

AGENTS
 FOR THIS PAPER IN THE COUNTRY DISTRICTS:
 Bloemfontein, Mr. A. P. Meiring,
 Beaufort, Mr. S. J. du Toit,
 Clonon, Mr. A. F. Koster,
 Colberg, Mr. J. J. Walker,
 George, Mr. D. C. van der Merwe,
 Graaf-Reinet, Mr. R. S. Fincham,
 Malmesbury, Mr. J. D. A. Frischoff,
 Paarl, Mr. J. D. A. Frischoff,
 Stellenbosch, Mr. C. Koster,
 Swartkops, Mr. P. Koster,
 Tzaneen, Mr. J. D. A. Frischoff,
 Tyngene, Mr. S. J. du Toit,
 Uitenhage, Mr. S. J. du Toit,
 Worcester, Mr. J. D. A. Frischoff.

THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN.
 CAPE TOWN, SEPTEMBER 26, 1884.

Two Countries in Europe, occupy at present the attention of the Continental Powers—**Ireland, in a state bordering on Rebellion, and Spain, on the point of being newly convulsed by a Civil War.**
 The "Repeal" question in Ireland has assumed a serious aspect. Meetings are held in several parts of Ireland, not of tens of thousands, but of hundreds of thousands of persons. At Waterford a Repeal Meeting was attended by 400,000 persons, at Ennis by 600,000, and speeches were made complaining of grievance, demanding redress and setting forth a Repeal of Union with England, and the re-establishment of a separate Irish Parliament as the only means of satisfying Ireland.

How this movement in Ireland is considered, may be gathered from the concluding part of the speech of the Secretary of Ireland Sir J. GRAHAM: "He would not dissemble or conceal from the House, that a crisis had arrived of great emergency and considerable danger. He at the same time adverted to the startling fact, that in three provinces in the space of 48 hours, 50,000 persons could be collected at the bidding of one man (O'Connell). The majority of the house admitted, almost all would admit, and none more readily than the right hon. gentleman the member, that in the event of the union being repealed we would be inevitable the two countries. If such then were to be necessary—if that were the frightful alternative which must take place, a war would be safer than the alternative which would be necessary—God avert (exclaimed the hon. gentleman) God avert such an awful calamity, but I have no hesitation in saying on the part of the Government and the Legislature of this country that we are determined to maintain the legislative union between the two kingdoms. (Cheers.) I will remind hon. gentlemen opposite of the admission of the right hon. gentleman the member for Edinburgh, that an O-position has its responsibility as well as a Government. (Loud cheers.) We are arrived at no ordinary crisis. The national safety as well as our position in the scale of the nations of the world is at hazard, and it is our bounden duty to exercise the soundest discretion and our most dispassionate judgment in endeavoring steadily to pursue that course which appears to us most conducive to the public safety. (Hear, hear.) If the House has any distrust of Her Majesty's present Ministers, or if it think that some other course of policy than that which they have adopted ought to be pursued, let them declare their opinion distinctly upon the subject (hear, hear); but if the House is of opinion that the Government is deserving of the support and the confidence of Parliament, and that the measures proposed are such as it ought to assent to let no undue obstruction be offered. (Hear, hear, and "Oh, oh.")"

"No objection now, any delay and irresolution, will multiply the danger a hundred fold. (Hear, hear.) If Parliament expresses its sense in favour of the course pursued by Government, Ministers have every hope that with the confidence of the House they will be enabled to triumph over all difficulties. (Oh, oh, and loud cheers.) I appeal, then, to both sides—not to one, but to both—I appeal to both sides, and I say, if you feel now, if you hesitate now in repressing the rebellious spirit which is at work in the struggle of Ireland, the glory of the country is departed—the days of its power are numbered, and England, this all-conquering England, must be classed with those countries, from whom power has dwindled away, and present the melancholy aspect of a falling nation. (Oh, oh, and cheers.)"

The repeal agitation is now no longer confined to one class of persons, but some of the Irish nobility, the gentry and clergy, have openly identified themselves with the measure. And the Irish Government have considered it necessary in consequence to dismiss such of the Deputy Lieutenants of Counties and Justices of the Peace, as have attended either repeal meetings or repeal dinners. Instead of however subduing thereby the spirit, it seems on the contrary to have had the effect, of increasing the list of complaints, and giving rise to a sense of martyrdom in the cause of Ireland. Nor has it failed to add fuel to the flame, for whilst at a meeting of the Waterford Repeal Committee, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. HAYES, (a Barrister) and adopted,—

"That each of the patriotic Gentlemen, who, for their advocacy of the repeal, were tyrannically dismissed from the Magistracy, be presented by the repealers of Waterford with a gold medal."

Mr. O'CONNELL, at a Meeting of the Repeal Association gave notice, that in consequence of the dismissal of the Repeal Magistrates by the Government, he would move, in pursuance of the practice followed in the Catholic Association:

"That they would adopt measures for the appointment in each District of Arbitrators, instead of going, as heretofore, to hostile Petty Session Courts, and paying fees to the clerks of bigoted Magistrates, and that the Association would have legal instruments prepared authorising the persons to act as arbitrators." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

At the same time a meeting of certain influential persons was held in London, for the purpose of considering the propriety of making a public demonstration with reference to the present state and future prospects of Ireland. Sir B. HALL, presiding as chairman, after some discussion read a memorial expressive of alarm at the state of Ireland, and of indignation at the policy of the present Ministry towards that country, and appealing to her Majesty, in the event of their refusal to do justice to the people of that country, at once to dismiss them from her Councils. This was adopted unanimously, as was also a resolution determining to hold a public meeting, and appointing a Committee to arrange the preliminaries of the demonstration.

That Ireland has a right to complain, no one denies. The Times, even, the severe castigater of O'Connell and his measures, admits that Ireland has "real and remediable grievances," that the present excitement is "not actually a chaotic one"—and that the "clamour for repeal is the vague and unreasoning outburst of a passionate discontent, which, alas! itself was not without some ground." Such is the state of affairs in Ireland, and we anxiously look forward to the issue.

In Spain a general insurrection has taken place against the present Government of ESPARTECO as

Regent, and it is pretty generally and publicly asserted that it has been instigated by France, who endeavours to get CHRISTINA re-appointed as Regent, and effect a marriage between the young Queen of Spain and a French Prince the Duke D'ANJALE. If therefore the present Regent, who is said to be acting under the influence of England, should stoop to such an insurrection, it will be a serious question of serious import, and it will be a matter of course for France to obtain that influence in Spain by marriage, or whether another "War of Succession" will be the consequence.

We have given a brief outline of these interesting occurrences in Europe, and will give such extracts as our columns will admit.

PORT NATAL.

We regret that we have been favored with any communications from Natal. In the absence of which, however, we copy for the information of our readers, the following extracts from other contemporary journals. We trust that our friends at Natal will occasionally favor us with some communication of their proceedings, as we can assure them that the greatest possible interest is felt among their countrymen, for their welfare and prosperity.

(From the Cape Town Mail, September 20.)
 The great Meeting, which took place, as stated, on the 7th August, lasted, we understand, two days, and was well supported, a scene of loud and stormy debate. The Proclamation of the Governor was dismissed clause by clause, and a considerable body of Boers who were present from Drankberg, labored to excite among those of Natal, a spirit of resistance but without effect. The Meeting terminated in the whole of the "Vote of Thanks" being given to the Commissioner (who had, previously, declined to attend the meeting) a communication expressing their unqualified submission,—"an example which was followed by all, except a few unfortunates, who were of the opinion that Drankberg people as still felt themselves dissatisfied. Subsequently, it appears, a request was made to the Commissioner that he would procure the presence of some troops to maintain order and support the authority of the Volks Rader. Major Smith, with two companies of the 45th accordingly left the camp on the 23rd August, and arrived on the 21st at Pietermaritzburg, where he is first heard of in a letter from the Commissioner, in which he is said to have recommended the re-formation of the Boer militia, but afterwards encamped them on a rising ground in the neighbourhood, where a commencement was immediately made to erect a fortification. The trade of the Port was now and then, though checked, in a great measure by the heavy rains which fell without intermission, rendering the roads almost impassable. Meanwhile, the Commissioner was unceasing in his endeavors to restore confidence, and convince the Farmers of the advantages which would accrue from their resources being employed in developing the capabilities of the Port and surrounding country, instead of being squandered in an idle search after the illusory independence, and so effectual were his exertions that, in the latest letters, the country around Pietermaritzburg is declared to be "a tranquil as the Districts of Stellenbosch or Swartkops." In point of fact, therefore, the moral courage, temper, and perseverance of Mr. Cloete had been crowned with well-deserved success before the Thunderbolt sailed from Simon's Bay, and it could only remain for Mr. Pears, on his arrival, to follow up and confirm—as no one could better do—the good impression that had already been made.

(From the S. A. C. Advertiser, 23d Sept.)
 To the innumerable statements respecting the personal disrespect shown to Her Majesty's Commissioner, at Pietermaritzburg, which have been received from Natal, and circulated on the faith of what was supposed to be good authority, Mr. Cloete himself gives this answer:—"No act of violence, or even threat of violence, has ever been exhibited towards me, during my sojourn at this place. H. CLOETE, JUN., Her Majesty's Commissioner."

TOT NUT VAN HET ALGEMEEN.

The annual examination of the pupils in the Institution of the S. A. Society "Tot Nut van het Algemeen," took place last week in the presence of the Directors and the public, and received the approbation, we hear, of the parents and others who attended the same. We have therefore reason again to congratulate ourselves and the public with this excellent Institution.

The business was daily opened with singing and prayers, and concluded with singing and thanksgivings. The children, about 100 in number, were examined in English as well as Dutch, from a, b, c, spelling, reading, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, up to and with the use of the globes; sacred and general history; saying short prayers; and in singing, according to the elementary system invented by WILHELM, and lately introduced here; as also in physics.

On Saturday the competition took place between a great number of boys and girls, for the prizes offered by the Directors, and by the Reverend Mr. G. W. STROMANN.

The subject submitted for competition conducted to ascertain who had made the greatest progress in Dutch and English Grammar; whilst the Rev. Mr. STROMANN, at the competition for his prizes, also proposed for solution seven of the most difficult geographical questions.

The prize offered by the Directors was gained—in the girls' class—by Anna Hofmeyr; in the boys' class, by Nicolaas Hofmeyr; whilst the prize of the Rev. Mr. STROMANN was gained—in the girls' class—by Maria Joh. Hofmeyr, and, in the boys' class, by Johannes Henoch Neethling, H. son.

After which the distribution of the prizes took place to these pupils, as well as to the other children who had most distinguished themselves during the past year. (J.)
 (For their several names see the Dutch.)
 19th Sept. 1884.

CONVICT LABOR.

Colonial Office, Cape Town, 21st September 1884.
 To His Excellency the Governor.
REPORT.
 1st. On the manner of working the New System.
 2nd. On the expense of working it.
 3rd. On the difference of expense between the Old and New System.
 4th. On the advantages to be obtained by the New System.

Under the first head, it will be necessary to remove the Convicts from the several Divisions in which they are at present employed, and attach them to the Surveyor General's Road parties, as such stations to be may point out. This step should be taken without delay, and the Civil Commissioners, should be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Municipalities in their Divisions, or with the inhabitants of the townships in their Municipalities, in order that they may make their own arrangements for supplying the loss of labor which this step will occasion to them. The Convicts employed under the Surveyor General's orders on the Simon's Town Road should be removed more gradually. That line of road can only be kept in

repair, after the Convicts are removed, either by contract or hired labor, at the expense of the public. I have instructed the Surveyor General to call for tenders for performing the work on that road, by contract, from the 1st of January next, and his notice to that effect appeared in the Government Gazette of the 28th instant. By your Excellency's order, I will procure the mode of tendering for the repairs to be in accordance with the plan recommended in the report of the present state of Convict employment, and the mode gradually removed to the Road Station in the Interior. The Surveyor General should, at once, concentrate the men into three parties, and fix them upon the most difficult mountain passes, and on the roads leading to them. It is possible, though I do not think that the Road Commissioners may, heretofore, have done so, that the Surveyor General should, to the most desirable end, the best position of the Convicts, and if they should, the amount of the parties could be easily effected.

The Convicts heretofore stationed by the Governor and Civil Commissioners, are not to be removed to Robben Island should be handed over to the Surveyor General, for the Central Board of Commissioners, through the Civil Commissioners of Divisions.

It is respectfully suggested, and I am sure that the Board of Commissioners will be glad to receive, that the Convicts by physical force to the extent of their own strength, should be employed in the most profitable manner, and that the Regulations should, therefore, be based upon the principle of inducements to good conduct and reform, through the instrumentality of Religious and Moral instruction, and through a consistent and uniform course of honest occupation. It should be announced, as indispensable, that the Convicts should be allowed to work for their own benefit, and that the whole term of his sentence should be reduced, and he should be allowed to receive a reward for meritorious conduct, after a certain period, such as the amount of his sentence, and bear a proportion to the length of the sentence, and their application should be withheld for misconduct. The stage of punishment, or rather of labor, should be successive in the Road Parties, decreasing in rigor as each successive stage, until it is a convict shall be capable of earning, upon a moderate rate of pay, as a substitute to other means, or receive a small daily allowance for his labor.

Remuneration should attend the last stage of the sentence only. It is not necessary that the well behaved and careful convict should be paid for the means of support until he could procure work, and that the congregation of Convicts in the Road Parties, should be reduced to the lowest possible number, and that the means of support should be applied to the maintenance of the population of the Colony. Breaving and Sunday Schools should be instituted at each Road Station. I do not venture to submit detailed regulations for the Road Parties, there being many persons who are well qualified, by local knowledge and colonial experience for such a purpose.

I have merely suggested what appears to me to be the proper principle for adoption in this Colony, and beg your Excellency will consider my remarks in that light.

The appointment of the Central Board of Road Commissioners should be made as soon as practicable. The Surveyor General should be a member of it. If the unofficial members of this Board or some of them, could be taken from the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, it would be most desirable in many respects; and I hope some of those gentlemen who are prevailed upon to afford their co-operation. The services of the Commissioners should be gratuitous.

The instructions to the central Board of Commissioners should be prepared in detail. I will submit some of their prominent points. They should be authorized to receive money in advance, from the Treasury, under the Governor's warrant, the proper proportion of the annual sum appropriated to Road and Convict purposes, for which advances, and for any other monies they may receive on the public account, they should send in, for audit, an account of their expenditure to the Auditor General, at the termination of every quarter, in such form, and supported by such vouchers, as that officer may consider necessary.

The Commissioners should enter into contracts for the food, clothing, tools, &c. required for the Convicts, and also for whatever may be necessary for Road purposes generally. They should be permitted to make the necessary appointments of Clerks, Surveyors, and any other Officers they may require in working this Commission, but they should not be authorized to grant any amount of salary or remuneration in any such cases, without the sanction of the appointments of Superintendents and Overseers on the Road Parties, whose salaries should be fixed and inserted in the regulations for the management, &c. of those parties. They should be instructed to select Superintendents who, being qualified, should be required to conduct the station schools, and afford moral instruction to the men under their charge, and the necessary arrangements should be made for procuring the frequent visits of Ministers of Religion, so that Religious Instruction may be given to all, and the Ordinances of Religion administered.

The accounts of the Commissioners should be published in the Government Gazette as soon as practicable.

The object of the Board's appointment should be defined, and their powers regulated, by an Ordinance.

The Ordinance should declare, that the appointment of the Commissioners is vested in the Governor, who should have power to remove them, and appoint others whenever he thinks proper, and should render it obligatory on them to obey any instructions for their guidance, and the management of the roads, and the business of the roads, that he may think proper to issue to them, which are not repugnant to the Ordinance.

This Ordinance should also embrace the arrangements and enactments necessary for making and repairing all roads in the Colony, it should declare that the want of good roads is acknowledged and felt throughout the Colony.

The object of the Ordinance is to remove this want by authorizing the Governor to issue a Commission for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the roads, and providing to enable them to make a certain annual amount of money to enable them to make repairs certain parts of the roads at public expense; and it should contain the necessary authority for the Governor to appoint the Commissioners, and the money the Council may vote for road and convict purposes.

It should declare that opening mountain passes, filling up ravines, and constructing bridges along the lines of the main roads of the Colony, will be the chief objects of the Commission, the magnitude and extent of such works being beyond the power of private persons to accomplish.

The Governor should be empowered, upon the reports of the Commission, to declare, from time to time, by Proclamation, which are the main roads of the Colony, and which are the branch roads. The Commissioners to be empowered to receive all tolls on the main roads, for the general purposes of their Commission; to erect turnpikes, &c. upon them if necessary, decide upon the rates of the tolls to be demanded at each toll, and to let them by private agreement, or public sale, for such periods as they may deem proper.

To be empowered to raise funds for making or repairing the main roads, on security of the tolls, and to be authorized to pay the interest upon the amount borrowed, from any monies they may receive from the Government, from tolls or from other sources. The main roads, toll-houses, &c., to be vested, in trust, in the Commissioners; and they may mortgage them, as security for money borrowed for repairing or making roads.

The Commissioners to be empowered to make roads through private property, and to compensate the proprietors for any injury done, either by agreement or by compulsory arbitration.

They should be invested with the powers usually granted in England, to enable them to construct or repair roads without obstruction, to procure materials, to cut down timber, to make water courses, or whatever work may be required to be performed, and to compensate when necessary, for any injury done, either by agreement or arbitration, and also be empowered to protect the roads when made, &c. The Commissioners to be empowered to make main roads by contract or by hired labor, or both, in addition to Convict labor.

The Commissioners to be empowered to raise money, when required, for the main roads, either by a personal assessment or by an assessment on the immovable property within the division in which the road is made, or repaired, or may be situated, if necessary, beyond the means placed at their disposal by the Council, and the manner of collecting the same to be defined and provided for. The divisions of the colony to be divided into the existing divisions for the purposes of this Ordinance.

The Commissioners to take an oath of office, for the due and faithful discharge of their trust, in the terms usually employed for such a purpose. When branch roads are

required to be made, a Division Commission should be formed, the Chairman to be appointed by the Governor, and five members elected from the division in which the road is to be made, as nearly as the circumstances will permit, by the several divisions in which the road is to be made, by the Central Commission, or by the Divisional Commissioners, to a certain extent, he should under the direction and authority of the Central Commission, or by the Divisional Board, either by subscription or assessments.

The qualifications for a Division Commission, the mode of election, and the terms of office should be defined, and power should be given to the Governor, to make and alter the regulations, and by law, for the better management of the Central and Divisional Boards, and for the dispatch of business.

Whenever compensation is to be made to private individuals for encroachments, injury, or any other cause, the amount should be paid by the assessment on the immovable property of the division, in which the land is situated, such assessment to be determined and raised by the Central or Divisional Commission, as the case may require. Crown lands, places of public worship, or for gratuitous instruction, and burial grounds, to be exempted from all such assessments. The Commissioners, Central or Divisional, should be empowered to make or repair any road which may be complained to the Governor of the Colony by a majority, in number, of the inhabitants of a division, such work to be performed by means of an assessment on the immovable property in the stipulating division. The Ordinance to provide and afford facilities for the Chairman or Secretary of the several Commissions as he or she may see fit.

I must not venture to go into greater details for the proposed Ordinance. I have already, I fear, been too diffuse. The Attorney General whose knowledge on the subject is equalled by his desire to promote the important measure of road making, will supply every thing requisite on this head. I have merely indicated what I think should be the objects and operations of the Ordinance for your Excellency's consideration.

On the expense of working the New System.

The Convicts to be transferred to the Central Commission are at the present moment 200; but their number will soon be increased to about 300, by the sentence of the Court now on Circuit. Some will, in due course, become free, but 200 may be fairly assumed, as an average, for the purposes of this report. Should these numbers increase or decrease materially at any time, from time to time, a deduction or addition in the payments should be made in proportion, but it will not be desirable to keep such an account too minutely. Such alterations should, therefore, not be made for less than 300 convicts, either of increase or decrease. For this number (300) the Central Commission should receive from the Treasury the sum of £30 a man per annum; for provisions, food, clothing, tools, bedding, lodging, superintendence, and, in short, any other expenses which must be incurred on each convict, and which sum, by reason of their concentration, and consequently reduced charges for superintendence, is considered sufficient. To this should be added a further sum of £2000 per annum for providing carts, bullocks, free mechanics, materials for road and bridge, and for defraying the charge for Secretary, clerks, surveyors, religious instructors, medicals, and medical attendants, and for meeting every other charge incidental to the system and Commission.

The expense will, therefore, be	
300 Convicts at £30	£9,000 0 0
Grants for materials, &c.	2,000 0 0
	Total £11,000 0 0

On the difference of Expense between the Old and New System.

The report on this head has occasioned the very great labor, which has not produced a result quite satisfactory to my own mind.

It has been the practice of this Colony for the Legislative Council to vote, annually, certain sums for the divisions respectively, for defraying the expense of prisoners in the goals and of convicts. These votes have not specified the amount to be appropriated to each of these branches of the public expense, nor have the accountants, with very few exceptions, separated their Expenditure Accounts.

To ascertain the exact proportion of each branch has, consequently, been impracticable. The nearest approximation I can make to it, is through the accounts of the Cape, Swartkops, and Worcester Divisions, and from them it appears, that while the average expense of provisions for convicts or prisoners has been under £2 2s per annum, the additional charge for tools, clothing, bedding, transport and messing utensils, has increased the annual average to £2 15s 4d.

In a former Memorandum to your Excellency, (16th Aug 1843.) I have shown that the average expense for superintendence of each effective convict amounts, throughout the Colony to £9 12s 6d per annum, making the average annual charge for an effective convict, £25 17s 10d, but for effective and non-effective together, it amounts only to £25 17s 10d. My next inquiry was directed to ascertain, if possible, how many prisoners have been virtually detained in goals throughout the Colony, each for an entire year, calculating from the number of prisoners actually detained for a year or any part of a year, and from the aggregate time of their detention; or in other words, how many detentions, each for an entire year, would be equivalent, in time, to the aggregate number of the actual detentions for a year, or less than a year.

My object in this inquiry was by learning the annual average expense incurred for prisoners, to see whether the total charge on this account, added to the total charge for convicts at the average found, tallied with the sum expended for both services.

To arrive at a satisfactory result on this point, it became necessary to examine the goal returns. For this inquiry my materials were very insufficient. The returns for any particular year from all the goals were not to be found; nor, indeed, were the returns from any particular goal for any one year.—I was, therefore, obliged to resort to the returns of broken periods, and by supplying the deficiencies of one year by the returns for the periods of such deficiencies from another year, I succeeded in striking an average; but in doing it, I was compelled to examine each goal return from 1840 to the present time. The number of prisoners who pass through the goal during a year is very great, but most of them are for short periods. It appears from the returns, that the number virtually detained, each for an entire year, calculated as already explained, amounted annually, upon an average of 31 years, to 450; but the aggregate number of prisoners who were confined in goals, during each year of this period, either for a year or less than a year, was at least ten times that number.

In the estimates of the Colonial Expenditure, voted by the Council for the following years, it will be seen that the vote for Prisoners and Convicts (exclusive of Robben Island) was

For 1841, was	£21,181 5 3
" 1842, was	12,442 8 9
" 1843, was	12,110 8 9
" 1844, was	10,735 10 3
	Total £46,470 24 0
	Average per annum, £11,617 18 6

The average number of convicts during the two last years and the present year, may from the best information I can obtain, be taken at 270. That number, multiplied by 25, the amount I have shown to be the annual average charge for each effective or non-effective convict, will give £6,750 (and the 450 Prisoners in goals, multiplied by 25, the average cost of each as already shown, would give £11,250. These sums would together amount to £18,000, being £1,000 less than the average of the vote for both branches of expense. Calculating from these data, the expense for the year 1844, of 300 convicts at £30 per head would amount to £27,000; and assuming that 450 Prisoners will have to be provided for in the year, at £25 each, the sum of these charges will be £11,250—being £2,250 less than the average of the four years taken for these calculations, but £235 more than the amount voted specifically for 1844, in consequence of this report extending to 500 instead of 270 Convicts.

I have stated that £250 will be sufficient for the charge of each convict for a year, under the new system, and that it will prove correct, which I can see no reason to doubt, it results that the new system will effect a reduction of £1,600 in a year for the maintenance, &c. of 300 convicts, when compared with the old system. It is true that £2000 are required to be added to the resources of the Central Commission, but it should be borne in mind, that many of the expenses to be defrayed by the Commission, from the £2000, are new charges, essential to the proper working of the convicts, and the attainment of the most important advantages arising therefrom. It has, however, been demonstrated that £1500 more would have been expended under the old, than under the new system, for the same number of men.

In granting this £2000, it should be remembered, that the additional charge for the new system will be but £500 per annum. If, however, a reduction can be made, (as I think it can), to the Police Establishment of the Colony, by reason of the removal of the Convicts from the Townships, to the extent of the number of Constables, as well as Officers, who have to be employed in their superintendence, (as shown by any examination of the 16th of August last), there will be a reduction of expense to the amount of £200 per annum. The expense of the old and new systems will then be equalized.

On the advantages to be obtained by the New System.

As a matter of practical utility, the greatest advantage consists in its applying the labour of a large body of convicts more beneficially to the Colonist than the old system, in making roads, and thereby facilitating communications, and reducing the expense of bringing farm produce to market. The measure will also be advantageous in stimulating the Colonist to exert himself, and provide additional means for carrying on constructive operations of a similar kind. It will tend very soon to increase the value and demand for land, and thereby enable the Governor to dispose of crown lands and apply the proceeds either in relieving the wants of public works, Immigration, or some such object of colonial desire; for without the operations of a large such class, there seems to be no prospect of a revenue being derived from this source. The advantages to the government in shortening the time for the journey of the Circuit Judges, and in every thing connected with the business of government in the interior, I need only advert to.

In a pecuniary point of view the advantages have been already alluded to. But the great advantage which the head will be found in the consideration, that a very large amount of public money will be expended usefully and profitably for the general good, instead of being so far from it, as to be a burden to the Colonist, and that too, without adding any fresh charge to the Colonial Revenue. The new system will add considerably to the labour available for road making by reducing the amount of non-effective or less labor from twenty to five per cent, this rate being ample for a road party of one hundred men.

The serious objection of constantly carrying convicts in the towns in the Colony, before the eyes of the rising generation, will be obviated; an advantage of no mean importance. But the advantage to the morals of the lower orders will be very great. They will not think, as I fear too many do at present, that to be a convict is no degradation, and that it is not attended with inconveniences or punishment. As soon as the effect of which the change of system directly produces, are apparent and appreciated, it is but reasonable to hope, that crime will decrease, and with it the attendant expense to the public, and it is certainly, in the most important advantage, to be enabled to afford to the convicts, moral, and religious and moral instruction while they are undergoing their sentences, an advantage they never had, nor were ever likely to receive, under the old system.

To procure increased dread of the sentences of the Courts of Justice is an advantage to be looked for under the new system. Under the old it has, I am informed, very much tended to operate. To purge the police is the two principal goals of the colony of its convict population, is certainly a considerable advantage. There are some of the leading advocates to be derived from the new system. I would estimate more; but I trust I have cited sufficient for the purposes required.

Having reported upon the four heads your Excellency required, I will now add, that on the 17th July last, I addressed the accompanying circular letter to the several Civil Commissioners, calling upon them for information upon certain points respecting the making and repairing of roads, and requested their suggestions upon any other point which might occur to them connected therewith. From all of them, with the exception of those named in the margin, [Albany, Coleridge, Graaf-Reinet, Swartkops, &c.] I have received replies which I have the honor to submit herewith. I enclose with them three other letters, which are all I have received from unofficial persons upon the same subject, and I recommend them all to your Excellency's particular attention, as they contain much valuable and useful information.

The several Civil Commissioners have received the roads to be made otherwise than by convict labor, should be paid over to the Central Commissioners, to be expended under their direction and authority; to be expended under their direction and authority, as required by the Ordinance. A part of that money can be expended upon the main roads, but some portion of it will have to be applied to branch roads whenever the Divisional Commissioners have qualified their Divisions, for obtaining it under the conditions proposed in the Ordinance. The amount voted for 1844 is £26,500 5s, and the whole of this sum is unexpended, excepting £2 30 for the Koois Kloof Road, £150 for the Bridge at the Great Hoek River, £100 for repairing the Volks Kraal Road. For the expenditure of these sums by the Civil Commissioners of the Divisions interested, the Government is pledged.

I think the amount voted for 1844 is a small sum for such extensive works, and I should hope that in future years the Council will not object to double that sum. If it can be shown to the members, that the Colonial Revenue will justify it, it would suggest an application to the Council, to deliver to the Central Commissioners for the benefit of the Road generally, the Turnpike Tolls which will be derived during the year 1844. After that year the Ordinance will provide for the payment of them to the Board. For the current year the tolls are set for at £2,669 2s. But there is a charge against it for repairing the streets of Simon's Town, equal to the amount of the toll collected there. It has been arranged that the amount of the toll should be available through the Civil Commissioner for repairing those streets. For 1844 the Council has voted £110, the toll having been estimated at that sum. The annual average sum received from the tolls during the last three years amounts to £2,643 18s 0d.

Before closing this report, I am anxious to bring under your Excellency's attention, that several female convicts are detained in the goals, and appear to be employed as servants, and to mix too much with the more fortunate of goals. Such a system is far from desirable, and can, perhaps, be remedied.

(Signed) JOHN MONTAGU.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope, 21st September, 1884.
 WITH reference to the Government Notice of the 17th ultimo, prohibiting the Civil Servants of this Government from performing any private business connected with the Departments to which they respectively belong; and it having been represented to His Excellency the Governor that it has been customary in the Surveyor General's Department to allow Copies of Title Deeds and of the Diagrams thereunto annexed, to be made by the Officers there employed, on their private account, which practice has been discontinued in consequence of the prohibition abovementioned; and as it appears to His Excellency that public inconvenience may be experienced if such copies cannot be hereafter furnished:—

Notice is hereby given, that the Surveyor General has been instructed to prepare and issue such copies, upon satisfactory proof being added to him by the interested parties, by their Attorneys, or by qualified Agents, that the originals have been lost, and upon payment to him, on account of the Public, of the sum of Ten Shillings (10s.) Sterling for each such copy of an ordinary kind, or a greater amount in proportion to the details, or additional labor, any copy of an unusual nature may require.

By His Excellency's Command,
 (Signed) JOHN MONTAGU,
 Secretary to Government.

