

SOUTH AFRICA. ITS PEOPLE AND TRADE.

(Continued from last issue).

To descend to a lower plane, Canada has a strong commercial reason for seeing British ideas prevail in South Africa. Our manufacturers are now beginning to seek foreign markets, and under the rational rule of Great Britain, a large trade development awaits Canada there. South Africa is the counterpart of Canada. We consume large quantities of goods she has to sell, such as merino wool, hides, and sub-tropical products, while she imports largely of manufactured goods, such as furniture, boots and shoes, textile fabrics, stoves, hardware, machinery, and other manufactures, which we wish to sell. South Africa is essentially a non-manufacturing country, and the United States, having studied the conditions there through its consular agents, has already built up a big and rapidly-increasing trade. Not many years ago the exports of the United States to all Africa amounted to but a few thousand dollars annually. In 1898, the shipment of United States goods to British and Portuguese South Africa alone, amounted to over \$16,000,000, the increase over 1897 being a growth of over \$1,480,000, or at the rate of nine per cent. These exports consisted of foodstuffs, books, cotton goods, leather goods, and a long list of manufactured articles, such as agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, sewing machines, typewriters, carriages, furniture, canned goods, lumber, etc. In almost every one of these lines, Canada is able to compete with the United States. Here and there, it is true, some Canadian manufacturer has already entered the market, but, as a rule, the Canadian exporter is still asleep to the possibilities of that land. It is time we woke up to this, for the trade connections ought to be as close as the political fraternity, and the sending of the Canadian regiment will tend to strengthen the bonds, both in a commercial and political sense. Further reference to the trade of South Africa will be found in the section of "miscellaneous facts."

As for our duty to Great Britain, as citizens of Canada, when we reflect that in the past twenty years the Mother Country has spent over \$55,000,000, according to J. Castell Hopkins, on the defences of Canada, we owe it to our own self-respect to see that at least some of this is repaid. As citizens of the Empire, does it not seem a duty to defend it when any vital part of that Empire is threatened?

What will be the outcome of the war? In all probability the union of the present colonies and states in a confederation, in principle like that of Canada, but differing in details, to accord with the varying conditions. When the British and Dutch have got together, after the present conflict, they will see, by a study of their past history, that the policy of mutual hate, distrust and intolerance, is a policy that must mark their land with ruin; but the policy of good-will

among the white races will make South Africa what its climate and latent resources fit it to become—one of the most delightful in the world. This much is certain, that in the settlement to be made, the British Government will not revisit upon the Boers the injustice under which the Uitlander population has groaned for the past eighteen years, but will see that there shall be absolute equality of rights among the white races, and fair, just treatment of black and white from the Cape to the confines of British Central Africa.

(To be continued).

Foreign Textile Centres

MANCHESTER.—The fancy departments are not in all cases doing well, but one hears better reports in some quarters. The position as to laces is puzzling. There is a considerable amount of grumbling regarding the home demand, but in some of the principal foreign markets the sales of laces are undoubtedly very large, and there has been quite a run on some classes of all-overs, the prices of which have been advanced 30 per cent. Plauen makes many of these goods, and manufacturers there are refusing to accept new business for delivery before May. It is said that some buyers are feeling nervous as to the stocks of scarves they have coming in from Plauen and Nottingham. There is undoubtedly a good deal of anxiety as to the future of lace in the home trade, but in the New York market, where British ideas have now very little weight, lace is first favorite. The projected formation of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd., with two millions of ordinary shares and a million of preference shares is regarded as a step further towards the pit into which the combination movement will sink out of sight. The Draper's Record believes the causes which have influenced the formation of so many syndicates do not appear to be exactly understood by many persons. First we have a syndicate amongst consumers of fine cotton yarns—the sewing cotton combination, to wit. Then, after the establishment of other combinations, one sees a union of those who spin the fine yarns bought by the sewing cotton manufacturers. After that, observing the splendid profits earned by the Fine Spinners' Association, speculators and others manipulated the Egyptian market, sending up prices to a very high level; and so, suggestive of Swift's references to the fleas which had lesser fleas to "bite 'em," we proceed *ad infinitum*. Now that the calico printers have combined, the busy company promoter in Manchester who has taken up most of these schemes will presumably get hold of the makers of Burnley and Cheshire "printers," in order that they may be enabled to protect themselves from the rapacity of those who buy their cloths. When the spinners, weavers, dyers, bleachers, printers and finishers in this country have united, there will be an opening for the professional promoter in the United States, where he can expend energy in trying to induce the cotton planters to combine so as to extort the maximum price from organizations on the other side of the Atlantic. And when the whole system of combinations collapses like a house of cards, it will not matter to the promoter.

BRADFORD.—There can be no doubt that in many ways the very high price of pure merino has directed increased attention to the better classes of crossbred colonial wools, and the tendency in both men's and ladies' wear in the direction of tweeds must have the effect of increasing the demand for crossbred wools. Just at the present time very large quantities of