

THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

History of the Country Whose Capital Has Fallen.

Why President Steyn Enlisted His People in Behalf of Oom Paul Kruger.

The Orange Free State, whose capital has been occupied by the British troops and whose government must now be regarded, as Lord Roberts evidently regards it, as a thing of the past, was until the present misfortune of war overtaken an independent Dutch republic, bounded by Cape Colony south and west, by the Transvaal on the north, by Natal on the east and by Basutoland on the southeast. The area is 48,326 square miles; population 207,503, of whom 77,716 are whites and of these about 85 per cent are Dutch. The capital, Bloemfontein, has a population of 3500. The colony was founded by the Boers, who trekked from Cape Colony in and after '36, and was declared independent in '54.

The events leading to the participation by the Orange Free State in the present war are briefly sketched in Hazell's Annual for 1900 as follows: On the invitation of President Steyn, Sir Alfred Milner, High Commissioner of South Africa, and President Kruger met at Bloemfontein on May 30th to confer on the situation in the Transvaal, but separated on June 5th without having come to any agreement. The sympathy of the State with the Transvaal was made very apparent, both at this time and in negotiations which followed. When the situation began to look critical Sir Alfred Milner, in informing the president that the British troops were being sent north, and that a detachment would be stationed near the Free State borders, said that the movement was in no way directed against the Free State; and the imperial government, while hoping for a friendly settlement with the Transvaal, looked to the Free State to preserve strict neutrality, and to prevent military intervention by its citizens. They were prepared in that case to give formal assurances that the integrity of the Free State would be strictly respected under all circumstances. President Steyn in his reply regretted the sending of the troops, as he could not see that the differences with the Transvaal justified the use of the force as a solution. The Free State would do all in its power to allay excitement, but the sending of the troops would not improbably be regarded by the burghers as a menace. The road then met, and in addressing them the president charged Mr. Greene, the British agent at Pretoria, with deceiving the Transvaal government into making the offer of a five years' franchise, and plainly foreshadowed the intention of the state to assist the Transvaal in case of war. After a prolonged secret session, it was resolved to instruct the government to still use every means to maintain and insure peace, but in case of failure to join the war with the Transvaal. Further correspondence ensued between the president and the high commissioner, the former still offering his services to secure peace, but saving also that it had been deemed necessary to call out and arm the Free State burghers. He asked for assurances that the increase of the British forces in South Africa would not be continued, and that troops now on the water should not be landed. Sir Alfred Milner replied that no such assurances could be given, but he was prepared to exchange assurances that no hostile act would be committed during the negotiations. He also declared that any reasonable proposal, from whatever quarter proceeding, would be favorably considered by Her Majesty's government, if it offered an immediate termination of the existing tension and a prospect of permanent tranquility.

However, on the presentation of the Boer ultimatum, the president notified his intention of making common cause with the Transvaal, and the first act of hostility was committed by the Free State, which seized a Natal train on the frontier while en route to Harrismith. A force of burghers, estimated at 12,000, was at once sent into Natal to co-operate with the Transvaal forces, and full details of the fighting in that district will be found in the articles on the Transvaal and Natal. A considerable force of burghers had to be kept on the Basutoland border, as the natives there showed distinct signs of hostility to the Boers, who were, indeed, accused of trying to stir them up against the British. Other commandos were sent to the western border to help to invest Kimberley and other towns,

and a proclamation annexing a part of Cape Colony was issued. The Upper Tugela division of Natal was also proclaimed to be Free State territory. At first, though an invasion of Cape Colony was threatened, little was done; but it was reported that the Orange river had been crossed and Aliwal North, Colesberg, Jamestown and other places occupied and their annexation proclaimed by Free State Boers. The colonists, too, were urged to make common cause with the republics for the achievement of South African independence.

A Temporary Bridge.
For the accommodation of the public a temporary bridge has been made by the S.-Y. T. Co., the Dawson Feed Stables, and Orr & Tukey, over the Klondike at a point on the regular wagon road about 1 1/2 miles up the creek. Until the ferry is available travelers on the creeks will no doubt find this bridge very convenient.

Root on Alaska Dredging.
Washington, March 22.—Secretary Root made a brief statement today in regard to the action of the department in granting licenses to prospectors to dredge the water front of Cape Nome, Alaska, in their search for gold. He admitted that one or two such licenses had been issued, but to whom he did not remember, as it was in the regular routine of the department. There were but a dozen or more applications of that kind on hand and they will be granted. The secretary explained that his authority in the matter was based upon the statutes giving the war department jurisdiction over the navigable waters of the United States.

Under the law no one could have done any dredging on the water front of Cape Nome within a three-mile limit without the authority of the war department. This authority, the secretary said, had been granted in several instances because it was shown the proposed dredging of sand would not interfere with navigation or the riparian rights of owners of adjacent territory. The particular character of the sand to be dredged did not enter into the consideration of the case at all. The secretary said further that anyone was privileged to dig for gold in the open sea and the only question considered by the war department was whether such operations conducted within the three-mile limit were an interference with navigation or an infringement on the rights of others. When these conditions were complied with the department was prepared to grant permission to anyone to dig in the beach at Cape Nome or elsewhere at any point lying within three miles of low water mark.

Although he did not go into detail, Secretary Root made it clear that the privileges in question were free to all responsible persons and no discrimination had been intended in the cases that had been acted upon.

Set Her Cap for Lincoln.
Mr Lincoln used to take great delight in telling how he gained a wife by his ugly looks. Here is another story telling how he gained his wife: Mrs. Lincoln was a beautiful woman, attractive, sharp, witty, and relished a joke even at her own expense. She was staying with her sister, Mrs. Edwards.

She had not been there long before everybody knew Miss Mary Todd. She often said: "When a girl, I thought I would not marry until I could get one of the handsomest men in the country, but since I became a woman I learned I can't get such a man, which has caused me to change my mind. I have concluded now to marry the ugliest looking man I can find."

Later on Lincoln came to town. She had never seen him before she met him on the street. She was told who he was and went home and told her sister she had seen her man, "the ugliest man I ever saw—Abraham Lincoln—and I am going to set my cap for him." That became a common saying in street gossip.

When they were married, instead of taking a bridal trip they went to the Globe hotel. They took board at \$4 a week. When he got able, he bought a lot for \$200 and built a four-room house costing less than \$1000. When he received \$5000 from his great railroad case, he spent \$1500 of it in putting a second story on his house, and there he lived until he went to Washington.—Leslie's Weekly.

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ARCTIC BROTHER'S FUNERAL

First in the History of the Young Order.

Deceased Brother at Skaguay Buried After Most Interesting and Impressive Services.

Although the order is but 13 months old, there are probably 2000 members of the Arctic Brotherhood in Alaska, Northern British Columbia and the Yukon. That they are a healthy band of brothers is evidenced by the fact that only one member of the order, so far as known, has died, and that one was Mr. Henry Clay Parks, one of Skaguay's most highly respected citizens and business men. Being a member of other orders and organizations, the funeral was an imposing affair and an account of the part taken in it by the Skaguay camp A. B., will be read with interest by the many members of Dawson Camp. The following account of the funeral of Mr. Parker is from the Skaguay Daily Alaskan of April 8d:

"All that was mortal of Henry Clay Parks was gently laid to rest on Sunday afternoon in the Skaguay cemetery. The funeral was one of the most largely attended of any ever held in the city. Notwithstanding it was a rainy day, hundreds were out and in attendance at the services over the remains in Arctic Brotherhood hall, and many of those present followed to the cemetery. Three coach loads of people took the train.

"The services in the hall began at 1 o'clock. The remains had lain in state there since 11 o'clock, and many had taken seats after coming in and viewing the dead. C. A. Schibre, president of the Odd Fellows Club, directed the opening arrangements. The funeral party filed slowly in to the measured strains of Haydn's 'Dead March in Saul.' First came the Arctic Brotherhood, each member of the long procession in robes, the officers wearing purple and other colors, and the rest spotless white. Next followed the Odd Fellows wearing badge and crepe, and following them members of the chamber of commerce.

"After all were seated, Rev. Cameron read the opening sentences, following which the Episcopal choir sang 'Lord Let Me Know Mine End and the Number of My Days.' Then followed the reading of the lessons and the prayers by the ministers, and the hymn by the choir 'Days and Moments Quickly Flying.'

"The chamber of commerce was called upon and Attorney Day responded in behalf of that body, giving a short eulogium on the life of Mr. Parker, referring to his integrity and the high esteem in which he was held by all, and finishing by placing a beautiful bouquet on the casket on the part of the chamber.

"The Arctic Brotherhood was next, and for the first time in Skaguay employed its beautiful and simple ritual. Arctic Chief Moore then arose, the brothers remaining seated, and spoke eloquently and touchingly on the life of the departed. Turning to the trail guide he asked, 'Are all present?' The reply was, 'There is one absent. It is Brother H. C. Parker. He has safely gone over the last trail, and camped in the last camp.' Keeper of nuggets in answer to a question, replied the account of Brother Parker is clear. 'The record keeper answered 'His record is good,' and read resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the camp. 'Brothers,' said the arctic chief to the camp, 'How is it with Brother Parker?' 'It is well,' was the reply.

"Then the Y. M. C. A. quartet, comprising Messrs. Reid, Shorthill, Williams and Royal, sang softly 'It Is Well With My Soul.' Chaplain Wilcoxen invoked in pathetic words the guidance and blessings of the 'Almighty Trail Guide.'

"The Odd Fellows, after this, took up the service, giving a more simple ceremony than the other lodge. C. A. Schibre, president of the Odd Fellows' Club, read a paper on Odd Fellowship and its objects, and concluded with a short eulogy on the deceased and a word of consolation to the widow and the reminder that the order, as brothers, would see to her comfort. The choir sang 'Peace, Perfect Peace,' and the service in the hall was concluded.

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