





# THE Sud Afrikaan.

Cape Town, July 13, 1865.

## RAILWAY EXTENSION ON THE SUB-GUARANTY PRINCIPLE.

So it would appear that the Paarl and Stellenbosch divisions have had enough of Railways constructed on the sub-guarantee principle. From the various causes which combined to depress the Agricultural interest of the districts through which the line passes, the Government very considerably, for a number of years, did not insist on the payment of the sub-guarantee. These depressing circumstances of the proprietors of property, alike in town, and in the country districts now seem to have vanished before the new perceptions of our colonial financiers, and while others see no improvement whatever either in our present condition or our future prospects, the Government seems to have resolved to collect the sub-guarantee arrears, quietly if it can, but they are to be collected, even should the myriads of law and the Sheriff's officer become the dramatic person in the scene. In anticipation of those not by any means delectable exhibitions, the Paarl people put on their thinking cap, and came to a resolution to petition Parliament to include in the sub-guarantee the divisions of Worcester, Montagu and Robertson, and not only that, but to solicit the co-operation of the Divisional Councils of Stellenbosch and Cape Town, in furtherance of the same measure. Cape Town, has not yet given a response, but Stellenbosch lost no time in considering the matter. It appears however, that the views of the Paarl inhabitants were not endorsed by the public meeting held last week in Stellenbosch. The latter village thinks it is better "to bide its time," and to take no active measures in the mean time. Stellenbosch tacitly admits it has been most egregiously sold by the Railway, and its threatened consequences, and is prepared to amortize its former fall in humble submission to the law.

We think the resolution adopted by the public meeting at Stellenbosch was alike honorable, fair and reasonable. It repudiated the idea of holding Worcester and the adjoining districts responsible for the sub-guarantee for the construction of the line from Cape Town to Wellington, but it firmly asserted, that as the Cape Stellenbosch, and Paarl divisions have allowed themselves to be inveigled into an expense far beyond what they ever dreamt of, and that too with their eyes open, they are bound to bear their part of the contract, and release Worcester and the adjoining divisions from contributing, now at least any portion towards the Cape Town and Wellington Railway. At the same time it will have nothing to do with the further extension of the line. This, although not conveying the very words of the motion adopted by the public meeting, embraces its spirit, and we are disposed to think that the Divisional Council of Cape Town as well as of the Paarl will agree with the inhabitants of Stellenbosch in watching proceedings, and waiting to see what may turn up in the course of events.

That the Wellington Railway was a piece of jugglery from beginning to end, everybody knows now, and a good many suspected so at its inception. There is no use now brooding over it; however, but the following considerations will possess an interest for the Wellington and Paarl people. The Paarl is distant from Cape Town, about 36 miles, but by train it is has been managed to be elongated to 48 miles to the station, which is at least 2 miles distant from the centre of the village, so we may call it 50 miles. In all times to come then, as traffic is paid by mileage, the Paarl people, with their paraphernalia will have to submit to pay a per centage on the transport of themselves, their goods and chattels corresponding to the increase in the mileage. But that is not all. There never was, and never can or will be any considerable traffic between the Paarl and Stellenbosch. Every one knew this beforehand, yet by a singular perversity of understanding it was decided on connecting these two villages by rail, notwithstanding the stupendous engineering difficulties that had to be surmounted in the completion of such a useless line. Had the Railway taken the direction of the main road to the Paarl from Kruiaspad, and sent a branch line into Stellenbosch, there would then have been no reason, or less reason, for our present grumblings. We are neither engineers nor members of Parliament, and of course our opinion must simply go for what it is worth. It is, however fortified by common sense, and we back that generally against Engineers Reports and Parliamentary dodgeries any day in the year.

There is one point however, to which for the encouragement of our Worcester friends we would in conclusion especially call their attention. It appears—vide supplement to the Standard of Thursday last—that railway engineering is but yet in its infancy, and that it is capable of a development not yet dreamt of. Mr. Fairlie, whose professional ability no one doubts, read a paper the other day before the Society of Arts in London—which meeting was presided over by the Marquis Chamberlain—and in that he states upon grounds which we have not now room to quote, that a single line of rail, including the rolling stock, but exclusive of the purchase of lands, might be constructed for £3,000 a mile, and worked to advantage were his locomotives to supersede the clumsy and inefficient hauling powers now in operation. We recommend the perusal of Mr. Fairlie's paper to Mr. Liesching and to his railway extension adherents in Worcester, and hope that something practical may come of mature consideration of it.

APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. D. S. van der Merwe, to be deputy postmaster at Willow, division of Prince Albert, in the room of Mr. L. Grossman, resigned.

SEQUESTRATION.—The estates of Andreas Pieter Leonard Hols, first and second meetings at the Master's Office, 22nd and 29th July.—Edouard Auguste Joffroy, first and final meeting at ditto 22nd July.—Joseph John White Beck, first and final meeting at ditto 22nd July.—Fredrik Jacobus William de Villiers, first meeting at the Magistrate's Office, Stellenbosch, 24th July, second meeting at the Master's Office, 29th July.—John Francis Adam Bland, first and second meetings at the Magistrate's Office, Riversdale, 25th July and 1st August.

INTEREST.—A meeting of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the estate of Ignatius van Jaarsveld and predeceased spouse, Herculina Johanna de Preez, at the Magistrate's Office, Gr. sad-Heintj, 25th August.

AN EXAMINATION in the practice of Land Surveying will be held at the Surveyor General's office, on the first Tuesday in September next. Candidates desirous to be admitted to this examination are to send a written application to that effect to the Surveyor General on or before the 18th August next.

THE MAIL.—The mails for St. Helena, Ascension and England by the Royal Mail Packet *Celt*, will be closed at the General Post Office, on Saturday, the 18th July, at 1 p.m.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.—The total receipt of customs duties at the several ports of the colony during the month of June was as follows—

|                |         |     |   |
|----------------|---------|-----|---|
| Cape Town      | £27,706 | 1   | 7 |
| Simon's Town   | 275     | 1   | 5 |
| Port Beaufort  | 275     | Nil |   |
| Mossel Bay     | 122     | 11  | 3 |
| Port Elizabeth | 10,367  | 14  | 9 |
| Port Alfred    | Nil     |     |   |
| East London    | 197     | 16  | 6 |
| Total          | £18,570 | 9   | 0 |

COPPER ORE.—Only five tons of copper ore was shipped from Table Bay during the month of June.

CUSTOMS, FIREARMS, AND LEAD.—The returns published in the *Gazette* of Friday morning show that during the month of June the following quantities of the above were shipped from the port of Cape Town:—2909 lbs. gunpowder, 55 guns, 261 cwt. bar, 19 cwt. sheet, and 53 cwt. shot lead.

On Wednesday, the 22nd instant, the day appointed for the ploughing matches at Phishie Kraal, the Railway Company will run a special train from Cape Town to Durban Road for the convenience of visitors.

## PARLIAMENTARY Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council, on Thursday, read a third time and passed the Bill to provide for the winding up of Joint-Stock Companies. The Postal Rates Bill was received from the Assembly and read a first time.

On Friday, an address to His Excellency was agreed to, asking for all correspondence between the Government and the Railway Company. The consideration of the resolution of the Assembly authorizing the Governor to expend a sum not exceeding £3000 for the inspection of the Port Elizabeth, Worcester, and East London Harbour Works, was after discussion, postponed until Thursday next, when Messrs. Cook and Painter would be present. The Postal Rates Bill was read a second time.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

At the sitting of the House of Assembly on Thursday, three important messages from His Excellency were received; one having reference to the expediency of obtaining trustworthy information as to the discoveries stated to have been made in Macheen's territory, and as to the present condition of the territory. The other messages were in connection with the Breakwater, stating that as it was expedient the new dock would be opened by the close of the year, it would be necessary to obtain the authority of Parliament to certain essential measures for the success of the whole scheme, and to provide slip and other accommodation. Bills were transmitted with the messages to provide funds for the object, and to secure the future management of the dock. Several motions were discussed, the more important being Mr. Miller's, for the appointment of two deputy inspectors of schools, which was negatived, on division, by 26 votes to 16; and Mr. Darnell's for placing the convict department under the control of the Chief Inspector of Public Works, the debate on which was adjourned.

On Friday the House was principally occupied by discussing the motion of the second reading of Mr. Gain's Master and Servants' Act Amendment Bill, which resulted in the Bill being brought out by 24 votes to 23. Nothing else of importance was done.

THE WEATHER.—At last, after much anxious waiting, rain came down in earnest on Saturday and Sunday, and ceased up again on Monday. The drought, having come, apprehension rose high regarding the dam. It almost blew a hurricane on Saturday night, and there being a good expanse of water, the waves washed against the embankment which has not yet been faced with stone, and took down some of the earth; but even had the whole of that portion been carried away, no danger would have occurred to life or property, as the water there is very shallow. Some of the stone facing was also washed out; but as to the part of the embankment that holds back the bulk of the water, that is unscathed, and looks even more solid than ever, which is likely to be the case, as the repeated rains and the water inside must have tended to consolidate it in a firm, impenetrable mass.—*Worcester Courant*.

NOTES FROM THE EAST.—COPENHAGEN, 30TH JUNE, 1865.—The weather has been very deceptive this month, in my last I reported that we were blessed with the heavenly season, rain, but I regret to say, that it has proved the contrary, this month, it has been a month of drought, so much so, that agriculturists have relinquished ploughing.

As to the Estimates, and to find on their return how they have been estimated our Echo has illustrated his ideas on his return to the East.

The member for Alwal North is creating quite a sensation in the House and I deem it no more than just that such a privilege should be bestowed on him, for Parliamentary reports should be authentic and men should not be censured when they are faultless. Mr. P. will prove an A.L. member, but he should be more reconciled.

As "bravery is the soul of wit" and consciousness the chief aim of the writer, pardon him for these succinct lines.—*Correspondent*.

## Transvaal.

(From the *Transvaal Argus*.)

Report on the Zoutpaaberg Question as published in the *Staats Courant*.

Some time after the return of the Commission of Inquiry, from Schoemansdal, a "Hooge Gerachtshof" or Supreme Court proceeded to Zoutpaaberg, composed of the Landdrost W. J. Otto, R. A. van Nippen and the States Attorney at that time A. J. Munnich. This Supreme Court did not sit, and returned without having effected anything, likewise the States Attorney A. J. Munnich, who also did nothing to issue any of the cases entrusted to him, excepting in so far as is known to this Commission, which down some statements on oath which he brought with him, against Fieldjornet J. H. de Plessis, by which he stands charged with having plundered and ill-treated certain Kafirs. The reason why this Supreme Court did not sit as stated by declarations to be, in consequence of the carelessness manifested in the postal department, through which the indictments and other documents were not delivered within the proper time. (Mr. Munnich has however since given satisfactory explanation of this matter in a letter addressed to the *Transvaal Argus*, dated 10th January, 1865, by which he proves that no blame is attributable to him, that he only had instructions to prosecute one Hindis for smuggling gunpowder to the natives, and was informed by the President that he had nothing to do with any other cases at Zoutpaaberg, all having been settled.—Ed.)

All these circumstances were found by this Commission to be amply detailed in the various documents submitted to them.

The Commission therefore, after having carefully investigated and considered all these documents, and themselves compelled to admit, that in their opinion the deplorable condition in which Zoutpaaberg is at present placed, can be traced, and is attributable to the fact, that certain officials and officers who have from time to time broken the law by willful neglect of duty, abuse of the power entrusted to them and other misdemeanors, have not been punished for so doing as also, that by adopting a wrong course of treatment of the native tribes at that time both peaceable and subject to the government, many of these Kafir tribes at length became insubordinate, and being rendered powerful by having retained in their possession certain guns, also became hostile, and openly conspired against the white population of Zoutpaaberg and the Government of this Republic, which rendered the last command with the Commandant General S. J. P. Kruger at its head, necessary.

The Commission of the Volkraad having taken into consideration for Report the proceedings of the Commission sent to Zoutpaaberg in the month of May last, and composed of St. Schoeman, member and Chairman, H. Schoeman, member, and S. J. Meintjes Secretary. Find, that in the Minute Book of the Honorable the Executive no mention is made of the appointment of such a Commission, the Commission have also heard the declarations of His Honor the Acting President M. J. Viljoen, the Commandant General S. J. P. Kruger, and J. J. Fourie, who state that they were ignorant of the appointment of such a Commission. Resolved, to accept as notice the appointment of this Commission. (This means, that as the Commission did not acknowledge the appointment of the other Commission, they could not accept any Report emanating from such a body, Ed.) The Commission then report on the abandonment of Schoemansdal, and justify the Commandant General in having done so. With reference to the attack on Macheen the Commission state, "That as it does not appear to them sufficiently clear that this Commando at that particular time was advisable, also, whether sufficient reasons existed for that Commando to take the field, they recommend the Volkraad to institute an inquiry, whether the woman and orphan children taken in that attack, have been properly apprehended by the Government, pursuant to Resolutions articles 423 and 427 of the Statute which were taken during the session of February 1866, more particularly, as it has not clearly appeared to this Commission, whether the woman and children taken in that attack can be considered as Prisoners of War.

THE PRESIDENT.—His Honor the President arrived in town last Monday morning.

AMMUNITION FOR THE TRANSVAAL. The following notice appears in the *Natal Gazette*:—"His Excellency the administrator of the Government, directs it to be notified for general information, that at the express request of the Landdrost of Lydenburg S. A. Republic, no ammunition of any kind will in future be issued to any of the inhabitants of that district, except in special cases, unless they are provided with the permit of the Landdrost or Landdrost's clerk of that district.

THIS NEW AUDITOR GENERAL.—We understand that H. H. J. de Beer Esq. clerk to the Landdrost of Wakkerbosch has been appointed to succeed W. G. Zinn Esq. resigned. This appointment we hope may be confirmed at the September session of Volkraad, as the newly appointed gentleman is well qualified for the office. W. G. Zinn Esq. has resigned, mainly because the Government would not sanction his residence in Potchefstroom, Captain von Brandt, formerly Landdrost of Winburg, O. R. Free State succeeds Mr. de Beer.

## Foreign Intelligence.

AUSTRALIA.—AGRICULTURAL REPORT.—LATELY, FRIDAY, MARCH 27.—When still minutes ago, it was said that it would continue to do so long enough to meet the expectations of holders of the wheat crop, which opinions differ. We have now the Government returns of the last harvest in South Australia, and they fully confirm the reports previously received of an unparalleled failure of the wheat crop there. The average of the whole area was only 4 bushels and 20 lbs. per acre, but through out from the cultivated area was not nearly so high, as all the average is advanced to 4 bushels 50 lbs. per acre—a miserable return truly. The British district gave the highest average—12 bushels 15 lbs., and

Gawler the lowest—2 bushels 15 lbs. But even with this deficiency South Australia will have something like 10,000 tons of new flour for exportation, besides rather more than half that quantity of last year's still on hand. (Victoria will not require much from her neighbors, if she does not entirely supply her own wants. Notwithstanding all the gloomy forebodings and fears from rest, and allowing for these being realized to a considerable extent, there will, after all, be a large surplus for exportation from this colony. New South Wales will require flour, but it is known that from twenty to thirty ships have been sent to America for supplies, and at least a similar number in addition may be expected on speculation. What, then, can advance or maintain present prices? At the rates now ruling, Australian wheat is not likely to find its way to London, and we are unable to discover any reasonable ground for believing that the present figure will continue. One thing is certain, a remunerative price may now be obtained, and those growers who avail themselves of it are not likely to regret the step.

The *Otago Daily Times* has published a report as to the prospects of the coming harvest in that district, from which we gather that wheat and oats will give a fair average, but potatoes will be deficient owing to the wet. Barley has been cultivated to a very limited extent.

Another shipment of eighty-nine hives has gone forward to Madras from Melbourne, by the French bark *Demis*.

The *South Australian Register* states that Dr. Muecke has "succeeded in detecting with certainty the cause of suffering in our vine, erroneously taken by some for the effects of the so-called red mite, but the disease is not a mite, but a fungus named 'Oidium' (more correctly, *Erysiphe*). Tucker's." Should subsequent investigations confirm his statement it will be a serious blow to Australian wine growers.

The distress that prevails amongst many of the small farmers of South Australia, from the partial or total failure of their crops, appears to be real and extensive, and their inability to obtain seed will be very likely to tell upon the next year's harvest. Many applications have been made to the Government for assistance, and the claim has been discussed in the newspapers. One of the latest writers on the subject thinks that as the squatters some time ago received help in the shape of a remission of rents on their runs, they have no right to object to the loan now asked for by the agriculturists to procure seed with. But, he says, we think relief to those who have lost all their crops should come in the first place from the farmers themselves—say those who have reaped 25 bushels to the acre give 5; 20 bushels three; 15 bushels, two; and 10 bushels, one—and say the Government provide free transit and storage for it at two for three cental deposits, that they let it rest in it in certain proportions, and in the end supplement it in quantity if necessary. The help thus rendered, and the expense incurred in planting the seed as it were at the door of the sufferer, is a duty that the Government owes to the country, and one I think the country would recognize.

It appears to me that the first duty of the Government is to invite the landlords by circular and advertisement to decide upon the terms they intend to come to with their tenants. If they do not remit a year's rent I see no alternative but to let the land lie waste, and leave them free to ruin the tenants (which I hear some are now doing); for neither the Government, the well-to-do farmer, nor the capitalist would consent to crop for a land lord's back rent.—*Lawton Examiner*.

THE SUZ CANAL.—In this fortnight's *Revue Contemporaine* we find an article by M. Amédée Mathieu, in which he examines the advantages or drawbacks the passage by the Suez Canal may offer. If distance only were to be taken into account, there could be no question about it; but, unfortunately, there are meteorological considerations which, at certain points, will render the new route difficult for sailing vessels. The winds of the Mediterranean and Red Sea, though favourable from March to October, will be the contrary during the winter season, for the out-passage to India. The opposite will be the case for the home voyage. It has been calculated that the present average time required by the Cape of Good Hope, starting from Cape Lizard, is, in summer, 106 days for Ceylon, 107 for Singapore, and 102 for the Straits of Sunda. By the Suez Canal the figures will be respectively 55, 77, and 70 days. But in doubling the Cape, the vessel saves the ten francs per ton it would have to pay in going by the canal which, for a ship of 650 tons, makes a saving of 6,500. Now the daily expenses of a sailing vessel of that burden being 340f., the above sum represents 19 days' navigation, a difference to be taken into account in calculating the relative distances of the two routes. It will, then be found that during the winter season the advantages offered by the canal for the out passage are, owing to the monsoon, much smaller than in summer. For Java, no time at all will be gained either way, and for Ceylon there will be an actual loss of eleven days by Suez. Nevertheless, deducting these from the above 19, the vessel going by the shorter route will still have arrived a week earlier than the one that has doubled the Cape, and will thus be enabled to forestall her competitor on the market, if, as usually the case, that be an object. But if, instead of a sailing vessel, the craft be a mixed one of say 1500 tons, matters will assume a different aspect. The voyage by the Cape of Good Hope will last respectively 77, 75, and 71 days, by the canal, 43, 54, and 52; the 16,000f. for tonnage (due will only represent 16 days' navigation at the rate of 1000f. expenses per day, so that, whether in winter or summer, such a ship will always be a gainer by taking the Suez route.—*H. & S. Times*.

## PEACE OR WAR?

The *Siecle* has the following observations on the question of war or peace:—"It is not in France alone that the question of peace or war is beginning to excite public opinion. The Austrian press discusses the subject very warmly, and pronounces in a pacific sense. The language used by the Liberal journals of Vienna, and all the Hungarian press shows that in both portions of the empire of Austria the maintenance of peace is considered as an essential condition of the re-organization of the state. The liberal absolutists are said to be alone disposed to shut their eyes to the liberal reforms now in course of realization by fresh warlike adventures. They require a diversion abroad to recover their pre-eminence at home; they flatter themselves with the hope that, by some striking reverse of fortune, they may rid themselves of the 'afflictions' of the Parliament of Vienna, who separate openly from the old Austrian tradition of political despotism and religious intolerance. The influence of the party, still too powerful around the Emperor Francis Joseph, is fortunately very

weak in the more intelligent classes of Austria proper, and is completely null in Hungary. If which is impossible, the old clerical absolutist party should regain the upper hand in Vienna, it would no doubt fill in Hungary, once more become mistress, a resistance sufficiently powerful to prevent the adoption of a policy condemned by events, and which could not henceforth have any other result than the ruin and dissolution of the Austrian empire. The *Wanderer*, referring to the question of Northern Schleswig, concludes not only for the adoption of a conciliatory policy on the subject:—"There is only Austria which taking the treaty of Vienna as a basis, would have the right of intervention, so that the question is well worth examining. If we consult ourselves sincerely in that disagreeable affair, we cannot but conceal the fact that in the interests of Austria nothing would be more advantageous than to see this question brought to a termination as early as possible. Austria has reason to fear everything of a nature to compromise the peace of Europe, and consequently must detest every question which might become the occasion of a conflict between the great Powers." Austria has the right to interfere but her intervention is not a duty, and by her abstention she will be doing herself a great service. Let us ask ourselves calmly whether we have any interest in Denmark obtaining the district of Hadersleben to the Bay of Gienne, or a few strips of territory more or less Prussia and Russia may negotiate together as long as they please, and there will be no danger so long as no other power will find pretence for doing the same, in consideration of European politics. The result will be an additional complication, and the less of these there are the better for ourselves and for the peace of the world."

The *Journal des Debats* attempts to account for the war rumour. The *Debats* attributes these rumours to attempts which it supposes Prussia and Austria to have made to entangle the Cabinet of the Tuileries into an alliance; and on the other hand, to the peculiar way in which Marshal Niel has tried to frighten the Budget Committee into sanctioning his estimated "proceeds."—"What he did say was to this effect:—"The present state of things is serious. The situation of Europe is full of uncertainty; everything is possible, and though we may believe in the maintenance of peace, we should be gaily if France were not prepared for war. We must have a numerous army, powerful by its organization and discipline, and which shall leave nothing to desire. Give us then what it is necessary to ensure the well-being of the soldier the non-commissioned officer, the officer, the colonel, even the general. Remember that the general and superior officers still receive the same pay as in 1805; that pay to day is strikingly disproportionate to the increased price of provisions; do not bargain with us in an affair which concerns the satisfaction of the army; that satisfaction which you are called on to give will appear to you very slight if you compare it to the sacrifices which you may perhaps be called on shortly to demand from the army, which will not hesitate to shed its blood to replace France in her rank." It is easy to understand the effect which must have been produced by such words, uttered by an old and brave soldier, whose habits are little parliamentary, and who perhaps at the time had his hand on his sword. It was believed that this was the announcement of war, and that hostilities would commence shortly. It was of course in mind that the discussion of financial laws is a hard tackle, and that each one uses what weapon he thinks most likely to gain him the victory. However that may be, it is evident that the Government has not thought fit to treat these rumours with indifference, since it has denied them; and we are assured that very pressing recommendations have been made to those of its friends who imprudently gave rise to them. Thus the two exiled friends of Prussia told that there was no desire to be dependent on the policy of Berlin; it was even admitted the cabinet of Vienna had very recently taken semi-official steps as the court of the Tuileries with the view of an alliance between France, England, and Austria, to the exclusion of Prussia and Russia; and that the court of the Tuileries had turned a deaf ear to such a proposal, saying that it had no interest in isolating Prussia, and that it had no desire to displace the Prussian Government; that the cabinet of Copenhagen, on its side, had also very recently asked the assistance of France in its troubles with Prussia, and that the French Government had declined, not desiring to interfere in an affair which did not concern it, and with regard to which it preferred to leave it to the justice and moderation of the Prussian Government. If these two incidents are true, and we have very good reasons to believe them so, it is clear that the Government of France does not desire war, and that, far from preparing for it, it avoids with the greatest care all that might give rise even to a misunderstanding.

Everywhere (says the *Debats*) people are inquiring whether peace or war is to be the epoch of the difficult situation in which Europe is placed just now, and the most contradictory answers are given to the question. The *Moscow Gazette* affirms that very delicate explanations are being exchanged between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin with respect to the simultaneous meeting of the Customs-Union and Federal Parliaments in the latter city. According to the same journal, the visit of the Prince of Prussia to Florence is indicative of the continuance of the cordial understanding between Prussia and Italy, and General Menabrea has caused it to be intimated to Garibaldi at approaching events may bring the Italians to Rome sooner than it is expected. This is certainly news which, if true, is anything but pacific. But at the same moment the *Vienna Presse* takes upon itself to "demonstrate" that Denmark can find no power to "give" peace to Denmark the execution of the fifth article of the treaty of Prague; that Austria, which alone would be entitled to interfere is not bound to do so, and has no interest in the matter; and furthermore that France does not care to know to whom Duppel and Alsen belong. Finally, the *Argus* announces that French and Prussian diplomats are engaged in negotiations for a mutual disarmament, to begin with a reduction of one year's service in the *Landwehr* and the *Garde Mobile*. The *Journal de Paris* confirms it is good news, and states that the idea originated at the diplomatic reception last Thursday, during a conversation between M. de Goltz and M. de Moosier, but it is unable to say to which of them the initiative is due.

