

THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN.

Cape Town, September 29, 1857.

THAT nothing conduces more to the material prosperity of a country than a system of good roads is acknowledged on all hands. It is therefore to be regretted that of all public improvements none are more subject to delays than roadmaking. We need not cast about for instances in proof of this assertion. The Malmesbury road is not a solitary case. In fact the mere proposal for a new line of road through any part of the Colony is a signal for a host of objections from all quarters, except the particular district through which the proposed line is to run. If our fellow-colonists do not manage to get the better of this folly, before the plans and estimates for our future railroads come under the consideration of our Parliament, they will be throwing obstacles in the way of improvement ten times more difficult to overcome, than the physical impediments that engineers have to deal with in the construction of roads and viaducts. It is no consolation to think that we of South Africa are not the only people, that have to meet obstructions of our own raising, while we imagine we are bestirring ourselves to some purpose for the good of the Colony. Men in high quarters grasp at power, and those below them at pecuniary advantages; but narrow-minded selfishness is the motive of both, and the result is a scramble in which every one hopes to be a gainer at the expense of all the rest. While this disgraceful exhibition is going on, in the ignominy of which all are sure to have a share, whatever they may ultimately have in the profits, the public work (whether it be a railroad, a canal or anything else) remains in abeyance. In turning over the pages of a recent work of Wm. Chambers we met with the following passages, "At the time of my visit, the subject uppermost in every man's mind, was that of a railway to extend from Halifax across the country to Amherst, on the borders of the province, there to join, on the one hand, with a projected line to St. John's in New Brunswick, and on the other, with a projected line to Quebec. There can be no doubt that such a line is exceedingly essential, even on a limited scale. Yet, in the face of an obvious necessity, the greatest dissension prevailed. All wanted the railway, but there was a quarrel about details, which was as ridiculous as if the commanders of an army were to go by the ears about some trifling matters of belts and buckles, while they ought to have been gallantly leading their men into action. One party wished the railway to be a purely government measure; another desired that it should be a joint-stock speculation, with merely some assistance from the state. To render the confusion still worse, the provincial authorities had received some kind of promise from the English capitalist, Mr. JACKSON, to the effect that he would make the required line on some expressed conditions involving a public guarantee. The provincial legislature had already passed acts to authorize certain lines, but these were inoperative, in consequence of the Home Colonial Office having for several months had the subject under consideration before appending the consent of the Crown. One had only to see and hear of all this, and observe that nothing was done, to feel a degree of pity for the people, who were the victims of such strange complications." We must not expect to speed any better than the people of Halifax, if when plans and estimates are submitted to our Parliament, we do not succeed in appointing an intelligent and impartial committee to report on them, if the recommendations of such a committee do not go to the Executive supported by a majority of the House, and if the Executive does not at once agree to carry out such recommendations. With an eye on these contingencies, we would not venture to assert that the incalculable advantages of speedy communication between distant parts of the Colony are already within our grasp.

INTRODUCTION OF KAFFIRS.—From a statement published in Friday's *Gazette*, it appears that during the month of August 2807 Kaffirs—men, women and children, have entered the service of colonists. This, added to the number previously introduced, gives a total of upwards of 22,000.

DURBAN.—The provisions of the Nuisance Act—except the 3th, 5th, 6th and 8th sections—have been extended to, and are now in force in the village of Durban.

CALVINIA.—A daily market has been established in the village of Calvinia. The inhabitants there would seem to require no money for the improvement of the village, as they have stipulated that any revenue from market dues beyond £25 (the salary of the market master), shall be paid into the colonial treasury.

THE STELLENBOSCH MEETING.—The 7th October will be observed as a public holiday in Cape Town, and the Cape and Stellenbosch divisions, in order to enable public servants, who are members of volunteer corps, to attend the muster.

PAARL BRANCH ROAD.—The Governor has, by proclamation in the *Gazette*, declared the line of road from the hard road at a point near which the Kromfontein road crosses it, to Dwars River, to be a branch road.

APPOINTMENTS.—W. A. Van der Byl, Esq., to issue process in civil cases before the Magistrate's Court at Durban.

L. A. Smith, Esq. as Assistant Magistrate of Malmesbury. Messrs C. Becker and M. Heynen to issue process in civil cases before the Magistrate's Court at Darling and Hopefield.

Mr. Jos. S. Wright, as Postmaster at Somerset East, vice James S. Wright resigned.

INTERSTATE ESTATES.—Meetings of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the following estates:—
E. A. C. de Roos, widow of the late M. G. Eckhard.—At the Master's office, on the 10th November.
P. McDonald, and surviving widow; and A. J. Rosouw, widow of the late J. Jonker, at the Magistrate's office, Uitenhage, on the 10th November.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—Though accounts of a later date have reached us by previous arrivals, the following summary of events to the 5th August, given by our London correspondent, will not be found uninteresting:—

London, Wednesday, August 5, 1857.
The all absorbing topic of interest during the past month has been the intelligence of the serious revolt of the Native Indian army in the Bengal Presidency, of which I conclude you will long before this letter reaches you have received direct information from India itself. At first the news did not create much stir but later accounts having fully revealed the serious extent of the disaffection, the state of affairs is universally regarded with great anxiety. I can't say alarm, for there is a sanguine hope thro' the public mind that all will eventually go well, altho' perhaps at a heavy cost both of money and men. The sterling pluck of a British character has shown itself, and there is no doubt that before the British supremacy in India is thrown

off, the nation will to a man consent to any sacrifice. Some alarmists even go so far as to assert that our whole case in India has to be begun over again and that we must make up our minds to reconquer it. The imminence of the crisis is not concealed but the cry is for vigorous measures and it may be relied upon that the people will support the government most heartily in taking them. I shall of course conclude that you are in possession of the facts of the case and not attempt to detail them.

You would be aware from my last letter that immediate steps had been taken to reinforce the European regiments in India and in fact so vigorous have been the measures taken that the cry is that England herself is in a dangerous defenceless. I think that in my last letter I told you that 3 regiments, including the reliefs for the regiments who have served their time; but who now must imperatively remain until the crisis is passed, had been at once dispatched. These, with the drafts for the other regiments and for the East Indian Company's European force would make about 14,000 men. Besides these four other regiments, with a strong force of artillery to the number 1000, have been placed under orders for India. Directions have been sent out to divert the 6 regiments now on their way to China, and with these it is hoped that in less than three months no less than 25,000 English troops will have been poured into Bengal. Vigorous steps are being taken by recruiting to supply the deficiencies occasioned in the home force, and to provide for drafts to replace casualties. Before this I suppose the Governor General of India will have applied for one or two regiments from the Cape, and I believe if they can be spared, this force will be sent to India, but there is no idea of provoking a Kafir war by leaving you with too few troops. As for the Canton business that will have to wait for the present or at least be conducted with the feet and hands and the two regiments now there. A force however of 15 or more battalions will be sent out to supply the place of the regiments withdrawn and they are equal, if not superior, to the same force of the line, besides being perhaps better calculated for this sort of service.

Just as these alarming news came from India great attention was being directed by a large and powerful body of the Manchester manufacturers to the necessity of their using strenuous endeavours to obtain further supplies of cotton from it. The consumption of this raw material is so rapidly outstripping the supply, that the most serious apprehensions are prevailing in Manchester of a deficiency for its machines. This being the case, the great obstacle to India cotton, the irregular demand for it, will be removed. An association has been formed for the purpose of growing cotton in India, but late events will probably impede its operations for a time.

I have noticed before the best feeling prevails in the public mind. In the House of Commons Mr. Disraeli made an attempt to raise some political capital by exposing the deficiencies of our Indian administration, but the House received it most coldly, feeling that the remarks would have done just as well applied to the right hon. gentleman himself had he been in charge in office and besides this view, were neither well founded nor correct in their views. Lord John Russell accordingly moved an amendment to present an address to her Majesty assuring her of the confidence and unflinching support of the House of Commons in any measure that might be taken to restore the disturbed and restore tranquillity in her Majesty's Indian dominions. Mr. Disraeli shrank from a division and the amendment was unopposedly adopted.

You may be sure that the intention of diverting the troops from China to India, has afforded an opportunity which has not been lost to those who made such a mess in condemning the first proceesings at Canton. A very invidious inquiry suggested itself. How about the various proceedings which you have heard so much of during the last session? The reply was in pretty well raised by Mr. Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Mr. Disraeli and Sir John Pakington, who have got up on a small scale several repetitions of the famous Chinese debate, still declaring their opinion that "the whole proceeding from first to last was most flagitious." Lord Palmerston however asked, when they intended to have enough of this question, for the public had passed so strong an opinion on it that their views were a matter of perfect indifference to government. The reply was that the government appears to be this, that Lord Elgin should first attempt to negotiate, but that hostile proceedings should be carried on until the Chinese consent to do so, and it is generally expected that they will refuse. In this case the offer will remain open until they can be brought to their senses. By the latest mail we learn that most of the gun boats had arrived and that Admiral Seymour and Commodore Keppel had resumed operations with great vigour and succeeded in destroying the fleet of war junks. It is also hoped that the marines, if not the troops, will arrive out by the time matters have progressed far enough to refuse a land force.

Government had some little difficulty in obtaining the expenses of the Persian expedition from the House of Commons. The objection was principally with the radical section of their own supporters who, headed by Mr. Roebuck, contended that Government had infringed the privileges of the House of Commons in not calling it to the account, in informing it of the expedition and in laying before it a vote for the expenditure. The reply was however, an easy one. The first cost was supplied from India; if the House had been called together it could only have been told a fact which every member knew before; besides this was announced in the Queen's speech in February and not the slightest notice had been taken of it for six months; so government carried the day by a majority of 52 to 38.

The House of Lords having again rejected the Bill for the admission of Jews into Parliament, a difficulty has sprung up, which at one time threatened to produce a serious collision between the two branches of the Legislature. About 200 members of the House of Commons held a rather tumultuous meeting and threatened to seat Baron Rothschild by an independent resolution of the House, but the influence of more cautious and constitutional members has prevailed, and another attempt is to be made to induce the House of Lords to agree to an act abolishing the words of the oath of abjuration "on the true faith of a Christian" and if they do not, a very pretty quarrel is likely to arise, for a strong section of the House of Commons are very indignant at having a bill, which has passed that House so many years by large majorities, thrown out. Such an attempt to override the law is not likely to be successful, for the collision will be with the law courts, which have decided already that the words are part of the substance of the oath, and any member omitting them is liable to pay heavy penalties attached to taking it. Matters of this kind interests have been exceedingly dull, perhaps owing to the weather which has been during the whole of the month most sultry; so hot and so long a summer has never been before known in England. Fortunately there have been frequent showers of rain and the result is that the prospects of the harvest are most glorious. It is so very forward that cutting is nearly completed in the Southern districts already.

The court have just moved to Osborne House. The Prince of Wales is making the grand tour thro' the continent. Prince Albert has also been to Belgium to be present at the marriage of the Princess Charlotte, daughter of King Leopold and cousin to the Queen, with an Austrian Archduke.

It is reported that Mr. Lindsay finds his contract for the conveyance of the mail a very losing business and that he will soon give it up. It will be recollected that his tender was lower than any other.

Many of your readers, I conclude, are interested in horse racing, for I have always understood that the sport is most popular in the colony. At the last Goodwood races which have just come off a most interesting race occurred for the celebrated Goodwood cup. By its conditions all horses foaled out of the United Kingdom, whether descended from English blood or not, provided they are bred by foreigners or colonists, are entitled to an allowance of 14 lbs. For several years past many French horses have therefore come over to contest the prize and have lately frequently carried it away. This year, however, great interest was excited by the race from two American horses, reputed the best in the United States, having come over expressly to win this race. They are the property of a Mr. Ten Broeck, a descendant of the Dutch settlers in New York, and were trained and ridden by Yankees. With the allowance, however, they were not successful, but a French horse did succeed in carrying away the prize. The Americans ran well and are good horses, but the riding of the Yankees jockies is said to have been extremely ridiculous, altho' reputed to be the best riders in America. One came over on a week or two back expressly for the race. They will learn something from their English rivals at all events. One part of their style is never to move even at the finish! All

these horses, both French and American, are of pure English blood, but our own horses seem the best. The English horses were a very moderate lot, our best three year olds having other more valuable engagements and the best four year olds have either incurred extra penalties or become lamed. The best horse of that year met with a severe accident the first day. The two first favourites fell in the race, otherwise the result might have been different, the second horse had no pretension to run with them and the only good one in the race, Fisherman, was giving away a great deal of weight.

The rising at Genoa and Naples were the most foolish and absurd affairs imaginable. In the former place the object was to seize the Sardinian fleet to act with it against Naples where a landing was actually made by about 300 men who had sailed the Sardinian mail steamer. In both cases the population, instead of joining, were to resist the invaders. If the accounts of their designs, which have been published, are true, they must have been desperadoes of the worst reign of terror type. They were well supplied with arms and money furnished principally by well meaning dupes and philanthropists in England and it is clear that they must have a very complete organisation in London. Amongst the wounded taken at Naples was a man named Foschini who killed two men in a tavern and escaped after a hot chase thro' the streets baffled all the attempts of the police to find him.

During the last part of last month the state of the money market was most favorable and confident anticipations were beginning to be entertained of a return to an easier state of things if not to the old standard of three per cent. The news from India has created a great depression, but not so extensive a fall in prices as might have been expected, and besides the demand which is likely to arise for the military expenditure in India, the export of silver for commercial purposes continues great and the drain for gold to the continent which had been relaxed is again reviving. There is a good demand for money at home partly occasioned by an anticipation of an immediate rise. The bank a fortnight ago fell strong enough to lower the rate of discount to 5 per cent, but the general market is not slightly above that price.

The trade reports are somewhat more favorable, the relaxation of the high rates of discount having proved most acceptable, and business is generally more active than it was a month ago, but there is complaint is made of the high prices of all raw materials. The board of trade returns for June show for the first time for 18 months a decrease, occasioned chiefly by the undue increase of the previous month. But altho' there is a decrease of about £30,000 for the month, there is an increase of £6,000,000 for the half-year.

PORT ELIZABETH.—According to the *Mercury*, the harbor of Port Elizabeth on Thursday, the 18th inst., contained no fewer than 34 vessels exhibiting the flags of seven different countries.

EXTRAORDINARY SEIZURE BY CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICERS.—During the week, says the same paper, one of our superintending tide-waiters in the active discharge of his duties, having for some time past thought there was something going on not altogether in keeping with the laws of the customs, was determined to put a stop to these proceedings at once, and watching his opportunity when the boats landed a cargo of beef and mutton in Port Elizabeth, he seized a bag on shore. The article was accordingly seized, and all the pretensions of the delinquent failed in securing its release. The officer was firm, the unfortunate bag taken direct to the searcher's office, and fully convinced that it would prove to the profit of the public, he had it opened in the presence of his interested fellow-officers, when lo and behold no less than 200 rats were exposed to view. The speculation of the captain was thus unfortunately spoiled, for doubtless he would have made a good thing of it as in the present scarcity of beef and mutton in Port Elizabeth they would in all probability have met with a ready market. Poor Elizabeth has been keeping left involuntarily. Beef and mutton are amongst the things that were, but are not. Sirious and cheap are things to be reflected on not enjoyed. On several days in this week our butchers have taken holiday, being obliged to shut up their shops for want of anything in the shape of meat to put into them.

THE KAFFIRS.—The Government, says a correspondent of the *G. T. Journal*, writing from British Kaffirland—has now formed a depot here. Last Saturday 200 Kaffirs left, each with 8 days rations, for Somerset. The men generally and the women, look very little the worse for their destitution which is described as so general, but many of the children look very, very sad and miserable. Dozens arrive daily in town, and are forwarded on. It was reported that a party of Kaffirs who had rested here for several days, and received rations at government expense, refused to proceed, when they had crossed the river on their way to the Colony. They were brought back, and had the option given them, of either pursuing their journey, or being transported. This is the way to deal with them, and shows how necessary it is to be cautious in giving them aid.

N. E. BOUNDARY.—A communication from Queenstown, dated 10th Sept., says:—The Coja naado left this Monday last (14th inst.) and I believe there were not so many bargains this time as before, some being of opinion that it would be of little use going, a report being abroad that Fadana had gone to the Bantu country. Rumours are all very vague at present, some saying that Fadana is prepared to give the Commando this time a hot reception.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—By the last mail the *Friend* of the 29th August and 5th September have come to hand. It contains little news. The only topic of interest is a brief statement of the proceedings of the Volksraad, from which it appears that the Proclamation of 15th June was approved and confirmed. The following resolution on the subject was adopted:—

That the said recognizes and affirms the legality of the authority exercised by the Executive Council, in contracting the existence of a ryegrass in every district, according to the Proclamation of 15th June, 1857, and ratifies as legal the power assumed & exercised by said ryegrass, or which shall still be exercised under such authority for the adjudication of all cases previously commenced and not yet disposed of, until Martial-law shall have been entirely repealed in each District.

An appeal to the Executive Council or Volksraad for redress against every case of injustice supposed to exist, shall remain always available to offenders.

As regards the offensive document lately addressed from the Trans-Vaal to the President the following resolutions were adopted:—
That the Road is of opinion, that by the document in question, the Road to His Honor the President, a public indignity is offered to our State, and that an attempt is made by the persons subscribing the said document, and who reside in the South African Republic, to the North of Vaal River, to stir up rebellion against the Government, and therefore commands, that—unless the government of the Republic abjourns! do give full satisfaction to this government—notice be given by Proclamation of our Executive Authority, that the said persons be forbidden ever to enter this State, and that in the event of their so doing, the respective Landroosts and Fieldcornets of this State, be instructed to apprehend them, and to keep them in safe custody till they shall have been dealt with conformably to law.

The Road recommends the Executive to make inquiry as to the names of the British subjects stated in the 15th section of the President's speech, to have been accomplices in the dissemination of the rebellious and libellous document therein set forth, with the view of acquainting his Excellency the Governor of the Cape Colony therewith, and having there persons punished according to law.

Original Correspondence.

THE LONG KLOOF ROAD.

Misgund, September 16, 1857.

To G. W. B. Wehner, Esq., Wolvekraal.
Sir,—I am obliged to tell you how I am at present situated. I pay towards the general revenue; my road rates I have also paid, in the hope of having a road over which I might convey my produce to market, but I regret to say that throughout the whole of Langekloof there is now no road over which I can safely convey my goods to the George market. On the 22d August last I sent 2 wagons with loads to Port Elizabeth, which now lay on the road, the loads taken off, and which cannot reach the market, where my goods might be sold. I have to pay my

debts, and cannot get my produce to market to be exchanged for money. On the 1st instant I sent two wagons to George to fetch loads for my shop here, which wagons have returned badly injured, without bringing the goods, owing to the badness of the road, and my whole trade is at a dead lock.

I can assure you that during the last five months no improvement whatever has been made to the road. Now, if the road is to be left to itself, why have a Central Board? How you manage to get your post over the road yourself, and God only knows but I cannot get over it even on horseback. Last night I came home, four times did my horse fall down on the road, and there are distances of six miles, over which I was obliged partially to lead my horse, so bad is the road now. Now, Sir, cannot any other scheme be devised by which we may obtain good roads? You surely are our representative, and I know that God has gifted you with good sense and a sound judgment, and you are an eye-witness of what I state. I therefore expect that you will exert yourself to deliver us from the oppression of the Central Board. Tell me, can no other plan be devised to have the roads repaired?

Your obedient servant,
J. A. SCHALKWYK.

Wolvekraal, Langekloof, Sept. 18, 1857.

Mr. J. A. SCHALKWYK, Misgund.
Dear Sir and Friend,—I have to acknowledge your letter of the 16th inst., informing me of the dilapidated state of the road through Lange Kloof, and the delay experienced by you in the conveyance of your produce to market, and getting your shop goods, occasioned by the bad state of the public roads. A low me to observe that, as postmaster, I have repeatedly complained to the Central Board of the dilapidated state of the road here, but see no change. At last I was compelled to sit to and repair those parts of the road which were quite impracticable myself, so that the post might pass, but whether the Central Board will repay my expenses has yet to be decided by that respected body.

I am much surprised that the public do not more generally come forward, and have their interests properly brought before the Central Board. There is Mr. M. S. Heyns, for instance, who was occupied two days in getting from his farm with two wagons to Avontuur, a distance of two hours—his wagons and gear destroyed and his oxen injured, on account of the wretched state of the road. Mrs. Stafford is now four days from home; a distance of 4 hours has occupied her four days,—her wagon broken and gear destroyed, through the bad state of the road, and yet such persons are silent when they have a right to speak out.

But then again I doubt whether it would be of much use, as the Board is now so perfect that it begins to stray upon its own roads, for its inspector told me and Capt. Pili-gton the other day that a part which it had always kept in repair, was no main road.

As to your question whether no scheme can be devised to keep the public roads in repair, I conceive there are several; for instance, the Civil Engineer of the Colony may be appointed Chief Commissioner of Roads, and the repair and maintenance of the public roads may be effected by an act, similar to those for conveying the mail. The Comptrol's reports respecting the same might be decided by the Divisional Councils at the cost of the defaulter, together with certain fines. Comptrols might be only employed upon new roads or upon the Harbor improvements at Cape Town &c. and the general revenue be exempted from paying enormous sums for the maintenance of the Central Board and its extensive staff, which, extensive though it be, has failed to give satisfaction.

Your obedient servant,
G. W. B. WENNER.

PIKETBERG, CARDOW, AND MALMESBURY ROADS.

Sir,—Your correspondent who signs, "An Advocate for Public Justice" in the *Zuid Afrikaan* of the 3rd inst., has taken upon the task of patching up a bad job, and will find it difficult to get to the windward of truth, notwithstanding his artful sophistries about the "Commissions" that have been appointed upon, and inspections of the lines of road via Pikeniers Kloof and the Cardow to Clanwilliam, and the other water for conveying the mail between the Berg River and Clanwilliam on the Pikeniers Kloof line.

He also kindly informs the public that I am "erroneously informed," when I stated that party opposition has had a share in these matters.

By your correspondent's own admission Mr. Bain, senior, was in favour of the Cardow line, and he being the best judge as a road engineer, it ought to have decided the question at once. There is no man in the colony, or ever has been, better capable of judging in such matters. The result of the proceedings in opposition to Mr. Bain's views were entirely biased by party movements in favour of friends, and currying popularity with the strongest party. This has been the character of all the Board's proceedings since their appointment by Mr. Darling, instead of doing justice to the country impartially without reference to any party or individuals.

It is great presumption on the part of your correspondent, to say that the colony will be benefited by the present crisis. He had learned that before Christmas, 30,000 men of the militia would be embodied in England. He thought arrangements should be made for calling out 50,000. In the present state of things, although there was a strong feeling of public security, and although no country on the Continent was at all likely to commence warlike operations, yet we ought to present an appearance of complete preparation, and every means ought to be resorted to, to restore our home establishment to proper strength. In the events which had lately happened in the East, proofs had been shown of great courage and heroic spirit, and he hoped that the Government would lose no time in manifesting their sense of the valuable service which had been rendered by different officers at the points suddenly attacked by the mutineers. Nothing in history was finer than the conduct of the two Lawrences (hear, hear),—one in Oude with scarcely any European force to aid him, and the other in the lately acquired territory of the Panjab. Of the self-sacrificing heroism of Lieut. Willoughby, it was impossible to speak in too high terms (cheers), and his untimely death was greatly to be lamented. Nothing could be finer or more skillful than the advance of Brigadier Wilson from Meerut; and Major Edwards—he was sorry that the rank was not higher—had shown proofs of the highest intelligence. Momentous as the present state of things was, however, the serious aspect of the affairs were not to be overlooked. My right hon. Lord had listened with the respect and deference due to his high military character. He had, however, in his opinion over-estimated the European difficulty that might be produced by the events in India. The nations of the world had seen with what an unanimous spirit and energy the British people had responded to the call which the Government made to them in a moment of national emergency. While some 30,000 troops were being sent to India, troops were being raised at home as fast as possible; and not only was the regular army being increased, but a portion of the militia was about to be embodied. Recent events in India were undoubtedly serious; but as far as Europe and foreign countries were concerned, nothing had occurred to alter the conditions of peace. With reference to Sir De Lacy Evans' remarks upon the army at present at the Cape, the noble lord said:—No doubt it is true, as he says, that the force at the Cape is larger than under the present circumstances may probably be needed, and is at a point very convenient for dispatch to India. My right hon. the Secretary for the Colonies has already written to the Governor of the Cape, directing him to send to India, in addition to the two regiments who had previously been ordered from the Cape, every portion of the garrison he may think can be spared, consistently with the safety of the colony. We have therefore allowed Sir George Grey to use a full and free discretion as to sending to India any portion of the force now at the Cape, which he thinks may be spared from that station without any chance of injury to the safety of the colony. We have done more than that. It has been represented to us that there may be a want of horses in India, for the cavalry and artillery, and we have therefore made arrangements to obtain, if possible, a supply of horses from the borders of the Persian Gulf, from the Cape of Good Hope, and from other places, to be conveyed to India.

Cardow Pass on the opposite side of the valley, would open up that rich country, the Cold Bokkerveld, and the Cedar Mountains Country, with an endless supply of wood, building materials for creating wealth, to an extent that would soon repay the cost, and change the character of the country to bear a dense population, and make "the journey to and from Clanwilliam via Malmesbury, or the Paarl, a complete pleasure drive," instead of the dreary and miserable journey it now is, and would continue,—ploughing thro' the deep sands of the Pikeniers Kloof route.

Whether your correspondent be one of those who assisted in that ludicrous affair of making Piketberg a separate division, by the way of completing this affair, to serve a friend or relation, the public care of foot-ry, that when a friend is such an outrageous piece of fool-ry that when the Governor comes to find out how he has been bamboozled into consenting to it, for the sake of providing for one man, he will no doubt laugh as heartily as I did, for the thing is too ridiculous to resist it, at the same time, it will be a lesson of caution in dealing with jobbing legislators about such remote places, as well as other jobs, too many of which have been perpetrated with impunity, to trust them implicitly in future.

It has been suggested by way of mending the matter to make things look a little more reasonable, to cut a slice off the Tulbagh Division on one side, and to transfer the other to make something of it, like "the man who found a flint and had a gun made for it," for in itself there are but few farms, and far between, the requirements for which would have been amply provided for by a visiting Magistrate from Malmesbury without an additional burden upon the revenue.

As for the Malmesbury road via Koeberg, Mr. Borchers' laudable report has disgusted his oldest friends, and the farmers are only waiting the result of his Excellency's communications with the Central Board, before a further appeal is made to Parliament, if justice is not done to them.

Surely after the exposures of the Central Board's disgraceful incapacity and jobbing, common prudence should induce the old members to retire and give place to competent men, instead of remaining to obstruct improvement and proper repairs.

If the old members had been placed in the board to run the character of the institution, they could not have been more successful, like that of the old Cape Divisional Road Board, which has left nothing to show for all the money the poor cora farmers have paid in road rates for the division.

Your's &c.,

AN INDEPENDENT ELECTOR.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AUG. 11.

On the order for going into a Committee of Supply, Sir De Lacy Evans drew attention to the military arrangements for meeting the contingency in the Bengal native army, taking a comprehensive view of the probable effects of the events in India upon the interests of the country, foreign and domestic. He urged that soldiers might be disbanded from Canada, and that a local militia could be substituted. Malmesbury, too, might contribute by the same process. He next referred to the force at the Cape, and said,—there, were now eleven regiments there, besides 2800 Germans, and considering the peaceful and prosperous state of the colony, he thought such a force altogether unnecessary. (Hear.) He knew it was said that a large force was necessary to save us from another Kafir war; but he saw no advantage in being saved from war, if in the time of peace we were compelled to keep up a force establishment. (Hear.) In fact, we had a larger force now than we had in time of war,—a statement, the accuracy of which could not be denied by the Colonial Secretary. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, therefore, the Government would take steps to reduce a portion of the troops there available for service in India. It was intended to have one regiment sent from the Cape to the Crimea, but in consequence of some little want of technicality in the order sent to the Commander of the Forces, that regiment was never dispatched, and he did not desire the assistance of one man from the Cape during the Crimean war. (Hear, hear.) It was, no doubt, natural to the governors of colonies situated at a great distance to be unwilling to part with their troops; but, in cases of emergency, the order of the Government at home ought to be imperative. He thought that at least seven battalions of infantry ought to be sent from the Cape to India, and that a special order should be sent for that purpose. He very much doubted the result of a mere order transmitted to the Govt. or requiring him to send all the troops there he could spare to India. (Hear, hear.) On a great and important occasion like the present, the heads of the Government at home should undertake the responsibility of issuing peremptory orders, and he very much feared that unless peremptory orders were issued with regard to the Cape, no very great force would go to India from that colony. (Hear, hear.) He made these observations to aid him, and to restore our home establishment to proper strength. In the events which had lately happened in the East, proofs had been shown of great courage and heroic spirit, and he hoped that the Government would lose no time in manifesting their sense of the valuable service which had been rendered by different officers at the points suddenly attacked by the mutineers. Nothing in history was finer than the conduct of the two Lawrences (hear, hear),—one in Oude with scarcely any European force to aid him, and the other in the lately acquired territory of the Panjab. Of the self-sacrificing heroism of Lieut. Willoughby, it was impossible to speak in too high terms (cheers), and his untimely death was greatly to be lamented. Nothing could be finer or more skillful than the advance of Brigadier Wilson from Meerut; and Major Edwards—he was sorry that the rank was not higher—had shown proofs of the highest intelligence. Momentous as the present state of things was, however, the serious aspect of the affairs were not to be overlooked. My right hon. Lord had listened with the respect and deference due to his high military character. He had, however, in his opinion over-estimated the European difficulty that might be produced by the events in India. The nations of the world had seen with what an unanimous spirit and energy the British people had responded to the call which the Government made to them in a moment of national emergency. While some 30,000 troops were being sent to India, troops were being raised at home as fast as possible; and not only was the regular army being increased, but a portion of the militia was about to be embodied. Recent events in India were undoubtedly serious; but as far as Europe and foreign countries were concerned, nothing had occurred to alter the conditions of peace. With reference to Sir De Lacy Evans' remarks upon the army at present at the Cape, the noble lord said:—No doubt it is true, as he says, that the force at the Cape is larger than under the present circumstances may probably be needed, and is at a point very convenient for dispatch to India. My right hon. the Secretary for the Colonies has already written to the Governor of the Cape, directing him to send to India, in addition to the two regiments who had previously been ordered from the Cape, every portion of the garrison he may think can be spared, consistently with the safety of the colony. We have therefore allowed Sir George Grey to use a full and free discretion as to sending to India any portion of the force now at the Cape, which he thinks may be spared from that station without any chance of injury to the safety of the colony. We have done more than that. It has been represented to us that there may be a want of horses in India, for the cavalry and artillery, and we have therefore made arrangements to obtain, if possible, a supply of horses from the borders of the Persian Gulf, from the Cape of Good Hope, and from other places, to be conveyed to India.

