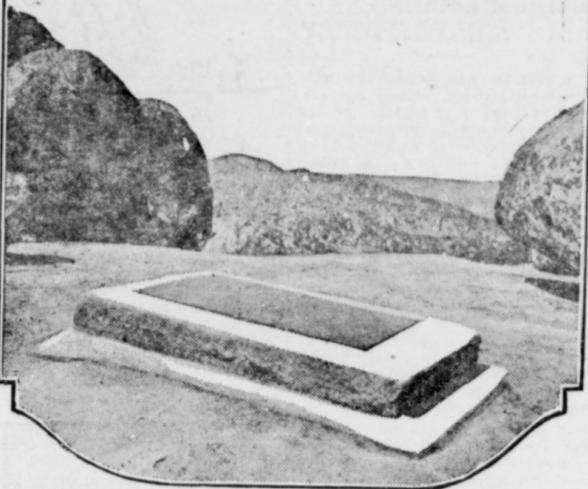


SOUTH AFRICA



Grave of Cecil Rhodes in South Africa.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

OF THE three largest overseas units that make up the British commonwealth of nations, the Union of South Africa is the only one presenting serious racial problems. The white population of about a million and a half is divided between people of British and Dutch origin, while the population of blacks is more than three times that of the whites. This racial situation has affected the molding of the governmental machinery.

The Union of South Africa, although half around the world from America and little known to Americans, has in its history chapters which we know by heart. It has vast areas taken over from aborigines; thousands of its white settlers were massacred by savages, but others, undaunted, pressed on in their prairie schooners ever farther into the interior of an unknown continent; a gold rush won a new empire; and the land is possessed today of a stubborn race problem.

In one respect, however, the carving out of what is now the Union of South Africa is without its parallel in the development of the United States. There the strife of two white peoples for control has been an all important factor. For about a century and a half the Dutch had possession of Cape Town and the small area surrounding it which harbored all the whites in South Africa. The Napoleonic wars transferred possession to England, and in 1806 the English assumed a final control, which many of the Dutch inhabitants resented. In 1836 many of the Dutch farmers or "Boers" began trekking into the interior with the intention of settling beyond English influence. When Englishmen followed them they trekked farther. Finally, beyond the Orange river they founded the Orange Free State, and beyond the Vaal river, the Transvaal Republic.

First diamonds and then gold were discovered in the new states. They brought great prosperity to the Boer republics, but they brought many outsiders as well; and the presence of these finally led to the Boer war as a result of which the republics came into the possession of Great Britain.

Creation of the Union.

Aside from the war-born republics and monarchies of the last eight years, the Union of South Africa is one of the youngest of the important countries of the world. It, too, was largely war-born. Shortly after the conclusion of the Boer war plans were set on foot to fuse the two old republics with Cape Colony, the oldest South African government, and Natal, next in point of age, to form the new union. It was finally created by an act signed in 1910.

The territory of the Union occupies the whole southern and southeastern tip of Africa in a wide strip extending about 250 miles inland from the Indian ocean. Its area lacks only 25,000 square miles of reaching the half million mark. Of its four provinces, Cape Colony is slightly larger than Texas, the Transvaal about the size of Nevada, and Orange Free State slightly smaller than Alabama, while Natal exceeds South Carolina by a few thousand square miles.

From the south and southeast South Africa is a series of mighty terraces, each with a rim of high mountains from below and low ones from above. Most of the slopes near the sea are fertile, well wooded and well watered. The ascending steps vary in moisture and fertility. Within this terraced bulwark lie the great plains or velds where wild game once swarmed and where great herds of sheep and cattle have taken their places. These plains contribute yearly millions of dollars worth of wool, ostrich feathers, hides, and mohair to the outside world.

Great Diamond Mines.

Toward the inner edge of the territory of the Union are the world's greatest diamond mines, where earth sufficient to fill thousands of cars is screened yearly for the sake of a peck or two of diamonds. But the few handfuls of diamonds exported in 1913, the last year before the World war, were worth more than fifty million dol-

lars and exceeded in value the combined value of the many shiploads of wool, ostrich feathers, hides and coal that sailed away from South Africa the same year.

Some 200 miles to the northeast of the diamond country are the gold fields. In their midst is the gold-belt, wonder city of Johannesburg, metropolis of South Africa. After the discovery of gold in the eighties the city sprang up almost overnight.

Because of its racial situation the South African Union is not marked by as great a degree of democracy as Australia. The executive has rather broad powers, having a veto over ordinances passed by the provincial councils. He also appoints administrators for the provinces. The members of the senate and house of assembly of the Union must be of European descent, and senators must own property valued at \$2,500. "States rights" are recognized to the extent that the qualifications for voting are different in the several provinces, being those recognized by the provinces at the time of the Union.

Even in the matter of language and institutions South Africa is far from being solely British. The Dutch language is equally as official as English; and Roman-Dutch law instead of the English common law is the basis of the legal system.

About the Provinces.

Cape of Good Hope province (or "Cape Colony" as it is still usually termed) is the premier unit of the Union both in age and size. With its area of approximately 277,000 square miles it is more than one-tenth as large as the entire United States, and it is more extensive than its three sister provinces combined. From the sea much of Cape Colony seems barren, but the soil is rich and after the rainy season, productive.

Natal lies just around Africa's corner, only a little way beyond the Cape of Good Hope. It fronts, therefore, on the southern part of the Indian ocean. It extends roughly between southern latitudes 27 and 32, and has a position corresponding in the northern hemisphere to that of northern Florida and the southern and central portions of the other Gulf states. In the matter of location, then, it can be seen that Natal should have an excellent chance to become South Africa's "Dixie." The coastal belt is relatively low and warm with a sub-tropical climate. In this zone it is believed that Natal can develop an important cotton production. There, too, is a considerable sugar industry and large tea plantations. Back about 30 miles from the coast the midland belt begins. This zone is higher and cooler as is the back country of the American Gulf states and constitutes a "corn belt." Still farther from the coast are the uplands of Natal, where higher altitude and lower temperature combine to create conditions like those of the plains of Texas and Oklahoma. And, as in the uplands of those states, stock raising and cereal production are the dominant industries. Natal has a population of about 140,000 whites and approximately ten times as many negroes and East Indians.

Orange Free State province is entirely inland, separated from the Indian ocean by the high Drakensberg range, and from the Atlantic by half the width of the continent. It lies on the great South African tableland at an elevation of more than 4,000 feet. The country is made up for the most part of rolling plains with here and there "rands" or ridges. The population is largely of Dutch origin.

Still farther inland lies the fourth province, Transvaal, with an area twice that of Orange Free State and a population more than three times as great. The white population, as in all the other provinces, is greatly in the minority. Physically, Transvaal is much like Orange Free State, a land of rather dry upland plains.

The Union of South Africa has a system of divided capitals. From Pretoria, capital of the old Transvaal Republic, the administrative activities of the Union are carried on. The parliament meets in Cape Town; while the Supreme Court of Appeals sits in Bloemfontein, capital of Orange Free State.

Miserly Mother Kills Son's Wife

Shoots Young Woman for Having Heir to Fortune She Hoarded.

New York.—Almost on the very day that Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, gray-haired, wealthy and socially prominent, appeared before a jury in Somerville, N. J., charged with the killing of her husband, Mme. Guillaume Lefebvre, gray-haired, a millionaire and a member of one of the most prominent families in northern France, appeared before the Assize court in the City of Douai, charged with the murder of her young and beautiful daughter-in-law, says the New York World.

The trials were conducted simultaneously for some days, and while in this country a puzzled public was following the grim details of the Hall-Mills murder mystery, all France was stirred by the most sensational "affaire celebre" since the trial of Landru, the French "Bluebeard," five years ago.

The parallel between the two cases is impressive. In both instances the principals were women of sixty, who, because of the dignity of their age and the prestige of the large fortunes they commanded, seemed secure against any misadventure with the law. Both were charged with a capital crime against one of their kin by marriage. And in both trials there was the spectacle of two men, brothers in the case of Mrs. Hall, husband and son in the case of Mme. Lefebvre, defending their women kin against the accusation of a heinous and indefensible crime.

Both cases presented a baffling mystery: the Hall case a mystery of fact, in which the issue was the identity of the murderer; the Lefebvre case a psychological mystery, in which the motive for the Frenchwoman's confessed crime baffled the best legal brains of France.

An Amazing Character.

But here the parallel between the Hall-Lefebvre cases ends. For when, finally the aged Frenchwoman's motive was unraveled there was revealed to the world an amazing psychopathic character such as only a Balzac could have created. The Lefebvre murder could have been committed only in a Latin country.

And the Hall trial, muffled in the silence of the defendants, was a dull show indeed compared with the Lefebvre trial, enlivened continually by Latin emotionalism, Latin outbursts of passion in both the principals and the audience and repeated and frantic efforts by the judges to control the uncontrollable exhibitions of French temperament throughout the trial.

Exactly one year ago, in the fall of 1925, Mme. Guillaume Lefebvre learned from her son a secret that he had kept for five months; that his wife, Antoinette Mulle Lefebvre, was soon to give birth to an heir to the combined Lefebvre-Mulle fortunes. On that very day Mme. Lefebvre bought a revolver and, soon after, writing to her son, asked him to call on her, bring his wife with him and take them both for a drive in his car.

The son, obedient to his mother's wishes, appeared several days later at the paternal home with his young wife, and the three set out for a drive. Andre Lefebvre occupied the front seat alone. His wife and his mother sat together in the rear. When they passed through the city gates and emerged into the suburbs, Mme. Lefebvre requested that her son drive along the path known as "Solitude road." Andre, without inquiring into the reasons for this strange wish, still in his manhood as a plant before the commanding will of his mother as he was when a child, complied.

But when he had reached "Solitude road" and the car was humming along the deserted lane, he suddenly heard an outcry from his mother. Andre turned, and what he saw made him bring the car to a quick halt. His wife, immobile, lay back in her seat, a thin stream of crimson trickling down her cheek from a wound in her temple. His mother, spent, her hands paralyzed in her lap, one of them holding a revolver, regarded him silently. The young man could only ask his agonized question with his eyes.

WARN WORKERS IN TEXAS OIL FIELDS AGAINST DANGER OF GAS

Constant Precaution Urged by Bureau of Mines and Use of Gas Masks Recommended.

Washington.—Workers in Texas oil fields face untold dangers which necessitate the exercise of constant precautions, according to the bureau of mines, which has just completed an investigation of conditions in the Lone Star state's oil industry.

Investigations by the bureau took in the Panhandle district, the Biglake field of Reagan county, and the McCamey field of Upton county. Hydrogen sulphide in petroleum vapors, the bureau found, is the most poisonous gas associated with the crude oil industry and frequently gives workers serious cases of conjunctivitis, known as "gas eyes."

Conjunctivitis is usually contracted in derrick cellars, where the gas collects. In the derrick cellar of one well

"I have killed her," the mother said quietly.

Without a further word, Andre Lefebvre swung the car around and dashed madly toward the city and a hospital.

Son's Conduct Shows Motive.

Arrived at the hospital, the young woman was at once hurried to the operating room, but it was too late. She was dead. Mme. Lefebvre, making no effort to shield herself, was arrested and her son, Andre, his wife dead and his mother a prisoner, stopped long enough at the hospital to claim his wife's purse, examine its contents to see that they were intact and inquire whether the ring she wore when she had left home was still on her finger.

Questioned again later in the day, Mme. Lefebvre declared she had killed her daughter-in-law because she was "driving her son to ruin." In reporting the tragedy the following morning, the French newspapers described it as a crime of mother love, another "crime passionnel."

As usual, the case was tried in the French press long before it came to the courts and presently, though still recognizing a crime of passion, the newspapers became aware that they were dealing with something more than a mother's love for her son, a passion just as old, but in Mme. Lefebvre overshadowing any feeling she had for her offspring.

The star reporters assigned to the case got their first cue to the real motive for the crime in Andre Lefebvre's conduct at the hospital, when he showed such concern about his dead wife's purse and her jewels. Their inquiry took a definite direction when it was estimated that the entire outfit of clothing worn by the millionaire at the time of her arrest could not have exceeded in cost more than \$15.

And when it was learned that the young couple had been quite happy and altogether devoted to each other and that, if anything, they had been living beneath their means, Mme. Lefebvre's bitter charge that Antoinette Mulle was "driving her son to ruin" specifically revealed the nature of the passion which had driven her to commit murder.

Bit by bit, in the press and legal investigations and during the trial, there emerged the portrait of an amazing creature, a female Harpagon, such a monster of greed as neither Moliere nor Balzac would have dared to portray lest they too heavily incurred the credence of their publics.

A Love Match.

The marriage of Andre Lefebvre and Antoinette Mulle was, to all appearances, a love match, but Mme. Lefebvre made it plain to her son that she considered it a mesalliance, because the Mulle fortune, though considerable, was not quite equal to their own.

Shortly before the wedding, Andre announced to his mother that he was to leave on a short honeymoon after the ceremony. Mme. Lefebvre threw up her arms in horror. Honeymoons were a waste and a needless expense, she told him. Who had put such nonsense into his head? Probably that awful girl, who already was filling his head with extravagant notions.

However, Andre insisted that it was only decent for people in their position to have a honeymoon and, on the following day, he went to a travel bureau and arranged for the trip. It was perhaps the first time in his life that the young man, thoroughly under his mother's thumb, had ever asserted himself, and Mme. Lefebvre sensed that this alien woman not only was leading her son to extravagance but was threatening her own authority. The resentment she nurtured increased.

She yielded to her son's wishes, but when she learned that he had procured first class tickets for his travels, she immediately repaired to the tourist bureau and had them changed to second class. It did not appear at all grotesque to her that a young couple representing two of the most substantial families in northern France should travel second class on their honeymoon!

The newlyweds had been gone only four or five days when Mme. Le-

febvre wrote to her son that it was time he was home.

"You seem to think you are rolling in gold. If your wife won't come with you, come home alone." . . . And this in the second week of the honeymoon.

Madame Grows Panicky.

By now Mme. Lefebvre was growing decidedly panicky. Not only was she incensed that her son had married a "wasteful and improvident" woman, but she began to entertain fears for the security of their own possessions, the Lefebvre fortune, a monument to her greed which she had built, stone by stone, franc by franc, over a period of half a century.

When her son had married, "though it was beneath him," she saw the beginnings of a new fortune which, by saving and self-denial, would swell the Lefebvre heritage to even more impressive magnitude. And here he was traveling, spending freely, "rolling in gold," and perhaps destined soon to make demands upon her to maintain the swift and destructive pace his spendthrift wife was setting.

If the shadow of Mme. Lefebvre clouded the young couple's honeymoon, it completely overcast their home life after they had returned. Andre's mother was a frequent visitor, casting up the household budget and finding it excessive, urging retrenchment and saving, warning her son that he would land in the poorhouse. She was shocked beyond words when she found that Antoinette laid a fresh white tablecloth for each meal.

"But it is scandalous," she wailed to her son. "Think of the laundry bill. White linen soils so quickly. We have always used red tablecloths and napkins at home. They last a long time without washing."

She was stunned when she discovered that her "lavish" gift of "antique" furniture had been consigned by Antoinette to the attic and that the home was tastefully furnished with new and expensive equipment. The discovery led to a bitter quarrel between the women, one of the first of many to follow.

Mme. Lefebvre was not appeased when Antoinette explained that she could not have used the worthless junk her mother-in-law had given her without making herself and her husband the laughing stock of their set. She was not appeased when the young woman explained that she was spending largely out of her own pocket, that her people were well-to-do, and that she had been brought up to live according to her ample means.

Mme. Lefebvre emerged from each of these quarrels with the conviction that her son had married into a family of spendthrifts and wasters and that his wife would lead him inevitably to his ruin. Yet it was brought out at the trial that the wealthy young couple's total expenditures did not exceed \$4,000 a year.

Her Hatred Grows.

In the heart of Mme. Lefebvre there gathered a consuming hatred for her daughter-in-law and for the whole Mulle family which was soon to come to a head. It was hatred which grew as she realized she was alone in her desperate struggle to save the Lefebvre fortune. Her aged husband, seventy-six and long retired from business, was a mere pale, carbon copy of herself, echoing her protests and resentments but helpless and relying entirely on his wife to fight the menace to their wealth. He had been cowed too long by this dominant woman to show any fight now. He was just a whining old man.

Her son, Andre, a war hero many times decorated, was a spineless creature in her presence, his will broken from infancy to respond to her imperious will.

Then one day Andre Lefebvre announced to his mother that an heir was expected. It was the spark that kindled Mme. Lefebvre's hatred to a consuming flame. This alien woman, who was bringing her son to ruin, who was wasting instead of building a fortune, was about to bring into the world another Mulle—another waster.

She bought a revolver and killed the young woman whose condition offered a new menace to her greed.

The Lefebvre trial lasted only four days, but into that short time there was packed more drama than in a whole month of the Hall-Mills trial.

The jury was out only ten minutes, returning with a verdict of guilty. The audience broke into cheers as the judge pronounced the sentence, "to have her head cut off in a public square of the city"—the first woman to die at the guillotine in France in many years.

History Reveals Florida Had Its Own Pocahontas

Bradentown, Fla.—Pocahontas, the Indian princess, who enacted a bit of drama years ago in the role of the rescuer, was about a hundred years behind a sister of her race who played a like part.

This developed here when Dr. Hiram Byrd, president of the Florida Audubon society, dug up a musty copy of "Fairbanks' History of Florida." Fairbanks recorded that in 1528 Juan Ortiz of Narvaez' expeditionary forces fell into the hands of Indians. Chief Ucita, head of a tribe whose camp was near the present site of Tampa, enraged over Narvaez' ill treatment of his mother, ordered that Ortiz, an eighteen-year-old youth, be roasted to death.

Ulelah, Ucita's daughter, begged on her knees that Ortiz' life be spared, and her wish was granted. Ortiz, badly burned, was nursed back to health by the girl. Twice again he was condemned to die, but each time Ulelah saved him.

Improved Uniform International

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of Day and Evening Schools, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

Lesson for January 9

THE STANDARD OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

LESSON TEXT—Luke 6:27-38. GOLDEN TEXT—Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

PRIMARY TOPIC—How Jesus Wants Us to Live.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Marching Orders for Christians.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What Christ Requires of Us.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ's Life and Example for Us.

The context (v. 26) clearly implies what is elsewhere positively declared (John 15:18-21; Luke 21:17) that the followers of Christ will be hated and opposed. In this lesson Christ sets forth the principles governing the life of his followers.

I. "Love Your Enemies" (v. 27).

Love here is not a natural affection. To love friends is easy, but to love enemies is only possible to those who have been made partakers of the divine nature—born from above again.

II. "Do Good to Them Which Hate You" (v. 27).

Love is positive in its nature. The true Christian will not merely refrain from doing injury to one who hates him, but will be concerned with and engaged in doing good to him. True love acts according to its own essential nature.

III. "Bless Them That Curse You" (v. 28).

To bless means to speak well of—to invoke a blessing upon. Injury by words is hard to let go unchallenged. The one who is a child of God and allows the Spirit of his Maker and Redeemer to express itself through him will return blessings for cursings.

IV. "Pray for Them Which Despitefully Use You" (v. 28).

We should pray for those who abuse us. The best commentary on this precept is Christ's own example (Luke 23:34). "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." When Christ was reviled He reviled not again. When He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously. (1 Pet. 2:23).

V. "Patiently Endure Wrong and Injury" (v. 29).

The Christian is not to bristle in defense of his rights but rather to suffer insult, injury and even loss. This expresses the law which should govern the individual's actions, but should not be pressed so far that evil-doers can go unchecked. Rightly constituted government has been ordained of God for the protection of the innocent and the punishment of evildoers (Rom. 13:1-8).

VI. Give to Every One That Asketh of Thee (v. 30).

God is the supreme example. He gives freely and generously but intelligently. This text does not authorize indiscriminate giving. There is a giving which injures the one to whom the gift is made. To give a man money to buy whisky would be wrong.

VII. Do as You Wish to Be Done By (v. 31).

This is called the Golden Rule. It is the sum total of Christian duty as it pertains to human interrelations. Human beings carry with them the consciousness which is the touchstone which teaches them their duty to others. If men were to live up to this rule the problem of capital and labor would be solved and end would be put to war. International relations would be peaceably adjusted and all profiting in business would end. Practicing this precept proves that we are children of God. Loving those who love us, doing good to those who do good to us, lending to those who lend to us, is the common practice even among sinners. No new birth, no Holy Spirit needed to live this kind of life.

VIII. Be Merciful (v. 36).

This means to be filled with pity and compassion. To enter into sympathy with every need of others. The supreme example as to this is the Heavenly Father.

IX. Censorious Judgments Condemned (v. 27).

This means that we should not seek out the evil or faults in others for our satisfaction. We should not sit in censorious judgment upon the actions of others. However, it does not prohibit the just estimation of the character of others by their deeds.

X. The Compensations of Right Living (v. 38).

The one who gives freely of money, loves sincerely, makes the Golden Rule the standard of his life, shows mercy and kindness to others, and refrains from impugning the motives of others will be fully rewarded in kind. God will see to it that there be no loss.

Keeping the Mouth Closed

If a man can keep his mouth closed it is a sure sign that he could say something if he opened it.—King's Business.

Fewer Words

The more you say, the less people will remember. The fewer the words, the greater the profit.—Fenelon.

Keep an Eye on the One

Keep your eye on the One gone up.—Echoes.