Section of South Africa Where Standpatism is the Rule.

10

**RURAL PICTURES FROM BOERDOM** 

Balloon Ascension a Mystery to the Natives and Letter Writing an Unusual Occupa-

tion.

A few days ago Capt. Spelterial, the famous aeronaut, made the first balloon ascant ever witnessed in the Transvaal rising to a height of 7,000 fest above Johannesburg. As he was descending near the Free State horder two Boer farmers noticed the strange apparition They were much perturbed. in the sky, They seized their Mausers and deliberated whether it would not be advisable to shoot the mysterious aerial intruder.

which seemed to them to be some unknown monster of the air. Happily they nate. hesitated long enough to see that there were human beings in the curious globe

But the incident should serve to re mind those who export exceedingly ranid development in rural South Africa that many of the quaint ideas of the simple Voortrekkers still cling to the yeld. The old type of Boer farmer is disappearing before the advance of education. But he is going slowly. If you read the liutch pamers you will still find very carnest and very indignant correspondents protesting that the destruction of custs is a blasphemous attempt to oppose the will of the Almighty, who had sent the scourge as a punishment for the sinfulness of the people. You will find farmers declaring that the natural government veterinary surgeons should be turned out of the country.

### Simplicity of the Boers.

The traders and prospectors in the Fransvaal tell many a delightful story of the simplicity of these old Voortrekkers, whose hospitality unfortunately was often but ill repaid.

by law.

One of the best known of these stories relates how a well-known mining magnate purchased a rich gold bearing farm. It was at the time that the Boers first began to realize that some of the intruding strangers into their country were unaccountably willing to pay large sums for land. Prices rose, not because the farmers had the faintest idea of the value of the sums they demanded, but because the large amounts Himply this magnate wished to buy a particular farm he was met with a demand for £100.00 in gold. The owner would not hear of anything less. He did not know

signoil on a given night When the evening came the magnate lrove up 10 the farm with a bag of gold. All was ready, but the Boer insisted that the money must be counted out before sum with a ready reckoner and it is difhis eyes. The other agreed. He set out ferent." 1,000 sovereigns in lines on one side of be table. "There is a thousand pounds," he said,

Then at right angles he laid out 100 This ready reckoner is last year's. It is gold coins. "That is 100 pounds," he explained; "so you have the hundred thousand pounds."

And the Boer signed the deeds and rekked away into the unknown with the gold, happy in the thought that he had sold his farm for a record price. It is not difficult to believe such a story, when one remembers that the

chosen legislators of these old Boers advanced publicly in the Raadzaal those quaint ideas, reprinted in an appendix to Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's book, "The Transvaal From Within.

One of these old parliamentarians deounced a proposal to erect post boxes in Pretoria as extravagant and effemi- system of taxation. Here is an example: own automobile. Therefore, it is neces-

Letter Writing a Monstroalty.

'He could not see." he said, "why ople always wanted to be writing letters. He wrote none himself. In the days of his youth he had written a letter and had not been afraid to gravel eastern investment company fifty miles and more on horseback and wagon to post it, and now people complained if they had to go a mile." hear that godless people in Johannesburg had insulted the Almighty by firing bombs at the sky in time of drought sidewalk, and the earth had washed and the honor of acquaintance? to endeavor to bring rain. The Rand caved, making it impassable. The place raliway was only built through the sub- was an eyesore and a menace to health; pearance of Miss Julia French and her terfuge of calling it a "tram." Flerce. discussions arose on a proposal to de- bilities. stroy locusts, and some members were

diseases of stock should not be inter- so offended at the ties affected by their and from it we had a beautiful view tractive daughters sat up and gasped fered with, and suggesting that all the more up-to-date colleagues that they pro- over a pretty valley. Being rather handy hard, and straightaway put the family posed that the size and shape of the neckties worn by legislators should be defined after office hours. We repaired the a new danger threatening their market-

At one time in Johannesburg oranges terraced the yard and drained the cellar going to solve the problem thus prewere at famine prices, and an oriental and put in curbing and parking. We sented-how guard against the threatened trader went out with a cart to a farm on worked early and late, until at last we danger with that easy grace that dewhich there were many trees. He offered had, as many people told us, one of the celves the onlookers by seeming to ignore shillings a 100 for the fruit, and in order prottiest homes in the town-and then the the existence of danger, even while it to keep count arranged that for each 190 assessor came around and doubled our oranges placed on the cart he should put taxes,

We were fined because we had worked a "tickey" (a 3-penny piece) in the farmer's hat. When the hat had become about half full of "tickeys" the trader ugliness into beauty, and had wiped out to guard the flock from invasion from purposely looked away for a few mo- a plague spot in the neighborhood. It without. The bars were up against all ments. The Boer did just what the trader is also true that the owner of a few vaexpected. He hurriedly plunged a hand cant lots adjoining our place immediately could show no long line of cultivated into the hat and thrust a handful of advanced them in price, but neglected to ancestors or who were not able to com-"tickeys" into his pocket. And when the cut the tall weeds that grew on them, pensate for the lack by their superior trader paid for the oranges according to It may be added that his taxes were not financial standing. the number of "tickeys" in the hat the increased, notwithstanding the fact that

unded well in their ears. So when Boer did not realize that he had robbed he held his lots at a higher price. himself of 4 shillings 9 pense for every We have told this story because the "tickey" he had put into his pocket. But the Boer was never a match for the to do some hard thinking. There surely by the dashing onslaughter of an in-

what \$100,000 meant, but the sound of some transactions with a trader took the tem of taxation in which a person is challenge with a motor horn and comes the globular sum pleased him. At last precaution of arming himself with a fined for merely being industrious .- on pelimell over the clattering, falling mining man consented. The trans- ready reckoner. The trader worked out Delphos (Kan.) Republican.

HOME OF THE SIMPLE LIFE for deeds were drawn up and were to be the account by a form of mental arith LOCHINVARS AT THE WHEEL metic peculiarly his own Arithmetic Out of Date.

"But," objected the Boer, puzzled at the Fascinations of Chauffeurs Prove Irresult, "this is wrong. I have done the The trader paused a moment. "Let me

SEARCHING FOR SAFEGUARDS see it." he said, taking the book. "Ah!" he exclaimed. "I thought so Captain of the Joy Ride Supercedes the Matinee Idol as the Mascuout of date!

And the Boer accepted the explanation without a suspicion of doubt. And these incidents, which have their parallel today, show that change is working but slowly in South Africa .- Johanneuburg letter in Chicago Inter Ocean.

FINED FOR HIS

INDUSTRY Some Pithy Remarks of the Kansas Brand on the Activity of the Assessor.

What is society going to do about it? Here are its young women, members of its most exclusive circles in this country and connected by marriage with some of the greatest families of Europe, running off with handsome young chauffeurs and declaring they like it and have nothing

to regret. Such a situation is baffling to the most astute of parents and guardians. Daughters must exist. Chauffeurs must There are some queer things about our exist. One can't, at all times, drive one's

Once upon a time the editor of this paper sary that these dashing, able mechanibecame possessed of the laudable ambi- cally intelligent persons should not be tion to own a home. Having managed to wholly exterminated from the surface of save up a few dollars, he purchased upon the earth. Then how are our daughters the payment plan some property which to be guarded from these strangely dan-

had been taken in on mortgage by an gerous things, these creatures gifted with uncanny powers of fascination, , which The house was in such bad repair that enable them to charm away from our guard against, because it seems that the it was not fit for occupancy. The cellar protecting guardianship girls who have chauffeurs of one's friends are equally was full of stagnant water, weeds grew been so carefully brought up, that, as dangerous. There was Miss French, who These old farmers were horrified to rankly about the house, the porches were we had supposed, no one of less estate cloped with a chauffeur only occasionally rotted and sagging, the house unpainted, than a million, save and except some im- employed by her family, and whom she The lot was a couple of feet above the pacunious foreign noble, has ever gained had met at a motor school, where she It is safe to say that when the disap- self. There was Miss Silvey Speer, the we wanted a home and saw its possi- marriage to Mr. Joseph Geraghty, a

handsome chauffeur, was chronicled, It was located in a good neighborhood about ten days ago, 10,090 mothers of atwith tools, we went to work before and chauffeur under a microscope. Here was porches, painted the house, sodded and able array of offspring. How were they

compasses the undoing of the enemy?

All Precautions Taken. So far as human forethought could hard and converted disorder into order. So, everything had already been done comers of lesser rank, against all who

Then came the shock of Miss Julia Fench's marriage to Joseph Geraghty. And all of a sudden the structure seemed statement itself ought to cause someone to go stumbling down, flattened to earth East End dealer. A farmer who had had is something radically wrong with a sys- vincible young knight, who blares his

wall into the sacred inclosure, snatches tended the reception.

rate of seventy miles an hour over the country into the great "without" from which he sprang.

The heiress has deserted the glittering ossibilities, which might have been realized for her if she had only been wise and waited. She has braved the region beyond the wall, with its threat of poverty, obscurity and social obloquy. The wall has failed to protect her from her fiery captor, and the reason and logic, which should have taught her to resist his pleas have proved equally futile. fortune, sooner or later The families of young and desirable

themselves in the midst of social chaos. husband, Henry Butz, died a number of shudder and gather their broods years ago. When a young girl, Mrs. They closely about them, and appoint Butz was courted by Albert Carpenter, more day, and they look at their chauffeurs of the liness of her father. Carpenter cat they were reunited. and those of their friends through then left for the west, and had not been lofanettes and field glasses and micro- heard of or seen since. scopes and from every possible point of view, and they wonder how it came

about, and how innumerable other clopements of a like nature came about, and what is to be done about it, anyway. Thrown Into Consternation.

If, they say, it was only the case of the chauffeur of one's own family it might he managed. But that isn't enough to had gone to learn how to run a car heryoung daughter of W. A. Speer of Atlanta, Ga., heiress to more than \$1,000,000 and who secretly married young Russell Thomas, who acted as a chauffeur in the neighborhood, but who was not especially employed by her father. Then there was Miss Madeleine Zigler, daughter of a wealthy woman of Pittsburgh, who ran away with a chauffeur only occasionally employed by her mother, but whom she had found time and opportunity to meet elsewhere than at home. It is a question, after all, of looking the

chauffeur over, estimating his attractions, and seeking to arrive at the secret of his peculiar fascination for women. There can be no doubt that he has such fascination. Anyone who reads the newspapers will acknowledge at once that this is the day of the girl and the chauffeur. Where is the matinee idol of other years? He simply doesn't exist since the chauffeur came into his own. Where is the horseman who once dazzled the young society woman whom he met in the course of business? He is too slow for the girl of today, and the chauffeur has long since completely supplanted him.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Choate celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Stockbridge, Mass., last Monday. Nearly 500 invited guests at-

his heiress away, while the onlookers BLACK CAT UNITES LOVERS Strange Animal Looked Upon Mysterious Mascot in Penn-

sylvania Bome. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Carpenter of Reading, Pa., who a few days ago announced

their marriage, which occurred last May, declare they were reunited by means of a stray black cat. There is a general belief in Berks county that if a homeless black cat comes to a home and refuses to leave, its presence will bring good answered, and he came east and their

Mrs. Butz called for the letter, and to her great surprise, it was a message from her old sweetheart. Ehe immediately wedding followed. Carpenter had been in

Last April a black cat came to the the ranch business in Montana, had made debutantes with brilliant futures find home of Mrs. Mary Butz, a widow. Her a fortune, and came cast to hunt his old sweetheart. While at West Center ho wrote her the letter. The most important person in the Carpenter home today is whole bevies of lynx-eyed maiden aunts and was engaged to be married, when the black cat. Neither will part with the to watch their young nieces night and the engagement was broken off because animal, saying that it was through the

about it.

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are both about 60 years old. Carpenter is a civil war When the black cat arrived at the home veteran

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of Mrs. Buts she made repeated efforts

to drive it away, but failed. A neighbor

warned her not to do so, as it meant

good luck. Three days later the same

neighbor noticed in a paper that there

was a letter for Mrs. Butz in the "dead

letter" office at Reinholds station, Mrs.

Butz's former home, and she told her



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This is a charming corset, R. & G. model C98, for figures of average proportions.

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THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: OCTOBER 22, 1911.

resistible to Heiresses.

line Hero of the

Hour,



### **Tailored Suits at \$25** 300 sample tailored suits bought from a New York maker at half their value

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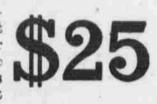
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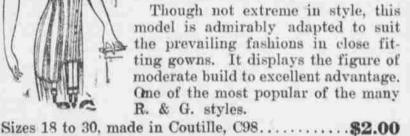
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