

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-

ing are some of the results of their operations during that period:

Fifty-three Boers were killed or wounded; 7,000 tons of grain or forage were taken or destroyed; 228 wagons and carts, 1,400 head of cattle, 7,100 sheep, and 1,450 horses were brought in; all the mills in the district were blown up, ovens, ploughs, and other implements for the preparation of foodstuffs being broken; 8,300 rounds of rifle ammunition, 101 shells, and 25 rifles were taken, and 26 women and children were brought in.

Our total casualties were five officers and eight men killed, 40 wounded and five missing. The district traversed by the columns is one of the great grain-producing and milling centers of the colony. During their march the columns met with continual opposition from Prinsloo's, Rautenhach's and other commandos, who pursued their usual guerilla tactics.—The Times, June 12, 1901.

Roodeheuvcl, via Karee Siding, June 16.

On its return march from Vaal Bank Malcolm's force visited several Boer depots, the enemy fleeing in every instance. Quantities of malies, corn and forage were found, and everything that could not be carried off was burned. Towards dusk the Boers attacked the rearguard, attempting to seize the captured cattle, but they were driven off, losing three men severely wounded.—The Times, June 18, 1901.

Merino, June 17.

Malcolm's column returned to camp this evening from Roodeheuvcl. Forty burgher police made a dash back to Vlakfontein, while the main column marched to Karee. The police soon came into contact with a body of 60 Boers, and, after several hours' hot fighting, the enemy were driven back and chased for some distance. The Boers lost three men wounded and five horses killed. We lost only one horse. The enemy occupied a strong position. The column was away for four days, and the expedition proved a thorough success. The troops returned with two prisoners, 600 horses, 1,200 cattle, 20,000 sheep, 25 carts and wagons, a number of saddles and sets of harness, and a quantity of grain.—The Times, June 26, 1901.

Harrismith, June 25.

Col. Harley's brigade, which left here on the 14th inst., returned here this afternoon. It has been cooperating with Gen. Campbell's column under Gen. Rundle, as far as Bethlehem. Col. Harley traversed the old post road, while Gen. Campbell went via Elands River Drift, Kasteel and Spitzkop. Between the two columns all places in the district traversed were cleared out. On the way to Bethlehem the two brigades secured altogether 48 wagons, 182,140 pounds of forage, 598,900 pounds of grain and flour, as a lot of farming implements while a watermill and a steam engine were destroyed. A quantity of ammunition was captured, and the animals seized included 2,650 horses, 2,300 cattle, and 221,063 sheep. As the columns were returning 37 more loads of forage were taken just round Bethlehem.—The Times, June 27, 1901.

That the work of the columns included the destruction of mills, agricultural implements, crops, and animals, and that "clearing" the country meant laying it waste is evident enough from this one month's record. But some critics think the number given of houses burnt or destroyed is an exaggeration, and the

Times actually printed on Tuesday a letter which argued that the Boer generals were convicted of a falsehood because they said 30,000 houses had been destroyed, and our prime minister told us only 664 had been destroyed. How such a statement could find its way into print in the Times it is impossible to conceive. The truth is, of course, that even the official return gave 634 houses as burnt or destroyed up to January, 1901, that is before the sweeping tactics had been generally applied at all. We give now a few extracts from the articles sent home to the Daily Chronicle by its special correspondent during the last few months:

A Deserted Village.—All these newly surrendered burghers belong to the Ermelo commando, which came in, 400 strong, last Monday and gave up their arms to Bruce Hamilton. They were among the very best fighters in the Boer force, as Nicholson's Nek, Colenso and Spion Kop can tell, and, together with Carolina, they formed the command of Gen. Hans Grobler, who has now gone back to his farm at Bank Kop, about 25 miles away. Ermelo sent about 700 to the first muster. Many are now in Ceylon, some have surrendered, but the 400 held out to the end. As I said, *bravery costs its price, and after this little town had been occupied and vacated many times it was at last completely destroyed last September, that it may shelter the enemy no longer.* Of its two or three hundred houses only one now has a roof. It was spared because the old woman in it was too sick to be moved, and she lives there still with her daughters, fed with army rations. The church, too, has kept its roof, but all the flooring, seats, galleries, windows and doors have been cleaned out, probably for firewood (and I only wish I had some of it as I write, with brain and fingers numb with the cold). Of the rest of the houses only the fragments of the burnt and crumbling walls remain, piled round with a wreckage of corrugated iron. Bank, hotel, post office, stores and the homes of what was once a pretty little town, all stand there ruined and gutted. Even the solid stone gaol has been blown to wreck, and the stuccoed courthouse, which had pretensions to classic beauty, stands there with its bastard columns like a burlesque imitation of Pompeii.—The Daily Chronicle, July 15, 1902.

Where Carolina Was.—But to return to our trek; from Ermelo the blockhouse line runs along a high ridge of veldt, and is now held by the Royal Irish Fusiliers, happily old friends of mine, and always ready with an Irish welcome. On each side of the ridge at long intervals lie rich farms, now, of course, in ruins, but still marked by little clumps of trees, for the country has not been swept so entirely bare for firewood here as in other places, chiefly because there are coal mines here and there which can be worked from the surface. At one farm called Mooifontein, or Beautiful Spring, from its clear flow of water, the owner came to-day and sat for an hour upon the little heap of loose stones which marked where his house had stood, and then rode away without a word.

Kaffirs have occupied some of the larger ruins, and built their own wretched shelters inside the former rooms. In this district alone 1,200 houses have been destroyed by the war. The average cost of building a Dutch farm is £450 to £500, which does not seem much, but still the Government grant of £3,000,000 will not go far towards rebuilding and re-stocking, and the worst of all is that at present there is no building material of any kind to be had. Of course, in time the windows and doors and timber will be imported. There is plenty of building stone here for the quarrying. Mud bricks will be baked, and the repatriation committee in Pretoria has determined to start stores of its own, where burghers can buy all materials free of customs duty; but all this takes time, and here we have a whole population longing to get home. Even though the war is over, there are plenty of difficulties before us still, and the treasury must remember that even if they granted £3,000,000 more it would not come to the cost of three weeks' war.

As to this little town of Carolina here, standing near the headwaters of the Komati, its destruction has been, if anything, even more complete than Ermelo's. I mean there is rather less of the walls left standing. Its ruins are scattered over the slope of a hill, and there is hardly a wall high enough to shelter one from the wind. The church alone has its roof, and though the windows and doors are gone and the inside is stripped, as at Ermelo, I found about a score of Boers glad to get even that amount of shelter. Using their saddles for pillows, they lie at night between the lines of brick which supported the floor, and this morning I found them sunning themselves against the transept outside, quite content with creation, and ready to chaff without limit, at the number of shots they had probably had at me in earlier days.

Sticking to the wagon because there was nowhere else to sleep, we have since then moved from point to point westward through Dalmanuka, Belfast and Wonderfontein, the chief interest of the route being the battlefields, like Bergendal, which are already growing old. The little towns along the line have had the fortune to be occupied by our troops and so have escaped destruction, but that, of course, has not saved the outlying farms.—The Daily Chronicle, July 16, 1902.

A large number of families have also been discovered since the peace living on the veldt or in caves, as I have before described. Last Sunday I saw a ruined farm just across the Vaal from Venterskroon, where four or five women had dwelt quietly through the war, many disappearing into the bush when "the khakis" came in sight.—The Daily Chronicle, August 5, 1902.

An extract from Gen. Lukas Meyer's answers to the correspondent's questions:

As to terms again, three millions is nothing to our loss. It wouldn't cover the cost of the cattle. I myself have had seven farms ruined, and about 30,000 houses have been destroyed altogether. But still the terms are good enough, if we had to give up independence. The future of the country depends on yourselves—how you administer it now that you have the power.—The Daily Chronicle, June 30, 1902.

It is worth while, perhaps, to reproduce a notice issued by Maj. Gen.

Bruce Hamilton on November 1, 1900. By means of the persistent efforts of a few liberals in parliament Mr. Brodrick was reluctantly obliged to admit that the commander in chief had insisted on the withdrawing of Maj. Gen. Bruce Hamilton's barbarous notice and that "care had been taken that the women and children should not be abandoned to starvation," a fact which would never have been known if liberals had been as careless as Mr. Brodrick of the honor of the army. But the withdrawal of the notice does not affect the fact of the destruction.

Notice.—The town of Ventersburg has been cleared of supplies and partly burnt, and the farms in the vicinity destroyed, on account of the frequent attacks on the railway line in the neighborhood. The Boer women and children who are left behind should apply to the Boer commandants for food, who will supply them unless they wish to see them starve. No supplies will be sent from the railway to the town.

BRUCE HAMILTON, Major General.
November 1, 1900.

The facts of the devastation can scarcely be surprising to anyone who has read the imperialist papers during the last three years. It is worth while now to set out a few of the articles of The Hague convention, establishing the customs and restraints to be observed in civilized warfare. In the devastation described in the Times in June, 1901, there is no pretense that the devastation was a penal measure; it was purely a military operation.

On Military Authority Over Hostile Territory.—Article 42.—Territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation applies only to the territory when such authority is established and in a position to assert itself.

Article 45.—Any pressure on the population of occupied territory to take the oath to the hostile power is prohibited.

Article 46.—Family honors and rights, individual lives and private property, as well as religious convictions and liberty must be respected. *Private property can not be confiscated.*

Article 47.—Pillage is formally prohibited.

Article 50.—No general penalty, pecuniary or otherwise, can be inflicted on the population on account of the acts of individuals for which it cannot be regarded as collectively responsible.

The British government declared its adherence to these laws three years ago. The nation is now face to face with the results of breaking them.

Nor did these fortunate persons seek to evade the responsibilities which wealth brings.

No sooner had it transpired that the evil of the times was the sweatshop,

than ten trillionaires united in giving a million each for the foundation of laboratories, where should be conducted, regardless of expense, experiments looking to the production of a serum or other convenient agency for the suppression of sensible perspiration.

It was a noble charity, and a charity, mark you, impossible except as great fortunes were possible.—Life.

No sensible man ought to object to an industrial system which allows a man by his genius and industry to make all the money he can. But if I dig so near my neighbor's foundations in order to build my house that I endanger his, the law says: "Quit that outrage!"

The masses of our people are restless, not so much because they cannot join the noisy procession of extravagance, but because they are beginning to feel that when one man owns a score of mansions, while tens of thousands have no roof to shelter them, that when few are lords of endless acres while the millions have not a burial place, that this is a privilege inconsistent with a form of government where the will of the people in the form of laws is supposed to be enforced. We must not only resist abuses, we must insist on our rights.—Rev. Dr. MacLison C. Peters.

"What can I do for my little boy," asked mamma, "so that he won't want to eat between meals?"

"Have the meals ficker together," replied the young hopeful.—Tit-Bits.

The new suburban resident stopped the lawn mower and mopped his brow.

"I have seen the sign 'Keep Off the Grass' thousands of times," he murmured, "but never had any idea it would be so hard to do."—Indianapolis News.

BOOK NOTICES.

One of the most useful books, for the purposes of American citizenship, that has recently come from the press is "Nominating Systems" (Madison, Wis.: Published by the Author), by Ernst Christopher Meyer. Mr. Meyer has given the readers of this book a full and interesting history of the nominating systems of the United States, together with proposed innovations down to 1902. One part, containing six chapters, is devoted to the caucus and convention system, from its origin in colonial times. The second part, with 11 chapters, deals with legislation for direct primaries, which found their first legislative recognition in 1866 in California. An analysis of the main arguments for and against direct primaries takes up the third part; while the relation of the direct primary to other reforms, such as civil service, the popular election of senators and the referendum, makes the subject for the fourth and last part. The chapter on the referendum in the United States has peculiar value at this time. Altogether the book is calculated to interest every intelligent citizen, and is one which political

speakers and writers cannot afford to be ignorant of. It is a compact and very readable political history of the States, with especial reference to their development along republican lines.

PERIODICALS.

—The Church of England Sunday School Magazine quotes from the Daily Express (London) some comments of a colonist upon social conditions in England. What the writer says of drunkenness goes to the root of the evil in a more straightforward way than the preachments of most of those who write on this subject. "Your country," he says, "is drink-sodden because drink gives the hope that is missing under your social system and your vested rights. . . . The temperance societies and the churches are doing a splendid work, but they are trying to deal with evils that are the result of hopelessness. They work at the wrong end. He then goes on to urge the workers in the churches and the societies to see that the remedy lies in the abolition of vested interests. This is the fact which Miss Frances Willard was beginning more and more to see in her temperance work in this country.—J. H. D.

—In The Arena (New York, London and Melbourne) for November Mr. Flower devotes a large proportion of his editorial space to Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, whom he describes as "a new champion of the people's cause," typical, as Lincoln was, of "robust, sincere, manly and rugged Americanism." Prof. Parsons contributes a criticism of the President's policy regarding trusts; Booker T. Washington, in urging Negroes to become farmers and land owners, mixes into some good ad-

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