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Boer and Briton.

THE generous reception tendered in London, to Premier Botha of the Transvaal, affords striking proof that good enemies may become good friends. In a tactful speech, Mr. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, gracefully referred to the valuable aid he and the general staff anticipated receiving from General Botha in their conferring together with regard to defence of the Empire. No less well advised was the speech of the General himself when he said subsequently:

"The manly, courageous confidence shown by the British in the people of the Transvaal is the best seed ever sown in South Africa. We will prove by our acts that we are worthy of this confidence. Our Government is as jealous of the honour of the British flag as any other colony of the Empire. The message from the Transvaal is that she wants to strengthen the bonds of co-operation and love and unity of the Empire."

Municipal Electrical Plants.

IN connection with the planning of Toronto to supply electric light and power from a municipal plant, there is coincidental interest in the recent recommendation of the electrical committee of the municipality of Bath, England. Unanimously, the committee has recommended the town council to sell the lighting plant. It is reported that after eleven years of operation, it has proved a dismal failure, the "gross profits" being now inadequate for meeting the interest and sinking fund charges on an investment of \$810,000. Private capital will take over the plant from the city, paying the corporation every cent of its outlay, and offering \$100,000 as a bonus for a perpetual franchise. The new company offers an immediate reduction in rates for street lighting, etc., and the transfer will bring an estimated reduction

in local taxation of some pence on the pound. Not unnaturally the local ratepayers are said to be enthusiastic over the change to private ownership, fully as enthusiastic, in all probability, as Toronto citizens appear to be over the converse proposition. Will counting the cost in the latter case be as pleasurable an arithmetical exercise in fact as it seems now to be *in posse*?

The Dangers of Noising.

IN discussing what it terms "the national mud throwing habit," The Financier of New York refers sanely to the undue prominence given by the United States press to the private affairs of public or quasi-public individuals, and to the distortion—through over-emphasized details—of conditions social, political and financial. The result of this newspaper noising is that foreigners regard the United States with amazement, and are inclined to doubt the nation's essential stability. European funds for investment are "sent on suspicion" in many instances, and at the first sign of recurring national hysteria are promptly withdrawn, thus adding to the embarrassment of those who are endeavouring honestly to advance the material welfare of the Republic. "From the highest to the lowest," The Financier warns its constituency, "we are drifting, consciously or unconsciously into the practice of using the press as a printed town hall meeting and place of gossip. Our possibilities in foreign markets are not advanced by an exploitation of private grievances in public prints, nor do such exhibitions assist the consummation of international financial dealings. In brief, if we display a leaning and fondness for trivialities, we should not complain if the world regards us as trivial—and that is what is bound to happen unless the present tendency to rush into print over inconsequential matters is checked."