



ROUTE OF THE CAPE TO CAIRO RAILWAY.

were under government supervision. One important clause in the act was the regulation by stern repressive measures, of the sale of intoxicating liquors to the natives. Adventurers were amassing fortunes by selling them vile whiskey. Six months after this bill became law, the jails were absolutely without occupants, and crime was almost unknown among the natives in the districts where the act was in force.

Shortly after his entrance into the House, Rhodes was appointed a member of the Commission to Basutoland to decide what compensation should be paid to the natives who had remained loyal to the Cape during

the revolt, and had suffered in consequence. While serving on this commission he met General Gordon, and this was the beginning of a deep and lasting friendship. When Gordon was about to start for Khartoum in 1884, he sent Rhodes a telegram to accompany him. Rhodes was then Treasurer of Cape Colony and had to decline. Had it been otherwise, the recent history of Africa, both North and South, would have to be re-written, for the death of Gordon and the life of Rhodes are the two great agencies which to-day rule over the fate of Africa.

Rhodes' detractors have represented him