

in 1863 with a friend named North. The two worked together at farming, and then went into business as North, Peace, and Co., merchants and millers, Durban. Sir Walter's first official position was as Belgian Consul in Natal. Thereafter, having acquired an intimate knowledge of the requirements of the Colony, he returned in 1879 to England, and became Acting Emigration Officer for Natal in 1880, also Agent for the Natal Harbour Board, with an office in Finsbury Circus, London. He is the author of the work, "Our Colony of Natal," and took an active part in acquiring reduced cable rates to the Colony and its inclusion within the Imperial Penny Postage scheme. He was a Commissioner for Natal at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886, and is one of the Royal Commissioners for the Paris Exhibition in 1900. Natal was for a long time a province of the Cape, but has been a distinct and independent Colony since 1856. The office over which Sir Walter Peace presides is maintained by an annual grant out of the Colony's treasury of over £4,500, his salary being £1,500 a year, and the Secretary's—Mr. R. Russell, who was born in Natal, educated at Oxford, and called to the Bar at the Temple—£450.

The Agent-General has a well-equipped suite of offices at 26, Victoria Street, S.W., where visitors from the Colony are encouraged to call, and where they may have letters sent them. As at the office of the other Colonial Governments, a visitors' book is kept for Colonists to record their London addresses in, so that communications and enquiries for them may be readily forwarded. A library containing the Parliamentary Reports, Statutes, Government publications, and other books relating to the Colony is at their disposal, and the disposal of anyone seeking information as to Natal.

As in many other of our Colonies, so in this—the Government owns and controls the railways. It stands in the same position to the harbours; then it performs functions of the kind we are more familiar with seeing Government undertake, such as postal and telegraph business. The Government is constantly needing supplies of material for the railways and harbours and other public works, and these supplies her Home Secretary (otherwise called Colonial Secretary) orders through her Agent-