

franchise until after representative government had been granted ; the present laws in the Orange Free State respecting the status of Kaffirs were to be regarded ; church property and government trusts were not to be prejudicially affected ; no war tax was to be levied upon the farmers, and the burghers were to be rendered assistance in restoring damaged farms. Even the colonists who had joined the republics in the war were to be penalized only by disenfranchisement. Surely these terms were generous in view of all the circumstances of the war ; and, had they been accepted would have given rise to some just dissatisfaction both in England and in the South African colonies. For instance, the provisions which would have operated to free the farmers in the belligerent districts from any liability in respect of the expenses of the war, leaving them to be paid by the loyal colonists, were, to put it mildly, hardly equitable to the latter. Clearly, the British Government was in no wise despotic in its proposals, and their rejection by the Boers is only another manifestation of the utter unreasonableness that has characterized that race from the inception of the conflict.

COUNTY COURTS AND LEGAL PROCEDURE.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the bill respecting legal procedure and County Courts jurisdiction introduced by the Attorney-General will not be pressed. The more its provisions are discussed the clearer it becomes that it will effect changes much greater and more far-reaching than were either supposed or intended. Increasing the jurisdiction of County Courts might not of itself be of so much moment, but the consequences which are likely to flow from it would in our opinion be very injurious not only to the profession but to the public.

Without at present going into details, various objections to this legislation lie on the surface. The main one is that it will go a long way in the direction of decentralization. The best minds in England, and we venture to think the most thoughtful men in this country, look upon this as an evil. In England it is considered that centralization is a necessity for a strong, independent bar, and for a high-class bench. It is clear that this increased jurisdiction would largely destroy circuit business. The great educational advantages resulting from the presence of a High Court judge and leaders of the bar at county towns from time to time