

The country is well watered and healthy for both human beings and for stock of every description. The soil is fertile, and suited for the production of all sorts of grain and cereals; some of the districts are semitropical, and produce coffee, sugar, cotton, rice, &c., particularly the districts of Rustenburg and Marabastad.

The white population consists mostly of emigrant farmers from the Cape Colony and Natal; the Republic was first formed in 1840, and is recognised as an independent State by the Sand River Convention of 1852. The revenue is derived from simple taxes, viz. quit-rent on farms, transfer, and import duties, capitulation tax, and Kaffir taxes. The exports consist of gold and other metals; wool, hides, skins, ostrich feathers, and stock—many thousands of oxen being sent to the Cape Colony and Natal for slaughter and draught purposes, and thousands of sheep for the butcher.

The relationship between the Dutch States and the English Colonies in South Africa have not heretofore been very cordial. Both States consider they have grievances: the one for our assumption of Griqua-land West, and for taking the Basutos under British protection, just at the time they were about to be conquered after a protracted war; and the other, on the long disputed boundary question between the Republic and the natives on the Vaal River, the Free State, and Griqua-land; and also on their construction of the terms of the Convention of 1852, claiming that the words "free trade" include exemption from custom dues at English ports.

While Lieut. Governor of Natal in 1866, I induced the then President of the Transvaal (Pretorius) to pay me a visit. I received him with the usual honours, and from that time a better feeling has existed with that Colony. I submitted the question of "custom dues" to the Legislative Council, and obtained a remission of duty on all *Government stores* and on *machinery*, but this has not entirely satisfied the Republic, and they are now about to open up a trade through Delagoa Bay with a view to save the import duties charged at English ports, and have entered into a treaty with the Portuguese Government on the subject.

Since the discovery of gold and mineral wealth in the Transvaal, an influx of many thousands of English and other nationalities have proceeded there, and very marked effects have been produced. Land and fixed property has considerably risen in value, and that country will soon occupy a most important position in South Africa.

GRIQUA LAND WEST.

Griqua Land West, or the Diamond Fields, is but a small territory in South Africa, but I need not say it is a most important one, for since the discovery of the first diamond in 1866, the prosperity of that small dependency, and of the South African Colonies and States generally, has rapidly advanced.

The country was at the time occupied by a Griqua captain named Waterboer and his people, who declined to migrate with Adam Kok when Sir George Grey offered a portion of "No-man's land" to them. Between 1868 and 1870, so many thousands of Europeans flocked to the Diamond Fields, that it became necessary for some sort of government to be organised.

From the pressure of these circumstances, Captain Waterboer offered his territory to the British Government, and on the 27th October, 1871, a proclamation was issued accepting the proffered allegiance of the Griqua chief and his people, while other proclamations were also issued extending

Colonial law to the new province and appointing commissioners to administer the government.

Subsequently a Lieutenant Governor and a regular Government staff was appointed, and the territory vested by commission in the "Governor" of the Cape Colony; but the Province has not been yet regularly annexed to the Cape Colony, and is consequently a matter of dispute between the Dutch and English Colonies in South Africa.

It now includes a large tract of land heretofore claimed by petty native tribes, including Waterboer and his people, the country being but sparsely populated.

Since the diamond discoveries the population has increased to between 60,000 and 70,000, of which about 15,000 are Europeans, but the numbers vary by emigration to and going from the fields. The revenue is already about £70,000 a year.

The "Farm" on which the town of Kimberley has been erected was purchased by the Local Government only the other day for £100,000, since which time more than that sum has been realised in building lots sold to residents, while the mines on it remain in the hands of the Government.

The pasture lands of the country are very good, and the Government have lately sold a number of farms, realising about £25,000 for the land, but retaining the mineral rights.

BASUTO LAND.

Basuto-land is a native territory adjoining the Orange Free State, north of the Orange River, annexed to the Cape Colony by Sir P. Wodehouse, in 1871. It contains about 7,000 square miles, with a native population (Basutos) of 120,000 souls. The lowlands or plains are like the Free States, about 5,000 feet above the sea, but the mountains which bound the country on the south and east are from 7,000 to 9,000 feet high. It is a very rich, fertile, and prolific territory. Large quantities of grain and corn are annually raised, and the pasture lands are good for all kinds of stock; while coal, copper, and iron also abound.

The Basutos were at war with the Orange Free State when the former applied to come under British protection, and the war was thus put an end to. They now pay a hut-tax to the Government which yields a revenue of about £12,000 a year, and is more than enough to pay their able chief magistrate (C. Griffiths, Esq.), and other officers to govern the country by special laws and regulations. French, London, and Wesleyan missionaries have laboured amongst these tribes for many years, with more success than is usual amongst South African tribes.

In 1852, whilst what is now the Orange Free State was still in British possession as the "Sovereignty," and while the Cape Colony and the Kaffirs were at war, the Basutos threatened the small English force left to protect the country, and Sir George Cathcart marched a column of troops over the Orange River, when an engagement took place with the Basutos, and they showed themselves to be formidable enemies.

In 1865 a portion of this tribe also made an incursion into Natal and carried off a considerable quantity of stock, for which compensation was not fully made. They were then at war with the Free States, and hostilities continued until they were taken under British protection in 1868.

The tribe itself is of recent origin, and became powerful from the ability of the chief, Moshesh. There are several table-topped mountains in the country, with almost inaccessible approaches, to which the natives retreat in war time, and from which it is almost impossible to dislodge them.

Tribe Bosigo has never been taken, although attacked several times by the Dutch forces. The area on the top of the mountain is considerable, water and pasture abundant, while approach is narrow, steep, and easily defended.

Moshesh partly made his tribe by what is called "lending wives" to his people. The African custom is to buy your wife, and when a follower could not afford to pay for the luxury he would go to the chief, who would buy the wife for him, and according to native law the children would owe double allegiance to the chief.

I shall only allude to two other native reserves which are under British protection: one under Mr. Austin, near the Witberg, on the left bank of the Orange River, numbering about 15,000; the other a Fingo settlement formed in a portion of Kruif's country, east of the Kei River, from which that Chief and his tribe were expelled in 1857.

These Fingos were a portion of those residing in the Cape Colony, where the settlements became over-crowded; the country was offered to them while vacant, and from 40,000 to 50,000 moved into it, and are now very prosperous.

FEDERATION.

Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen, - I propose concluding this address with a few words on a subject which I consider most important for the future prosperity of South Africa, and that subject may be summed up in the word *Federation*. I do not bring forward this "idea" from any recent excitement prevailing in the South African Colonies; I bring it forward from conviction that South Africa, as a whole, can never become a great and prosperous country without it.

I was stationed in Canada soon after a similar scheme had been carried into effect in that great Dominion; a country that had hitherto been divided against itself, with a series of petty governments, the one antagonistic to the other, their rules and regulations clashing, and the people almost at enmity with each other.

At the present moment it is one united power for all good and general purposes, each State, nevertheless, arranging and providing for its own local Government. It is at once apparent how strong such unity makes a country, when I tell you that there are now 650,000 fighting men enrolled in Canada, and that 40,000 of them come out voluntarily for drill every year. This will evince how strong she has become within herself, and what an adjunct to the British Crown.

So also must South Africa, in my opinion, federate into one great Colony. Canada has no internal enemies; South Africa has vast hordes of savages, and without unity each separate Colony is powerless to stem or oppose a rising of the natives, or to enact *universal* regulations for the good Government of them, particularly as regards the acquisition of arms and ammunition. At present one Colony prohibits the possession of arms by the natives, except under certain circumstances, while the other Colony admits free-trade in fire arms, and no less than 500,000 lbs. of powder were imported last year alone. This bears a most serious aspect for the future of South Africa, for these arms will certainly circulate throughout the whole country, while separate legislation is likely to bring on local wars.

This is only one feature of the case, but unity is equally necessary in a commercial point of view. I have endeavored to show you the wealth of the country lying within the limits of the four Colonies—viz. the Cape, Natal, the Orange Free State, and the