



THE RT. HON. GENERAL LOUIS BOTHA AND FAMILY
 Photographed at "Groot Schuur," their South African residence. "Groot Schuur"
 was formerly the residence of the late Rt. Hon. Cecil Rhodes.

General Botha accepted the results of the South African war with complete sincerity. When self-government was restored to the Transvaal he became its first Prime Minister under British rule and, as such, did his utmost to allay the smouldering remains of racial antagonism and to reconcile the aims and ambitions of Boer and Briton. In his task he was aided alike by the magnanimity of the Home Government and by the gradual realization on the part of the Boer population of the value of the liberties guaranteed them under British rule. The same policy has guided him since in 1910 he became the first Prime Minister of the newly formed Union of South Africa. In recognition both of his personal services and of the status of his people, General Botha was made a Privy Councillor in 1907 and a General in the British Army in 1912.

Easily the leading South African of the day, Premier Botha stood like a rock for the Empire and loyalty when the European war broke out last August. In a memorable speech before the South African Parliament on Sept. 28, 1914, he based his loyalty specifically on the grant of self-government to the conquered Republics. The Treaty of Verneeniging had pledged the honour of South Africa; the gift of

a free status within the Empire had pledged its gratitude.

Faced at the outset with internal sedition and rebellion the seriousness of which was scarcely appreciated by the outside world, Premier Botha handled the situation with characteristic decision and ability. Backed by the loyalty of the Union as a whole, he quickly stamped out internal disorder. And not only so; but in an aggressive campaign of a typically South African nature, General Botha demonstrated the same masterly strategy and the same iron-willed surmounting of natural difficulties that in bygone days inflicted severe defeats upon British arms at Colenso, Spion Kop and the Tugela. In five short months and in the face of forces superior both in numbers and equipment, he completely subjugated South West Africa, thus adding to the Union a territory six times as large as England.

General Botha has, therefore, many titles to fame. A broad, tolerant and chivalrous man, in his wider field of activity he will have abundant opportunity for still further developing an already demonstrated capacity for statesmanship little, if at all, inferior to his genius for war.