

The Boer War*

The obduracy of the Transvaal Boers and their president in refusing to concede the common rights of man to citizens not of their own race, is turning the attention of the civilized world to South Africa and its people. That quarter of the world possesses unusual interest to Canadians, not only from the standpoint of imperial politics, but from its commercial development and its possibilities as a field for Canadian trade.

The Cape of Good Hope was discovered by Diaz, a Portuguese navigator, six years before Columbus landed in America, but though used as a port of call by the Portuguese for a century afterwards, it remained for two English captains, in the employ of the East India Company—Shillinge and Fitzherbert—to make formal claim of sovereignty in the name of England in 1620. After some rivalry between the English and the Dutch East India companies, the latter, realizing the salubrity of the climate and the fine soil, sent out an expedition under Jan Van Riebeeck—in whose honor the Hon. Cecil Rhodes has recently had a statue erected in Capetown—to make a permanent settlement, and thus began in 1652 the Dutch occupation of the Cape. Little by little the settlements extended back from the Castle on Table Bay, but the life of the settlers was the life of white slaves. They were not allowed to sell their produce to visiting ships, but could only sell to the company at prices fixed by the company. On the other hand, they were not permitted to purchase goods except from the company and at prices fixed, of

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