

## PREFATORY NOTE

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As the average Canadian has not had the opportunity of studying the history of South Africa and the causes which have led to the present Boer war, and many are desirous of knowing the facts, the brief sketch here presented may serve a useful purpose. The writer spent five years in South Africa, and since his return to Canada has followed events there with close attention. As a believer in the future greatness of both countries, he states his reasons why Canadians should have a personal interest in the struggle now going on in South Africa.

The term Boer is used throughout the sketch to designate the Dutch inhabitants of the Transvaal, and—except when it is specifically applied—does not refer to the Dutch of the Free State, or our fellow colonists of Dutch origin in the Cape Colony, who are a much more progressive, enlightened and generally well educated people. While reports of the disaffection of the Dutch on the frontier were being circulated the writer could not help being impressed with the meaning of an item in a Cape paper just to hand, which records the departure from Capetown of a batch of young Colonists, all having Dutch names, who were going to England to finish their university education.

Even of the Transvaal Boers perhaps the worst that will be said, after the passions of the war have subsided, is that they have been shamefully misled by their too well trusted ruler.

Toronto, November 1st, 1899.