

THE TRANSVAAL QUESTION.

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From Two Points of View.
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The Boers are probably now beginning to realize how useless are their efforts to stop the march of progress, and to prevent the material development of South Africa. The obstacles they have placed across "the path of progressive civilization" are being removed by force of arms. The question at issue between the Transvaal and Great Britain, which was of an economic rather than a political character, is being settled by the crackling of the battalion fire and the death growl of artillery.

It is officially stated that there are about 300,000 white people in the South African Republic, and how far the Outlanders outnumber the Boers may be judged from the fact that the "Staats Almanak" gives the adult male Boer population at 29,279, and the adult male Outlander population as 137,121. The "Commercial Bulletin" of New York sets forth the grievances of the majority in the Transvaal in the following convincing way:

"Fifteen years ago the annual revenue of the Republic was \$550,000; to-day it is about \$20,000,000—a revenue derived either directly or indirectly, almost wholly from the industry of the Outlander population, and obviously in excess of the needs of so small a community even were it, as it is not, largely devoted to the execution of productive public works. But this is only part of the tax which the foreign settler is compelled to pay. As a miner he can buy his dynamite only from the holders of a monopoly at a cost of \$2,000,000 a year more than he would pay in an open market. As a coal consumer he has to pay a monopolist railway a dollar a ton for carrying coal twenty-five miles over a perfectly flat country, or 4 cents per ton per mile. Most of the mining companies have in addition to these taxes on their explosives and coal to pay 5 per cent. on their profits. They have further to contend against the demoralization of their black labor, produced by the disregard of the law against the sale of liquor to natives, which is permitted by an incompetent or corrupt police administration. An engineer now resident here, who has followed his profession in the South African Republic, sums up the reforms most needed there as follows: The expropriation of the monopolist railway, the cancellation of the dynamite monopoly, the suppression of the illicit liquor traffic, and a voice for the Outlander in the expenditure of the State revenues."

There are undoubtedly two points of view from which to judge of the situation of affairs in South Africa. Those who regard the Boers with sympathy, begotten of their history and the fact that they established the first white man's government in that part of South Africa, claim that these sturdy Hollanders have the right to govern their own country in their own way. Those who entertain a contrary opinion maintain that the Boers are not justified in obstinately placing themselves in the path of progressive civilization. The "Bulletin" defends the action of Great Britain in demanding equal rights for her people, and says:—

"The Boers themselves dealt in somewhat peremptory fashion with the native races; promptly decreed, in fact, as all other white men have done, that they must give way before the advance of a higher civilization. But if the higher law is good, as applied to the incompetent black steward of his part of the world's heritage, why may it not be good against his white successor? There is here no question of actual expropriation—merely one of justice between men of common race and lineage, with rights that have their origin equally in the demands of what white men unite in calling progress. It may be all wrong this prodding of the weaker brother who does not keep pace with the time marked by the races that are leading the world. But it is too generally accepted a principle of action to admit of profitable argument. We adopted it when we broke open the door to commerce and let the light in on Japan; it has been applied in China to the oldest civilization in the world, and all over Africa where there was, properly speaking, no civilization at all. We, in the United States, have long ceased to be able to afford room to allow the Indians to live by the chase, and when Spain became responsible for chronic anarchy at our very door, from which our trade suffered serious detriment, we performed a duty to civilization by bringing it to an end."

When the Boers have been taught that they cannot be permitted to block the development of half a continent, they will probably be left in peaceful possession of their farms, where they may continue to cultivate the homely virtues some writers ascribe to them. But the sorrow in many English homes, the lamentation in Boer households, and the waste of war caused by the obstinacy of an aged ruler will warrant the British Government in ensuring the future rest, peace and progress of the country by giving to it a different form of government than that now tottering to its fall.

ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

The number of candidates for examination on Nov. 2nd for admission to the grade of Associate in the Actuarial Society of America is very large, and examinations will be held in four places, viz.: in New York, Philadelphia, Hartford and Toronto. Mr. John K. Gore has accepted the position on the Examination Committee in place of Mr. Tatlock, who had to go to Europe on business for his Company. The Committee now consists of Walter S. Nichols, John K. Gore, with D. P. Fackler as chairman.

The New York Examination will be held in the Library of the Equitable under the supervision of Mr. J. G. Van Cise, Actuary of that Company. The Philadelphia Examination will be held at the office of the Provident Life & Trust and under the supervision of Mr. A. S. Wing, its Vice-President. The Hartford Examination will take place in the Phoenix Mutual Life Building under the supervision of Mr. A. A. Welch, Actuary of that Company. The Toronto Examination will be held in the Imperial Life's Board-Room under the supervision of Mr. Thos. Bradshaw, the Actuary.

The Annual Examinations hereafter will be held on the first Thursday in May.