

THE
Suid Afrikaan.

Cape Town, October 1, 1886.

CUSTOMS TARIFF.

WHILE the House of Assembly is devoting its best energies to devise the most effective means of relieving the country from its monetary difficulties through a thoroughly well considered, and cautious retrenchment, instead of, as in former years, by borrowing largely, and taxing excessively, to pay the interest of such borrowed loans, it may be as well that we, leaving this subject alone at present as being in good hands, offer a few suggestions in reference to the next important subject, that is likely to come before the Parliament, viz: the proposed alterations in the Customs Tariff.

But before proceeding to the consideration of the matter immediately on hand, we think it is desirable to clear away a few misapprehensions and misunderstandings which prevail among a considerable portion of our readers in the conceptions they entertain of Government generally, and of our own Government in particular. It has been frequently asked, and no satisfactory reply has yet been given to the question: "To what purpose is the £600,000 wrung from a people year after year applied, and what do we get for it?" In times of prosperity the country, because it could then afford it, did pay, and look-d pleasant and asked no questions. It is a very different matter, however, when these exactions are enforced at the fearful sacrifice of most of the genuine amenities of social life. When poverty invades the household where plenty formerly reigned; when old clothes have been worn out, and the moneys that should have gone to replace them are diverted to the public Treasury: when one sees one's children running about bare-footed, and in a state of almost semi-nudity, doing the menial work of our natural hewers of wood and drawers of water; while they on the other hand spend their days in idleness and manage to obtain a precarious livelihood by thieving, until they are caught perhaps in the very act; and then when convicted, they have merely to set the loss of their liberty, like a bird in a cage, against the material advantages of being better housed, better clothed, better fed, and generally better provided for in every way than ever they were in their lives before; they feel or ought to feel quite jolly under the infliction.

We do not like to be always harping on the same string, but we cannot help reiterating our opinion, that because a hungry Hottentot, or a "native frigner" if you like, may have helped himself to a sheep or goat that did not belong to him, but to some one else, the general revenue of the country should be mulcted to the tune of some hundred, or couple of hundred pounds for his punishment and reformation. This seems to us to be a piece of utter and uncalculated extravagance, for it will be generally allowed that our efforts hitherto for the suppression of crime and the reformation of criminals, have had little than their expensiveness to recommend them. But most of this expense is wasted upon those who contribute the least to the general revenue. This is surely an anomalous state of things, and it would argue very little for the ingenuity of our Parliament if it cannot discover a means of effecting an immense saving of expenditure, and consequently affording a large measure of relief to the country now in such a depressed condition.

But we are wandering away from our subject, which was a review of the proposed Customs Tariff. We regret to find that the rated articles are arranged in such a higgledy piggledy order, taking their place like the words in a Dictionary, merely from the initial letter of their names; and we regret further to observe that we have failed to trace the application of any general rule or principle in fixing the imposts on the different articles.

One would imagine that the various articles might be easily classified under four distinct heads: Those that should be admitted free; such as agricultural implements and appliances—mechanical tools—the gear for the repair and refitting of ships, so as to induce vessels to make our harbour a port of call; school books, and perhaps a few other things. 2. Articles of necessary daily consumption, such as coffee, tea, sugar, (unrefined), molasses, flour, soap, and a few others.—3. Articles of luxury, finery and vertu, which, generally speaking, will include all that is not excluded.—4. This forms a class of articles which it is well for the industry of the colony if it is imported far less. We allude to ale and beer, cider, spirits of all sorts, wine, vinegar, preserves, &c.

We think there is no fairer or simpler method of raising a revenue from the customs than by an *ad valorem* duty. In urging this point, we would vary the percentage according to the classification of the articles. The first class of course is duty free, but we see no good reason why diamonds, stones or marble for building and ornamental purposes, oil paintings and picture frames for oil paintings should be marked in class No. 1 as the new tariff proposes. We would be disposed to rank them in class No. 4. Of the second class of rated articles we would propose an *ad valorem* duty of—percent. Why, for instance, should coffee and chicory be rated at fifteen shillings per cwt., and tea somewhat more than three shilling, and dried fruits and preserves from ten shillings to a pound per cwt. On the third class we would impose an *ad valorem* duty of—percent. The reason for our doing so is simply this, that it would mainly fall upon those who are best able to afford to pay, and who could scarcely be said to feel it when effecting

their purchases. We need hardly say, that for the protection and encouragement of our home-wise and spirit trade, we would impose an *ad valorem* duty of fifty per cent on the articles enumerated under head No. 4. There is no doubt that excellent wines and excellent spirits can be produced in this colony, and the colonial champagne is already, or soon will be equal to the quantity the wine-growing portion of it can yield; but were an end put to the importation of foreign drinks, what an impetus would that not give to the vigneron to improve his products? The stimulus of competition would lead to such improvements in the preparation of his wines, and the manufacture of his brandies, that he can now hardly conceive at present. Should the mod we have suggested of fixing the Customs Tariff not prove adequate for the necessary requirements of Government, why not have recourse to a Poll Tax? We have excoigitated a very inexpensive and efficient method of collecting such a tax, but our article is too long already, and we must reserve it for a future issue.

We have expressly left out our percentage charge on articles classified in the way we have arranged them, as we have not, at the present moment, the means of reference to the enhancement or deficit in the revenue which figures put down at random might occasion. But for the sake of discussion by those who may be better acquainted with the subject than we happen to be at present, we suggest that a differential duty of ten, twenty and fifty per cent, would fully meet the case of our import duties, supposing the articles to be classified in the way we have suggested.

APPOINTMENT.—Mr. J. D. van Reenen, as poundmaster at Lady Grey, fieldcornet of Boesjiesveld, Division of Robertson.

SEQUESTRATIONS.—The estates of: Christoffel Jacobus Cronjé, farmer, first and second meeting at the Magistrate's Office, Rive adale, 13th and 20th Oct.—Mathew Bodes, agriculturist, first and final meeting at ditto, Mossel Bay, 17th Oct.—Stephanus Bekker, agriculturist, ditto at ditto, Fort Beaufort, 13th Oct.—George James Marsh, farmer, first and second meeting at ditto, 13th and 20th Oct.—Merchant Taylor, trader, ditto at ditto, Elands Post, 15th and 22nd Oct.

INTESTATE ESTATE.—A meeting of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the estate of J. S. Wright a d surviving widow, at the Magistrate's Office, Graham's Town, 14th Nov.

THE LATE POST OFFICE ROBBERIES.—The clerk of the peace, Mr. Curry, requests that all persons whose letters, posted since the 1st January 1884, have not reached their destinations will furnish him with the following particulars: the dates or approximate dates of such letters; the names and addresses of the writers; the names and addresses of the persons to whom they were sent; full particulars of the enclosures, if any; whether the loss was reported to the Postmaster General.

TULBAGH DIVISIONAL COUNCIL.—The election of a member for district No. 4, will take place at Ceres on the 22nd inst. The following are the names of the candidates: J. Tall, A. A. Wolz, J. E. van der Merwe and J. C. Gouzen Sen.

ROAD RATES.—The Divisional Council of Albany has assessed a rate of three farthings in the pound, payable on the 1st December. The Council of Bedford has assessed a like rate payable on the 1st Nov.

WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?—The government does not appear to believe the statements lately put forth by D. Tanc as well as by the inhabitants of the Pik-berg division, relative to the lamentable backward state of information in that quarter; or if it does believe those statements, then it must be of opinion that it is of no use to give them a superabundance of information; for from an avowment is used by the magistrate of the division we find that in accordance with directions "now" received from the Governor, the estate to be a fortnightly instead of a weekly post to the fieldcorneties. But perhaps this is a first instalment of the contemplated retrenchment. If so, there can be no objection to apply the principle to all the other divisions of the Colony.

CARELESS DRIVING.—In the magistrate's court, last week, Mr. W. van Reenen, who had some time ago been knocked down in the street by a cab of John Holland, in consequence of which he sustained some severe injuries, brought an action for £15 damages. The defendant was adjudged to pay that amount and costs.

A "SHOCKING AFFAIR."—A telegram received from Graham's Town on Thursday last states that on the previous day Mr. Apper, the superintendent of a road party stationed at Van Staden Rivier, had poisoned his four children by strychnine mixed in some gruel. Two had died, but hopes were entertained for the recovery of the two others. The unfortunate man had also poisoned himself, but subsequently blown out his brains with a pistol. The rash act is attributed to d-spendency arising from an expected reduction of salary. He had £500 in the bank, which he had previously transferred to the name of his wife, to whom he had written in a note, telling her what he had done.

HOPE TOWN.—Mr. J. C. Wright has been elected as member of the Divisional Council for district No. 1.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—Mr. Gray (formerly, we believe, a Government Surveyor, and who is well known throughout the Colony) met with a serious accident on Thursday evening last. After having, at his lodging in New-street, retired to bed, the candle—by some unaccountable means—set fire to his bed, and before he was discovered the poor old gentleman was fearfully burnt. Prompt measures were taken, but it is said he can hardly recover. One arm was literally roasted.—[A telegram received from Graham's Town, on Wednesday, announced the death of the unfortunate gentleman.]—Great Eastern.

GRAND PICNIC AND BALL.—On Thursday last a grand picnic was held at Eand's Kloof, as a farewell to Major Carden and his lady—who leave the colony by the next mail steamer for

St. Helena. The party was organized by the officers of the 5th Fusiliers and the *élite* of Graham's Town—with whom Major and Mrs. Carden have had so long and intimate an acquaintance. The day was a charming one, and the picnic is announced to have been one of the most gratifying that has been held here for some time. After the picnic the officers of the regiment gave a ball at Fort England, which was largely attended. The whole proceedings of the day were pleasant in the extreme, and the army was only marred by an accident which happened to one of the carriages on the return to the ball. We are happy, however, in being able to state that no injury was done beyond a severe shaking to the fair occupants of the carriage, and that none of them received any injury.—*Ibid.*

SERIOUS LOSS.—About a fortnight ago the wild dogs killed 13 rams at Portlock and ate 11 of them before the herd drove them from the carcasses. The herd must have been absent or asleep at the time, to permit such ravages being committed on his master's flock. The loss to Mr. A. P. Rubidge is between £40 and £50.—*J. B. Herald.*

THE WEATHER.—This district has fully participated in the late rains. Our farmers are busy ploughing and sowing. Many water mills which were idle a short time ago for want of water, are now grinding away right merrily, and their music is preferred by the farmers to that of the organ grinders, who have been lately trotting about the country. Meal is now getting cheap, and every one is thankful at the prospect of a good season. The weather has been very changeable. Last Tuesday and Wednesday were hot sultry days; and we had a change to cold and dry to damp and foggy, with every prospect of rain.—*Craddock Register.*

D. R. CHURCH, SOMERNET.—A "call" to the pastorate of this church, has been sent to the Rev. Mr. Hofmeyr, of Murraysburg. Should this gentleman decline, then the Rev. Van de Wall, of Bloefonsfontein, will be asked, and in event of this gentleman not accepting the "call," then the Rev. Mr. Muller, of Peirson, is to be requested. We do not know whether any of these gentlemen will accept the charge: all are endowed with high mental attainments, and would adorn any pulpit, but we do think that the Rev. T. Muller should have had the first offer. At some future time we may state our reasons.—*Someret Courant.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.—The Council met at the usual hour, when the consideration of the Native Passes amendment bill was resumed in committee. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved to refer the bill to a select committee.

FRIDAY, 28.—Motions for the production of the report on the Bethelsdorp Missionary Institution: copy of regulations as to natives in Kaffraria, and return of expenses incurred for printing Parliamentary papers since 1854, were agreed to.

THE DISCUSSION ON Mr. Pot's motion for the appointment of a joint committee on the financial condition of the Colony, was resumed, but again adjourned till Wednesday.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 27.—The debate on the Estimates was resumed by Mr. Welhmer, who expressed his surprise that the officials should come down to inform the House that the Colony was insolvent, and yet should not have proposed any scheme of retrenchment, but ask fresh taxes. He named several offices which might either be abolished or reduced. He considered it useless to refer the Estimates back to the Government and bringing matters to a deadlock, and would therefore vote for Mr. Rutherford's motion.

THE LATE AFFRAY NEAR FORT MURRAY.
On Saturday last, the following depositions were made before R. Taylor, E. G. C. & R. M., regarding the murderous assault committed by a party of four Kafirs on the Messrs. Barber on the previous day. An upper-hand that the two women have since been apprehended in town, and that he (the two men) is likely to be caught.—GUY BARBER, sworn, deposed—I live on farm No. 117, King Williamstown district. Yesterday about midday I was riding about on the farm, accompanied by my brother Graham Barber, for the purpose of looking after my sheep, when we came in sight of two native women; this was on the farm of the Borough Council, which I have hired; each of them had a bundle of firewood on her head; I told them, as I had told others, that I would not allow any firewood to be removed from the farm; it is part of the conditions of lease under which I hold the farm not to allow any firewood to be cut upon it; they did not willingly obey my order to carry the firewood to my house; I had a small switch with me, and hit one of the women with it across the shoulder, and drove them on in front of me; were this occurred was close to the boundary of the farm near the Tulbagh; after having struck the woman as stated, she screamed out and made signs to some natives on the opposite side of the farm, who were on a hill; they came down, four in number; I did not think they had any intention of doing me any injury, therefore took no steps to guard myself when they came towards me; they however surrounded me at this time my brother was about 20 paces behind me; I tried to get away from them, when suddenly I received a blow from behind with a kerrie which hit me in the back of the head and stunned me; I half fell and half jumped off my horse; while on the ground I was struck with kerries on the head and other parts of my body, but I do not know the particulars about the assault, as I was insensible after falling or jumping off the horse as stated, but I can now exhibit the marks of the injuries inflicted on me by the natives. When I recovered myself a little, my brother called out "use your revolver," or some words to that effect; at this time my brother was on the ground; I saw the four natives beating him with their kerries; I managed to get close to where my brother was, and got my revolver out after a great deal of trouble, and fired at one of the four men, the prisoner Mlojun now before the Court, and hit him in the leg; now having fired, I was seized by two of the men; I tried to get loose and succeeded. I again fired, but not being able to take proper aim, I used; I fired a third shot, whilst the pistol was being held, but I do not think that it shot took effect; after this I was thrown down by one of the four men, and one of them caught hold of me by the throat and tried to get the pistol away from me; I pushed away the man that held me and got up; I was held by the arm, and they again tried to take the pistol from me; I then received a blow with a kerrie; one of the women inflicted this blow on my hand; they then managed to get the pistol from me; the women opened my fingers and to k the pistol, and after that the mad off with the pistol; my brother was some where close to me, and with his assistance I mounted, my horse and rode over to Fort Murray for police assistance, my brother keeping watch on the natives to see where they were going I got immediate assistance from the police; they accompanied me and one of the two prisoners were apprehended by them near a kraal in Umjunsia's location, and the other close to Umjunsia's kraal within about 30 yards; search was

made for the other two natives and the two women, but without success. My brother is unable to attend to-day, he is too weak from the effects of the injuries he has received; the same woman previously referred to gave several blows, and did not desist until I knocked her over by giving her a blow with my fist. I fired three shots in self defence, and had I not had the pistol with me I would in all probability have been murdered; I refrained from using the pistol as long as I possibly could. The revolver now produced is my property, and the same used by me, as stated in my evidence; the two prisoners now before the court are two of the men who assaulted me, as referred to in my statement. The prisoner Pongola is the man who struck me the first blow that stunned me, after which I got off my horse in the way described.

Robert Byron Keyes, sworn, deposed—I am Sergt.-major in No. 5 Company, F.A.M. Police; I know the two prisoners now before the court; I apprehended them yesterday near Umjunsia with a party of police of my company; the revolver and the kerrie were taken by me from the prisoner Pongola; he at first denied all knowledge of the revolver, but after some time he produced it; he had it concealed under some straw near a hut; both prisoners were afterwards identified as being of the party that had assaulted Messrs. Barber.

The following are the Doctor's certificates as to the nature of the injuries:—

King Williamstown, 14th Sept. 1886.
I hereby certify that Mr. Graham Barber has one severe inside wound and one severe contusion on the forehead; also several contusions on the back, produced I have no doubt by the kerries used by the natives as described to me.
JAMES PETERS, Surgeon, R.N.
I hereby certify the Mr. Guy Barber has several wounds and contusions on his head, arms, and body, which must have resulted from great violence.
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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.
Legislative Council.

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read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on Friday.
The motion of Mr. Loxton, for the production of certain sketches, &c., of the Kibberg road, was agreed to.
Mr. Rowker introduced a Bill to repeal the Railway Acts of 1862 and 1863.—It was read a first time.
Mr. Welhmer's motion for the production of all correspondence between the Civil Commissioner of George and the Government respecting the "Senna" case, was negotiated.
The petition of Mr. Innes, objecting to the election of Messrs. Foster and Blake for Namaqualand, was referred to the Standing Rules Committee.
The motion of Mr. Wood, for a return of the number and names of peons admitted as clerks and temporary clerks into the civil service since the 1st January last, was agreed to.
The motion of Mr. Wood, for the production of certain correspondences between the commissioners for the Paris Exhibition, was agreed to.
Mr. Welhmer proposed a string of new regulations for the conduct of the post office, but afterwards withdrew it, the House being of opinion that the mover should bring in a bill on the subject.
Leave was given to Mr. Molteno to bring in the Beaufort Water Supply bill, which was read a first time and referred to a select committee.

Original Correspondence.
LETTER NO. I. PART III.
August, 30th, 1886.

THE AGE of long faced, whining, PHARISICAL, jargonical, unmeaning cant, and IGNORANT, HYPOCRITICAL FANATICISM.
THE MISSIONARIES, THEIR INSTITUTIONS, AND THEIR COLORED DISAPPLES.
To Sir Philip Wodehouse, Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, &c.

Their words so full of malice mixed with art. Inflamed with rage the broken farmer's heart. Then groaning from the bottom of his breast, He heaved for wind, and thus his grief expressed: Let, let those lying Missionaries leave this place. And with the brand of falsehood blot my name. Free leave is given, it will turn for their shame. Cease not to state, we fill the public ears. With false reports, their minds with panic fears. Exult the plunderers of a treacherous race, Savages encourage and our friends deceive. Felix Gonfalonius, ye are below a death from me And my revenge, dismiss that vanity. Let your vile souls in your vile bodies rest, The lodging is well worthy of the guest. VIGOR'S WEEKLY BOOKS.

Sir,—Rest assured I enter into your subject with very little satisfaction to my mind, for it always affords me more pleasure to be able to say something favorable of my fellow-man, than to be compelled even in truth to have anything to write against him. But there are times such as the present when the public well requires that we record what has passed, and is passing, under our eyes in the hope that some change may be effected for the better, and that change as soon as possible.

The statesman who first allowed missionary institutions to be established in this Colony, showed that he had not much judgement, foresight and capacity. He could not have adopted a better plan for engendering depravity and dishonesty. It was affording an inducement to half savages, hitherto accustomed to healthy and useful occupation, to gather together, and lead a life of idleness, the parent of immorality, theft, and various other crimes. These savages put themselves in antagonism with the agricultural interests of the country; with the farmers, the prop of their Government; they encouraged the laborers to act against their employers, and this plan was fostered by the would be Apollites, who came out to prey and fatten on their victims under the plea of spiritual guidance and instruction, and with their shining lights to remove and scatter away the heathenish darkness and ignorance. It has now been tried for more than half a century, and no change that society and religion can boast of has been effected, no matter what puny canting, babbling fanatics my assets to the contrary, no matter what a corrupt, a partial, half-educated and well paid portion of the press may do and write to uphold the system.

Sir George Clerk in his blue book asserts that he had not met nor was able to discover one really converted colored person after fifty years of missionizing, he would not his best services, we see daily and hourly many proofs of it passing under our own observation. If those missionaries really received a divine authority, and sincerely wished to effect a change of heart, they ought to have gone about from place to place like the Redeemer, and in the Apostolic spirit, and endeavored to impress upon the minds of those he visited, religion, and teach them to be contented with the state of life in which Providence placed them, following the example of the Apostle Paul and many others. No farmer, as long as they did not exceed the object of their mission, would have ever hindered them. On the contrary they would be well received everywhere, the better was wrought in their labours. But the net of getting on together lands and causing the colored people to herd together with their savage manners, and removed from the civilization of the Christian white man, has proved that those savages never can improve, but retrograde, and become more degraded. Each of those missionary institutions, received more power than a Governor would dare do, and almost irresponsible for their acts, they very soon forgot the object of their calling, mixed up in politics, intrigues and lying inventions, and made every effort to make money. So that from the time of van der Kemp (whose people called *de axers*) and Reid they have been the cause of all sorts of mischief between the Agricultural interests between the farmers and the colored people, gulfing and deceiving the English people and the Government, in fact they have turned out, generally speaking, to be the greatest base and curse that was ever inflicted on this Colony. Ignorant and uneducated men, selfish, and axious to make a name for their families as they could, (as is evident from their desires of *exon*, sheep, &c.) were allowed to start the spiritual instruction and tuition of half savages, who men of learning and experience totally regardless of self, who knew every access to the human heart, the extent of its corruption, the influences and frailties of its nature, have come to land in Liberia on their native shores, have used the wholesome control and employment of the terminals. They raged and reign like dictators over the natives, giving forth as commands whatever their ignorance, puffed up with inflated minds suggested when they found they were not responsible to any spiritual to men in their *tribe*, and for some to land in Liberia on their native shores, have used the wholesome control and employment of the terminals. 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