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Cecil Rhodes. The death of Cecil Rhodes occurred on the evening of March 26th; at a plain sea-side cabin in the neighborhood of Cape Town. Mr. Rhodes had for a long time suffered with disease of the heart, and as the latest attack was known to be very severe, and the vitality of the patient greatly reduced, the announcement of his death was not unexpected. The career of Mr. Rhodes was one of the most remarkable that the past half century has seen. Born in 1853, the son of an Anglican Church clergyman, and compelled by ill-health to abandon for the time his course at Oxford, Cecil Rhodes went, as a delicate youth to Natal in 1870. There he regained health and was able to complete his University course. Becoming financially interested in diamond mining and speculation, he developed great capacity for business, and amassed a fortune of colossal proportions. Mr. Rhodes was, however, much more than a money-maker. Some of his biographers insist that he cared nothing for wealth in itself, and his simple and unostentatious manner of life seemed to support that opinion. He manifested an active interest in the political affairs of South Africa. In 1880 he was elected a member of the House of Assembly of Cape Colony, and in 1890 became Prime Minister of the Colony. His political aims and ambitions were of the most far-reaching character, but it is at least doubtful whether the personal element entered very largely into them. It would seem to have been for the extension of British power in Africa that Rhodes was ambitious, and his aims were the antipodes of those represented in Paul Kruger and the Boer Government of the Transvaal. But the time is not yet, certainly, for an impartial and true estimate of the character and aims of Cecil Rhodes. He probably understood more clearly than any other Englishman what the Boer policy involved in South Africa. The policy which he strenuously sought to realize was wholly different and in regard to human liberty and political ideals it was doubtless incomparably broader and nobler than that of Paul Kruger. If Mr. Rhodes' methods had been as good as his general purpose, it would have been well for his fame. His connection with the Jameson raid has left a cloud upon his reputation which history is hardly likely to lift. If that connection was what there seems good reason to believe it to have been, it was both an unardonable blunder and unardonable crime, for in that case the responsibility for the war which is now being fought out to its bitterest end must rest very largely on him.

Newfoundland's Population. The census returns for the Colony of Newfoundland, including Labrador, taken in 1901, have now been published. The delay in the tabulation of the results of census has been because of the difficulty in reaching the remoter sections of the Colony. The total population is 220,249, of which Newfoundland has 216,615 and Labrador 3,634. According to the figures of 1891 Newfoundland had 197,930 inhabitants, while Labrador had 4,106. The increase shown by the last report equals about nine per cent. of the total population in 1891 which is rather better than Canada, considering that Newfoundland is absolutely without immigration, while having heavy emigration, whereas Canada has had a large influx of settlers during the last ten years. Denominationally the chief creeds are Roman Catholics, 76,259; Anglicans, 72,650; Methodist, 60,812. In 1891 the same creeds showed the following numerical strength: Roman Catholics, 72,696; Anglicans, 68,834; Methodists, 52,276. Members of the Salvation Army were unknown in 1891; they now number 6,500.

Good in its Place. We used to know a temperance lecturer who would eloquently maintain that alcohol was an invention and a product of Satan. But intelligent men do not need to be told that alcohol is a very useful product if kept in its proper place. Like fire it is a good servant but a bad master. When men mingle alcohol with their drink and let it inflame their brains, then it becomes to them a tyrant, destroying their liberty and their manhood, but kept in a servant's place it can render most valuable service, and it will doubtless become increasingly serviceable in connection with human arts and industries as time advances. At an exhibition held in Germany early in the present year, the growing use and practical value of alcohol for the production of heat, light, motive power, etc., were demonstrated. One very interesting use of alcohol shown was for the heating of flatirons. The irons exhibited were provided with receptacles for holding a supply of the fluid and having suitable burners for the converting of fluid into heat. The cost of heating the iron was said to be a cent an hour at the price of alcohol in Germany, which would be however considerably less than that in this country. The fluid is also available as an economical fuel for cooking purposes in hot weather. It was also shown that alcohol could be made serviceable for lighting purposes. The ordinary flame of alcohol is non-luminous, but by using a mantle of the Welsbach type a brilliant light is secured, and portable alcohol lamps of great power are thus made feasible. Partly for the sake of encouraging agriculture, and also to benefit other industries, Germany adopted the policy in 1887 of promoting the production and use of alcohol. United States Consul General Mason, writing from Berlin, says:

The law was therefore so framed as to maintain the high revenue tax on alcohol intended for drinking, but to exempt from taxation such as should be "denaturalized" and used for industrial purposes. Denaturalization is accomplished by mixing with the spirit a small proportion of some foreign substance, which, while not injuring its efficiency for technical uses, renders it unfit for consumption as a beverage. The denaturalizing substances employed depend upon the use to which the alcohol is to be subsequently applied. They include pyridin, picolin, bezoin, toluol, and xylol, wood vinegar, and several products. As a result of this system, Germany produced and used last year 30,642,720 gallons of denaturalized spirits, as compared with 10,302,630 gallons used in 1886, the last year before the enactment of the present law. Of this vast amount, about two-thirds was of the ordinary grade for power and heating purposes, such as costs at present 13½ cents a gallon. The remaining third of the entire amount was denaturalized for lighting and chemical purposes, or used pure under certain restrictions for the manufacture of perfumes, extracts, and medicinal preparations. The second or higher grade of denaturalized spirits, such as is burned in lamps or used for cooking and heating, sells ordinarily for about 25 cents a gallon, but, on account of the enormous potato crop of last year, the heavy production of alcohol, and the stagnation in many industries which are consumers of spirits, the price has been reduced by the national association or syndicate, of alcohol producers to the equivalent of 2½ cents.

Sir George Goldie on South Africa. Sir George Goldie, vice-president of the Royal Geographical Society and founder of Nigeria, has lately returned to London from South Africa where it is said he has been making a thorough investigation of the present political situation, and has had conference with Lord Milner, Lord Kitchen-er, Cecil Rhodes, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, and many other influential men. Considerable importance may reasonably be attached to the views of Sir George Goldie as to the present state of affairs in that quarter of the Empire, and according to what is contained in despatches in reference to the matter, these views are scarcely optimistic. The conditions in Cape Colony he regards as especially fraught with danger, and considers that prospectively, as well as at present, the most serious difficulties for the British Government lie in that quarter. Sir George

is said to express the opinion that the question of peace or war rests not with Mr. Kruger and other representatives of the Boer cause in Europe, but is in the hands of ex-President Steyn, and also that the real difficulty in reference to terms of peace is the question of granting amnesty to the Cape and Natal rebels. Sir George Goldie favors amnesty for the rebels, but under the condition of disfranchisement for life. He is opposed to permitting a dual language system. English alone he says must be the official language. The fact that practically the whole of the rising generation of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony are now in the concentration camps and are rapidly learning English will, he thinks, be of great aid in that direction. No doubt Sir George is correct in the importance which he attaches to making English alone the official language. To perpetuate a dual language system would be to plant seeds of trouble and discord. Sir George did not meet any Boers who recognize that they are as yet finally beaten, and he estimates that 100,000 British soldiers will be required in South Africa for some years after the conclusion of peace.

Another Rumor of Peace. Rumors of an attempt at peace making in South Africa are again in the air. From Pretoria comes a report that early last week, Acting President Schalk Burger, F. W. Reitz, ex-Secretary of State of the Transvaal, with Commandants Lucas Meyer and Krogh arrived there on a special train from Balmoral, about 50 miles west of Pretoria, under a flag of truce, and after a short stay in the Transvaal capital proceeded to the Orange River Colony. This news, together with the fact that the censor allowed it to pass, is generally interpreted in London as indicating that another attempt is being made to negotiate peace. Nothing, however, is actually known in London of the intentions of Messrs. Schalk Burger, Reitz, Meyer and Krogh. It is possible they have only sought permission to traverse the British lines in order to consult with Mr. Steyn and the Boer Generals, DeWet and Delarey, but, whatever their object, the news has been welcomed in London as pointing to the possibility of peace. Some correspondence which was seized a short time ago when Mr. Steyn narrowly escaped capture proved that he and Mr. Schalk Burger were anxious to conclude peace. A despatch from Kroonstad, Orange River Colony, dated March 27, states that Mr. Schalk Burger and his party arrived there on the Sunday previous and that Monday morning one of the Boer delegates was escorted through the British lines blindfolded, on horse back and under a white flag to meet ex-President Steyn. The delegate had not returned and other delegates were remaining at Kroonstad under British surveillance.

More Canadians Needed in South Africa. A communication from the Imperial Authorities asking whether a force of two thousand mounted men could be recruited in Canada for service in South Africa, is understood to have elicited from the Dominion Government a favorable reply, and the Government is now said to be awaiting a statement from the Colonial Offices, giving details as to how it is desired that the force shall be constituted. When this information shall be received it is expected that arrangements will at once be made for raising, clothing and equipping the force and appointing the necessary officers. It is intimated that the force will probably be divided into two regiments, to be known as the 3rd and 4th Canadian Rifles, respectively, and in that case two commanding officers will be needed. It is thought that within a month after the word has been given to raise the force it can be fitted out and ready to embark.