

South Africa
 . . . A Land of Promise

(Copyright, 1902, by J. D. Jones.)
 JOHANNESBURG, August 2.—One might almost imagine here that we are the center of the promised land and that a new Canaan had been born within the borders of the new century. The long promised boom has come and it would seem that railroads and everything in the way of development could not be provided fast enough for new requirements.

Every steamship, from whatever quarter of the globe it hails, seems to bring us immigrants—many of them apparently people of substance who seem to believe that since peace has been declared there is a wonderful future ahead for South Africa.

That they are not deluded seems probable as the activity which is apparent at the mines indicates an unprecedented era of prosperity for the Transvaal.

In spite of a little feeling in regard to the settlement of the question,

destined to play a large part in the new formation of things, the incoming element being very little interested in Dutch ideals, merely seeming to be seeking new outlets for enterprise such as are looked for generally in new countries.

The policy of the government seems to meet favor on all sides and it looks extremely doubtful if the few "kickers" would be able to maintain their ground in face of a general prosperity.

The most disgruntled people of all are the stockholders in the Rand mines who expected that after all the fight was accomplished they would be able to reap an enormous harvest, exclusively to their own benefit.

That this is not to be so seems apparent from the new system of taxation which has been formed for the Transvaal.

The owners of the big Rand mines are not particular in the way that they sum up the new order of things. "We

consequence of this it is proposed that the revenue be raised by a tax levied, not on gross returns, but upon the net profits.

Other steps are being taken beyond this, favorable to the mine owners and workers in various ways which will cause them to regard the change of government favorably.

The idea of the entire taxation scheme seems to be that individual enterprise should be fostered and the poorer miners not be made to bear an undue financial burden. To this end the tax should be levied not on gross returns, but upon net profits. The proposition is that steps be taken to benefit mine owners and mine workers in such way that they shall be financially benefited. Important features of the new regulations are: The abolition of transit dues upon goods brought through the southern colonies, an equitable adjustment of colonial railway rates, a reduction of the excessive freight charges made by the Netherlands railway, which is the short cut to Delagoa bay and the sweeping aside of the dynamite monopoly which has existed for the interests of a purely selfish corporation and will mean a clear saving to the colonies of three million dollars a year.

In fact the economies to be brought

gains in profits the mines will benefit from the utilization of low grade ore which will now be rendered available for exploitation.

It is evident from these figures that the new tax of ten per cent upon net profits can really be increased for the general benefit if necessary and that the Transvaal can bear the taxable burden of the entire confederation if necessary with profit to itself and a general amelioration of conditions all round.

In fact it seems impossible to suggest that the new system will not benefit the many and result in a largely increased sphere of prosperity for all residents in the colonies.

J. D. JONES.

Specials from
 Oyster Bay

Kermit stubbed his toe this morning. Mrs. Roosevelt turned pale and tottered, but bravely recovered her equanimity. Secretary Cortelyou was summoned by the president and rubbed the injured member until the circulation was restored.

Archie ate six waffles at breakfast this morning. Ethel, who is really the life and soul of the presidential party, humorously observed: "If you don't look out, Archie, you'll become a waffle yourself." Unrestrained hilarity of course, succeeded, and Ethel was congratulated on all sides on her bon mot.

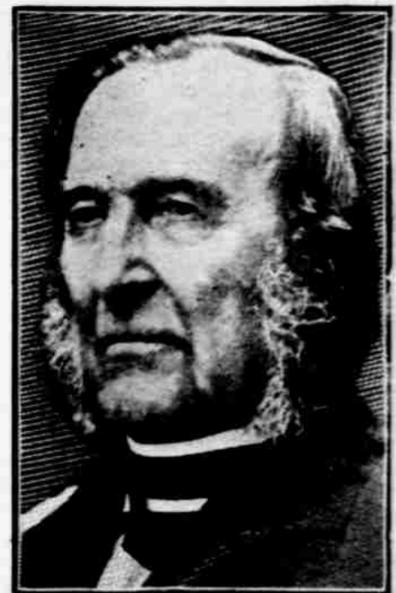
Teddy having successfully attained the summit of the Oyster Bay church, proceeded to stand on his head upon the weather-vane. Secretary Cortelyou was instantly despatched to fetch him down, tearing his trousers—his Sunday ones—in so doing. The board of estimates has voted him a new pair if the old ones cannot be patched. Pork for lunch at Sagamore Hill.

Mrs. Roosevelt gathered a posy of daisies this morning, a token of pastoral innocence truly symbolical, and proving that simple tastes are not wholly confined to the lowly. The president ate pickled onions for afternoon tea with an evident relish.

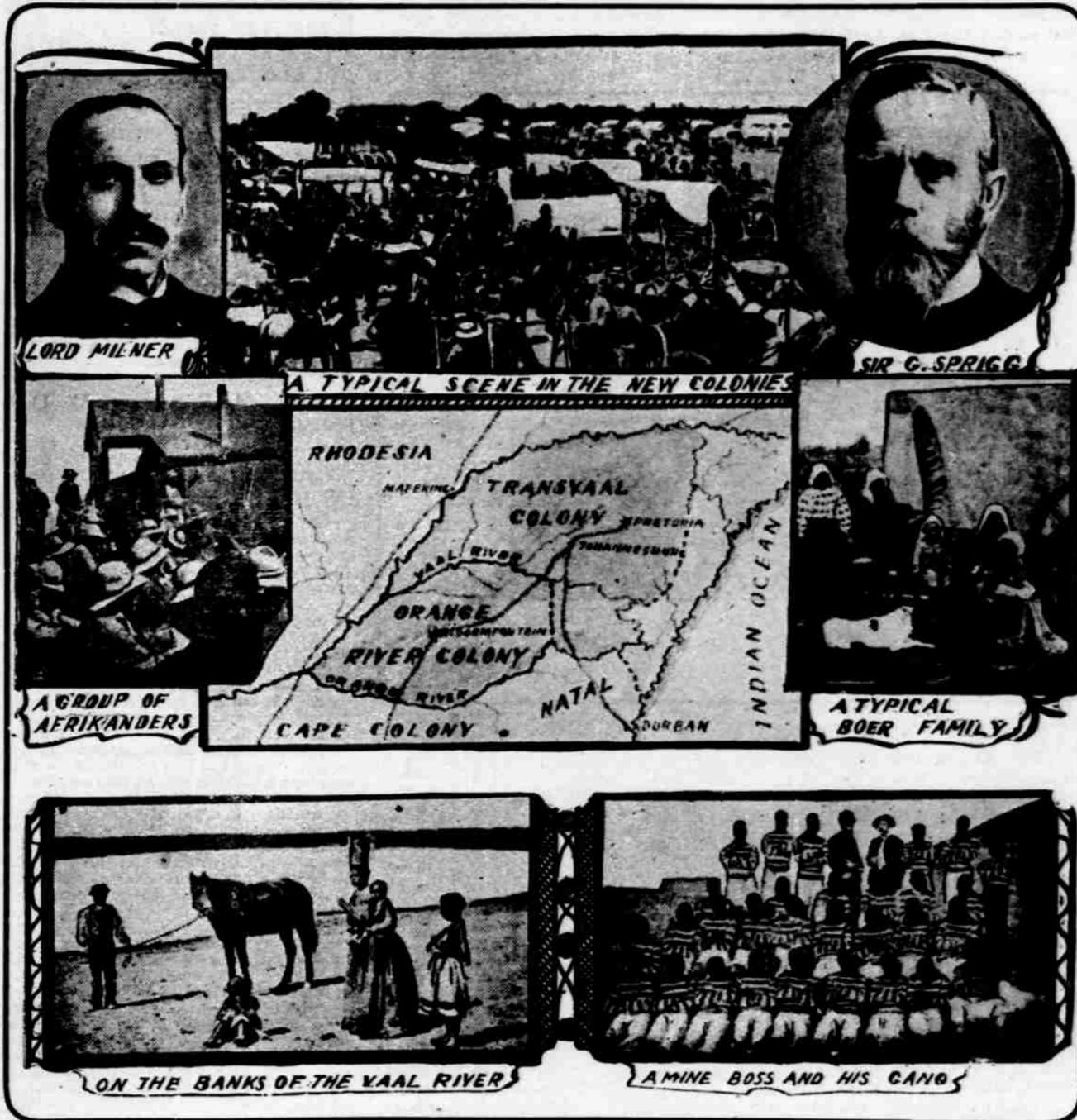
This morning Kermit's pet rattlesnake died. He was convulsed with woe, and pleaded grief as an excuse for not accompanying his family on one of their fifteen daily baths or twenty-six daybreak gallops over the Sagamore Hills. The secretary of state has promised him a baby white elephant to console him for his loss.

Secretary Root arrived at Oyster Bay this evening. Query by Ethel at tea time: "I say, Mr. Secretary, are you the root of all evil?" Mr. Cortelyou immediately cabled this truly wonderful child's wheeze to the foreign courts. Ethel's future is assured or should be. The following is the routine planned for the Roosevelt menage during the summer: Breakfast, lunch, dinner, bed; truly a sensible one, which doubtless caused the president and his wife much trouble to draw up.—Town Topics.

TO CROWN KING



Here is the latest photograph of the venerable Archbishop of Canterbury, who will place the crown on the king's head and take a more active part in the coronation than any other person present, not excepting the king himself.



which may merely be considered as an undercurrent now, the Boers are returning to their homes and are delighted to do so.

They are not feeling a bit as badly about things as some people would imagine, for they consider that having acquitted themselves bravely that they have done the best they possibly could under the circumstances and look forward to an ultimate independence through the development of a genuine South African republic. Their feelings are shared largely by the Dutch element at the Cape and it is probable that they will be gratified at the earliest moment possible by the formation of a constitution here very much on the same basis as that of Canada.

Of course the Uitlander element is

are a cinch" they say. "We own the most valuable properties in the world and are expected to pay for the discovery as well as to prove it. Leave us alone and we will some day talk of putting the Boer republic on its feet again." Of course they talk wildly for they are well able to pay the additional tax proposed, in view of the fact that they are relieved from the old taxations and are not called upon to increase unnecessarily the initial capital expenditure, or augment the cost of working.

According to the government plans, which are pretty sure of being adopted, individual enterprise will now be encouraged and the poorer mines will not be called upon to bear an unfair proportion of the fiscal burden. As a

about by the changes in fiscal policy here will amount collectively to not less than \$1.25 per ton of ore mined.

A prominent capitalist here assured me the other day that the working cost at the mines will be reduced practically 25 per cent, amounting to \$1.75 per ton and a financial authority here asserts that we may estimate for the coming year, on these propositions, a net gain (taking the year 1899 as the most recent calculable basis) after paying the new profit tax, of at least a million and a half sterling per year.

Basing the calculations upon this arrangement and probable production it is estimated that within three years the net saving from the Rand mines will amount to about three and a half millions sterling. Beyond these net