fields, and for nearly two centuries has been tilled by the thrifty Dutch emigrants and their descendants, or utilized for the pastures of their thousands of herds of cattle and horses. The country takes its name from the river Vaal, which forms its southern boundary. This may become a new Rubicon if war is declared, and it is probably the best known stream of the Dark Continent, although from a geographical standpoint it is insignificant compared with such water-courses as the Nile and the Niger. While largely composed of tablelands the country is well watered and fertile. On the tableland can be grown the usual crops of the temperate zone, such as cereals, tobacco, fruits and vegetables, while its ivory and wool markets are among the most extensive in the world. The ostrich is also a native of this country, and the trade in its feathers is considerable. An abundance of timber and other building material have given the inhabitants an opportunity to construct substantial and comfortable homes at a small cost, and the traveler is surprised at the advance in civilization which he finds in the towns located hundreds of miles from the nearest railroad.

But the Transvaal has been a thorn to the British government for over a century. Within the country and near its borders have occurred many conflicts, in which the English have not met the success which has attended their arms in East India and other parts of the world, for the reason that they have had to oppose men of Dutch blood, who have proved by many wars that they are a nation of fighters as well as of farmers. Since the first colony of Dutchmen landed at Cape Colony, in 1652, these people have been

sons. They are too well aware that government by the latter means cruelty and bloodshed, with the possible resumption of slavery, which was one of the chief causes of several of the wars which have occurred since 1850. The abolition of slavery in the South African republics greatly increased the bitter feeling of the Boers, who by this step lost millions of dollars in human property. It was an act which they will probably never forget nor forgive.

They are also opposed to the English on account of their enterprise in developing the mineral resources in this portion of the continent. The descendants of the pioneers who landed in 1652 and those who have come over from Holland since that time have been content to utilize merely the agricultural resources of the country. If the average Boer has a productive farm on which he can raise a fair proportion of wheat, corn and tobacco, with enough vegetables to supply the needs of his family and servants, he is satisfied, provided he can sell his grain, as well as the cattle from his pastures, and the wool of his flocks, at a fair profit. The proceeds of these sales are more liable to be turned into gold to be hoarded than to be placed in speculative ventures, where they will return a good rate of interest. He is miserly and believes in accumulating gradually, but surely. If in the business of the towns he confines his wares to goods which can be sold to the farmers. He seldom engages in mining and manufacturing. Up to 1850 South Africa was practically an agricultural and grazing country, and its cities depended almost entirely upon the Boer farmers and stock raisers for their business. By the discovery of gold and diamond mines, however, the influx of English and other nationalities was greatly increased. Foreign enterprise has aided in the progress of the country, which, up to this period, had been far behind other portions of the world in rail-

in the Transvaal at least five years before he is entitled to cast a ballot for any official, and until recently only a resident of Dutch ancestry could be elected to the Volksraad. This law has been changed so that a foreigner could be selected by a ballot for a seat in the Second Raad, but as this body could enact no measures without the sanction of the principal body, the office was of but little importance, while in a district where the Boers were in the majority a foreigner stood very little chance of being nominated for this office. The Kruger administration has always been very careful to secure control of all public franchises, such as railway building and public improvements. The control of the Delagoa Bay railroad, which has been the subject of much controversy, and control the principal lighting and water works systems in the South African states, with the exceptions of a few in Cape Colony. They also have a monopoly on the sale of such articles as dynamite for explosive purposes and have secured an enormous royalty as well on special machinery and other necessities in mining operations. Consequently the states in which the Boers are in the majority are governed entirely in the interest of the Dutch.

White persons not of Boer extraction residing in the region of the Transvaal, for example, are termed Uitlanders, which really means Outlanders—from out of the land. The Uitlanders have been gradually crossing the Vaal, attracted by the mineral and other deposits, as well as the opportunities for agriculture, since 1850. They have increased to about 80,000 in the Transvaal alone, out of the total population of 230,000 white people. About 50,000 are of British descent, the balance being French, Spanish and a few thousand Americans. Owing to the laws of the country, it is estimated that fully four-fifths of them are only entitled to vote, although these are numbered among the wealthiest and most prominent citizens. In the Orange Free State they are not so numerous in proportion to the Dutch residents, but have obtained more privileges, as this republic has been more liberal in its attitude to foreigners on account of its president, who has a reputation as a broad-minded statesman. If war is declared it will be largely the outcome

ANIMALS RELAPSE

INTENDED SOMETIMES TO EXTERMINATE PESTS.

Soon They Are Worse Than the Original Nuisance, Returning to Their Wild State—Wild Hogs of the Southern Pacific Islands.

Ordinary domestic animals—horses, cats, and dogs—may multiply in certain parts of the world so numerous as to become serious pests. In some of the Western states wild horses have become a positive nuisance, and in 1897 Nevada passed a law permitting them to be shot. Recent reports from Washington say that "cayuses" in that region are considered of so little value that they are killed and used as bait for poisoning wolves and coyotes. In this connection it is worth mentioning that in some parts of Australia wild horses have multiplied to such an extent as to consume the grass needed for sheep and other animals, and hunters have been employed to shoot them. Where cats have run wild on isolated islands their work can be appreciated more accurately. On Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, they were introduced about 1880 and rapidly exterminated the rabbits, which had been in possession for at least half a century. In one of the harbors of Kerguelen land, a barren and desolate bit of antarctic terra firma to the southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, cats, escaped from ships, have made themselves at home on a little island known as Cat Island, which has been long used as a watering place for sealers. Here they live in holes in the ground, preying upon sea birds and their young, and are said to have developed such extraordinary ferocity that it is almost impossible to tame them even when captured young. Pigs have run wild in some of the Southern states and also on certain islands, where, as on the Galapagos, they were introduced to furnish food for crews of vessels in need of fresh meat. They were imported into New Zealand by Capt. Cook about 1770, and, soon becoming wild, increased to a remarkable degree. A century later wild pigs were so abundant in the flax thickets of the province of Taranaki, on the North Island, that a hunter could shoot fifty in a day. In one case 25,000 wild pigs are said to have been killed there by three hunters in less than two years.

Sheep and goats, when numerous, are likely to cause widespread injury, particularly in forest regions. An instructive example of the damage done by goats is afforded by St. Helena, a mountainous island scarcely fifty square miles in extent, its highest summit reaching an elevation of 2,700 feet. At the time of its discovery, about the beginning of the sixteenth century, it is said to have been covered by dense forest; today it is described as a rocky desert. This change has been brought about largely by goats, first introduced by the Portuguese in 1513, and which multiplied so fast that in seventy-five years they existed by thousands. Browsing on the young trees and shrubs, they rapidly brought about the destruction of the vegetation which protected the steep slopes. With the disappearance of the undergrowth began the washing of the soil by tropical rains and the destruction of the forest. Sable Island has suffered from several plagues of rats, as well as cats, and it is said that the first superintendent of the light station and his men were threatened with starvation, owing to the inroads made on their stores by rats. The common brown rat, otherwise known as the wharf rat or Norway rat, is of Asiatic origin, and until 200 years ago was unknown in Europe or America. In the fall of 1727 large numbers of this species entered Europe by swimming across the Volga, and gaining a foothold in the province of Astrakhan, in eastern Russia, spread westward over central Europe. Five years later they reached England by vessels from western India. They arrived on the eastern shore of the United States about 1775, and became abundant at several points on the Pacific coast. The black rat was the common house rat of Europe in the middle ages, and was introduced in the new world about 1544, or more than 200 years earlier than the brown rat. In Porto Rico and some other islands the black rat has taken to living in the crown of cocoanut trees, to which it does great damage by biting off the unripe fruit. In various parts of the world domestic dogs run wild and have become serious pests, devouring sheep and in other ways making themselves a nuisance. On the Galapagos islands they have helped largely to exterminate the gigantic tortoises native to that group, making a habit of waiting for the eggs to hatch and then devouring the baby turtles.

PREPARING FOR A NEW PLAY.

Complete Model in Miniature of Scenery Made Before the Production.

The preparation for a new play, as far as the scenery is concerned, is most interesting. A complete model in miniature is made, about the size of one of the German toy theaters seen in the shops. The picture is carefully painted, the rocks if there be any, and the foliage are cut out, and all the details are followed with no less thought than when the real affair is attacked. The work is done in water colors, and mounted on pasteboard, and if the scheme be an interior there are real curtains in miniature, flights of steps and the hangings, all seriously worked out. It is something that would delight the heart of a boy and furnish him with endless amusement. These models are kept until after the piece is produced, and are then put away on shelves, alas, only to warp and become covered with dust. But the master painter's work does not end here by any means, for there are lights to be arranged, since they play an important part in the performance, and they must be regulated by the scheme of color; so there are long conferences with electricians and many discussions with the makers of glass shades whereby the exact tints may be obtained. When every detail has been settled, then the great acres of canvas are spread on the paint frames and the drawing is begun. Large china pots are used for the colors. These are filled with paints which are mixed with water and a size, and enormous brushes put the pigment on the canvas. It is wonderful to watch the artist, who dashes on the paint with no apparent care and who has to work fast to cover the surface before the color dries, which it does very quickly.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

TREASURE TROVE.

The Innocence of One of the Prisoners Saved Him.

In 1863 a man named Thomas Butcher, a laborer in the employment of a farmer at Mountfield in Sussex, was plowing a field one fine day when his plowshare threw up a long piece of metal like brass, with a trumpet at each end, and doubled up like a coil of string, says Chambers' Journal. There were several other similar pieces in the same furrow, the whole weighing altogether eleven pounds. Butcher, who had very little imagination, thought nothing of the find, and allowed the metal to lie at the bottom of the field till evening, when he carried it home, thinking it to be the discarded ornaments of some gentleman's hall or parlor. Subsequently he mentioned the matter casually to an acquaintance named Thomas, who, after taking a look at the so-called brass, and consulting with his brother-in-law, Willett, went to Butcher's house with a pair of scales and a great show of honesty, and bought the metal at the rate of sixpence a pound—five and sixpence for the lot. The plowman heard nothing more of the transaction until his acquaintances began to annoy him by inquiring jestingly if he had found any more old brass lately, and then it leaked out that Thomas and Willett had sold the "brass" to a firm of gold refiners in Cheapside for £529 13s 7d. The crown took the matter up, an inquest was held by the coroner, and Thomas and Willett were at once arrested. Butcher, whose simplicity had saved him from temptation, was an innocent finder; but the prisoners, who, knowing how the metal had been found, had bought it as brass and sold it for their own benefit as gold, were convicted on the evidence and punished severely.

Where Was St. Patrick Born?

The question of where was St. Patrick born often crops up, and it would seem as if there were as many claimants for the honor of his birth as there were for that of Homer. The Rev. Edward O'Brien, of Limavady, Ireland, starts a new theory in a late issue of the Irish Ecclesiastical Record. The patron saint of Erin has generally gotten the credit of hailing from Scotland, but Mr. O'Brien claims Spain as the land of his nativity. He (Mr. O'Brien) holds that St. Patrick was either born at Emporia or was living there when a very young child. Emporia is on the Clyde (not the Scottish river of that name, but the Clodenus) which falls in the Gulf of Rosas (Rhoda), a gulf of the Thyrrene sea, the Mare Internum of the Romans. The saint's grandfather was a presbyter, or member of the supreme council, and his father was a deacon. The city of which he was deacon was Vicus, an episcopal see. It was on the River Alba Fluvia, in the territory of Tiburne. The arguments for this theory are most logical, and are certain to lead to an interesting discussion amongst archaeologists and historians.

A Brilliant Investment.

Probably one of the prettiest pieces of financial foresight, as well as keen statecraft, on record was the acquisition of the shares which Great Britain holds in the Suez canal. Condemned by the short-sighted at the time, events have since proved the wisdom of the policy. As a mere investment the purchase of these shares was a splendid stroke of business. The sum of 4,000,000 pounds was originally paid for them, and their market value at the present day is close upon 25,000,000 pounds. Moreover, the original purchase price has been more than returned in dividends, so that Great Britain stands in the position that she is the holder of 25,000,000 pounds of capital which has not cost her a half-penny to acquire, and which produces an annual income of some three-quarters of a million, while also bestowing on her an enormous political influence.

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William Sodds, the greatest cattle owner in the United States, attends to all the details of his work, entrusting as little as possible to the care of subordinates, although he could well afford to retire from the active management of his business. "If I want to be sure a thing is well done I just do it myself," he says. Twice a year he accompanies his shipment of cattle from northern Arizona into Kansas City.

Protecting New Inventions. H. H. Y., of Omaha, Neb., asks: "Is there any method of establishing priority of invention except by a caveat?" Answer: We commenced filing incomplete applications in lieu of caveats twenty years ago and such practice has been followed by other attorneys. W. D. Baldwin, vice president of the Patent Law Association of Washington is on record as saying in a practice of forty-two years he never found a caveat benefit any of his clients. There is a strong probability that congress will abolish the caveat system.

The caveat fees are an unnecessary expense. An application such as we prepare and file at Washington upon the receipt of the first fee, \$20, will be legal protection for one year. Any other way of fixing date of priority of invention is uncertain. Consultation and advice about protecting inventions free.

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I never used so quick a cure as Piso's Cure for Consumption.—J. B. Palmer, Box 1171, Seattle, Wash., Nov. 25, 1898.

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CASCARETS REGULATE THE LIVER



A STREET IN PRETORIA.

the enemies of England, and have shown it in a variety of ways. The present difficulty is based, apparently, on technical grounds, but Kruger, who may be called the Dutch George Washington, has taken every opportunity to arouse the feeling of his countrymen, and of the native African as far as possible, to incite another war. None know this better than the British foreign office, and it is endeavoring in every way possible to avoid an open rupture. Should Kruger and his allies come out victorious there is a possibility that the entire southern portion of Africa, from the Limpopo river, which bounds the Transvaal on the north, to Cape Colony, will again be under the administration of the Holland emigrants. On the other hand, should they be defeated, it will be a long step toward the complete subjugation of Africa to British interests. Hence the importance of the outcome of the present difficulty.

The southern peninsula of Africa is practically divided into several republics of greater or less size under the suzerainty of Great Britain. The proceedings of the parliament in Cape Colony and the Volksraad in the Transvaal are seldom or never interfered with by the British foreign office. The majority of the Cape Colonists are grateful for the garrisons or regiments which are stationed at various towns, not only at Capetown, but in Natal and on the Gold Coast, for they are maintained by the home government and are valuable as a protection, for which no taxation is necessary. This is owing to the fact that the English population has rapidly increased within the last few years, and their sympathy is with their own nationality. The Kafirs and most of the other black tribes also have a friendly feeling for the English and are opposed to their original Dutch conquerors for several rea-

road building, manufacturing and the application of science and arts. The Dutch settlers were content to let well enough alone, and with good reason, for they had found it an easy matter to conquer the natives and to utilize them as laborers, while their governments exacted heavy tribute for the white settlers, from which they received little benefit. It is unnecessary to detail the extortions which were practiced and the manner in which tribute was imposed upon slaves by the soldiers of the colonies, in many instances with great loss of life. Slave markets were established in most of the principal cities, and the blacks regarded merely as chattels. The first reverse which the Boers received at the hands of the English was when they abandoned control of the country around Cape Colony and moved across the Vaal. This "trek," or exodus, was in 1835 and 1836, and constituted the founding of the Transvaal. For nearly forty years after they dominated the territory north of the Vaal to the Limpopo river, although but a few thousand in number. In fact, the white population in 1877 of the Transvaal was but 8,000 people, while the blacks numbered near 1,000,000. This was to give an idea of the ability of the Dutch to govern the native tribes and the success which they attained, for nearly all of the latter were subject to them. Several thousand remained in Cape Colony and these and their descendants have always remained Boer sympathizers.

The Boers have enacted laws almost entirely for their own race, the foreigners being greatly restricted by the legislation adopted. Under the supervision of Kruger, who has been in every respect a dictator of the Boers, the voting has been almost entirely limited to his countrymen. A foreigner, for example, is obliged to reside

of the attitude of the Boers toward the Uitlanders of the Transvaal because Kruger is as bitter now as when he fought the British in the 60s and captured Pretoria, which is his present seat of government.

Use of Voice Recovered by the Dumb.

One Mrs. Patten of Elmstead, in Essex, England, in 1876, as the result of a serious illness, lost the use of her voice and remained dumb for twenty-three years. In 1899, on the occasion of her daughter's illness, causing mental derangement, during which the daughter set fire to herself in her bedroom and died in a few hours owing to the terrible injuries received, the shock thereby caused to the mother resulted in her suddenly regaining the use of her voice, and she can now speak clearly and fluently. Wiedmeister tells a story of a bride who, as she was taking leave after the wedding breakfast, suddenly lost her speech and remained dumb for many years, until overcome with fear at the sight of a fire, she cried out, "Fire! fire!" and from that time continued to speak. Two years ago an Italian, 41 years of age, who had been a deaf-mute for five years in consequence of a serious disease, was startled by the sudden appearance of a runaway horse. As he jumped aside to avoid the animal he uttered a loud scream, and after it had gone by he found that he was able to talk and hear.

The Costliest Parliament in Europe.

The most costly parliament of Europe is that of France. The senate and chamber of deputies eat up annually 300,000 pounds. The same item for the other chief European nations is as follows: Spain, 89,200 pounds; Italy, 86,000 pounds; Austria, 52,000 pounds; Great Britain, 51,320 pounds.

Just Cause.

Brown—There goes a young fellow that's hated by everybody in his neighborhood. Jones—What's wrong with him? Brown—He is learning to play a cornet.

Long Colorado Snow Blockade.

A snow blockade kept railroad trains out of Breckinridge, Colo., from February 4 until April 25.