

## SOUTH AFRICA, ITS PEOPLE AND TRADE.

## CAUSES OF THE BOER WAR.

## ARTICLE IV.

(Continued from December Issue.)

The foregoing were a few out of many political grievances. On the top of these the people of Johannesburg in particular had their local or municipal grievances no less trying. The condition of Johannesburg has, like other matters in the Transvaal, been much misunderstood by outsiders. The Boer newspapers and public men have sought to make it appear that Johannesburg is made up of the offscourings of the earth, to whom it would be dangerous to give rights of self-government. In the early days, it is true, a great many adventurers came from all parts, but the town passed through that phase of life as all mining communities do; and for some years past it is no better and no worse than the average city of its size. It is not an alluvial mining diggings where men of every stamp can work their own claims, but a settled industry carried on by rock-crushing, as in the Kootenay, and necessitating expensive machinery and expert hands. Indeed, the mining machinery of the Witwatersrand is the most modern, as well as the most extensive in the world, many of the large companies having their own machine shops and operating large steam and electrical plants, with large staffs of the most skilled workmen. The manual labor is done chiefly by natives, but the mining and commercial business—the former having the cleverest mining engineers and experts in the world, and the latter, including branches of the most reputable firms of England, Germany, the United States, etc.—are carried on by white people, among whom there are practically no Dutch. Where there is so much gold production (the output last year was \$75,000,000), there must be a large number of banks and financial corporations, which of necessity must have trustworthy employees, and so it must be said of business firms. Are the owners of these big mining plants, banks and financial houses likely to put their affairs into the hands of ruffians, drunkards, and thieves? If this question cannot be answered by a moment's reflection, the doubtful reader can satisfy himself by examining a copy of a recent Directory of Johannesburg, and read down the names and occupations. The same directory will show how unfounded is the statement that this agitation is purely a capitalistic one. Now imagine such a city of 80,000\* progressive and energetic inhabitants being governed by thirty farmers; and imagine the representative financial and mining body of the city (the chamber of mines) being refused an ordinary charter of incorporation, on the ground that it would be creating "a State within a State." At first, English-speaking men were chosen to the town council, but to cut them off from self-government, even in municipal matters, President Kruger decreed that only Dutch should be spoken in the council, and so the Anglo-Saxon was debarred there. And the Burgomaster (Mayor) is not elected by the voters, but appointed by the Government. The drainage of the city flows along the streets in open gutters, exhaling poisonous vapors, as was the case in the early days of Capetown, and the people are

\* Besides the white population there were at the beginning of 1899, 90,000 blacks.

compelled to drink dangerously unwholesome water, with no power to alter the condition of things. Drunken zarps (policemen) swagger about brandishing revolvers, occasionally shooting down poor natives for some trifle, and insulting Uitlanders (who are not allowed to carry arms), whenever an excuse offers. The killing of Edgar by a squad of zarps, who broke into his house and murdered him in cold blood, as he was sitting on his bed talking to his wife, is a notorious example. The murderers were arrested, tried, acquitted, and some of them promoted. Such was the municipal condition of Johannesburg up to the present crisis.

The Boer Government of the Transvaal stands condemned by the liquor traffic. In theory, no liquor is sold to the natives, but in the large mining centres, particularly Johannesburg, the native laborers, who are heided in enclosures like cattle, are supplied with the vilest of intoxicating drinks, in such quantities that scarcely a day passes without one or more murders, brought about through drunken natives engaging in "faction fights." It is estimated that one-third of the total native labor supply is rendered non-effective, week in and week out, through natives being incapacitated by drink, while the damage to goods and machinery, through the same cause, is a serious item. So great did this scandal become that the Boer Church was shamed into strong representations against it last year, but though Kruger is himself an abstainer, he sided with the liquor dealers, and would do nothing, on the ground that if this traffic were stopped, a number of honest men would be put out of employment.

The operation of the liquor law in Johannesburg is thus described by a brother of the Rev. Chas. T. Cocking, of King, Ont., writing lately from the Transvaal: "Take the case of the liquor law, which prohibits sale of liquor to natives. Every Sunday one can see hundreds of natives wandering about the mines and suburbs of the town almost mad with drink. Kafir eating-houses are filled with natives drinking, and from which they stagger with sacks full of liquor to be swilled on the open veldt by fraternal groups. A special liquor detective department exists, and yet for twelve months this has gone on. Result? For two or three days following the debauch, hundreds of natives are unable to do their work, and remain sleeping off their carouse in the mine compounds to the dead loss of the mining companies. Cause? An immensely wealthy liquor syndicate, which, by bribery, etc., prevents the law being effective. The Government is so inconsistent as to absolutely prohibit natives from drinking, but a treaty with Portugal must allow the importation of Kafir liquors and spirits through the port at Delagoa Bay, and from the duty on which they obtain a handsome increase in the revenue."

(To be continued.)

## WATER PRESSURE.

Editor CANADIAN ENGINEER :

I would be pleased if the city engineer of St. John, N.B., would explain the last eight lines of the first paragraph, page 232, of December issue of *The Canadian Engineer*, where he shows that there was a great increase in the pressure of water because he caused three-quarters of an inch of calcareous matter to be removed from the inside of the water mains. It will be a great discovery if the head of water can be increased by increasing the size of the carrying pipe.

Toronto, January 15th, 1900.

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