

crease in 20 years of but 4%) realizing only £1,800,000 stg. Had the ratio of production increased correspondingly as the price decreased the Boers would not have felt so much the necessity of depending on produce other than wool for their living. With the rapid development of the diamond and gold mines the inrush of people has created an excessive demand for bread stuffs. The total amount of wheat grown in South Africa in 1893 hardly exceeded 5,000,000 bushels, while in the same year her imports were, 5,600,000 bushels of wheat, 700,000 bushels of Indian corn and 4,700,000 pounds of flour. This condition of affairs enables the Free State farmer to get for his grain, all of which goes to the mining centres, the proper price with duty, ocean and inland freight added, say about 14s. per bag of 200 pounds (net) or in round numbers \$1 or \$1.15 of our money per bushel. It is astonishing that the farmers do not secure to themselves the entire trade in wheat and corn while the country's conditions warrant such prices. South Africa could easily make good the deficiency represented by these imports and more. That portion of the Free State adjacent to Basuto Land laying along and north of the Caledon River from Wepener to Bethlehem, is the very

choicest wheat land in South Africa. Rains usually are abundant, owing to the influence of Basuto Land mountains. The land is generally level, while the soil is very fertile and easily worked. The area under crop in 1894 exceeded by a very considerable acreage that of 1893, and it is confidently hoped that a still greater area will be cultivated in the coming season. The work done by the Boers leaves very much to be desired, but now that Englishmen and Germans are farming extensively in the Free State, they are enabled to see the better results obtained through farming as the older countries have learned to farm, and they are not slow in following an example which leads to much more substantial return for the labor expended.

The best farming is done in what is known as the Conquered Territory of the Free State, especially at and near Lady Brand and Ficksburg. Some of the farms there are as carefully worked as they would be in any grain country. I have seen as many as 1,600 acres on one farm under wheat, all of which had been so well prepared that it was in perfect condition for the self-binder with which the grain was being harvested. Another farm equally well worked had 900 acres of wheat, while fields of

200 to 400 acres were not uncommon. On all this and where water for irrigating may be had excellent fruit, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, apricots, nectarines, and similar fruits may be grown in abundance. In small pockets sheltered by the hills good oranges, lemons and figs are grown. Grapes do not thrive so well.

The fences in the section of the Free State which I have been describing are unquestionably the best I have ever seen in any part of the world. All the posts are made of quarried sand stone about ten inches square, and on these posts barbed wire is properly stretched and secured. As the country is open and fairly level, and the farms usually from 2,000 to 10,000 acres in extent, you will readily imagine the splendid stretches of boundary fencing.

Over the Caledon River to the south lies Basuto Land, hilly and splendidly watered—a country magnificently adapted to mixed farming. The narrow fertile valleys produce cereals and fruit in abundance, while the green hillsides provide a luscious living for the sheep and cattle. This, however, is native country under the protection and direct control of England, and in it white men are not permitted to settle.

Basuto Land already produces more grain



CUTTING SUGAR CANE—DURBAN, NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA.