

IN SOUTH AFRICA

SOME PHASES OF LIFE IN MATABELELAND.

Polygamy Among Natives—Prejudices Between English and Boers—Cattle Raising—Police Courts, Etc.

It appears from the Bulawayo Chronicle, a South African paper of the date of September 13, that the people of that country have about the same troubles in many instances as do the people of this country, except that they have some trouble that we do not. They have their prejudices between the Boers and English, which we do not have. Their natives also still remain a problem while we have about settled with ours but they have the bicycle scorchers there, and the daily police court grind, not exactly such cases as we have, but they are of a petty nature. They also discuss stockraising and have cattle inspectors and men are arrested and fined for driving infected stock through the country and the government has dipping places for infected stock. A few extracts from the paper gives an interesting insight into some of the phases of South African life.

Local Prejudice.

It appears that the editor of the paper, who is doubtless an Englishman, has not yet laid aside his prejudice against the Boers. Here is his comment, among others:

"Boer Impudence."

"The proposals of the Boer ex-generals cannot be read without exciting one's risibility. That men should take up the position of simply dictating terms to their conquerors seems hardly probable, but that is what has happened. For unmitigated cheek, commend us to the Boer leaders. Leyds has not finished yet."

Polygamy Among Natives.

Then the subject of dealing with the natives is taken up and he discusses it from many points of view. Polygamy appears to be under the ban there and there is a strong current in favor of taxing the natives according to the number of wives they have. The editor thinks the native will not be elevated rapidly if he is permitted to live all of his days from the work of his wives. He thinks taxation is the way to suppress this evil. This is what he says:

"We should like to ask Sir Marshall Clarke what he intends to do with the native. Is he to lie idle all his days and live on the labour of his wives, and, if so, how is he going to be elevated? The insinuation about forced labour is childish nonsense. The native is ten times better off in Rhodesia than the navy or agricultural labourer at home. Sir Marshall Clarke should know better, and, as a set-off to his marvelous report, the tax in the Transvaal has been considerably increased. A policy which has been advocated in these columns for years past, that a native should be made to pay for extra wives, has been adopted by Lord Milner. The new law has not gone as far as we could have wished and as we have advocated, but it is a step in the right direction. Polygamy is the secret of the whole matter, and yet we have the dear old ladies at home, including the Spectator, advocating its retention."

The Bicycle Scorchers.

The bicyclist has also reached that far-away country and the scorchers is a menace to the peace and comfort of the pedestrian there as well as in other countries. The editor has this to say about that ubiquitous evil: "Pedestrians have some right to existence, but the average cyclist does not seem to realize this. Since these free wheels came into vogue one finds a cyclist flash past the poor footslogger without any notice. No bell is rung, and if he be of a nervous disposition, it might do him harm. This racing is especially dangerous with young and restive horses, but the scorchers takes no notice so long as he can keep his foot on the pedal and surmount the opposite rise. We are surprised that there are not more accidents."

In Police Court.

The police court grind there is by no means lacking in interest. They have about the same troubles as they do here, but the offenses and the trial courts are called by different names from those in this country, but the proceedings are similar. Here is his write-up of one morning's proceedings:

"From Infected Area."

"A native named Kleinbooi appeared charged with contravening the Animals Diseases Ordinance, by moving two head of cattle from Bulawayo to Helenvale."

"Serg. Williams of the BSAP stated that accused was coming on to the Commonage from Helenvale with a span of donkeys and two oxen. Accused showed two of the passes produced, signed by a cattle inspector."

"After some further evidence, accused was found guilty. His Worship remarking that he would take into consideration accused's ignorance and impose a nominal penalty, but the time for nominal penalties for this offense was passing away. Sentence, 10s or three days."

"Raid by the Police."

"Ernest Thuiller appeared charged with contravening section 15, act 27 of 1882, by refusing to admit the police

to certain premises, or delaying to admit them. After a long delay the police were finally allowed to search the premises on which they found 45 bottles of beer. Accused kept a fruit store and sold also mineral waters and sweets, the premises not being licensed to sell liquor.

"Accused was found guilty of the offense of which he was charged, and was ordered to pay a fine of £5 or undergo one month's imprisonment. The fine was paid."

"Thefts by Chinde Natives."

"In the Magistrate's court on Wednesday three Chinde natives named Zuzi, Gonda and Tabu appeared charged in a preliminary examination with house breaking and theft, by having stolen 24 bottles of liquor."

"After evidence had been led, accused were committed for trial."

"Gonda was also charged in a preliminary examination with dangerously assaulting Sergeant Raxson, a native policeman, the location superintendent and one of the location police. Accused, it appears, on being arrested, drew a knife and cut and slashed at the custodians of order."

"He was committed for trial on this charge also."

"Possession of Arms."

"Richard Wilkinson, a Cape boy, came up to be examined on a charge of being in illegal possession of arms, by having a Martini-Henry carbine, ball ammunition and a quantity of shot."

"After evidence had been taken, accused was committed for trial. His Worship remarking the offense was a technical one, and accused was released on finding £5 bail and £5 in personal recognizances."

Cattle Raising.

A writer enters into a learned discussion of the cattle question. Among other things, he says:

"Cattle are raised chiefly for two purposes. In Rhodesia they are required for three. These two purposes are for milk and for beef, but in Rhodesia there must be added transport. It must be noted, however, that, though the term cattle includes all the three uses to which they are put, a distinction must be drawn between classes of cattle that are suitable for each purpose."

"When milk is an object, a special class of cattle are raised and selected for producing milk."

"The same applies for cattle for producing beef. The qualities to lay on fat and beef are selected more than for milk."

"For transport purposes again, neither of the foregoing qualities are specialized, bone, muscle, good lungs and large size being most valued."

"There is a considerable difference in the outward appearance between animals bred for either of these purposes. The more an animal is specialized in the breeding to fulfill one purpose, the less it is fitted to take the place of another. A good milking breed, such as the Ayrshire is much behind as animals for the butcher. Then, the most highly specialized animals for beef, the shorthorns, Devons and Polls are not good milkers. Then again, transport oxen make very different beef, as is well known in Rhodesia, but, at the same time, it must be said that an ox bred and reared for butcher meat would make a very poor show in a team at the end of a long journey with a heavy ox wagon behind him."

Cattle Diseases—Dipping.

It appears that cattle were are subject to a disease known as "Red-water," and that dipping is resorted to. The government apparently owns these dipping places. He says:

"Upwards of 2,000 cattle have now been dipped at the government Inoculation Station, Bellevue, and the process is still being continued. There has been no serious accident to any of the animals, and so far as can be ascertained at present, none of the cattle have contracted redwater since they were operated on."

"Deaths After Dipping."

"Mr. Judge's herd came in yesterday from the farm at Toabas Indiana with the news that ten head of cattle had died and others were sick. The cattle were dipped only a fortnight ago."

His Life in Peril.

"I just seemed to have gone all to pieces," writes Alfred Bee, of Wellfare, Texas, "billiousness and a lame back had made life a burden. I couldn't eat or sleep and felt almost too worn out to work when I began to use Electric Bitters, but they worked wonders. Now I sleep like a top, can eat anything, have gained in strength and enjoy hard work." They give vigorous health and new life to weak, sickly, run-down people. Try them. Only 50c at Tallman & Co.'s drug store.

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Charities and Correction. Peoria, Ill., Oct. 21.—The seventh annual meeting of the Illinois state conference of charities and corrections, which was formally opened in Peoria, today, promises to be the most important session in the history of the organization. The attendance is large and representative and several speakers of note are to be heard during the coming two days. Such important subjects as traffic of children,

state care of epileptics and feeble-minded, and state visitation of children placed in homes are scheduled for careful consideration. A feature of the conference will be the discussion of the question of civil service in state institutions. City Marshal Ben Hill, of Blossom, Texas, was killed at a negro festival Saturday, while trying to quell a negro riot.

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