

Railroad tracks skirt the diggings, and near them a dusty, unpaved road, bordered by the houses of the miners. The latter are tumble-down shanties, innocent of paint, and blackened with the sun and storms of 40 years. They are all alike, and were evidently built at the same time and by one contractor. Each has its little corral, which by courtesy is called a yard, the fences being extemporized by the use of stakes driven in the ground and patched up with stray sticks and boards picked up where they were to be had and fastened together with the ingenuity of shiftlessness.

There are two floors and a front and back room on each floor; but there are no division of quarters among the occupants. All rooms are bedrooms and nurseries and dining-rooms and kitchen. Old and young swarm together, and the pigs and chickens and goats share the same quarters. Many of the women are barefooted, and the children are squalid and thin faced. These are Markle's tenantry.

The houses occupied by the miners are owned by the Markle company. The whole valley is owned by the company, or by Mr. Markle, for he is the company. The real estate is rented but never sold. John Markle owns the mines, the street railroad, the brewery, the bank, and the coffin factory. The mines are situated in a section called Jeddo, and there are a whole series of small villages with pretty names stretching from the Markle palace to the town of Hazleton. They are practically all under the jurisdiction of John Markle. If a miner should get or save enough money to buy a house he must go outside the district comprising the Markle estates before he can become the owner of a home. Then, if he still works for the mines, he will pay tribute to Markle by riding on his trolley lines.

John Markle has been very much worried by the present strike. From his point of view it is all very silly and wrong.

"I can't understand why my men should act so," said he. "They are well fed and well clothed, and are treated with every consideration. Why, it is one of my wife's particular charities to look after the families of the miners and to relieve any cases of sickness or destitution. And the men can't win. They have no money at all. What can they strike on? They had their experience in

1885. I had just got out of college and had been put in here to manage the mines. They struck and were out for nine months. They were the stubbornest lot you ever saw.

"But it came along winter and cold weather, and I was compelled to resort to eviction. They had not paid any rent, and I evicted 157 families. That brought them to their senses. They came around voluntarily and asked for some arrangement by which the trouble could be fixed up. It was then that we got up the agreement under which the men are working now. It provided that the men should not belong to any union or labor organization, and that all disputes and grievances should be submitted to arbitration. The arbitrators to be selected one by the company, another by the men, and a third to be satisfactory to both. Every man who works for our company has signed this agreement."

A few days ago John Markle and President John Mitchell, of the Miners' union, addressed the employes of the Markle mines from the same platform, and Markle appealed to the men to live up to the conditions of this contract. Mitchell urged in reply that the contract was made under compulsion, and was not binding upon the men legally or morally. This seemed to be the opinion of the majority of the employes.

One of Markle's men, an intelligent Irishman about 20 years of age, had this to say in reply to a question as to whether he intended to join in the strike.

"Yes, I'll strike. I'll go out with the rest. But it won't do any good. The whole thing is wrong somehow. Strikin' don't do any good; but I don't know what will. But I know it ain't right as things is. Now, my old man has been working in the mines for 30 years. I began workin' in the breaker as soon as I was big enough to pick slate. Now the old man is too old and weak to work in the mine, and they have put him in the breaker along with the little kids.

"We've got no money; haven't been able to save anything or do any more than live and pay the rent. And now the old man has to go back where he began 30 years ago. And when he gets so his hands are stiff and he can't pick the slate fast enough he will be laid off, and we'll have to feed him until he is ready to go under the hill for good. It don't seem right."

Amid the conflicting testimony of interested parties as to whether the miners are sufficiently well paid, the testimony of Father Phillips is of value. The priest has worked among the miners for the better part of 30 years, and knows them all by name.

"In the old days," he said, "it was possible for a miner to make and save money; and there are a few isolated cases where miners have been very thrifty and have been able to save a little money and even buy a little house or a bit of land. But these are the rare cases. They are not the rule.

"With the combination among the mine owners wages have been kept down, and it has come to pass that a miner can do no more than make a bare living. He earns enough just to buy the necessities of life and can get together nothing for a reserve against hard times or his old age."

Meantime John Markle is perfectly sincere in thinking himself a much abused man and his men very unreasonable.

Hazleton, Pa., Sept. 29, 1900.

THE SUFFERINGS AND NEEDS OF THE BOERS.

APPEAL OF THE BOER GENERALS TO THE CIVILIZED WORLD.

It is still fresh in the memory of the world how the Boers, after a terrible struggle lasting more than two and a half years, were at last obliged to accept through their representatives at Vereeniging the terms of peace submitted to them by the government of King Edward VII. At the same time the representatives commissioned us to proceed to England in order, in the first place, to appeal to the new government to allay the immense distress everywhere devastating the new colonies. If we did not succeed we were to appeal to the humanity of the civilized world for charitable contributions.

As we have not succeeded up to the present in inducing the British government to grant further assistance to our people in their indescribable distress, it only remains for us to address ourselves to the peoples of Europe and America. During the critical days which we have passed through, it was sweet for us and ours to receive constant marks of sympathy from all countries. The financial and other assistance given to our women and children in the concentration camps, and to the prisoners of war in all parts of the earth, contributed infinitely to mitigate the lot of those poor sufferers, and we take advantage

of this opportunity to express, in the name of the people of the late republics, our fervent thanks to all those who have charitably assisted us in the past. The small Boer nation can never forget the help it received in its dark hours of suffering.

The people of the republics were ready to sacrifice everything for their independence, and now the struggle is over, and our people are completely ruined. Although we had not the opportunity of drawing up an exact inventory of the destruction done we have the conviction, based on personal experience, that at least 30,000 houses on Boer farms and a number of villages were burned or destroyed by the British during the war. Our homes, with their furniture, were burned or destroyed, our orchards were ruined, all our agricultural implements broken, our mills were destroyed, every living animal was carried off or killed. Nothing, alas! remained to us. The country is laid waste. The war demanded many victims, and the land was bathed in tears. Our orphans and widows have been abandoned. Besides, it is needless to recall the fact how much will be needed in the future for the education of the children of the burghers who are in great distress.

We address ourselves to the world, with the prayer to help us by charitable contributions for our widows and orphans, for the maimed and other needy ones, and for the satisfactory education of our children.

We allude to the terrible results of the war in order to bring to the knowledge of the world our urgent needs, by no means to inflame people's minds. The sword is now sheathed, and all differences are silent in presence of such great misery.

The ruin caused by the war is indescribable, so that the small amount which Great Britain is to give us, in accordance with the terms of surrender, even were it multiplied tenfold, would be wholly insufficient even to cover the war losses alone. The widows, orphans, maimed, needy and children, on whose behalf alone we appeal, will receive little of this sum, and in most cases nothing.

All contributions will be assigned to a fund to be called "General Fund of Help for the Boers," which will be devoted solely to supplying the wants of those for whom we are collecting and to provide for their future. We solicit the hearty cooperation of the committees existing in the various countries of Europe and in America. We are now on the point of visiting

these countries in succession, with the object of establishing a satisfactory organization.

(Signed) BOTHA,
DE WET,
DE LA REY.

EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE SPEAKER.

Opening paragraph of an editorial in the *London Speaker* of September 27.

The document published by Gens. Botha, DeWet, and Delarey on Wednesday is a simple and manly appeal to the world from men who know that they have won its respect, and that the dignity of their heroism and the unparalleled sufferings of their people loses nothing in addressing itself to the common sympathies of Christendom. Their country is in such ruin as Louis XIV. left to the Palatinate more than 200 years ago, branded by a great and patriotic French historian as an infamy to France. Their women and children have died at four times the rate of the combatants in the field; they are threatened with expatriation; they are surrounded by the moneylenders of the most unscrupulous and the most dangerous class in the world, and they have on their hands thousands of widows and orphans in a population which was not larger at the beginning of the war than that of an English borough. These facts are known to those who followed the accounts of the war in our newspapers and read the dispatches of Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner. The Boer generals had to state them in any appeal which was based on the necessities of their countrymen, and, on the other hand, they were evidently studiously anxious not to make these awful facts—facts which are commonplaces amongst our soldiers—the occasion of violent re-cremations against the country whose rule they have been driven to accept. That problem is satisfactorily solved in a manifesto which is at once honest in tone and perfectly consistent with Gen. Botha's declaration of loyalty to the understandings of the peace.

THE DEVASTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

An editorial in the *London Speaker* of October 4.

The most astonishing thing about the comments of the Imperialist press on the Boer generals' manifesto is its simulated indignation over the Boer account of the extent of the devastation. When liberals and liberal newspapers protested against that devastation they were told they were encouraging the enemy, and that

these methods were really the most humane, because they shortened the war. When the Boers recall the facts these same newspapers furiously deny them. Yet it is not the Boers who made them public, but our own correspondents. Let us set out first the Boer statement, and then the corroborating statements printed in our imperialist press.

The small Boer nation can never forget the help it received in its dark hours of suffering. The people of the republics were ready to sacrifice everything for their independence, and now the struggle is over, and our people are completely ruined.

Although we had not the opportunity of drawing up an exact inventory of the destruction done, we have the conviction, based on personal experience, that at least 30,000 houses on Boer farms and a number of villages were burnt or destroyed by the British during the war. Our homes with their furniture were burned or destroyed, our orchards were ruined, all our agricultural implements broken, our mills were destroyed, every living animal was carried off or killed. Nothing, alas! remained to us! The country is laid waste. The war demanded many victims, and the land was bathed in tears. Our orphans and widows have been abandoned.

We give now a series of extracts from the *Times* for one month only out of the very many months during which the war was carried on only by means of devastating columns. (The italics throughout are, of course, our own.)

The three central columns now returned to the railway line. Gen. Walter Kitchener reached Klipspruit on May 4, but then turned westward in the direction of the confluence of the Wilge and Oliphants rivers, while Gen. Beatson stayed a few days longer to clear the country north of Balmoral. Col. Park continued to operate in the Lydenburg district. The total number of captures and surrenders, excluding those of Gen. Beatson's columns, whose returns are not yet at hand, amounted to 1,080, with 10,000 head of cattle and seven guns. Several thousand women and children were brought into the refugee camps.

The operations of these three weeks have been eminently successful. The manner of clearing the country adopted by Gen. Blood proved far more thorough than any previous method, and it must now be regarded as an axiom that, when the Boers refuse to fight, instead of hurrying after their retreating commandos, we should move slowly, but in numerous independent columns capable of combined action if necessary, and thoroughly clear each district before proceeding to the next.—*The Times*, June 3, 1901.

The Boers have driven a large amount of stock and hidden it in the nullahs of this mountainous country. It will entail arduous labor on the part of our troops to hunt it out.—*The Times*, June 1, 1901.

Harrismith, June 10.

Gen. Rundle, with Gen. Campbell's and Col. Harley's columns, returned here yesterday, after traversing the mountainous district situated in the triangle between Ficksburg, Bethlehem and Witzles Hoek during the past seven weeks. The follow-