

IN A NUTSHELL.

Principal Events in the History of South Africa.

The following are the dates of some of the more important events in the history of South Africa:

Discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Bartholomew Diaz	1486
First appearance of the Dutch in South African waters	1595
Dutch settle in Table Bay	1652
First British occupation of the Cape	1795-1803
Cape Colony ceded to Britain	1814
Arrival of British settlers	1820
English declared the official language in Cape Colony	1825-1828
Emancipation of the slaves	1834
The great Boer trek	1836-1837
Boer emigrants occupy Natal	1839
British annexation of Natal	1843
Recognition of the independence of Transvaal and Orange River Boers	1852-1854
Discovery of diamonds on the Lower Vaal River	1869
British annex the Transvaal	1877
Conquest of Zululand	1879
Retrocession of the Transvaal	1881
Convention of London with the Transvaal Republic	1884
Witwatersrand goldfield discovered ..	1885
British South Africa Company founded	1889
Natal granted a responsible government	1893
The Jameson raid	1896
The Transvaal war	1899

ELECTRICAL COPPER-REFINING.

A large amount of the copper now produced is refined electrically, says Electricity, of New York, and is known as electrolytic copper. Some of the works in the United States turning out this product, especially where water is obtainable, are very large. One of them at Great Falls, Montana, has nine dynamos of a total of about 2,500 h.p., to generate current, all driven by the Missouri, which here rushes through a deep gorge. The copper ore is ground up and cast into pigs, and the pigs are then hung in large tanks filled with a solution consisting chiefly of copper sulphate. A heavy electric current at low pressure is passed through the series of tanks, decomposing the copper pigs, and the metal is electrolytically transferred by the solution to these sheets of copper hanging in each tank, so that practically the sheets are copper-plated. The metal is very pure, as a result of this process, and the impurities and other metals fall to the bottom of the tanks as a slime.

—It is said that Marioni's system of wireless telegraphy will be tested by the United States navy. The inventor will be taken to sea in the cruiser "New York," the flag-ship of Rear-Admiral Farquhar, commanding the North Atlantic squadron. The battleship "Massachusetts" will accompany the "New York." The system was successfully used in the British naval manoeuvres two months ago.

BRITISH SHIPPING AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

While the tonnage of British shipping using the Suez Canal continues to increase, the relative share in the total tonnage shows a sensible decline from the competition of other countries. A return issued by the company, giving the tonnage of each of the principal flags in the first six months of each year from 1891 to 1899, reveals the fact that English tonnage fell during that period from 80.5 per cent., or over four-fifths of the total, to 67.4 per cent., or little more than two-

thirds. Concurrently, the German tonnage rose from 6.3 per cent. to 10.1 per cent., the French from 4 per cent. to 5.7 per cent., and the Dutch from 2.6 to 4 per cent. The Japanese flag, which was not represented in the returns for 1891, appears in the present year for 2.3 per cent. of the total.

LUNACY IN ONTARIO.

The report of the Ontario Inspector of Asylums, Mr. R. Christie, is being made up. It will show, according to a press despatch, that there are more inmates in the Ontario asylums than ever before. The asylums are now taxed to their full capacity, and if the present rate of increase in number of inmates continues, the Government will soon have to take steps to erect more buildings. Mr. Christie does not attribute this to the increasing of lunacy in Ontario, but rather to the fact that the inmates are better looked after by the province. The percentage of lunatics to the population is, if anything, decreasing. Mr. Christie says that one of the most prolific causes of insanity is worry, and with the removal of the cause for worrying over business troubles, the number of lunatics is naturally decreasing.

THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

A newspaper has taken the trouble to consult several eminent Frenchmen as to the best means of increasing the eclat of the forthcoming Paris Exhibition, and here, in brief, are some of the opinions elicited:

M. Jules Claretie—Insult one another less.

M. Gerges Ohnet—Don't continue calling everybody who may differ from you a bandit and an assassin.

M. Antoine—Rehabilitate Dreyfus.

M. Benjamin Constant—On the opening day don't shout in the faces of the foreigners, "France for the French!"

M. Hepp—Find a means of reconciling Frenchmen with one another.

M. Jules Lemaitre—Sincerely, I don't know.

WHAT PROSPERITY DOETH.

Prosperity hath done many things.

It hath caused the salaried man to expect a "raise."

It hath caused the resolution not to smoke to be broken.

It hath given hope to the preacher that he may expect his back salary.

It hath encouraged the development of inventions.

It hath gladdened the heart of the railroad man and the railroad security-holder.

It hath increased failures and ruined a small crop of law suits.

It hath put a joyous smile on every man out of jail and debt.

It hath played the mischief with contractors for structural steel buildings. Some have gone to the wall, others have compromised, and the rest will make less money than they expected.

Why cannot the thing keep up eternally.—American Investments.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Nov. 2nd, 1899.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The wet weather has brought out considerable activity in rubber goods. The sorting trade in general supplies of footwear has been active, while orders for the spring of 1900 are such that a successful season is assured.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—The weather has been very unfavorable to the pastures. Deliveries of butter are not large, and all find good local demand. The export mar-

ket is, however, somewhat off, and the smallest quantity of the year is going forward. Dairy butter, if choice, is in relatively better demand than creamery, and all coming forward is readily taken at top quotations. For cheese there is moderately good demand, and prices remain steady and high. The demand for eggs is steady and good, with prices ranging from 14 to 18c. per dozen for choice.

DRESSED HOGS AND PRODUCTS.—The market is assuming a somewhat more active appearance, with the advancing season. Winter packers are busy, and although they have had some bad weather, say that the pack to date is larger than for years past. Prices are steady and without change. There is very brisk movement, with the idea of getting supplies up West before the season of navigation closes.

GRAIN.—There is little activity in the wheat market. Farmers are actively at work in their autumn ploughing, and receipts at country points are only moderate. Prices are steady and have fluctuated little from last week's quotations. The rye market is very quiet, but quotations are without alteration. Corn is $\frac{1}{2}$ c. lower per bushel than last week. Buckwheat shows no change. For oats there is normal enquiry, with moderate movement. The world's wheat shipments last week were 7,800,000 bushels, compared with 7,449,000 bushels the previous week, and 8,457,000 bushels last year. World's corn shipments last week were 6,421,000 bushels, compared with 6,643,000 bushels the previous week, and 3,768,000 bushels last year.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market remains on an exceedingly high basis, and all supplies are readily taken at top figures. For green cow hides, No. 1, Toronto inspected, 9c. per lb. is being paid, while sales of cured are being made at a margin of about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Deliveries are fairly large, but stocks show no accumulation. Calfskins are steady and quiet, with no change in price. Sheepskins are being quoted at 80c., and at the time of writing, it was not decided whether the usual 5c. advance would be made in price or not. Tallow is steady and in good demand. Chicago, October 28th.—The market for packer hides was unchanged. Offerings were limited, and with a moderate demand the sales made were at full quoted values, closing at 13 to 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. for native steers; 13c. for Texas; 12 to 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. for butt brands; 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 12c. for native cows, and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. for Colorado and branded cows.

LEATHER.—Trade is steady and without marked change. There is good demand for sole, and prices are firm. For upper leathers and harness, the demand is showing improvement. The export trade is brisk, and some movement is taking place.

LIVE STOCK.—The Wednesday market was, with the exception of a decline of $\frac{1}{8}$ c. per pound in the price of hogs, without special feature. The receipts of cattle were heavy. Export cattle brought \$4 to \$4.50; butchers', \$3.50 to \$4.10; stockers, \$2.25 to \$3.25, and feeders, \$2.60 to \$3.75 per cwt. Lambs brought \$2.50 to \$3.25 each, and sheep \$2.50 to \$3.40 per cwt. As previously noted, hogs declined 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per cwt., choice weights selling at \$4.25, and fat hogs at \$3.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt. The market was well supplied and dull. The total receipts of last week were: Cattle, 2,406; sheep and lambs, 1,919; hogs, 5,354.

WOOL.—Interest in the new Canadian wool clip is flagging, and the movement is slow, at unchanged prices, which range 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16c. per lb. There is comparatively little enquiry from the United States for Canadian wool. The mills are busily employed, and a normal amount of Cape and B.A. wools is going into consumption.