

AGENTS
FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN...
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, Cape Town.
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, Port Elizabeth.
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, Durban.
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, Grahamstown.
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, East London.
Messrs. J. & F. Smith, Port Alfred.
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THE ZUID-AFRIKAN

CAPE TOWN, MARCH 11, 1885.

On Saturday last, the Annual Meeting of the Cape of Good Hope Agricultural Society took place, as per appointment, in the Commercial Exchange. The Hon. the Governor, who was expected to take the Chair, not having arrived at half-past 12 o'clock (one hour and a half beyond the appointed time), it was considered expedient not to delay the proceedings any longer, but to commence instantly, upon which P. D. BUCHANAN, Esq., was called to the Chair, and opened the meeting by reading the Society's advertisement in that respect.

The Secretary was then requested to read the Report of the Committee, which, on the motion of Dr. GIRD, seconded by Mr. O. J. TAUBER, was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. JARVIS requested leave to propose 25 new members to the number already subscribed, and the Chairman availed himself of the opportunity to congratulate the Society on its improvement in that respect.

The Chairman stated that it was now their duty to proceed to the election of new office bearers for the ensuing year, and Dr. GIRD and Mr. D. D. BUCHANAN having been proposed as Scrutineers, the election was proceeded with accordingly.

In the mean time the Chairman read the Society's Advertisement awarding a £50 and a £25 Prize Cup for the best samples of Wool, the growth of the Competitors; after which the Report of the Judges appointed to inspect the samples sent in for competition, was read, when it appeared that the sample marked "F" for the £50 Wool Prize Cup, was declared the best, and that marked "P" for the £25 Cup, was also pronounced the best, and the letters corresponding with the respective marks, having been opened, the first was found to belong to the firm of REITZ, BREDA, JOBERT & Co., and the latter to Mr. D. G. VAN BREDA.

It further appeared from the Judges' Report that the sample marked "Never despair," was entitled to the £25 Cup, and the sample marked "S," the second best, the first belonging to the firm of NETHLING, KUYA, BREDA & Co., and the latter to that of DOBIE, VAN HELSDINGEN & Co. A fifth sample marked "E A" was also pronounced, which had however come in too late for competition. The quality of the Wool appeared excellent, and Mr. P. VAN BREDA, Esq., having stated that though the sample had come in too late for competition, it might nevertheless be of some interest to know the growers, requested that the latter corresponding with the mark of the sample might be read, which was done accordingly, and it was found to belong to the firm of P. VAN BREDA & Co.

A Prize of £35 having been offered by the Society for the best sample of Silk, the produce of worms bred in this colony, and not less than one pound, two samples were produced, one belonging to Mrs. M. L. NETHLING of Tygerberg, and the other to Miss Y. M. WIJUM of Sir Lowry's Pass, Hottentots Holland, and on the motion of Mr. H. C. JARVIS, seconded by Mr. D. D. BUCHANAN, it was resolved to award a prize of £35 to each of the competitors.

Mr. STREDMAN was opposed to the award of a Prize to the kind of Silk now produced, which was in the form of cups and saucers, &c., on the ground that silk, to be an exportable article, ought to be properly reeled off, whereas that now exhibited was unfit for any purpose and the production of mere childlessness.

Mr. D. D. BUCHANAN, in a speech of some length, expressed his regret to observe such a scanty attendance in the room, and more especially that there was hardly a single farmer present, whose aim it ought to be, on the contrary, to supply the Society with every kind of produce, having the quality of exportable articles, by the exhibition of which alone they could attract notice and ensure a fair return to themselves. He at the same time begged leave to differ from Mr. STREDMAN as to the term "childlessness" applied by him to the samples of Silk now on the table. The Competitors had been invited to produce a given quantity, and they had not only produced that quantity, but at the same time showed that great care and attention had been directed by them to the growth of the same.

After some further discussion on the part of Mr. STREDMAN and others, it was agreed to refer the matter to the consideration of the Committee for the ensuing year.

A sample of Soap, the manufacture of Messrs. DENEYS & Co., was also exhibited.

Mr. LETTERSTEDT likewise exhibited a kind of grass, about 6 or 7 feet long, grown by him on his estate at Rondebosch, and said to be a most wholesome food for Cattle and Horses.

Dr. GIRD begged to refer to the Wine Prize Cup awarded at the last Meeting to Mr. J. L. TAUBER, of the Paarl, and stated that the success of that gentleman was entirely owing to his having followed the principle of fermentation laid down by him (Dr. GIRD) in his letters some time ago inserted in the Newspapers. He now repeated this principle, and expressed his conviction that success would attend all those venturing upon it; and having been invited thereto by the Society, Dr. GIRD expressed his readiness to write a treatise on the system of fermentation of wines in this Colony, the Society promising to have it printed and circulated among the Wine Growers at its own expense.

There being no other subject for consideration, thanks were voted to the Chairman, and the Meeting separated.

TABLE BAY.
From a Custom House returns read at the last meeting of the Commissioners of the Cape Town Municipality, it appears that the number of vessels entered Table Bay in 1884, was 407, and their total burthen 129,928 tons, with 8161 men. In 1844, 597 vessels, of 171,599 tons, with 10,978 men; showing an increase during the last year of 130 vessels, of 52,330 tons, and 2817 men.

THE GUANO TRADE.
The Saldanha Bay Packet, which arrived from Saldanha Bay on Saturday last, reports that there are 85 vessels at present loading Guano at the Island of Matagosa.

ADULTERATION OF GUANO.
Four vessels recently called Saldanha Bay, and their cargoes ballasted with gypsum, instead of guano. This substance is intended for admixture with guano, and will enable the parties to deliver from the vessel a nice-looking, light-coloured article. Parties purchasing guano are very desirous of having it delivered from the vessel, as they believe they obtain it pure. The favorite material for the adulteration of guano, at the present moment, is gypsum, which is brought from Anglesen in large quantities. The rate of admixture, we are informed, is about 15 per cent. of gypsum to about 85 per cent. of Peruvian guano, from which an excellent-looking article, called "Super Guano," is manufactured.

FRENCH CONSUL FOR MAURITIUS.
M. Barbet de Joly, former tutor of the children of Prince de Polignac, had been appointed Consul of France at the Mauritius.

THE WEST INDIES.
We have received the following intelligence from Caracas, September 8:

We have had this year a very remarkable meteorological phenomenon in these countries. While in Cuba and other places to the north there has been no rain for several months, such heavy rains have fallen on the continent that some parts present the appearance of the deluge. The valleys are inundated, the tops of the hills rise above the vast expanse of waters, the cattle attempt to fly to the higher land and perish in the flood, the people are obliged to use canoes in some villages, and the crops are partly destroyed. These heavy rains seem to have prevailed very far inland in the northern parts of South America, for we read in a Venezuela paper that the members of the Congress have not been able to reach Bogota in due time, because the roads had been rendered impassable by the floods.

A letter from Maracaibo of the 24th of May says: "The whole valley of Rio Capua, from Cucuta to Maracaibo, a distance of more than 600 miles, is entirely inundated; the planters have been obliged to leave their plantations, and fly to the hills. All the coffee plantations in this valley are under water, and the cocoa is gathered by means of canoes. The planters are very unfortunate with respect to the cocoa, for a few days before the rain set in there was a prospect of an extremely good crop. In consequence of this disaster the prices of coffee and cocoa have risen at Maracaibo."

THE FRENCH AND THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO.
The National states, that the French Government, enlightened by the information received as to the causes which led to the late war with Morocco, are about to appoint a special agent to reside with the Emperor of Morocco, and to remain in constant communication with him.

THE FRENCH TRADE.
The National publishes a third article on the foreign trade of France, from which it appears that since the year 1840 the exports have gradually decreased; and adds that: "This decline may be attributed to a policy timid and unskillful abroad, oppressive at home, and a maritime system which appears to have been completely suggested by foreign interests. The following are some of the principal exports of France:—Manufactured silks were exported in the year 1841 to the amount of 122,000,000 francs, and declined in 1843 to 129,000,000 francs. The decrease in the export of cotton-manufactured goods is still more remarkable, being a falling off in the year 1843, as compared with the year 1841, of 23 per cent. The value of wines and brandies exported has declined from 70,000,000 francs to 60,000,000 francs."

THE STAMP DUTY IN ENGLAND.
The subject of the stamp on receipts is one which engages some attention among the trading interest in the city, and a suggestion has been made by an intelligent member of that interest, following the principle of the universal penny postage, to tax all receipts for sums above 5s. at 1d. only, and make it compulsory to give stamped receipts in all cases, which he thinks would produce a revenue of 1,000,000, while the tax yields at the present time a sum less than 200,000. The party referred to, with whose respectability we are acquainted, has furnished a long written statement in elucidation of his plan, the leading points of which will be sufficient to render it intelligible to the public.

He proposes that the paper to be used shall be issued, stamped, is heretofore, by the Government, which is to print on the same paper a form of receipt; besides which, he would allow all acknowledgments of the receipts of money written on paper, which bears the Post-office stamp, as evidence, of passing through the Post-office, to be considered legal receipts. All other papers to be used for invoices, accounts, current, &c., to be found by persons requiring it, and to be presented for stamping at the Stamp-office. He proposes, also, that all bankers' checks should have the penny stamp attached to them, which will make them legal vouchers, instead of being the means commonly in use, as they now are, of evading the tax altogether.

The calculation of the amount likely to be raised

by such a tax seems a startling one, but the writer asserts to data which bear him out in concluding such a result to be at least probable; and he points out one moral advantage from his plan, in the inducing better habits of business in taking vouchers for all payments—a practice which may prevent litigation and disputes, which now constantly occur through the neglect of such a precaution. It is something also, on that side of the question, to see that of a law the infringement of which is of daily and hourly occurrence.

TAHITI.
We have not forgotten, says the Standard, what a sensation was created in the Chamber of Deputies when M. Dufaure anticipated what would take place at Tahiti on the account, brought probably by an English vessel, of the shameful slaughter with which a British Despatch-Boat was struck. That Despatch-Boat was a British vessel, and that it was believed that the Captain was about to be killed. M. Guizot, stopping his head, appealed for the first time to experience a sentiment of political shame. But the Minister soon recovered his self-possession, and succeeded in inducing the Conservatives to believe that the re-establishment of Queen Pomare would be effected in quite a different manner, without any intimation that England, experienced in following Lord Francis Pakenham, had taken possession of the Sandwich Islands without the authority of his Government. Now, a new circumstance has happened. The English have told the Tahitians, "Rebelle, and be assured that England will not permit France to become your Sovereign." And an English ship, the Carysfort, comes to announce to them, that they were right to revolt, and that the protection of Great Britain would not fail them. If this was not a humiliation, what is a humiliation? If the Cabinet had resolved to disavow Admiral Dupetit Thouars, it might at least have asked a delay to examine the question; and taking an advantage of this delay, have despatched a vessel to carry the disavowal which would have been executed before it had been known to the English in Oceania. The Ministry, however, are not amused. The Pritchard indemnity will bring the affair before the Chamber, and however terrified the deputies may be at any political change, we trust that it will refuse to associate itself with so flagrant a disgrace.

TAHITI.
The Press charges Captain Hunt, of Her Majesty's ship Basilisk, with conduct which, to say the least, is not creditable to us on better authority than the journal (L'Oceanic Française) of Governor Brun. The National contends that the Government had received from Tahiti later intelligence than had yet been published, and of a very unpleasant character. "We have, as yet," says the Press, "Given but one extract from the intelligence contained in five numbers of the Oceanic Française, published at Tahiti. That of the 26th of May concludes an article on the affairs of the island in the following terms:—England should take care; her interests are badly served here." This observation is justified by facts which would lead us to believe that Mr. Hunt, the captain of the Basilisk, is not perfectly sane. The same opinion will be formed by those who shall have read the following:—Queen of England's birthday at Tahiti.—Yesterday, the 24th of May, the Queen of England's birthday was celebrated by the French with that pomp to which the Sovereign of a state is entitled. At 9 o'clock in the morning our ships hoisted all their flags, at the same time that the military band of the regatta d'Annie executed the air of "God save the Queen." At 12 o'clock the land and sea batteries saluted the British flag with 24 guns, after which, "God save the Queen" was again performed. In the evening, when the flags were struck, the English national air was again played on board the Ormie. The merchant ships anchored in the harbor likewise celebrated the festival, and on shore all labor was suspended during the day. This following was the conduct of Mr. Hunt, captain of the British ship of war the Basilisk, on the occasion of the festival of his Sovereign. It gives us an opportunity of signaling once more to France and to England the attitude of this officer on a solemn occasion. Captain Hunt apprized the French authorities that on Queen Victoria's birthday he would hoist all his colors, but that he would not fire any salute. But upon reflection he gave notice, an hour afterwards, that he would do nothing. Whilst all the ships in the roads wore the appearance of rejoicing, the British ship of war alone remained passive. During the entire day Captain Hunt walked about in a jacket and cap, as if to protest against the solemnity of the day. It was a great festival throughout Great Britain, but at Tahiti to representative of Great Britain, abstained from celebrating that day, and it remained for the French authorities to recall the recollection of an august Sovereign. Already, on the 1st of May, Louis Philippe's birthday, Captain Hunt scandalized every one at Tahiti. He wished to cause it to be believed that the English nation was not the friend of France. At present his conduct is still more monstrous. Whilst we were saluting his Sovereign and his flag, he, an Englishman, was looking on, with his arms folded. And this was passing at a period when, more than ever a strict friendship unites the two families of France and England. The natives themselves expressed their displeasure—'Alli naitai to tepitani britani' (this English captain is acting badly), said they. We address these details to the London press in order that the conduct of Captain Hunt should be known throughout England.

The National states that it appears by the last accounts from Tahiti that the English missionaries continue to conspire against the French in that island. "It is evident," adds the National, "that the English Government, acting up to the policy which it ever maintained in India, retains Queen Pomare within view of the kingdom which she lost by her own fault, and dictates incendiary messages from her to her unfortunate subjects. The Minister has received despatches of a later date, but, as usual, they are kept secret. A report, however, has been circulated that the English frigate Carysfort, which brought to Tahiti an account of the disavowal of Admiral Dupetit Thouars, was received with indignation by the French. It is even asserted that the excitement was so great amongst the French seamen; that some of the gunners threatened to fire on the friendly frigate which announced that 'no!'"

FROM A YOUNG GENTLEMAN, SOLICITING HIS FATHER TO PAY HIS DEBTS.
My Dear Father—How often have you told me that I should see my father's land, Sir, you are now a prophet; I have thought it possible that I could look upon the world as now, in very truth, I find it a deceitful, hollow, seductive place, in which there is nothing worthy of the mind of man, save those things which are necessary to the support of life, and which are the only things which are to be desired. I have seen men who, in their youth, were full of hope, and who, in their old age, are full of despair. I have seen men who, in their youth, were full of hope, and who, in their old age, are full of despair. I have seen men who, in their youth, were full of hope, and who, in their old age, are full of despair.

I write, Sir, as you will see, from a prison. Ha! my honored father, it is a humbling thing—impossible even for you to imagine the change that prison will have worked in me. They have softened my heart—they have made me feel an inside look into myself they have shown me, written with a terrible hand, the long list of all my wrongs, all my follies, the list of all the sins which I have committed, the list of all the wrongs which I have done to my fellow-creatures, the list of all the wrongs which I have done to my fellow-creatures, the list of all the wrongs which I have done to my fellow-creatures.

My erring, but affectionate Son,
CHARLES BUTTER.
P. S.—I have been obliged to liberate myself as a bankrupt; but I trust, Sir, I can still feel that your son can still feel the honor of the family. I'll die first.

FROM THE YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S MOTHER.
My beloved Boy—I haven't slept a wink since you've been in that horrid place. I had 't yet dared to speak to your father, but I have now, which, I feel, is a dreadful thing, but I have now, which, I feel, is a dreadful thing, but I have now, which, I feel, is a dreadful thing.

P. S.—I said you lot. I hope this time that your list of debts is quite correct; that you have put all down; for you know how deceiving your poor father twice before.

THE TIMES.
A Hamburg newspaper, Der Arbeiter, contains a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Times as follows:—The British newspaper, The Times, is known to be the largest in size, and has the greatest number of copies circulating in the world. The receipts of the proprietors of that journal at the present time is as follows, namely:—Editorial expenses, weekly, £51; salaries of correspondents, £40; Parliamentary reports, (20 in number, at each page week), 100l.; scientific, the arts, and literary reports, 21l.; penny-liners (reporters of the occurrences of the day in London, &c.), 100l.; news, 100l.; advertisements, 21l.; the extraordinary information from authors of celebrity, 200l.; the law and police reports, 100l.; the reports of the Admiralty, 200l.; the whole of their expenses for literary matter (as above stated) amounts per week to 300l. The expenses for printing and composition weekly amount to 250l. The expenses for the managing clerks, bookbinding, &c., (250l.) adding to it the interest upon capital sunk by the establishment for building, machinery, and type, &c., amounts to 1000l. (weekly) of 1000l. therefore, per annum, of 52,000l. The gross receipts of the Times for the year 1884, were 1,000,000l. The gross receipts of the Times for the year 1884, were 1,000,000l. The gross receipts of the Times for the year 1884, were 1,000,000l.

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Office of the Central Board of Commissioners of Public Health, Cape Town, 21st March 1885.
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