



BOER AND BRITON.

History of the Trouble Which Has Led to War in the Transvaal.



THE issue between the English and the Boers is one as old as this century. In many different forms, but always with much the same ground of quarrel at the bottom, it has reappeared with each succeeding decade. Many times the two peoples have met on the battlefield, and when war itself has not existed rumors of war between them have been current. Wherever the Englishman and the Boer have had their common interests in one territory strife has been sure to come, for the qualities and ideals of the two are widely dissimilar.

The great gold fields in the Transvaal are the material facts that have caused



A WEALTHY BURGHIER.

the conditions for the present struggle, for it is through them that Englishman and Boer have been brought so close together. The Boers claim to be the lords of the Transvaal country, and they persist in regarding the foreign settlers—the Uitlanders—as temporary residents without real rights. Sharply opposed to this view stands England, whose many sons in Transvaal land have their immense investments in mines and machinery and demand a full share in the government. "The Transvaal for the Boers," is President Kruger's cry, while the English against it shout: "Full rights, civil and political, for our emigrants who settle in your land."

The problem takes on many phases, but not one of them can clearly be understood without back reference to the history of the relations of Boers and English. The first form of the issue is over the question of sovereignty. England is asserting her suzerainty, while admitting Boer independence in local affairs, and Kruger is denying England's claim. Such is the history of the two that each can fairly make its claim.

Sovereignty or no sovereignty would not, however, be a burning question were there not reason for insisting on it. The more practical statement of the issue is that it concerns the political franchise rights which the Uitlanders now find it so difficult to acquire, and which England insists so strongly they shall secure on reasonable conditions. It is on account of inability to agree on the terms of the franchise, combined with views about sovereignty, which leave no middle ground, that war came, but even the franchise is only an incident in securing what the English really want. Sir Alfred Milner, who has been the foremost English agent in negotiations with the Boers, has said that he insisted on the franchise merely because he thought it would help the Uitlanders to secure for themselves what they need, and because he thought an agreement could be reached concerning it more easily than concerning the many reforms in Boer laws which are the real objections to be attained for the benefit of the Uitlanders, and the real occasion of England's intervention.

Struggles in Former Days. Only by considering the past struggles with the English can the present one be

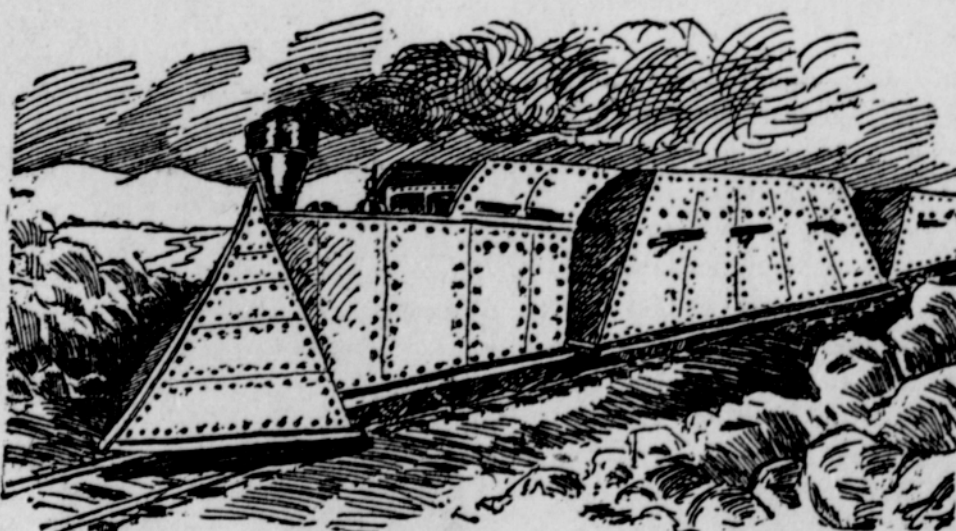
BOER NATIONAL SONG.

Flag of our precious land, wave on, Transvaal's four-color free,
We pray may God the hand strike down
E'er raised to lower thee,
Float proudly, banner, to the wind,
For past the three eviling ill,
Our foes have fled and left behind
A land unconquered still.

Through many years of hate and blood,
Dear flag, thou didst endure,
Again the storm thou hast withstood,
And floated still secure,
And as of old when foes assailed
O'er brave hearts thou shalt wave,
Nor shall the black or Brit prevail
While we have strength to save.

Thou art, dear flag, our token true,
Transvaal's four-color free,
To thee we pledge ourselves anew,
Till death we'll strive for thee,
Aloft o'er all our precious land
Wave, banner, proudly on,
By God forsaken be the hand
E'er raised to drag thee down.

seen in its true proportions. The Boers were the original European settlers of South Africa. Of Dutch descent, they had sturdy qualities, which their life in the savage lands only served to make sturdier. They were farmers from the first, and by the sweat of the negro races they grew in wealth. The English took definite possession of the Cape in 1814, and the English immigration then began in such great waves that Holland emigrants and Boer children could not keep up the balance of power. The situation was much such as exists now in the Transvaal, where the Uitlanders outnumber the Boers, except for the fact that then the Boers were actually and not merely nominally subjects of Great Britain. The English rule was autocratic, and the Boer idea about slaves and land holding fitted so little with the Eng-



TYPE OF ARMORED TRAIN EQUIPPED BY THE BRITISH.

lish ideas that soon the Boers had two great grievances against their rulers.

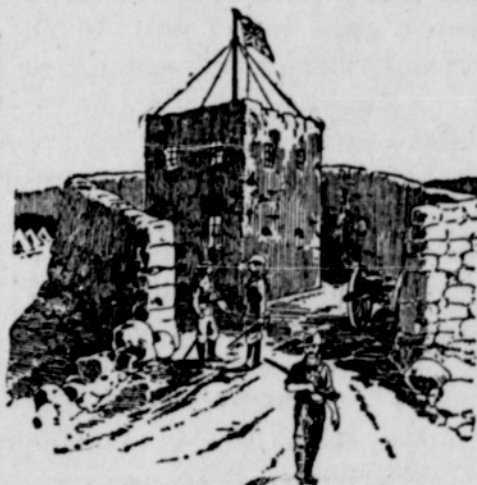
The Dutch-French colonists quarreled with the English continually, and numbers of them "trekked" or tracked northward in search of farming lands. Their first settlements were in Natal, but from there also the English drove them, and then they "trekked" into the Transvaal, where, on an unpromising upland, 6,000 feet above the sea level, they became Boers—"farmers." There they hoped the British would leave them alone and their hopes might have been realized had not the discovery of gold been made there in 1886.

Prior to that time, in 1852, England had practically acknowledged the independence of the Transvaal, otherwise known as the South African Republic. In 1854 the Orange Free States were also declared independent, but by both treaties and conventions England retained suzerainty.

There was trouble in 1881 when a force of British was repulsed at Majuba Hill, the incident leading to a revision of the convention in that year and again in 1884. It is the latter which defines the degree of authority reserved by England under its suzerainty, and the contentions

over which are involved in the present trouble. By its terms the South African Republic has full powers to frame and amend its constitutions and administer its internal affairs, but is prohibited from making any treaty save with its neighbor, the Orange Free States, without the consent of the Queen.

By this time British, Americans, Germans and French were pouring into the gold country, and Johannesburg began to take on the size and character of an American mining town. This annoyed



OLD FORT AT MAFKING.

the Boers, but their thrift did not desert them, and although they avoided mining and stuck to their farms, they found many means to derive national revenue from the Uitlanders or "outsiders." The government, under President Kruger, levied transport dues, stamp taxes, license fees, franchise costs, customs and monopoly charges on such a mining necessity as dynamite.

The British in the Transvaal appealed to London and London appealed to Preto-

ers in Johannesburg on the charge of treason, and upon trial four were sentenced to death. Among the latter was the American mining expert, John Hays Hammond, but their sentences were commuted to fine and imprisonment. Both the Boers and the British were fighting mad, and everyone expected war would follow between them, but it was averted in a curious manner.

Emperor William of Germany sent a cable message of sympathy to President Kruger, and the infant terrible of the family of nations by this characteristic act changed the whole situation. England was so mad at William that for a time she forgot or ignored Kruger. She assembled such a fleet of war vessels as has never before in the history of the world prepared for war—and William sang softly.

Trouble Not Remedied.

But the trouble in the Transvaal was not remedied. War talk was heard from time to time in the Transvaal as well as in England, and in August, 1897, President Kruger, in an address to the volksraad, openly denied that England possessed any rights of sovereignty over the country.

In March last Joseph Chamberlain brought the Transvaal situation prominently before the House of Commons. He said that President Kruger had promised reforms, but that none of his proposals would be satisfactory. In another speech during the same month he defined the right of intervention in the Transvaal which England had, limiting it to cases in which the convention of 1884 had been violated, or in which English subjects had been treated in such manner as would give cause for intervention if they were residents of some independent foreign country, as France or Germany.

March 24 a petition, which had been signed by over 20,000 British subjects in the Transvaal, was forwarded to the British Government through Conyngham Greene, the British agent at Pretoria. It dealt with political grievances only, and aimed to show that the Boers were continually making existence harder for the Uitlanders. A body known as the Uitlander council was formed, and its communications with Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony, met with a favorable response. Negotiations, in the hope of securing a settlement of the troubles, only resulted in producing a firmer and more emphatic assertion of his rights by President Kruger.

No definite answer to the Uitlanders' petition came until May 10, when Joseph Chamberlain suggested a conference between Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger at Pretoria. President Steyn of the Orange Free State at once invited the two men to meet at his capital, Bloemfontein, and a week later both accepted the invitation. The demand made by Milner was that every foreigner who had been a resident of the Transvaal five years, and proposed to make it his permanent home, should be given full citizenship, and that the distribution of representatives of the volksraad should be so arranged that the Uitlanders, who mostly live near Johannesburg, should have proper share in the government.

The best that President Kruger would do was much less than this. He proposed a two years' residence prior to naturalization, and then five years more before the granting of the full franchise. He placed so many conditions around even this offer that it was regarded with much suspicion. The conference had no practical result. President Kruger suggested arbitration by a foreign power, but owing to the British claim of sovereignty the commissioner could not consent to this.

Futile Negotiations.

Negotiations went on slowly after this. The British demands formulated themselves as a five-year period for admission to full burghership and an increase of the representation of the mining districts in the raad to one-fifth of the total number of members.

A bill embodying some of these points was considered by the volksraad during the early part of July. On the 19th of that month it was passed in a form that granted practically what President Kruger had proposed at the Bloemfontein conference.

Messages and diplomatic notes sent back and forth after this brought out two points of disagreement. President Kruger insisted that if he made any concessions to the Uitlanders it should be on the distinct understanding that England would not regard its interference as a precedent and would formally resign all pretense of sovereignty. Secretary Chamberlain would not listen to such a suggestion.

The other point of disagreement was in regard to the assurances that any reforms made would not have nullifying conditions attached to them. Secretary Chamberlain began to insist that a joint committee of inquiry, made up of expert delegates representing the Transvaal and the British Government, be appointed to investigate and be sure that all franchises promises would be carried out.

Aug. 21 President Kruger declined to take part in any such joint inquiry, but offered a five-year franchise on condition



A BOER SUPPLY TRAIN.

that England would promise not to assert sovereignty in the future, and not to interfere again with the internal affairs of the Transvaal. England formulated, Sept. 8, a note to the Boers which was so specific that it was regarded as almost an ultimatum. It asserted sovereignty and reminded Kruger that the proposal for a joint inquiry would not always remain open.

President Kruger replied Sept. 18 with a definite denial of England's sovereignty, and with a refusal to put the English and Dutch languages on an equality in the raad. He also this time placed seven years as the minimum he would consent to as a preliminary to the franchise. To this England replied Sept. 22 with a temporizing note which was taken to mean practically a postponement of any ultimatum till her troops were ready for the field. The volksraad had Aug. 28 rejected the proposal to do away with the dynamite monopoly, and that made the situation with England still worse.

Active arming was kept up on both sides, and the situation was intensified when, on Sept. 28, the Orange Free State raad decided to cast its fortunes with its neighbor republic. Britain continued to pour troops into South Africa, and the Boers were now slow to meet the emer-



BOER SENTINELS ON DUTY.

gency. The district north of Dundee and Newcastle were hurriedly turned into camping grounds by the burghers, Laing's Nek was occupied, and other steps were taken that menaced an invasion of Natal.

Oct. 10 Kruger's government sent an ultimatum to London demanding the withdrawal of British troops from the frontier and the return to England of the special forces sent to South Africa and of the forces en route. If not complied with, a state of war was to exist in twenty-four hours. The next day Montague White, the Boer consul general, quitted London, and war was practically on.

Boer Fighting Strength.

The fighting strength of the Boers is very hard to estimate. It is safe, however, to say that with the Transvaal and Orange Free State side by side, and with



TYPES OF BOER SOLDIERS.

recruits from Natal and Cape Colony, they can muster an army of 50,000 men. The white male population of the Transvaal is placed by the census of 1896 at 137,947. Of these about 26,000 are thought to be able-bodied. The white male population of the Orange Free State in 1896 was 40,571, and the number of burghers available for military service 17,381.

The Boers proudly say that each one of them is equal to seven Englishmen, and the truth is that they are among the most skillful marksmen in the world. Even old Oom Paul can handle his rifle with sufficient skill to make him boastful of the amount of lead he can put in English heads. By an order of the volksraad issued Aug. 14 all burghers of both



MAP OF MAFKING AND VICINITY.

classes are made liable for military service at quick notice.

The estimated cost of war with the Boers as made by the English war office is £5,000,000 (\$25,000,000), but other computers place it nearer £75,000,000 (\$375,000,000). The English regular army in Cape Colony consists of 27,500 well-disciplined men, but this number has been increased by regiments from India and from British garrisons.

Your Chance of Life.

The French statistician, Dr. Livrier, says that half of all human beings die before 17, that only one person in 10,000 lives to be 100 years old and that only one person out of every 1,000 lives to be 60.

Long—I'm getting too stout for comfort, but am unable to find a remedy. Short—it is said that nothing reduces surplus flesh like worry. Long—But I have nothing to worry me. Short—Well, just to help you, I'm willing to let you lend me ten dollars.—Chicago News.