

Around the Globe.

Fall of the Free State—The relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith and the surrender of Gen Cronje were followed very soon by the collapse of the Boer cause in the Orange Free State, Gen Roberts hoisting the union jack in Bloemfontein, the capital, and declaring the state British territory. The annexation of this state by President Kruger of the Transvaal had just been announced, but the larger and victorious force was the one to decide, and the dispatches (British, of course) described the cordiality with which the Orange Free State people received the English invaders. It was claimed on the British side that the Free State was dragged into the war against its will and gave a half-hearted support. President Kruger tried some years ago to annex this state, but was beaten off by the inhabitants by force of arms. In 1877 the two republics formed the league which has bound them together in this war. The Orange Free State has been notable for adherence to its principles of freedom for all, being far more progressive than the Transvaal.

To Lord Roberts is given in England the principal credit for the rapid success of the campaign in Africa since the arrival of himself and Gen Kitchener. Gen Roberts, like Gen Miles in our own country, was kept in the background by the war office until repeated disasters demanded the nation's best.

The cost of getting to Bloemfontein was about 2500 British soldiers killed in battle, a thousand more dead from disease, about 8800 wounded and 3483 missing; to say nothing of millions upon millions of dollars.

Trusts—The opening of the national campaign and the Standard oil company's distribution of \$20,000,000 in one quarterly dividend brought congress to a consideration of the trust problem. The house committee on the judiciary chose a sub-committee of seven to take up the subject, as follows: Representative Ray of New York, chairman, and Messrs Jenkins of Wisconsin, Overstreet of Indiana and Littlefield of Maine, republicans. Messrs Elliott of South Carolina, Lanham of Texas and Terry of Arkansas, democrats. It was proposed to pass a constitutional amendment, and send it to the states for ratification, giving congress "power to regulate and repress monopolies and combinations, and to create and dissolve corporations and dispose of their property." This policy would require corporations to take out their charters at Washington and would, apparently, deprive the states of the power of establishing and regulating corporations.

Resolutions were introduced in congress calling for the prosecution of several great combinations, notably the Standard oil company. The latter resolution asked that the United States district attorneys in their respective districts proceed against the Standard under the anti-trust law because it has increased the price of its product.

The constitutionality of the anti-trust law of Texas has been affirmed by the United States supreme court, in a case involving the Standard oil company, which concern is likely to forfeit its charter in that state in consequence.

Gatherings—The Methodists observed the week beginning March 25 in penitence and prayer on account of the decrease in church membership and attendance. This condition is recognized by the bishops as extending to all denominations, and is attributed in part to the spirit of research and doubt represented by the so-called "higher criticism."

The first of a series of annual conferences to consider the betterment of the negro's condition is to be held in Montgomery, Ala, May 8-10.

The national farmers' congress this year will be held at Colorado Springs Aug 21-31.

From 20,000 to 30,000 Finns, mainly young men, are expected to settle in the United States this spring and summer, owing to Russia's policy of conscripting young men into the army.

Prize fights are legalized by a new law in Virginia. They are prohibited by a new law in New York.

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named, poorer stuff lower

Table with columns for various produce items (Wheat, Corn, etc.) and their prices in different markets (Boston, New York, Chicago, etc.).

Business Side of Farming.

THE IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

compared with say five years ago, at a time when depression was so widespread and so pronounced, is phenomenal. The produce of the farms of the U S the past year was worth to farmers 1600 million dollars more than in either of the depressed years '94-'96, an av of 31 per cent in values compared with the low point. These statements are made by American Agriculturist in a recent elaborate review of the agricultural situation from a financial and industrial standpoint. The live stock of the country is worth 700 millions more than during the hard times, or a gain of 38 per cent; staple crops 400 millions more than then, while other crops show an increase of 200 millions in value, or a gain of 25 per cent compared with the depression of '94-'96. The produce of live stock shows a gain of 370,000,000, or 40 per cent above the low point. Live stock itself has advanced nearly or quite as much and now exceeds the high point of the boom that reached its zenith in '89.

Farm real estate depreciated terribly during the hard times, but has more than recovered in value, and is now estimated to be worth \$1,220,000,000 more than in '89. The total investment in American agriculture is now placed at 17,550,000,000, a gain of nearly 10 per cent over the comparatively high basis of values of '89. As near as this authority can get at it, the amount of mortgages on farms occupied by their owners is now about 300,000,000 less than at the beginning of the decade. Taken as a whole American agriculture was never in a stronger position in no other country on earth are farmers so well circumstanced.

Old Cabbage at Fancy Prices—The very sharp advance consequent upon the short crop in N Y and other producing states carried the price to \$50 p ton in Mar. This naturally checked the demand, especially with the advent of good stock from Tex, Fla, etc.

Butter at Good Prices—Up to the close of March butter has averaged materially higher than usual, touching 26c in Jan, working down to 23 1/2c in March. A year ago the market held

close to 20@21c for several months. At the opening of Apr, 25, again my was 20c in '97 same price, in '98 18c. Stocks only moderate and demand good, but owing to relatively high prices and the near approach of spring the undertone of the market is one of easiness.

Hogs Highest in Years—The recent hardening in the hog market carried the price to \$5 25 p 100 lbs 1 w at Chicago, the best figure reached since July, '95, when \$5 45 was paid. Our home and foreign trade in pork product is excellent and packers are obliged to pay more than they consider the live animal worth. Receipts of hogs at leading western markets are not burdensome.

Restricts the Demand—Cheese continues higher than in years and the consumption is affected thereby. The market continues firm both east and west and the small interior stocks in Wis, Ia, O, N Y and Vt are closely held. Should present good prices induce manufacturers to turn out a lot of fodder cheese the next few weeks, this may hurt the regular market in May.

Active Live Stock Markets are the rule at most centers, sheep selling at the best figures of the year at Buffalo, Chicago, etc. The general av paid for beef cattle is lower, due partly to the somewhat indifferent quality of the offerings.

High Wool Prices bid fair to hold indefinitely in spite of recent slight weakness abroad. The last series of London auctions of colonial wools showed a slight decline, but our home markets remain steady to firm. World's stocks are considered only moderate and the consumptive demand is very large.

Hothouse Vegetables are in moderate demand, but crowded by fresh stock from Fla and other southern sections. The past winter has been less trying to far south truck farmers than some of those in in the recent past, although late March brought a hard frost. The northern markets are now being liberally supplied with string beans, asparagus, parsley, pie plant, cucumbers, etc. California cauliflower has made a good impression the past season in the east.

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