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JOHANNESBURG, — The use of the word "Independence" as such is taboo among loyal South Africans and until adequate evidence to the contrary is produced it must be assumed that the majority of the Dominion's population is loyal; yet the spirit and thought of independence are in the air nowadays and cannot be kept out of the men's minds.

Supposing by a wild flight of the imaginations that South Africa was to become independent, with a complete severance of ties from Great Britain, there would still be a bone of contention between her government and officials of the British crown namely, the native problem. There are 5,000,000 colored people of all shades in the Union. Two bits of colored land remain under the direct control of the British Government in London—Basutoland and Swaziland. Neither has a pressing desire to exchange British for South African rule. Basutoland is in the heart of the Union. Under the House of Windsor it would prove a thorn in the flesh of Independent South Af-

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