









THE CAPE STANDARD ON RAILWAYS.

Cape Town, March 13, 1866.

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We proceed in our last, to give a running commentary on the deplorable "results," that would ensue to the colonists, were they not immediately to plunge themselves over head and ears into debt, for the purpose of investing their credit, if they have any remaining, in speculations that are admitted, even by the writer himself, to have him, thereto proved an "utter loss and a dead failure."

It is almost a waste of time, and an abuse of words, to refute the arguments coolly put forward, by this new advocate for the extension of Railways on the same principles as those on which the Cape and Wellington line was constructed; and it is almost an insult to the understanding of our readers to direct their attention, at all, to such idle puerilities.

The "Standard" says, 1st, "If railways are not proceeded with, the £100,000 spent on preparations will be thrown away." We do not profess to know exactly what items are included in the preparations.

It is sufficient for you to know, as colonists, that it is to be devoted to railways. That ought to be enough for you, especially as the dictum has gone abroad, and been endorsed by high authority, "that railways are necessities and cannot be done without."

When we do want them, some ten years hence that sum will have to be all spent over again. So says the "Standard" and in saying so, it could not have pronounced a more severe, if not more bitter, rebuke on the recklessness with which the moles of an impoverished treasury have been frittered away by those who had the disposal of our revenue in their hands.

At the Cape, however, it seems to be different. Every ten years the preparations must be renewed, or rather all previous preparatory lapse in the course of that time. Well, such a state of affairs at the Cape is little complimentary either to the Employers or Employed on a work which is said to have cost a round £100,000.

"The Cape Town and Wellington Railway" will according to the same authority, "if it stand alone be an utter loss and a dead failure." Well this is a candid confession from a Railway Advocate, impregnated with the sub-guarantee principle as the proper mode of railway construction. We thank him for nothing, however.

De Raad nam deswegens het volgende besluit: "De Volksraad, kennis genomen hebbende van den brief van Z.K. den Gouverneur der Kaapkoloniën, 20 Januarij, 1866, gerigt aan Z. H. den Staats-pretident, zyne bereidwilligheid te kennen gevende en zyne dienste aanbiedende om als bemiddelaar optreden te zinden eenen billyken vrede tusschen den Oranjerivierstaat en de Basuto's te stand te brengen, draagt aan Z. H. den Staats-pretident om Z.K. mededeelen dat de Regering van dezen Staat gezwongen is geworden om dezen oorlog te voeren ter handhaving van geconcludeerde regten, die by het vredesverdrag van Aikwa Noord waren erkend en aangenomen; dat de Raad in het belang van Golsa-Griet, zedelykheid en Maatschappelyke vooruitgang, zyn vrede tusschen beiden vrede, die ons de waarborgen van duurzaamheid zal opleveren; dat de Raad mededeeling van erkentelykheid betrekende het wilsand aanbod der bemiddeling van Z.K. heeft verweerd."

De Raad bevestigde bevestigde het wilsand aanbod van Z.K. maar kan, doch de overtuiging koesterd, gegrond op zyne ondervinding van vele jaren, dat de Basuto's door de bepalingen van zyn vredesverdrag zullen worden bevestigd, indien zij tot de aanname daarvan worden door de kracht der wapenen gedwongen worden, en niet tot het beest komen, dat de Vrystaat niet terug is om de voortdurende van ten te worden vredesverdrag door de Basuto's ten allen tyde te doen maken, en hen daerby des noodis met geweld van wapenen te noodzaken."

IV. "We shall remain behind all the rest of the world, and continue slow coaches to the end of time," that is, if we do not go on with railways to everywhere. The Wellington line has failed—that's a fact according to our authority. Therefore, the Malmesbury one must succeed! The Falmesbury line must be finished!—The Graham's Town and Graaff-Reinet line forthwith com-

mond), and the Zilly's extension through the Karroo to Beaufort, thence to Bloemfontein, and be pushed on until its grand terminus reaches the Victoria falls of the Zambezi! From such conclusions as these, and they are legitimate inferences from the premises advanced, we turn away with scorn and disgust. In the language of a logician, Argument IV would be simply called an Interjection—a ejaculation, a cry, or a protest against. That is really the only way to dispose of such nany-pambyanisms and throughy twaddles!

V. Our expenditure cannot decrease, and without railways our revenues will certainly decline. If this is not fresh from the Government Mint, we are very much mistaken. Our expenditure cannot decrease! Why not? Is it not notorious that there is not a public man, or public wit, unconnected with the Government, that has not, day after day, and for years, urged retrenchment? Even we, in our humble way, have shown how a system of retrenchment could be gone about with a very serious insouciance to the present holders of office, and that too, without any perceptible injury to the public service, but by which, in a very few years, such a saving might be effected, as would go far to retrieve the £100,000 needlessly squandered on railway nonsense. The decline? in the Custom returns of the Eastern Province during the last twenty or thirty years, shows what the absence of railways will certainly accomplish. It is idle to ask what the Wellington line has done for the country or the villages through which it passes. Every resident knows it full well, and feels it too. Cape Town, we admit, has largely benefited, but the resources of the country have not been materially improved, while the condition of the villages has certainly gone greatly backwards. The last position of our contemporary, we have not room to dilate much upon. It is this:

VI. "This country is not so unlike other countries, that whereas railways have improved every land in which they have been laid down, they cannot improve this. [query: How were they laid down, or rather paid for?] Whether they will immediately pay or not has not so much to do with the matter. They are necessities, and cannot be done without"—which simply means this: Colonists, be good boys. Do the Government's bidding. It wants the control of your goods and chattels for the purpose of its aggrandising power and patronage.—It is true it means to invest these in such a way that you have no guarantee for either your interest or your capital, and that you are likely to lose both. But what of that? It is sufficient for you to know, as colonists, that it is to be devoted to railways. That ought to be enough for you, especially as the dictum has gone abroad, and been endorsed by high authority, "that railways are necessities and cannot be done without."

APPOINTMENTS.—W. H. Rawstone, P. H. Potgieter, R. R. Rorke and F. Suhrman, Esq., as Justices of the Peace for the district of Fort Beaufort.

SUBSCRIPTION.—The estates of Jacobus Hendriks Thonissen, wheelwright, first, and second meetings at the Magistrate's Office, Paarl, 27th March and 3rd April.—Dirk Joze van Ruyne, farmer, ditto, ditto, Calcutta, 27th March and 3rd April.—Henrik Leonard Bruyns, agriculturist, ditto, ditto, Victoria West, 27th March and 3rd April.—Alexander Brink, schoolmaster, ditto, ditto, Port Elizabeth, 28th March and 4th April.—James Percival, baker and confectioner, first and second meetings at the Fort Beaufort, 21st March and 27th April.—T. G. Charles Stewart, ditto, ditto, ditto, 27th March and 3rd April.

INTERESTING ESTATE.—A meeting of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the estate of Elw. Gubb, at the Magistrate's Office, Colberg, 21st April.

COLONIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—The revenue for the quarter ending 31st Dec., 1865, has been £135,331, including temporary loans to the amount of £36,000; and for the year 1865, £482,000, including temporary loans to the amount of £231,951. The net revenue for the quarter was £39,394, and for the year £121,015. The expenditure for the quarter has been £185,938, and for the year £551,515. The actual ordinary revenue for the year has therefore fallen short by £132,770.

HOPFIELD.—The periodical court at Hopfield will be held on Friday, the 23rd instant, instead of on the day previously appointed.

ZURBRAAK, HEIDELBERG AND MALAGA.—The periodicals, titles at these places will be held on the 20th, 21st and 23rd March respectively.

CRUELTY.—A correspondent writing from Cold Bokkereld, 5th March, says: "A petty inquiry was made into the charge against Mrs. Janzen, who was admitted to bail for £1000, a small amount compared with the crime. It would be a pity were the culprit not brought before the Circuit Court to receive the punishment she deserves. What Jonas Saul has said of the case is not all that was done to the child. It is said that about 5 or 6 years ago this child was apprehended by a reputed justice of the peace. This child, when her ill usage became so severe, and when hardly able to walk, flew to said justice of the peace, covered with wounds and bruises, but she was sent back to her mistress with a sharp reprimand. On coming home her treatment became worse, the soles of her feet were cut to pieces with a knife to prevent her flight for the second time. She was laid up in consequence for more than a month, and neither justices of the peace nor field-courts appear to have taken any notice of the matter, although they were frequently on the farm."

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The Natalian has arrived at East London, reporting the arrival of the Mauritius at Natal with the Overland Mail. The news respecting the ravages of the late

hurricanes in the Channel is confirmed. The English money market was easy. The Saxon had reached England in safety, and the Uitenhage was to leave positively on the 3rd February.

SAD DISASTERS.—On Wednesday last Dr. Weinstein, district surgeon of Riversdale, Herr Goss, the eminent pianist and naturalist, Mr. Simpkins and young Mr. Burgers put off in a whaleboat, with a crew of five men, to visit the island in Mossel Bay. On attempting to effect a landing the boat was stove. The two fram-tanned gentlemen and two of the boatmen were unfortunately drowned, and the others were saved with difficulty. Dr. Weinstein had arrived on the previous evening with the object of putting his wife and three children on board the mail steamer for Europe. Mrs. Each, sister of the Civil Commissioner of Alice, and two children were drowned in crossing the Klakla river, between Graham's Town and Fort Beaufort. The unfortunate lady had only recently arrived from England.

UITENHAGE.—RAIN.—It has rained every day since our last. We never saw Uitenhage look so green before. At Roodo Wahl there have been splendid rains, the dams are all full and water is abundant, but we hear that no rain has fallen at Wolfswinkel. We hope we may be disappointed. The depth of rainfall during the week in Uitenhage, according to Mr. Mosel's gauge is 1.72 inches.—Uitenhage Times.

SIR CHRISTOFFEL BRAND passed through Uitenhage this week en route from the Free State to Cape Town. Sir Christoffel looks none the worse for his travels. We are told that he republished the accounts of Free State affairs as published in the Friend and colonial papers, as false and opposed to the interests of the Boers, and that he believes the war will be over in another month, for the Basutos are crushed, and many of them starving.—Ibid.

RAINFALL AT GRAAFF-REINET.—During the year 1865, the total number of days on which rain fell, was only 58. The greatest number of days in April, when it rained 10 days; the smallest number occurred in August, when it only rained on one day.—G. R. Herald.

THE WEATHER.—On Saturday last this town was visited by a smart thunderstorm. From appearance it seemed to extend a considerable distance, the heaviest portion falling at Drie Kops, to the east of the town. The quantity of rain registered was 50, or exactly half an inch. On Sunday there was very appearance of more rain, but the day passed without any falling. On Monday the clouds again looked promising, and at noon it was so dark that it was difficult to see in the streets; the rain came down suddenly for a short period, and further showers fell during the afternoon. The total quantity registered during the day 1820. The amount of rainfall for the months of January and February, is 2.835, or a trifle short of 3 inches, nearly the whole of which has fallen this month.—Ibid.

WE are informed that it is not Mr. Bertrams' intention to retire from the Civil Commissionership and Magistracy of Graaff-Reinet at present. Some correspondents of other papers have stated positively, but erroneously, that it was his intention to do so within a few months.—Ibid.

MISSING AT CRADOCK.—One of the masons at work on the new Dutch Church is reported missing since Saturday last. He has been missing for some time, and it is feared that he must have been drowned in the Fish River, from the fact that he was seen on Saturday last, walking up and down the banks of the river in a very excited state.—Craddock Register.

NATIVE AUDACITY.—The other evening a Kafir (servant to a farmer living near the town) being in a state of rage, pulled up a young child belonging to an English family, in which two children slept. The children were afraid to raise the alarm until after the father had left, but fortunately they were able to identify him, and he has been apprehended.—Ibid.

STORM AT TARKASTAD.—On the afternoon of Sunday last Tarkastad was visited by an exceedingly heavy storm of wind and rain. A couple of houses were unroofed, and a small, unfinished one washed away. We are a mist afraid to repeat the statement respecting the depth of water in Gray's river, viz. that it was breast high, but we have it on very respectable authority, and the street allied to it is said to be rather a low one. We have not as yet received any account of a storm from our Kaffir correspondent. We hope it will not be a very serious one, as it has been washed away.—Ibid.

COLESBERG.—The iron roof of Mr. Mathews' house was entirely destroyed by wind yesterday afternoon, during a severe thunderstorm. The new clip of wool is being rapidly brought in; and, in consequence, the means of transport to Algo Bay is becoming scarce.—13s. per 100 lbs. being the average rate now current here.—Whether the lobsters have betaken themselves to "fresher fields and pastures new," wherein to exercise their destructive propensities; or whether the locust birds—which showed almost as numerous as did their prey—have gobbled them up, or driven them into the sea, we cannot say, but certain it is, that they have almost entirely disappeared from this and the adjoining districts, and, as we hear, from the Free State as well. The flooring of the new Dutch Reformed Church is completed; and the carpenters and painters are busy with the other works required to complete the interior. We hear that the plain glass in the window was to be taken out, to give place to some beautiful colored glass, presented to the church by our old friend, Mr. Frans Joubert, sen., and which has been received. A good deal of time and trouble will be required to this alteration.—Border News.

SOMERSET EAST.—THE WEATHER.—The town and portions of the district have been visited by repeated thunderstorms since our last issue, and in some instances the rain has been accompanied with a severe fall of hail. On the 24th, for instance, a hailstorm has passed over the back of the Boschberg, causing great damage to the standing crops. At Hartwell, the property of Ch. Stroth, Esq., in the occupation of Mr. Geer, the standing crops of every kind of garden stuff from fine patches of the most promising maize down to the smallest pot-herbs—a show which would have done honour to an agriculturist in any clime—were entirely annihilated; the hail, or rather the

flakes of ice, some of them 6 inches in circumference, lying twelve inches deep for twenty-four hours after the storm had subsided! Yet, strange to say, we have not as yet had one soaking rain in any part of the district, nor can the drought be said to have broken up. We see notices in the local papers from other districts of fine rains having fallen; but if they have been no finer than those with which we have been favoured, the people are truly thankful for small mercies, and easily misled by appearances. All the rain that has as yet fallen is inadequate to the strengthening of a spring, or the production of even the most moderate supply of grass for stock during the autumn and winter, and leave our prospects gloomy indeed. Whole tracts of country in the district of Somerset remain unvisited by one refreshing shower since our last autumn, and we have daily instances recorded of stock perishing by starvation, and farmers who were but lately well off in a temporary dilly of seeing the remnants of their stock perish for want of grass and water. We shall be glad indeed to be able soon to report a copious rainfall. Since the foregoing has been set up, the town has been favoured with one of the finest rains that we have had for the past twelve months. Gentle showers continued for hours, succeeded every now and then by a heavy fall, lasting perhaps for half an hour, and filling every gutter to overflowing. Should this rain have extended—as we hope it has—far and wide, the province may lift up its head, and say that one of the calamities that have befallen to check our progress has been removed by the interposition of a kind Providence, to whom a solemn day of thanksgiving should be dedicated by every devout heart.—Somerset Courant.

FORT BEAUFORT.—THE WEATHER.—The outbreak of last week, culminated in a terrific storm of wind and lightning, with a little rain, on Sunday afternoon. On Monday another thunder storm took place, and a considerable quantity of rain fell. These storms extended to Bedford, Ad-Lata, Elani's Post, and the Tyumie.—Fort Beaufort Advocate.

NARROW ESCAPE.—In the storm on Sunday afternoon, the sentry on duty at the provost, near the main barracks, had a narrow escape from the electric fluid, which struck the sentry box in which he was standing, throwing it down, and stunning the man. A horse belonging to a policeman was killed at the same time, a few hundred yards off.—Ibid.

MARCH OF CIVILIZATION.—A great meeting of Fing chiefs beyond the Kei was to have been held at the junction of the Tsomo on Tuesday last for the purpose of addressing a letter of thanks to His Excellency for the land apportioned to them, and for discussing among other matters, the necessity for establishing a toll at the drift of the Kei on the new road made by Dema, the proceeds of which to be applied to keeping it in repair,—they having, it is said, applied in vain for any steps to be taken by Government for this purpose. The meeting has been convened by written circulars from a duly appointed secretary, named Veldman, inviting the attendance of the chiefs at the said spot and on the day mentioned.—Ibid.

FREE STATE.—A farmer of this district just returned from a visit to the Free State, speaks in glowing terms of that country as a field for sheep-farming. The wool of the Free State flocks in his opinion far surpasses in length and fineness of staple the bulk of the Eastern Province wools. What is wanted to make Free State wools take a front rank in the home market, is the settlement of a few Eastern Province farmers, to show the Boers how to get up the wool. Not only is the wool of the Free State flocks finer and longer, but our informant says, that sheep of larger value than those in this Province, there being always abundant pasturage for the flocks. Our informant was rather surprised on his passage through districts which are supposed down here to be subject to hostile inroads from the Basutos, to find the lion still all around, and the cattle and sheep running in the fields peacefully all round night. The President, he reports, is determined to finish the war and to conquer Mosheh.—Ibid.

THE BASUTO WAR.

(From the Friend of the Free State.)

Latest from the camp of Commandant Westels.—News to 24th instant.—Skirmish with the enemy near Platberg.—1 Basuto killed and many wounded.—Latest from camp of Commandant de Villiers at Moopop's head.—News to 17th February.—2 days patrol in the Double Mountains in search of cattle.—A large bacon painted by de Villiers on the very summit of the Quachamba.—Latest from H. Harrison.—News to 22nd February.—Five Zulus shot and 2 dead wounded, 6 horses captured, &c., by a guard of 4 men, under Mr. Thomas Bawes, stationed at Major's drift, on the Elani's River.—Let us from Smith's field.—News to the 27th instant.—Great battle between 300 burghers and 2,000 of the enemy (half of whom supposed to be Tambookies under Morosi)—17 of the enemy slain—2 burghers wounded.

Nothing of material importance has transpired since our Friday's impression. Commandant Westels has sent in a despatch, dated Platberg, 24th February, in which he states that on the 22nd some Basutos descended from the krantz of the Haberg mountain, seized a fat horse belonging to his camp—killed it—and carried off the carcass triumphantly. This bold act of the enemy induced Westels to do his best to punish him. Accordingly the 12-pound howitzer and 300 men were ordered out to bombard and storm the principal cave. This they speedily gained possession of, but found nothing except a dead body. The enemy, upon being driven from his lurking place, fell into a fissure between the rocks, at the entrance of which the burghers kept up a constant fire, until a panic seized them, when despite every endeavor of the Commandant (Westels) they beat a precipitate retreat. On the 23rd the enemy showed pretty strong, and seemed inclined to make a "dash" for the camp's stock up the Platberg valley, but thanks to the vigilance of the herds the design was frustrated, and the Kaffis fled towards the Caledonia. Four hundred men pursued them, but accomplished nothing. On their return they found extensive gardens of Kaffir corn and melons, but on attempting to destroy them, the Basutos, who were secreted behind stones and in caves, commenced a brisk fire which caused our force to skedaddle. On reaching camp, it was decided that the cave which had been stormed the preceding day, should be examined. It was found like a slaughter-house—the stones and rocks being bespattered with gore. Four

dead bodies were discovered, and from appearances none of its inmates could have escaped unscathed. Command Westels' division, 9 strong, is eager for the fray. It wishes to distinguish itself; but it has certain duties imposed upon it by the Veldkraal which render at present active hostilities impracticable. The Commandant, however, trusted to be able to cross the Caledonia on Monday, the 26th.

From Harrismit we learn, that Commandant Villiers is stirring heaven and earth to find out where Malappo is. He crossed the Drakenberg, and was two days on the cattle trail when a heavy rain unfortunately caused him to return to his camp, which is situated at Malappo's town. The burghers in this quarter appear to have annexed more territory, for they have erected a gigantic beacon on the summit of the Double Mountains, near the sources of the Orange River. Commandant Villiers has heard that Malappo is in the "Maankappaan," and trusts next week to scatter him and his ponies to the four winds.

From Major's Drift, on the Elani's River, Harrismit district, the particulars of a brilliant skirmish, which will be found below, have reached us. A small party, under Mr. Thos. Bawes stationed at its place for the protection of the post, &c., fell in with ten Zulus on the 21st inst., killed five of them, and severely wounded two others. Besides this six horses were captured, and 13 killed. Likewise, a quantity of blankets, assegais and saddles fell into the hands of the brave little guard of five. Their names deserve honorable mention; therefore we make them known to the world. Here they are:—Thomas Bawes, Christian Lourens, Piet Blom, J. Hermann, Maree, and William Dickson. Had we a thousand men such as these, the Basutos would long since have disappeared from this side of the Drakenberg.

From Smith's field, under date 27th instant, intelligence of a somewhat unsatisfactory nature has reached us. Morosi, who, about a couple of months ago, was desirous of peace upon any terms, has taken advantage of the culpable negligence of our Government in not granting him terms that he could comply with. Although on the other side of the Orange River, and under the protection of the British Government, Morosi has not hesitated to pour into this State a large number of his fighting men. From the official report of Commandant P. Westels, it appears, that a body of 3000 Kaffirs (half of them Tambookies) assembled near Letse's with the intention of making a raid into the Caledonia River district. The commandant seeing numerous watch-fires in that direction, started with a patrol of 300 men (including native allies for "Kollah.") Upon reaching this place, two bodies of the enemy, each about 100 strong, surrounded the patrol; the front ranks charging our men with battle-axe and assegai, while the rear ranks kept up a withering fire. Although taken by surprise, the patrol stood its ground, and repulsed the enemy with a loss on its side of 17 men and 25 horses killed, whilst a large number were seen to drop from their horses in the retreat. Notwithstanding this inspiring circumstance, the Commandant thought "discretion the better part of valour," and retired upon the camp, which he did in good order. Two men were wounded on our side: Stoffel Lombard, of Caledonia River district, slightly in the leg; and Gerrit Gouws, of Bethulie district, mortally in the side. The Commandant has deemed it necessary to request the Landdroet to caution all the acting field-cornets of Smith's field district to keep a sharp look-out, as the Kaffi command was evidently prepared for a raid, being provided with blankets, sacks, meal, &c. A small party left Smith's field last Thursday for the camp, and on their route put to flight a body of predatory Kaffirs. A young Westels has been seriously injured by his horse falling with him. Commandant Westels is actively engaged in re-creating, and will probably get together a large number of men of the right stamp. His present head-quarter is Bourville.

General Fick's camp is situated between Makandela and Pankis Morosi's kraal. It is believed that a grand combined movement will be made early in the month against the enemy. Getting on the missionary, the Basuto, &c., has necessarily occasioned some delay. We trust, however, next month, to see our commandos at it "hammer and tongs."

Major's Drift, 21st Feb, 1866. WILLIAM CANSIUS, Esq., Landdroet, Harrismit.

Sir,—According to your request that I should inform you of anything that might happen to the small party sent here for the protection of the post, &c., I beg to inform you that we have this morning attacked and defeated 10 Zulu Kaffirs and have killed five and wounded 10 Zulus, who unfortunately got into a pan of rifle, and who were captured us. We captured six horses, with saddles, kamboes and assegais, and shot three horses in the running fight with us, when one horseman also escaped us by leaving his companions and keeping down along the river. These Kaffis had evidently been out towards Moll River, and were returning by my cattle drift this morning just at break of day, when we fortunately happened to see them, and immediately saddled-up, and gave chase. I, William Goodal, and Christian Lourens, rode through the river and Piet Blom and young H. rmanus River took along the road running down to the drift, so that we could, if possible, prevent them crossing the river. However, they crossed the river, and made across the flats towards the top drift. Piet Blom and young Marce joined us on the other side, and we fired men gave chase. The Kaffis threw themselves into skirmishing order and made a charge at us, but we threw ourselves from our horses and waited for them to come on, and when they got near enough for them to hear us, we told them, to come on—that we were ready for them, but the nine Kaffis turned tail and made off towards the large flat kop just above where the two rivers join, when we immediately gave chase again after firing a few shots at them, which wounded two of their horses, one of which ran a short distance and fell with his rider. When the Kaffis gained the kop and waited for us, we immediately skirted the hill, and got on the top, then let our horses, so that we could get about their heads, when the game was in our own hands. They attacked us with assegais, knives, &c., but we shot them down, and took possession of everything they had, Piet Blom shooting the only gun they had through the scabbard of the barrel, thus making it useless, when young Marce shot the Kafir through the heart. We also shot one horse dead just when the Kafir was making



