

The Planet.

DAILY AND WEEKLY
Chatham, Ont.

KILLED BY CIGARETTES.

Albert Wright, of St. Louis, fourteen years old, became addicted to the cigarette habit over three years ago, and for the last year he smoked, according to the statement of a brother-in-law, Dr. Conway Bates, of Clayton, from forty to fifty cigarettes a day. He had been ill for two weeks, but no one thought his illness serious until a couple of days ago, when he suddenly grew worse and finally expired. Dr. Bates made an examination of the boy and found that his left lung was eaten almost entirely away. The death was due to the cigarette habit. Now, all boys don't die from smoking cigarettes, but it certainly injures their health and shortens their lives. The practice is very general in Chatham, but it looks as if the people were waiting for a few deaths directly traceable to this cause before they will open their eyes to one of the worst of our modern evils.

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE TROUBLE WITH THE BOERS.

Cape Colony was settled by the Dutch South African Company in the sixteenth century, but passed into the possession of Great Britain in the general settlement of 1814. The Cape Dutch were a very conservative people retaining in the nineteenth century all the barbaric practices of the middle ages. For the most trivial offences criminals were tortured and racked to death, while slavery flourished in its worst form. The natives were enslaved and treated by the Dutch Africans on a level, and even worse than their brute beasts. Great Britain did away with all this and abolished slavery. The Dutch, very much dissatisfied, stood still for a few years, and then the great "trek" of 1835-1837 began. The Boers moved some 1500 miles up to what is now known as the Transvaal, and later settled the Orange Free State. There they found themselves for many years free from British interference but constantly menaced by the Zulus, whom they eventually, however, drove back to other regions.

In 1877 the republic was about at the end of its tether, with a million dollars of debt, with 12 shillings and 6 pence in the treasury. Anarchy came and Great Britain seized the country. The Boers determined not long after to regain their independence, and in 1881 they succeeded, British arms suffering severe defeat. As a result self-government was given to the inhabitants of the country, while the suzerainty of Great Britain was practically expressed in the convention of 1881—reference to which was omitted in the convention of 1884. The provision, which is still in force, stipulates that no treaty into which the African Republic may enter with foreign states, shall be valid, until it has received the approval of Great Britain. The relations created between the Boers—the descendants of the trekkers—and the Uitlanders—the later comers—may be best shown by the following dialogue, which is an extract from the report of the discussion at the conference which preceded the signing of the convention:

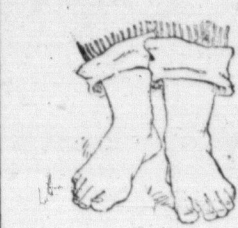
Mr. Kruger.—There will be equal protection for all.

Sir E. Wood.—And equal privileges? Mr. Kruger.—We make no difference so far as burger rights are concerned. There may perhaps be some slight difference in the case of a young person who has just come into the country.

Had this declaration of intention been expressed in the convention, in set terms, the present trouble could never have arisen. But the convention was interpreted by the Transvaal government in a petting spirit, and hit by hit the rights of the Uitlanders were whittled away. The franchise, which in 1881, was obtainable after a twelve months' residence, was, at the beginning of this year (1899) practically not obtainable at all for, when a fourteen years' residence—including a period of probation, during which he incurred all the responsibilities of citizenship, but did not enjoy all its privileges—had qualified the applicant, the consent of two-thirds of the burghers and the approval of the government were still required. Consequently, it is generally felt by the Uitlanders, that it has been the intention of the government to restrict the franchise to one privileged race.

For some years after the retrocession the country was fairly prosperous the revenue just about balancing the expenditure. But, in 1887, owing to the discovery of gold at Barberton, a decided change for the better began to manifest itself, the revenue leaping from £236,584 for the last nine months of 1886 to £668,433 for the year 1887. From that time on there was a steady increase, until, in 1896, the total revenue amounted to £4,462,194. The discovery of gold, first in the quartz reefs at Barberton, and later in the unique conglomerate deposits at Johannesburg, rendered the future progress of the republic certain, and if the rulers had been as wise as nature had been generous, there would have been no burning political question in the Transvaal to-day.

Liberal as were the terms of the con-



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reption of 1881, the Boers were in no wise satisfied with them.

The result of their dissatisfaction was the convention of 1884, in which there was no mention of suzerainty, and which was generally more favorable to the Boers than that of 1881. The tendency of the administration from 1881 to 1885 may, perhaps, be best illustrated by quoting the demands made, in 1885, by the body known as the Transvaal National Union—an indiscriminate body, composed of capitalists, professional men, merchants, and workmen anxious to secure political reforms. Their demands were formulated as follows:

1. A constitution safeguarded from hasty change. (It had become a common practice to make alterations in the written constitution, with no more formality than that required for ordinary Volksraad legislation.)

2. An equitable franchise law and fair representation. (The stringent nature of the franchise law has been already explained. The districts were, indeed, of the entire population, lived, were only given such representatives as the number of resident burghers entitled them to have.)

3. Equality of the Dutch and English languages. (The language employed in over 90 per cent of the business transactions is English, and the same may be said of the conversation, yet the official language of the country is High Dutch, which very few of the burghers understand, speaking, as they do, a local patois.)

4. The heads of the government department to be responsible to the Legislature. (The members of the executive have no seat in the Volksraad, and the minister of mines—surely the most important official in such a country as the Transvaal—has no seat in the executive.)

5. Removal of religious disabilities. (Catholics and Jews are not allowed to hold government appointments.)

6. Independence of the courts.

7. Liberal and comprehensive education.

8. Free trade in South African products.

When it is stated that the civil service was utterly incompetent and almost entirely corrupt; that the bribery of Volksraad members was a common practice, and that, in addition to the long-standing liquor, dynamite and railway concessions, others had been applied for, it will be seen how urgent reforms were needed. Petition after petition had been sent to Pretoria, only to be rejected.

Then came the Jameson raid.

A statement of the demands of the Uitlander council, made in June, 1899, will again illustrate how serious were the grievances of the people:

1. Legislation by mere Volksraad resolution to be abolished.

2. Equitable franchise law and fair representation, with redistribution scheme.

3. English and Dutch languages to be official.

4. Reorganization of the civil service.

5. High court to be independent. (At present the judges of the high court are required, under pain of dismissal, to respect any resolution of the Volksraad, however hastily it may have been passed. This demand was the direct result of an action in which an American subject obtained damages against the government.)

6. Reform of education.

7. The cancellation of monopolies. (In

addition to the long-standing liquor, railway and dynamite monopolies—the two last of which are said to represent a permanent tax of from £600,000 to £1,000,000 per annum upon the country, although conducted solely in the interests of the monopoly holders—there are now monopolies engaged in the manufacture of cocoa, calcium carbide, soap, candles, matches, brushes, etc.)

LATEST ABOUT DIGESTION FROM THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD.

We are now assured that it depends on how your food is cooked whether it is digestible or not. It is no secret that the favorite soft-boiled eggs are harder to digest than raw eggs, and that hard-boiled eggs are easier to digest than either, for they are digested in 2½ hours, while soft-boiled eggs take 3½. It is interesting to know that if hard-boiled be cut into thin slices and spread on bread it almost melts in your mouth. The method of preparation has much to do with the digestibility of meat. Professor Uffelmann, a noted German scientist, made some interesting experiments on a boy whose stomach was laid bare by an accident. He found that roasted meats were digested better than others.

Roast beef required only 2½ hours to digest it, while boiled beef required 3½ hours, or if it was very fat, 2½. Corned beef was not digested until 6½ hours. In general, cooked meat is softer, tendrier, and tastes better than raw. Yet if raw meat is cut up fine, or scraped, it is quite digestible, for then it is exposed to the acids of the stomach thoroughly. Even milk is easier to digest when boiled, requiring but a half an hour, while the raw milk takes 2½ hours to digest. When a long-continued milk diet is prescribed by the physician, it should always be taken boiled, if the quantity consumed daily is more than two pints. If a person wishes to live on nothing but milk, he must drink at least three pints a day. Vegetables, too, are easier to digest when cooked, with the exception of cabbage, which is better raw.

The Simla (India) News makes the interesting announcement that "Mr. and Mrs. Thambayyagampillai are now on a visit to Kivikudyiruppu. Mr. Thambayyagampillai is the son of Judge G. S. Ariyagampillai, and son-in-law of Mr. A. Jambullinam-mudaliar."

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

An Ohio girl laughed four hours without stopping. The name of the youth who wore the golf suit is not given.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Twentieth Kansas regiment is a vindication of the scholar in war. It contains more students than any other regiment under the flag.—Kansas City Star.

If the peace conference does any good in dissuading Europe, it might be a good idea to try dissuading the man who carries a gun in the United States.—Pittsburgh Times.

Seats on the New York Stock Exchange sell at \$40,000 nowadays. Few are more costly, but Uncle Sam's expenses at the seat of war to date have not been small.—Boston Globe.

It is stated that the English language is growing faster than any other, past or present. This is because those who use it have a great deal to say in this world.—Philadelphia Times.

An eastern prophet is quite positive that we are booked for a "long, hot, dry summer." Perhaps this year is a first cousin to the year who predicted an early spring.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Chelsea woman who planted some peanuts this spring and mourned because the expected plants did not result has just learned that peanut growers usually select nuts for planting that have not been roasted.—Washington Post.

One way of distinguishing diamonds from glass and paste is to touch them with the tongue. The diamond feels much the colder. None of the editors of our acquaintance are complaining of chilblains in their tongues.—Minneapolis Times.

With secret initiatory exercises, says a Chicago dispatch, "the well known suffrage leaders, Susan B. Anthony and the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, have been made members of the American Woman's Relief Corps, No. 21." Was there a side-saddle on the goat?—Buffalo Express.

Giovanni Cattaneo came to this country on the Bretagne with a hump on his back. Some superstitious custom house officials touched it, obeying the old adage that to touch a hump brings good luck. They were rewarded, for the hump was artificial and filled with \$1,000 worth of jewelry.—Boston Traveler.

PERT PERSONALS.

May Irwin is billed to play Juliet. Probably she will do it by the pound.—St. Louis Republic.

It is Russell Sage's desire to die rich, and he buried as cheaply as possible.—Washington Post.

Joe Choate is a happy man. The British are "seeing" his jokes.—Philadelphia North American.

If money talks, John D. Rockefeller can hold the floor the balance of his natural life.—Nashville American.

There will be no Hobson business when General Funston comes home. There is a Mrs. Funston.—Kansas City Star.

The Kaiser has been called a "poodle prince" and can't do anything but treat the aspersions with dogged indifference.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Capitalist Hetty Green and Capitalist Russell Sage are standing closely together against all newfangled Scottish doctrines.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Congressman Elmer Roberts only bears an occasional Mauser bullet from the firing line now, but wait until he gets into range at Washington.—San Francisco Chronicle.

cost less than it was expected it would. Was there ever a gown made that

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