

tions, especially as the provocation will most probably be lacking. The repatriation of the Boer prisoners is going steadily on, a thousand a week now being brought home and settled throughout the country. British rule since the close of the war has been marked with an evident desire to conciliate the vanquished people; their leaders have been consulted by the Government and have been extended the right hand of fellowship, and where stern measures were necessary they were tempered with justice. Mr. Chamberlain said in a speech not long ago: "We have no intention that the Boers should break with their old traditions. We desire that they should preserve the best characteristics of their race, and hope they will shake hands with us, thus securing prosperity in South Africa, under the flag which protects different races and different religions."

In government South Africa is now strictly a Crown colony. Gradual advances will be made from this beginning toward self-government on equal plane with other British colonies. The first step will be the introduction of a native official element, nominated by the British Government. Then, so soon as the condition of the country will permit, that official element will be made elective. The final step will be full autonomy, which will be delayed only so long as circumstances make necessary. In fact the British Government is anxious to pass over the control of the colony into its own hands at the earliest possible date, but a considerable time must in the nature of the case elapse before such a step will be practicable. Mr. Chamberlain, however, thinks that the new colonies will reach this goal of their ambition much sooner than is expected, despite the difficulties. In Cape Colony, which had already attained political self-control before the war, an agitation for the temporary suspension of the constitution originated among members of the legislature, and the home office was petitioned to

withdraw their self-governing rights on the ground that the country was at present in too disturbed a condition to make elections either safe or desirable. The Colonial Office, however, decided that the petition lacked sufficient endorsement, being also strongly opposed by Premier Sprigg, that such a step was not necessary, and that in any case it could only be enacted by Parliament. The Cape Colony constitution therefore stands, and the legislature is now in session. It would seem to be the braver course for the Cape politicians to face the situation and out of the unstable conditions of the country, which they urge as their excuse, to bring order, and thus assist the home government in the political organization of South Africa.

The restoration of industrial conditions will take even a longer time than the evolution of self-government. The war's effects are most apparent in the upsetting of the whole business and industrial life of the country, and these interests must not only be restored to as sound conditions as before, but must make progress considerably beyond and be developed on a larger and more permanent scale. This can only be effected in time. It will take the Public Works Department in Cape Colony five years to catch up with the work interrupted by the war, and in the other colonies the loss of time is aggravated by complete lack of organization and by native unprogressiveness. The task of reconstruction has, however, been commenced, and a quick revival of the leading industries is hoped for. The farms are being occupied and the mines are resuming operations. The Government has confidence in South Africa and even hopes to secure a part of the cost of the war by imposing a reasonable tax on the mining industry.

In all these contemplated improvements by which a great future is to be built up in Britain's new colonies, it is intended to let the Boers take just so large a share of the work, the responsibility, and the