

BOKSBURG.

BOKSBURG is an important mining, business, and pleasure centre, situated fifteen miles east of Johannesburg, and, at the 1904 census, had a population of 14,650 within the municipal limits. The municipality extends about four miles from east to west, and includes five railway stations—Half Way, Angelo, East Rand, Vogelfontein, and Boksburg. The principal mining property in the municipality is the East Rand Proprietary Mines. As a pleasure resort the town is rapidly coming to the front, as many as ten thousand excursionists sometimes visiting the beautiful lake and park in a day. The lake is vested in the Town Council, which is now carrying out an elaborate scheme to enhance its attractions. Included in the programme is the construction of a pavilion, refreshment room, and band-stand, the provision of jetties and boats, and the widening of the tree-shaded promenade round the lake. A good idea of the beauties of Boksburg can be gathered from the accompanying photograph, although it fails to convey the different hues of the trees, varying from the light green verdure of the weeping willow to the darkened shades of oaks and firs. At the eastern end of the lake are several islands, connected with the promenades by rustic bridges. The effect of the whole is reminiscent of the Thames above Richmond. An excellent train service is provided from Johannesburg, about twelve trains running each way daily. Vogelfontein is the station used by excursionists, as it is only five minutes walk from the lake.

Boksburg is governed by a Town Council of fifteen members, Mr. B. Owen Jones being Mayor. It has English, Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Wesleyan, and Baptist churches.

A number of good hotels cater for visitors; they include the Central, Railway, Masonic (now being rebuilt), Transvaal, and Vogelfontein.

Entertainments are provided in the Assembly and Masonic Halls, and music is given at the Lake and on the Market Square at regular intervals by the Boksburg and District Band of twenty-five members, which has earned a well-deserved reputation.

Health statistics show that the death-rate is one of the lowest in the Transvaal. Stores of all kinds are plentiful; and as mining development is going ahead at a great rate on all sides of the town, Boksburg is considered to have an assured future before it, especially when the residential extensions contemplated are carried out.



POPULAR CORNER, BORSBURG LAKE.