

purely British and Irish goods and manufactures was represented by £62,801,203, and that of the British possessions by £5,799,783, or together £68,600,986, the balance, in round numbers, of £31,000,000, being the contribution of all other countries. The progressive yearly accretions by which these totals have been reached are shown by the following tabulations:

GREAT BRITAIN'S QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE.

1894	£ 8,766,828
1895	11,167,995
1896	14,798,430
1897	14,648,162
1898 (approximate)	13,419,848

Quinquennial total.....£62,801,223

QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

1894	£ 605,561
1895	997,558
1896	1,261,504
1897	1,235,160
1898 (approximate)	1,700,000

Quinquennial total.....£5,799,783

QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1894	£ 1,414,565
1895	2,188,247
1896	4,432,428
1897	4,503,366
1898 (approximate)	5,500,000

Quinquennial total.....£18,028,606

The relatively large proportion of a little over one-third of the total trade of South Africa which falls to foreign countries is explained by the fact of the heavy imports in recent years of grain, foodstuffs, and live and dead meat, necessitated by the drought and rinderpest and the devastations of locusts, which have afflicted her agricultural and herding industries for several years past. The extent of this huge oversea buying of British and foreign goods would manifestly be impossible unless South Africa possessed purchasing "media" for their acquisition. These are furnished her by her rich and practically inexhaustible stores of native gold, diamonds and other minerals, wool and other raw products.

The imports into the Cape Colony amounted approximately to £16,845,955 at the end of 1898, having made an average advance of over £5,000,000 since 1894—in fact, if compared with the figures for 1897, an actual advance of £7,000,000. In the same quinquennium Natal's imports showed progress from £2,316,596 to approximately £5,127,887, or an enhancement at the handsome rate of 121 per cent. This was even more than the relative progress of either the South African Republic or the Cape Colony, the latter gaining only 49 per cent., and the former 61 per cent. on the earliest year. It is noteworthy that the former's total—£54,332,227—is nearly exactly half of the aggregate of South African imports, and shows the over-weighting factor the Republic forms in the commercial expansion of the sub-continent. The appended comparison of the percentages of progress of the trade of the past quinquennium of India, Canada, Australia and the colonies of the Cape Colony, Natal, and Rhodesia, and the South African Republic is given by The Gazette:

QUINQUENNIAL PROGRESS OF OTHER BRITISH POSSESSIONS AS COMPARED WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

	Rate of Quinquennial Progress.
South Africa—	
Natal	121.0 per cent.
Rhodesia	94.0 per cent.
South African Republic	61.0 per cent.
Cape Colony	49.0 per cent.
Other British Possessions—	
Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Fiji..	40.0 per cent.
Dominion of Canada	8.0 per cent.
India (including Burmah, Straits Settlements, and Ceylon)	0.2 per cent.
Average for South Africa	71.0 per cent.
Average for other British Possessions....	16.0 per cent.

The ratio of progress in imports alone of South Africa compared with those of our chief colonies and dependencies—India, Australia and Canada—is not less instructive. As against a total for South Africa of £108,000,000, Canada has only an import volume of £26,000,000* to show, and Australia of £97,000,000; while the vast continent of India only surpasses South Africa by her £157,000,000 of imports in the five years.

W. Bleloch, in a paper recently read before the Geological Society of South Africa, confirms the theory first propounded by Dr. F. G. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, that the Witwatersrand gold-bearing rocks are due to the formation of a series of sub-shore deposits banked up by ocean currents and waves against a sloping shore. At first sight this is only of interest to geologists and mining experts. If, however, it should be confirmed by subsequent tests, it will have far-reaching effects upon the Rand gold mining industry, and equally upon commerce. For instance, payable reefs should exist under the major portion of Johannesburg itself, whilst the Main Reef series would be found underlying the overlaps of more recent beds from Vlakkfontein to Venterspost, thereby opening up an enormous area of country for mining purposes, and extending the life of the Rand as a gold producing centre far beyond the 100 or more years already predicted for it by the world's leading experts. It is estimated by Frederick H. Hatch, in the "Engineering Magazine," of New York, that within the next five years the number of stamps in the gold mining district of the Witwatersrand will be increased to over 12,000. The average duty of a stamp here is 1,500 tons per year, or a total of 18,000,000 tons, which, at the present grade of 9 to 10 dwts. of fine gold, or 40s. per ton, would give £36,000,000 sterling per annum.

The coal deposits of the Transvaal are estimated at 235,000,000,000 tons, or 37,000,000,000 tons over those of the coal beds of Great Britain.

Since the first edition of this pamphlet was issued, the writer has received a copy of a New York publication, giving a summary history of the Transvaal. The compiler of this history, which is evidently derived from Boer sources, says that "in 1881 the suffrage in the Transvaal was open to anyone who had lived in the republic two years; but when the British part of the population, which had been voting and holding offices, refused to take part in the defensive war against the Kafirs, on the plea that they were British subjects, and so could not be drafted into service, the Boers, who then far out-numbered the foreigners, passed a law making a renunciation of all other sovereigns a pre-requisite to citizenship in the Transvaal."

This statement of the case, which contains as many inaccuracies as could possibly be crowded into a single sentence, is another illustration of the way in which the Boer authorities have tried to make black appear white to the uninformed outside world. Without going into all the misconceptions in this statement, it will be sufficient to point out that when the Boers undertook their most unjust and unprovoked war against the Swazis, an independent tribe dwelling beyond the Transvaal boundary, they proceeded to commander British sub-

*NOTE.—The author has to thank Mr. George Hague, General Manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada, for calling attention to a mistake in the above figures by which the *S. A. Gazette* has done a great injustice. Mr Hague says, "In that admirable little pamphlet—I hope you have sold thousands of them, there is a curious mistake about the imports of Canada. These imports are given as £26,000,000 for five years, whereas the actual imports for one year only—the last of the quinquennial period—amounts to that sum. The total for the five years is over £520,000,000, or £107,000,000, and the rate of increase is not 8 per cent. but 37 per cent. The Transvaal imports include the prodigious sums spent in cannon, rifles and other war material."