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The Boers—An Appreciation.

I have lived with the Boer in peace and have taken up my rifle against him in war. I have laughed with him. I have fought with him; have hunted with him and hunted after him; our rifles have pointed to the same buck far on the peaceful veldt, and our rifles have pointed to each other in the darker days of war. And yet in all these widely different circumstances I have always found the Boer what he is—manly, and a "foeman worthy of our steel."

Perhaps the Boer was seen at his best and at his worst during the last days of the war, but to speak of him otherwise than a "first-class fighting man" would be sheer nonsense. I had the honor and privilege to belong to a regiment of Colonial Horse who kept the field since we first "let slip the dogs of war" till we called them in after the conference of Vereeniging, and for a time we hovered round the grim fastnesses of the mighty Drakenberg Range, and hugged the wild boundaries of Basutoland and Natal. It was here that doughty guerrilla chieftain and "flying Dutchman," Christian De Wet, loved to make a stake or take a rest. Here, too—"on his native heath"—he gave us his last fight as a pitched encounter. Here, too, his son surrendered to our arms. I have met him here as I have met him elsewhere on the open veldt, and the Boer is brave—magnificently brave. If he ran away he came back, as Lord Kitchener said recently at Johannesburg. Discretion is said to be the better part of valor, and the Boer is pre-eminently discreet. If he took cover, so did we. This much we learned from him—"A British Soldier," in "Tit Bits."

Practical Science.

In a recent issue of the Journal of the British Society of Arts some striking examples of the effect of the use of science in German factories are given. In 1840 fully 154,000 tons of beet root were crushed, from which 8,000 tons of raw sugar were produced—about 5½ per cent. In 1860 1,500,000 tons were treated, and produced 128,000 tons of sugar—8 per cent. Last year 12,000,000 tons were crushed and yielded 1,500,000 tons of raw sugar—13 per cent. This increase of quantity, as

well as percentage of product, is due entirely to scientific treatment. The production of dry colors, chemicals and dyes in Germany shows a corresponding increase in production and dividend-paying capacity, which is due to the constant maintenance of laboratories of trained scientists, whose only purpose is to improve and cheapen processes.

Will Not Repay.

While in Lincoln recently Miss Ellen M. Stone said that she would not undertake to repay those who subscribed to the fund raised to ransom her from the brigands. Miss Stone deems it impossible for her to do it, the reasons being numerous. The chief reason is that she cannot hope to earn the necessary amount; and another that she does not know all of the donors. She expressed regret that it was announced that she intended repaying the subscriptions, the announcement being misleading. "What I did say," replied Miss Stone in response to a direct question, "was that I would endeavor to repay those who were embarrassed by the giving or those who have since been visited by sickness or trouble." In Miss Stone's opinion the sultan of Turkey should be compelled to make good the amount secured by the bandits.

Mr. Shaw's Scheme.

Mr. Shaw's scheme of loaning the banks government money without interest to loan to the people at heavy rates of interest in order that the people may obtain money wherewith to pay their taxes and thus make it possible for Mr. Shaw to have a surplus that may be loaned to the bankers—Mr. Shaw's scheme, as before mentioned, somehow or other recalls the story of the little boy.

"I hate to take medicine," said the little boy, "but I take it without a murmur because mamma gives me a nickle every time."

"What do you do with your money?" asked the visitor.

"I put it in my little iron bank."

"What are you going to do when the bank is full?"

"O, mamma attends to that. When the bank is about full I've used up all the medicine, then mamma empties the bank and takes the money to pay for some more medicine."

PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH.

It is hard for the southern people themselves to realize how rapidly their section of the country is growing. Especially is this true of Texas.

An intelligent writer in a recent number of the Bankers' Magazine, referring to the south's progress in an educational and industrial way, says that "it is well within the truth to say that education is nowhere receiving a larger share of public attention than is being bestowed upon this subject today throughout the south. Technical education is being fostered by states and municipalities, and there are a number of institutions of the highest rank annually giving practical training to a large and increasing body of students."

Another competent authority on this subject, Abram S. Hewitt, of New York, says "there is no corresponding region on this habitable globe which has so many advantages as the south, all available by natural or artificial communications and capable of more economical operation than in any other part of the country."

The figures given in the Bankers' Magazine are thus summarized by the Macon Telegraph:

"It is shown, for example, that between 1880 and 1890 the population of the south increased from 16,369,960 to 23,584,404, or 44 per cent, but in the same period southern agricultural products increased in value from \$1,134,586,229 to \$2,844,646,440, or 157 per cent. Farm values grew from \$2,290,364,321 to \$3,951,631,632. Farming is improving, as is shown by the fact that, while the acreage in wheat increased in the two decades but 12 per cent, the crop increased 82 per cent. The average per acre is nearly two bushels higher than the average for the whole country. The corn, hay and oats crops about doubled, and the cotton output increased over 99 per cent. The value of the crop of cotton in 1900, seed included, was \$550,000,000. The rice and sugar crops much more than doubled, and the product of southern tobacco is 70 per cent of that of the entire union. The rural population is accordingly fairly prosperous, and its gain in numbers between 1880 and 1900 was much larger than that of all the rest of the United States.

"Extraordinary has been the development of the manufacturing in the

south during the last two decades such development being favored by abundant water power, coal, railway facilities and labor. New towns and industries are springing up by the hundred. In 1880 there were, for example, 161 cotton factories; in 1900 there were 400. Between 1890 and 1900 the south gained 2,747,839 cotton spindles, against a gain of but 2,172,410 in the north. In the same period the capital in cotton manufacturing increased from \$53,000,000 to \$124,000,000. But oil mills, furnaces, rolling mills, furniture and other wood-working mills have also sprung up as if by magic. An epitome of the manufacturing establishments in 1890, with a capital of \$1,111,688,852, against 43,725 establishments in 1880, with a capital of \$251,692,038. The value of product has grown from \$445,572,461 to \$1,419,001,873. The mining output in 1900 was \$115,352,763, against \$17,807,646 in 1882. The lumber industry has also increased phenomenally.

"This industrial progress has resulted largely from the expansion of the railway systems and the improvement of harbor facilities. Southern ports have increased their exports since 1880 by 95.5 per cent, this being a sequel of the increase of southern railway mileage from 21,612 miles to 52,594 miles, a growth of 143 per cent, against a growth of but 98 per cent in the rest of the union. In banking also, 'the south compares most favorably,' says the Bankers' Magazine, 'with other parts of the union.' Between 1898 and 1902 the capital of southern banks increased from \$63,000,000 to \$77,000,000; deposits from \$165,000,000 to \$269,000,000; total resources from \$318,000,000 to \$506,000,000. Clearings indicate volume of business. The clearings of southern cities in the week ended August 20, 1892, were \$47,000,000, while in the week ended August 16, 1902, they were \$90,000,000. The rate of gain was much greater than in any other part of the country."—Houston Post.

General Corbin sententiously observes that "in Germany there is no legislative interference with the army." But in Germany also an adjutant general is kept in his place and not permitted to run the whole show. —Pittsburg (Pa.) Dispatch.

"The Commoner, Condensed"

This book is, as its title indicates, a condensed copy of THE COMMONER for the first year of its existence. The volume reproduces the editorials which discuss questions of a permanent nature, together with selected paragraphs. A few chapters are to be devoted to Mr. Maupin's page, to the Home Department and to the Weekly Press Forum, while the last chapter contains the best poems which have appeared in the paper during the year.

The editor had a two-fold object in issuing this abridgement of the year's work. He desired, first, to furnish in convenient form for preservation, the more important editorials, so that subscribers who have not kept complete files may have a permanent record of the paper from the beginning; and second, he also desired to give to new subscribers an opportunity to secure the principal part of the preceding numbers of the paper. The publisher's retail price of the volume is \$1.50 for cloth, 75 cents for paper binding, but the following offer is made to subscribers:

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