





AGENTS FOR THIS PAPER IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS... Beatson, Mr. J. Bain, etc.

THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN. CAPES TOWN, APRIL 5, 1842.

The Bill for exempting public buildings from Municipal taxation, was read a third time on the 20th, and passed, on a division of the five officials against the five unofficials, the Governor's vote deciding; and published as an Ordinance on the 1st instant.

We regret that His Excellency the Governor has carried out the Bill, and forthwith published it, after the vote at the second reading. Since the establishment of the Legislative Council, this is the first instance in which all the unofficials voted against the officials on a measure proposed by the Government, and we had reason to hope that some little deference would have been shown in favor of the public feeling on the question.

When the subject was first brought to the notice of His Excellency, he properly referred it to his legal adviser, Her Majesty's Attorney General, for his opinion and advice. That opinion being in writing, was communicated to the Board of Commissioners, and we published it in our paper of the 5th of October last. A more fair statement of views we have seldom seen. Whilst he at once admitted that in the Municipal Ordinance there was no exemption whatever in favor of any class of buildings, and expressed his doubt as to whether or to what extent, the Royal prerogative or the dominion eminens could be called in aid, he concluded with the following advice to the Governor, which was generally approved of, and which it was anticipated would have been followed up.

"I should respectfully" says he, "advise His Excellency to apprise the Municipality, that... His Excellency does not feel that he would be justified, in diminishing the colonial finances, by according to any such arrangement unless with the approbation of the body to which is intrusted, mainly the Guardianship of the general revenue, namely the Legislative Council. His Excellency may, perhaps, think it proper further to state that he will, when laying the Estimates before Council, as it is his intention soon to do, call the attention of the members to this subject in whatever manner may appear to be most regular and proper."

"I confess, it does strike me, that if the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council are not disposed to concur with the official, in resisting this Municipal demand, His Excellency need not expose himself to the odium of a thankless struggle for the protection of the public revenue.

"If, upon the other hand, the Legislative Council generally should agree in thinking that public buildings, Places of Worship and of public education, etc. ought not to be rated, a short Ordinance may be introduced to settle the law and prevent any future doubt or difficulty from arising."

How has this advice been followed up? Did His Excellency take the sense of the Legislative Council, with a view of introducing a short Ordinance to settle the law? No. Since September no step was taken to ascertain the opinion of the Council, nay without even ascertaining their opinion, the present Bill was at once introduced.

...the following proceeding took place in the Council... The Secretary to Government proposed the sum of £20,000 not at all sufficient. Mr. Bourquill, proposed to extend it to £200,000. The Secretary to Government, proposed £25,000. He explained that the amount would remain in the Treasury, if not employed for Immigration.

Original Correspondence. TO THE EDITOR OF "DE ZUID-AFRIKAAN." PROOF OF DEBTS IN INSOLVENT ESTATES. Cologne, 8th March 1842. Sir,—Some of your readers, learned in the law, may perhaps have the goodness to give their opinion on the following case.

...I should not be surprised if the Magistrate had advised in an unprecedented, illegal, and unjust manner, for I am referring to the law on bankruptcy (Vide 2 Str. 1152, 1 Williams 384). I find, "if an award be made before bankruptcy, it is a credited debt and can be proved by affidavit under commission."

COLESBERG. IMPORTANT TO BUYERS ON THE MARKET.

Steenkamp v. Howell.—Steenkamp, by his agent Mr. Knoche, complains, that the defendant refuses to pay him the sum of one pound sterling, for one muid of meal, sold and delivered; upon due proof whereof the plaintiff prays the judgment of the Court accordingly.

For the defence.—Johannes Walder, duly sworn, deposed—I was on the market when 3 muids of meal were put up by the plaintiff; 11 muids was bid and refused; the defendant said, I will give a pound, which was accepted; I saw the meal delivered at the defendant's; he said—the meal was not for him. I consider the sale a private one.

EUROPEAN NEWS. RIOTS IN PARIS.

We have frequently of late mentioned the capital convulsion of soldiers by Court Martial in Paris, for assaults on their superiors—facts which appeared to us to argue a pitched battle fought on Sunday last at the Barrière de l'Ecole (near the Champs de Mars), between the soldiers of two regiments (the 2d Light Infantry and 5th of the Line) forming part of the garrison of Paris.

This account the Messenger and the Monitor Parisien of Friday night (the Ministerial evening journals) contradicted. The National of Saturday, however, not only repeats its statement, but adds that the affair was renewed on the two following days (Sunday and Tuesday).

The riotous passing the Chamber of Peers shouted several times 'Down with the Peers!' Having returned to the Pantheon, they halted and were about to sing 'the Marseillaise,' but they were completely dispersed by a detachment of the municipal guard.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN FRANCE. On New Year's Day, Louis Philippe went through the ceremony, in some degree, in the adverse and gloomy state of affairs, of receiving addresses from the great public bodies of France. In many instances the addresses and the replies were curious. The Diplomatic body drew from the King a reply which is considered as pacific.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA IN ENGLAND. The rooms destined for the occupation of the King of Prussia, upon his Majesty's arrival at the Castle, are a portion of the State apartments, whence one of the finest and most picturesque views in England, looking over the North terrace, is to be obtained.

His Majesty will occupy a suite of four rooms as follows—1. The Vandyle Gallery (formerly known as the Queen's Ball-room), which is embellished with 22 of the most admirable productions of this highly esteemed painter.

2. The Queen's Drawing-room. This apartment contains seven paintings of Italian landscapes, by Zuccarelli, in that artist's best style. There are also three Scriptural subjects by the same master, and two portraits. In the centre of the ceiling, which is stuccoed, are the arms of England and Saxe Meiningen, upon shields richly emblazoned, surmounted with a crown, the whole entwined with oak leaves, and the rose, shamrock, and thistle.

3. The Queen's Closet. The hangings of this somewhat small apartment are of light blue silk, upon which are beautifully displayed a crown, with the letters "A. R." The ceiling is tastefully ornamented with festoons of fruit and flowers; and with medallions, etched with gold, surmounted with a crown, containing the words "Adelside Regina, 1833."

PRUSSIA. FRANKFORT, DEC. 5.

No occurrence has for a long time made so discouraging an impression on Germany as the decision of the Stuttgart Estates against public trials by jury. The ground on which the Wurttemberg Minister attempted to found his view of the inutility of such a change—on the absence of all public demonstrations on the part of the people against the old secret and inquisitorial forms of justice—was a gratuitous mockery of solemn discussion.

It was reserved for a poor man who has languished under the errors of a criminal indictment since he ventured to declare to the world that he put faith in the promises of his Sovereign, to help the question to a more important crisis.

The trial of Mr. Jambri of the present King of Prussia who the Emperor of Austria, and the Emperor of Russia, has created a wish at Berlin to cover it with the most impregnable secrecy. The few reports which have circulated about it were copied with eagerness from paper to paper, until the Court found it necessary to have the persons connected with the tribunal warned that they were not permitted to make any communications to the public organs of information.

Will he retire, or will he give his opponents the triumph of seeing him carry out their measure, and lose the affections of his fellow-subjects by so doing? Until the Germans learn that individuals must be supported even under the frowns of an irritated Monarch, there is little hope of their achieving political freedom, or retaining it when achieved.

POLICY OF THE AFFGHAN EXPEDITION.

On the first intelligence of the insurrection in Afghanistan, rendered appalling by the doubt which hung over the real fate of the British troops and officers in the country, it was reasonable, but not justifiable, to give way to sad forebodings; but more so, if intelligently known, as it might be, the real amount of the calamity. The Government has been very prudent in its policy, and has not allowed its feelings to be carried away by the popular clamour.

In the beginning of 1838, and even before that time, the war with China may be said to have commenced. Tharwade had usurped the throne of Burma, and showed the feelings he entertained for the British Government by almost insulting our Resident at his Court. The Nepalese had already taken up the cause of the Chinese, and like them had prohibited the importation of the opium which theretofore had been taken into their territories.

The agents could not have occurred so nearly simultaneously by accident. The action in them must have been instigated by the agents of a nation who were enabled to be able to persuade them that they were capable of affording effective assistance or cooperation; we can only conjecture by whom these agents were employed; but they were the more dangerous from our ignorance of the extent of their intrigues, and the nature of their designs.

It was under such circumstances that the Affghan expedition was undertaken; and notwithstanding the immense expenditure that it has involved, and in despite of the recent insurrection it must be considered a master-stroke of policy. Instead of waiting to be attacked, we suddenly assumed the initiative, and threw off the war to a distance from our own frontiers, and while the native princes were on our dominions, and on our frontiers, supposed that our Government was too much engaged with events near home to think of foreign expeditions, they were astonished to find the Affghan war undertaken and brought to a successful close.

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Ireland. Loyal National Repeal Association. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7.—The weekly meeting, having been adjourned from Monday, in order that the Lord Mayor might preside at the meeting to secure the return of Lord Morpeth, took place this day.

The Lord Mayor entered the room at half-past 10 o'clock amid loud cheers, and Mr. Kelah took the chair. The Lord Mayor began the new year by handing in 111, being the subscription of 51 from himself, 17 from each of his seven children, and 18 from each of his grandchildren, 31 in number. (Loud cheers.)

The Secretary read an address from the New York Repeal Association, expressive of their high delight at the intelligence of Mr. O'Connell's election to the proud position of chief magistrate of the Irish metropolis, and inviting the Irish people to look upon the American banner as ever waving in defiance of tyrants, and all enemies of her liberty. The letter contained an extract from the will of the late Felix O'Neill, wherein he bequeathed to Dr. O'Connell, commonly called the Liberator, the sum of 500 dollars, to be used by him in order to assist in effecting the repeal of the Union. This document elicited loud cheers.

Another letter from America was then read, calling on the Irish people never to relax their efforts for repeal, and to encourage them by its kind smile of approbation. The Lord Mayor moved the insertion of the letter upon the minutes; he could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing his deep-felt gratitude to the excellent patriots who had thus cheered them on in the path of liberty. He hailed those appeals of brother freedom; but he wished them to understand distinctly upon what terms he accepted their co-operation. He delighted to hail the trumpet note of liberty coming over the ocean, but still in that cause they were not for riot, for tumult, or battle. They shrank from shedding one drop of blood, but looked to the spreading of public opinion, of matured judgment in every bosom, without any interference with property, with private speculation, or disturbing a single institution; having everything that was good in their object, avoiding evil, deprecating strife, they would violate no law, no constitutional principle; as for him, he stood in the presence of his God, and would struggle for repeal as long as he lived. (Loud cheers.)

Could they allow this? No; let them rally with him for the great principle of self-government. No man was less disposed than he was to break the golden link of the Crown, —that was the link which preserved tranquility. It was his affection for his (might he say?) loved Sovereign that induced him to wish to reconcile Ireland and England, and to struggle for the repeal, which, if not speedily followed, would be followed at last by separation. Extension of the suffrage to all now unrepresented by crime of the age of 21 was his next principle.—Times, Jan. 7.

THE BANK AT MAURITIUS.

The last half-yearly report of the Mauritius Bank, which we publish below, presents an extremely satisfactory state of the affairs of that establishment. From the last six months have been more than 12 per cent. upon the amount of the capital invested; and that after allowing the share-holders a dividend of 7 per cent. for the half year, there will remain to the Bank a reserve fund of 123,043 Drs. 57 cts., that is to say more than 41 per cent. upon the original capital.

The statement of the affairs of this establishment, for the last six months, is exceedingly satisfactory, altho' the operations in exchanges have been unusually limited, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring bills on England. There is however every reason for believing, that in the natural state of the commerce of the colony, means will present themselves, by which an accession to the present stock of specie may be progressively made, to measure the more necessary and essential, from the high rate of wages paid to the laboring classes of the population, a rate quite disproportionate to their wants, and which admits of hour-fling to such an extent, as to cause a large gradual abstraction of specie from the circulation of the colony.

Table showing the balance sheet of the 17th January last, affording the following particulars: Amount of promissory notes and bills in the port, 402,175 p. 84 c.

The above have been obtained by the following means: Amount of five-fifths of capital paid up, 300,000 p. 00 c. Notes in circulation, 816,985 00. Balance of 33 deposit accounts, 22,898 44.

Table showing the last mentioned profits arise from: Discount at 7 per cent per annum on bills and notes, and interest on those in suspense, 14,070 p. 38 c. Interest at 7 1/2 per cent on 79 accounts current, 20,010 12.

The net profits of the twentieth half-yearly period are therefore equal to upwards of 12 per cent upon the Capital originally paid up by the proprietors.

