

KALINGE STADSBESTUUR.—Op de gewone wekelijksche vergadering, Woensdag 11, gehouden, toonde de rekening van den Theasaurier een overtrokken balans van £2,343 17s. 8d. aan.

DE WATERWERKEN.—Uit het rapport van de Commissie van de Waterwerken bleek het volgende:—

Op den brief van de Havencommissie omtrent het staken van de waterwerken werd rapporteerd, dat de oorzaken daarvan waren geweest een klinkroos, dat voor de kraan was geraakt. De kraan was door het weggaan van de stroom terstond hernieuwd en op opening was gebleven, dat de werken dagelijks 7,200 gallons kregen, terwijl de maas reet hadden op 4,900 gallons. Het rapport zette ook dat de commissie de volgende instructies had gegeven om den wateraanvoer te bevoorwaarden op twee dagen in de week te vernederen, en zy daartoe de stad in drie secties had verdeeld.

Verder was de Stadsingenieur gerustgesteld om een gepropieerd te worden om de bevoorziening van water te verbeteren. Het was er zeker van dat de bevoorziening van water in de stad zou worden verbeterd, dat de wijze waarop van het water te worden afgevoerd, handhaafde was. De voorzitter hoopte dat het publiek zou wys worden, om geen recht te slaan op het gebruik van nieuw water.

De heer Van Breda zette dat het publiek daarvan in kennis moest worden gesteld, dat de Commissie van de Waterwerken zich met zulke gemeene, lage dingen.

De nota werd naar de Commissie van financien verwezen.

Met betrekking tot den brief in welke de heer Silberbauer omlaags zich beriep verklaarde om een blijk schikking te maken met het Bestuur voor het afschaffen van zyne waterrechten, rapporteerde de Secretaris, dat hy, overeenkomstig ontvangen instructies, den Hr. Silberbauer had gevraagd, op te staan en te verklaren of hij bereid was de stad af te staan op welke voorwaarden. Het antwoord daarop was dat de heer Silberbauer zich bereid verklaarde om de noodige specificaties te doen aan een commissie, waarmede men hem eens conferentie zou woen toestaan, waarna de Secretaris het rapport van de voorzitter van de Hoog Gerzucht Hof had nagelezen, dat 11 ure op deze vergadering tegenwoordig te zijn.

De heer Van Breda meende ironisch dat het publiek den heer S. dankbaar moest zijn. Het was werkelijk jammer dat de beslissing van het Hof zoodanig was geweest dat het water nu noch voor den heer S. noch voor het publiek eenige waarde had. Toen het nog op syn agendom was, had hy het aan het publiek voor niet met al aangehouden. Er was geen gebrek aan water, al was het had laten loopen en verveelen van de beslissing van het Hof werden deze 80,000 gallons verkwist.

De voorzitter beval aan om het voorn van het Hoog Gerzucht Hof tafel van het college te doen leggen.

De heer Bam zette, dat hy de aandacht wenschte te vestigen op de aanwezigheid van den heer Kohl, die aan hem, den spreker, zyne verandering had uitgedrukt over de aanvallen door verscheidene nieuwelingen op syn karakter gebragt, maar die hy nieuwelingen te behandelen als zynen kennis wenschte op voorwaarde. Speker meende dat de bladen te wachten hadden tot zy de resultaten gezien hadden. Maar de heer Kohl was na daer om der Municipaliteit zyne diensten aan te bieden in een andere vorm. Hy was bereid naar water te graven, hetzoo op de plaats van den heer Van Breda in de Kapsel, om in onder de voorwaarde dat, als hy niet 50,000 gallons per dag op eerstgenoemde plaats leverde, of 100,000 gallons per dag op de laatste genoemde, hy geen deel behoeft te hebben in de uitgaven, maar leverde hy de hoeveelheid niet, dan moest men hem 2500 betalen. En wat betreft de vrees dat die aanvoer afbreuk zou doen aan de reeds beschikbare bronnen, —hy wilde zekerheid stellen voor £10,000, dat zulke niet het geval zou zijn.

De voorzitter zette, dat die zaak niet ter tafel was.

De heer Van Breda herhaalde dat de aanvallen der nieuwelingen welk waren en dat hy niet wenschte het publiek wids doeren. Hy gaf kennis dat hy het water, dat hy als zynen bezit van de stad had gesteld, morgen zou afschieten, om morgen een jaar het andere water in te zynen.

De heer Bam zette, dat de heer Kohl bereid was onderaan den berg op te gaan om naar water te zien, indien eenige der Commissarissen hem wilden vergezellen.

De voorzitter zette, dat hy gaan kon als de zaken waren afgedaan.

Daarop werd besloten, dat de heer Kohl en het commissie in den namiddag zouden gaan naar het municipaal land boven de plaats van den heer Kohl.

De heer Landsberg zette, dat men behoorden een document van den heer Kohl voor zich te hebben, waarop men zou kunnen afgaan, en dat, als men dat document had, het tyd zou zyn om een vergadering van de ingezetenen te beleggen, om te zien wat er kon gedaan worden. Wat betreft de aan den heer Kohl betaalde 250, waarentoet zou veel was in het midden gebragt, hy herinnerde zich, dat er 250, was weggevoeren aan een "banker" om het water in de kloof te zetten, en dat deze geen enkel stuk van dat metaal had gevonden, of-ochon men nu zag, dat er overloof van was. En verder, wat goeds was er toegebragt voor het geld, aan een koloniaal botanist betaald?

Ten elf ure werd een brief ontvangen van den heer Silberbauer, waarin deze mededeelde, dat, daer er enige twyfel was geseen omtrent zyn recht op het verterren van water, hy bereid was zyn moent te verkopen, en dat hy aanbodt met een commissie te komen te komen om het zaak te bespreken.

De heer Prins zette daarvoor dat, daer de heer S. zwaarder had om de bronnen, door hem bedoeld, aan te zynen, en, uitgenoodigd om ter vergadering te verschynen, niet gekomen was, men verder niets met hem zou te doen hebben.

De Secretaris zette dat de uitpraken van het Hoog Gerzucht Hof tafel lagen, en daarin bleek duidelyk, dat de heer Silberbauer niet moent recht had om het water te verkopen dan eenig ander inwoner der stad. De voorzitter zette dat de kwestie van den Lemairestraat omgange was, maar zette af, verloor de heer Van Breda zyn deel van het water in de kloof moent loopen. Indien besloten had dus het recht van bestiering van het water gebrukt werd voor het dooreloopen der rivier, en ieder kon dan den heer Silberbauer beletten als hy het wilde verkopen. Hy bevestigde niet waarom de heer S. bang was in de vergadering te verschynen.

De heer Bam, Jr., zette een amendement voor, dat het bestuur zich met geen verdrabod van den heer Silberbauer zou inlaten, voor dat de aanhangige applicatie bevestigd was.

De voorzitter zette, er waren vijf moenten en elf minuten, die waterrechten hadden op den stroom, voor welke sommige der eigenaars £2,000, of 2,500 eischen. De heer de Wet wilde £1,500, jufvrouw Breda £2,000, de heer Truter £1,500, en heer Baill £2,000 hebben.

De heer Van Breda zette dat reeds gedurende een geruimen tyd gebrukt werd molensaren zyn brood verandert had. Kapitein Ball zette, dat het water van den heer Silberbauer 250 waard was. Als het publiek den Commissarissen van £15,000 tot £20,000 wilde geven, konden de Commissarissen een voorraad water verschaften. De Commissarissen waren nu in zyne middelen beperkt, en als zy hun best deden kregen zy er geen dank voor.

THE Zuid Afrikaan.

Cape Town, March 4, 1867.

IMPENDING DIFFICULTIES ON OUR BORDER.

From the latest intelligence that has come to hand from the Free State, it would appear that hostilities are now almost inevitable. This is much to be deplored. The peoples who now threaten to wage war with each other, have already had enough of experience of the expensive game that kings are are said to play at; and we should have imagined that both would have felt disinclined to renew the disagreeable and harassing labours of the struggle that has but lately ended. It appears, however, that nothing but the arbitration of the sword will settle the difference at present existing. It is sad to think, that the sable inhabitants, bordering on the Free State, will not, and cannot agree to live in harmony with their neighbours, but it seems to be a law of nature, that semi-barbarism and civilization have no chemical affinity for each other. Such at least has been the history of civilization hitherto and we apprehend such will continue to mark the annals of future civilizing developments in the same direction.

We hardly believe, although the strongest reasons exist for such a belief, that the Basutos will be so infatuated as again to measure swords with those whom they have so recently found to be their superiors. Should this prove to be their determination however, they will no doubt find that the Free State is a more powerful enemy than it was during the late war. The increase of its population as well as its material wealth are now much greater than they were a couple of years ago, and consequently the result of a collision between the two is proportionately less doubtful than it was before. In fact, we believe, that the Basutos have no chance whatever against the Burgers of the Free State, and active hostilities on their part would not be consistent with that wisdom which has hitherto characterized the policy of the astute chieftain of Thaba Bosigo.

It is true, it is very hard for the Basutos to part with the industry of a whole year, particularly if that the deprivation involves the loss of anticipated food during the severe months of winter, but at the same time the parties who own, or pretend to own the standing crops now in the ceded territory, had forgone the right to cultivate these lands. Having, however, been allowed to do so, and having had every reason to believe that they would be allowed to reap with impunity the fruits of their labour, it appears on the face of it to be a cruel proceeding on the part of the Boers to destroy their standing crops. At this distance, however, and with the imperfect information now before us, we must confess that our judgment in this case is amenable to revision. We have too high an opinion of the Burgers of the Free State, to believe for a moment, that they would ever have dreamt of such severe retaliatory proceedings had they not been urged on by sufficient causes although unknown to us.

It is easy enough to foresee, what we adverted to before, the calamities that must necessarily overtake the Basutos in the event of their quarrelling with the Free State. The contest is utterly a hopeless one, and will only tend to threaten prematurely the power of the paramount chief of the most powerful of the South African tribes. There is no doubt philanthropists will condemn in unmeasured terms, the conduct of the Boers, but after all what is their opinion worth? Were they themselves placed in similar circumstances with the Boers, they would probably come to entertain very different views indeed from those they now hold. It is all very well for people who are more largely endowed with sentimentality than sense, and who pride themselves more, on their oratory, however declamatory it may be, than on the accuracy of their information or the strictness of their reasoning, to ventilate their vocabularies on the Free State Burgers: This of course does little harm to those immediately concerned, but it is calculated to produce a false impression abroad, and a mischievous one too, on those who know nothing at all of the matter.

We do not think that serious hostilities will break out, but should such unfortunately be inevitable, the Burgers of the Free State may calculate upon the warmest sympathy from the Cape Colonists, never mind what our Governor and his Executive Council may determine upon to the contrary. We are aware, and we have already given expression to our conviction, that the Basutos are esteemed to be more worthy, in gubernatorial eyes, than their neighbours of the Free State. Whether they deserve to be so, however, is a matter of opinion, and if South African opinion were to prevail, there would be no hesitation in arriving at the conclusion. We Colonists have had enough to do with thieving tribes on our Frontier. Happily we have to a great extent over one our difficulties. The Free State has yet to go through the same course, with only this material difference, that it has to protect itself at its own cost; a healthier state of matters, we believe, than when the sinews of war are drawn from a distant country that has little or no direct interest in the result of the contest. Kaffirs, it is universally admitted, have been the source of great individual advantage, although they have at the same time been accompanied with severe personal losses, but a Basuto war offers none of the attractions of a frontier colonial Kaffir war. It is to all intents and purposes a war of extermination. The Basutos have already, as it is said, proclaimed that they will give no quarter in the event of war. Do they then expect it, if matters come to the worst? We hope, however, that prudence will guide the councils of both the Burgers and the Basutos, and that war may be averted.

APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. J. G. Muller, as acting field cornet of the ward Port Nolloth, vice Dreyer, Mr. J. Bird, as ditto of the ward Springbokfontein, vice Townsend; Mr. P. C. van Niekort, as field cornet of the ward Klein Winterhoek, division of Uitenhage, vice Krog; J. E. C. Hodges, Esq., as clerk to the Chief Justice, vice Newell; Mr. J. W. McGregor, as deputy postmaster at Malaga; division of Swellendam; Mr. J. B. Style, as ditto at Port Alfred.

COMPULSORY SEQUESTRATION.—The estates of John Gertman Graham of Graham's Town, merchant, and Caspar Georg Wilhelm Stolzenbach of Mount Coke, British Kaffria, general dealer.

INTESTATE ESTATES.—Meetings of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the estates of: Petrus Louis Klein, and surviving widow La Klein, at the Magistrate's Office, Caledon, 12th April.—M. S. Barnard and surviving husband M. O. Fourie, at ditto, George 12th April.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.—The list of registered voters for Cape Town and Greenpoint having been completed has been posted in the entrance hall of the public offices, where it will remain till the 12th inst. Parties whose names are not on the list or who may object to those of others which are on it, may lodge their claims or objections with Mr. L. A. Serrurier, at the Colonial Office, where blank forms can be obtained.

LATEST FREE STATE NEWS.—A telegram received from Graham's Town on Saturday, communicates the following intelligence: "Two thousand burghers reported to be called out on duty, the first object being the destruction of Basuto crops. Affairs very threatening but no actual warfare."

THE DUTCH SHIP "GALIEE".—The claim of the owners of the *Galiee*, for relieving this vessel out of her dangerous position off Camps Bay, has been submitted to arbitrators, who have unanimously awarded £300 for that service.

SIX CONVICTS effected their escape from the Kaffir station on the 30th ultimo. They are all Kaffirs, and had been sentenced to various terms of hard labor—extending from four to eight years—for the crime of theft. Five of them were convicted at the Albee session in Sept. last, and the sixth at Queenstown in November. After all the inconveniences occasioned to prosecutors, and the serious expense the colony suffers in order to arrest and bring to justice such characters, there readily does seem to be some ground for neglect when so many escapes have to be recorded. The offer of £25 for their apprehension almost as goodly as throwing good money after bad, for should any of them be recaptured, his escape again would appear to be very probable.—*Great Eastern.*

POLICE.—The Government, or rather the Auditor General, by the command of the Governor has refused to pass the account for salary to the present Civil Commissioner, or the account of the pension to the late Civil Commissioner, until the sum due to Government on account of extra policemen is paid. About £2000 are owing for arrears Fingo Quitrent in this division,—of course the Civil Commissioner will be made responsible for this sum also.—*F. B. Advocate.*

THE RIGHT OF CREDITORS.—Within the last fortnight, the cashier of the Somerset East Bank instituted an action in the Eastern districts Court against one Raubenheimer of the Bedford district, for the recovery of £15, the value of a promissory note, six months' over due. Mr. Barry opposed the granting of costs in excess of those allowed in the Magistrate's Court, in which the amount was recoverable.

Mr. Justice Fitzpatrick expressed himself in favour of the professional man, and thereby protecting the public. Unless there were special circumstances in the case, he should be opposed to hindering a plaintiff of the right allowed him to come into this court, in which he could get professional assistance. When he saw the inopportunities and uneducated class of men practising as agents in the Magistrate's Court, generally engaged, some of them, in other pursuits, as auctioneers, for instance, a class of men likely to have numerous debtors, he should be averse to deny a plaintiff his just right of costs in a successful suit, because he preferred to employ a professional man.

Mr. Barry contended that it was never, in the intention of the Legislature to allow a case such as this, the cause of action in which arose in the district defendant resided in, and involved no speciality to be brought into the superior Court. Mr. Justice Bell had invariably pooh-poohed these tramping cases being brought before him on Circuit; and his lordship Mr. Justice Denysen had in a case at Uitenhage held that the defendant ought to have been sued before the Magistrate.

Mr. Justice Denysen said on examination of the note, which was in Dutch, he had no doubt the plaintiff had wisely elected to come into this Court at once, rather than suffer loss and delay by the possibility of an adverse suit in the Magistrate's Court. The word "Betford," after "payable at," appeared to him written in different ink and at a different time to the body of the note; then he presumed it was settled that it was a six months note, but the Dutch was "vier" and not "zes." There might also be other circumstances which operated with the plaintiff in coming to this Court; and there was nothing shown on the contrary, he was therefore clearly entitled to his costs.—*Anglo-African.*

MURDER OF MR. MURRAY, C.C., IN 1859.—Many of our readers will remember the sensation which was created in 1859 by the murder of Mr. Murray, C.C. of Victoria West, and George Hendricks, a field-cornet, by two natives—Taibosch, a Kaffir, of the tribe of Sandilli, and Danster, a Zulu, of the tribe of Dingsani; the latter being Taibosch's adopted son. Some irregularities had been complained of both by farmers and natives in the districts of Doorn Berg and Kafferberg, and Mr. Murray, accompanied by Hendricks and others, went there for the purpose of making an official investigation. In doing so, he went to Taibosch's hut, being himself armed with sword and pistol, while Hendricks carried a gun. Some dispute took place, upon which Hendricks carried his gun, when Danster seized it, and in the struggle which followed, the gun either exploded accidentally, or was fired purposely by Hendricks, who was then attacked and killed on the spot. Mr. Murray then ran off, but was followed, and much torn by some savage dogs, and was subsequently found lying dead, with one assegai wound through his body and another through his wrist.

Taibosch and Danster fled, and were only discovered a short time ago, when they were captured near the Orange River. They were conveyed to Victoria West, where the preliminary examinations were taken by Mr. Hudson, Resident Magistrate, and committed for trial upon the charge of murder. The evidence was similar to that published at the time of the original investigations; but the prisoners made the following confessions:—

Taibosch said:—I am guilty, owing to Booy and Piet having sent them to come and kill me; and so I guarded and defended myself when the masters came. When I went to the dance party Booy said: "You deserve to be killed on account of your five wives and your stock." He afterwards came a son of Booy's son. The Hottentot's name is Danster. Danster went to Gert George's place and told him that there would be war against me. Gert George sent his son and Stephanus' son to warn me that there would be war against me. I asked what I had done. They said they could not say. Keet's son came with the masters to my place, and there he sat down, and the two masters came to my hut. They came before the Hf, and asked me my name, which I mentioned. They were about three yards from me, and they asked me if I had a pass? I replied: "What to do with the pass, I am upon my own place." The one master sprang from the horse, and the other sat on the horse. I said to the other master, "shoot." The master missed me, because I jumped when I saw he was going to fire. We closed, and I got hold of the gun, as I feared the master would shoot me, as the other barrel was loaded. We struggled together, when the master on the horse jumped off, drew out his sword and came towards us. I then called to Danster to come out of the hut, as the people were killing me. Danster came out of the hut with the assegai. The master who had the sword and pistol turned round and ran away. I said to Danster as I was wrestling: "Stab this man with an assegai between the two shoulders." Danster stabbed him and he let go his hold, and ran round the hut and fell. We went up to him and stabbed him again. My dogs chased the other master, and with their barking the other dogs joined them, and they at last dragged the master down. We went and found that the dogs had already killed the master, and we stuck him with assegais. We returned, mounted the two horses, and fled over the hill, and over the river to Moshesh's land. I have now come back to know whether I am to be killed over my goods.

Danster in his confession, gave a similar account of the affair.—*Graaff-Reinet Herald.*

THE WEATHER AT GRAAFF-REINET.—On Sunday last we were visited by a very heavy thunderstorm, which, however, did not extend beyond the limits of the town. On Monday morning we had several smart showers, but in the afternoon only commenced raining steadily and continued for about six hours. The total quantity of rain fell in the two days, was 2-110. On referring to our register of rain fall commencing in 1864, we find that this is the largest quantity registered on two consecutive days. The Sunday's River, of course, came "down," running some seven feet deep. We regret to add, however, that some accident appears to have happened, for four or five oxen, a wagon whip, two horses, part of a cart, and some goats and pigs came floating down the stream.—*Id.*

THE NOTORIOUS BERTRAM has been caught at last. The Clerk of the Peace, since his return from his official tour beyond Hopetown, has traced Jan Botman from that part of the country through Cradock to Grahamstown and to the neighbourhood of Somerset. It was upon instructions issued by Mr. Buyskes that he has been apprehended under direction of Mr. C. L. Stretch, J.P., at the farm of Mr. Hart, "Glen Arvon." It is stated that he fought like a bull when he was taken, and was then handed over to the authorities at Somerset. On the 19th inst., he was sent on to Graaff-Reinet in charge of three constables, so that it is probable he may be brought up for examination on Monday next.—*Id.*

BERTRAM.—Since the above was written, Bertram arrived in town in charge of three constables, and is identified as the man who has been "wanted" so long. His capture caused great excitement in town, and as there is so much evidence against him in relation to robberies some two years ago, the proceedings in his trial are likely to be very lengthy.—*Id.*

DISCOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY.—In the Magistrate's Court last Monday, George Reed, a bastard, and a blacksmith by trade, was brought up on a charge of theft. He was remanded to obtain some information from Somerset. The Clerk of the Peace had requested the Magistrate of Somerset to search a certain house there, where a woman resides connected with the prisoner. This was done, and a quantity of goods, silk dresses, clothing, and other things, supposed to have been stolen from the stores of Mr. Wimble were found there. Prisoner was in the service of Mr. Goodhals as a post rider, and in the days when he was not so employed, he used to help in various jobs at Mr. Wimble's store. It is supposed that by this means he possessed himself of the goods, which must have been conveyed to Somerset by the post cart, of which he was the driver.

CAPTURE OF JAN BOTMA ALIAS BERTRAM, THE MURDERER OF SPILLER.—It will be subject for congratulation to the friends of the late Mr. Spiller, who some time since was barbarously murdered at Graaff-Reinet, and to the general public to learn that the guilty man, after so long evading justice was cleverly arrested last Sunday at Glen Arvon. We have not been able to gather full particulars of the capture, but we understand that Mr. Stretch having been apprised of the appearance of the murderer in the neighbourhood, was on the look out and with the assistance of his people, he managed to secure the criminal after a most determined resistance on the part of the latter, and he was shortly afterwards safely lodged in the Somerset goal. He had in his possession a locket bearing the name of the murdered man attached to a long gold chain, and it is probable that by this means he was known.

It appears that Jan Botma or Bertman as he is otherwise called was living for some time in this district with a farmer named Van der Vyver, he afterwards found his way to Graaff-Reinet and was some time in the service of Mr. Cobus Meintjes, he was implicated in many cases of theft and other criminalities, and this course of evil doing he commenced by the cruel murder of the unfortunate Mr. Spiller, which act he admitted in January last year to a fellow prisoner while undergoing punishment in the Graaff-Reinet prison. At his examination on Monday last before W. M. Maskew, Esq., he essayed to ignore his acquaintance with Graaff-Reinet and its vicinity, but one worthy C.P. was one too many for him, and the racial was forwarded in safe custody to the authorities at Graaff-Reinet where we trust he will meet with the due reward of his deeds. There is no doubt of the man's identity, as coupled with the fact of his having the locket in his possession, his appearance corresponds exactly with the description published in the *Government Gazette*.

Thus the object, for which Mr. Buyskes's the energetic Clerk of the Peace of Graaff-Reinet, went on his famous "wild goose chase," up the country, was successfully accomplished with comparatively little trouble.—*Cow-an.*

CRADOCK.—THE WEATHER.—We have much pleasure in reporting the fall of fine-soaking rains in and about Cradock during the past week. Throughout the whole of Monday it continued raining, until the waterproof capabilities of every roof in Cradock must have been sorely tried,—in which, we regret to say, there were numerous failures.—On the same day a message was received at the stores of Messrs. Cawood & Co. to the effect that the wagon of a traveller, named Ware, was sticking fast in the drift above the town, and that he would give anything that might be asked to get it out—his horses being unable to do it. A number of Kaffirs were sent up to the scene of action, where they found the wagon in the middle of the drift and the horses spanned out. They at once set to work and succeeded in dragging the vehicle to a safer place, by which time the river had risen a foot higher, and continued rising until quite impassable.—*Cradock Register.*

THE "NOBLE" BUFFALO.—The *Watchman* exhibits as follows: "We have to chronicle the advent of a copious and glorious rain since our last issue. We then stated that rain was descending heavily, but in the afternoon of that day the down pour for a short time was prodigious, and our streets soon became flooded, every gutter, and hollow space being filled, and the water rushing with force towards the river-bed. The Buffalo rose several feet, and many a sley has been replenished. The genial rains which have fallen during the week have caused quite a change in our landscape. Instead of a dirty brown, dry, scorched appearance, we now see the hills and the meadows, the valleys and the mountains, covered with a beautiful green verdure, and all nature appears to be rejoicing under the revivifying influence of the refreshing season that has at length set in. We hear that it is now likely that about one-half of the crops may be expected to be saved, and as an amazing quantity has been sown this season, it is to be hoped that half may suffice to avert the famine which threatened the natives, had the drought continued much longer. We cannot be too thankful for this timely fall."

TRANSVAAL.—A correspondent of the *Transvaal Argus* makes the following remarks:—Our £12,000 Notes are all issued and the mandates which were to have been taken up to a great extent unpaid and the officials in arrears of salary, who though proverbially long winded animals cannot live on grass and like other mortals must pay their way. Must the whole machine stop working for want of oil? Such will be the "unfortunate result unless some speedy and effective measures are adopted to prevent it. As well hang for a sheep as a lamb: when the £12,000 notes were issued there was a great outcry, the amount of declamation would have been the same if the £12,000 had been £30,000, the latter sum would have enabled the Government to establish itself on a firmer basis and the new established offices got into working order; the £12,000 has proved quite inadequate to the demand, although it is now too late to repine as the Government must under any circumstances keep its faith.

There is no country where the expenditure is so trivial as in this, there are no annual amounts to be voted for roads and bridges, no military or police forces to maintain literally nothing in the way of expenditure, but the pay of Government officials, a small stipend allowed ministers and schoolmasters and the postal department, which almost or quite pays its own expenses or ought to do so were trade in a more flourishing state. The cause of the present difficulty and deficit in the exchequer is I suppose still the political disturbances which we seem not yet to have recovered; such a contingency is not yet likely to arise again as too many interests are involved in the maintenance of a firmly established Government at any cost. The question is how to get out of the present dilemma. Why not put up to fair competition say 20 Government farms which if sold at an average price would meet the present exigency and allow time for the furtherance of any financial arrangement now at issue. Many of the resources of the country are neglected; the quitrents are by no means carefully collected many holders of property being years in arrears. One of the first steps taken by the new Registry office should be to investigate the old "Anteeken en Inspecctie" books and numbers of farms will be found transferred upon illegal Burgers Rights; although this step will cause much disaffection the amount which will accrue to Government will fully pay for any trouble taken. Again in disposing of landed property Government is continually defrauded of the transfer dues, by reason of no declaration of buyer and seller being required, contracting parties name and pay for any sum they deem convenient. We do not expect everything to work smoothly at once, knowing only too well what obstacles are thrown in the way of improvement by a prejudiced populace who look upon any innovations with dread and who certainly will never do anything for the advancement of the country of their adoption.

A SERIOUS NUISANCE.—Six.—In these days, when there is such an unusual scarcity of water, the inhabitants must necessarily put up with some nuisance which, under the circumstances cannot be entirely abated. There is one nuisance, however, which is altogether insufferable and ought at once to be suppressed. Day after day there is a flow of polluted brine in the open gutter on the upper side of Free-street. Whether it comes from the fish tubs of the fishmongers in Hottentot's-square or elsewhere, I do not care to inquire, but this I know that the inhabitants of the said street are tired of inhaling the horrid stench which during the day and at night offends their olfactory nerves. If the street-coper is at all up to the mark, I would recommend him to make an occasional dash with a hose into the gutter, to make an occasional splash in Hottentot's-square or elsewhere, I do not care to inquire, but this I know that the inhabitants of the said street are tired of inhaling the horrid stench which during the day and at night offends their olfactory nerves. If the street-coper is at all up to the mark, I would recommend him to make an occasional dash with a hose into the gutter, to make an occasional splash in Hottentot's-square or elsewhere, I do not care to inquire, but this I know that the inhabitants of the said street are tired of inhaling the horrid stench which during the day and at night offends their olfactory nerves.

A DWELLER IN DEER STREET.—JAPAN.—(Straits Times, December 22.) From Yokohama there is intelligence of a disastrous fire which occurred in that place on the 26th of Novem-

ber, and consumed more than one-half the foreign, and one-third the native portion of the settlement. The following information is derived in part from the *Japan Herald* and in part from private letters. The fire appears to have broken out a little before noon in the morning in the western extremity of the native town and soon communicated with the foreign settlement to the north-west on a street that was closely built up for more than a quarter of a mile.

A high wind from the north was prevailing at the time, and in a few minutes, flames were seen issuing in various quarters simultaneously. Other matches broke out at several points; the new American Consular building, at the distance of fully a quarter of a mile showing flames through the roof at the same moment. The flames worked up against the wind from the locality in which the fire originated, and in half an hour the whole of Yokohama was destroyed. With the exception of one or two fire-proof godowns and the temple at the end, not a single stick was standing to mark the boundaries of dwellings. Unhappily, we have to record that there was a terrible loss of life, if we may believe the reports of the Japanese themselves, who state that thirty five bodies have been found. Yoshiwara, being quite surrounded by water, and there being only one narrow bridge, which led to the street that was already in flames, became a cul de sac, from which the only retreat was by improvised bridges of boards, or by paths which were brought into use with all the celerity possible; but the flames were so rapid in their work of destruction that many fled from their only mode of escape in another element. We hear that several parts of the native town persons were burnt or crushed to death. In Otta-machi, the effects of thoughtlessness—and disregardment were painfully apparent. All along the street, the people were getting their feet moved as best they could with them to Michi (the newly fitted ground) or some other place of safety, but towards the end, near the foreign settlement, several shops had filled up the street with their goods and chattels, thus making a perfect barricade, and here was an obstruction, that even the unnumbered crowd of great difficulty overcame whilst those who were carrying loads were driven to desperation in their efforts to pass, and many women and children were very much hurt. Meanwhile the fire spread northwards and in the foreign settlement. The new American Consulate was now generally level with the ground, and report far around, that No. 1, the private residence and godown of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. had caught. In another few seconds it reached the whole settlement that the private residence on No. 2.—Messrs. Welch, Hall & Co. was on fire. Simultaneously with this, the whole range of the Consular buildings, the French, Prussian, American and English, in which latter several gentlemen of the English legation and consulate were residing were swept off so much like tinder. The wind almost increased to a typhoon, the sparks communicated with the old Japanese Custom house, and in almost as short a time as it takes to pen this story, it was a thing of the past.

The fire raged from 9 to 11 a.m. when the wind lulled and prevented it from spreading any further. The lighted debris, however, continued to flame up and was still smouldering when the mail left November 26th.

The fire engines were brought out the instant the alarm of fire was given, but alas, for the efficiency of the Yokohama fire brigade, there was not the slightest organization; and some of the engines were entirely useless, having got out of order, probably from disuse. It was difficult also, to procure a sufficient and constant supply of water for some of those that were well manned and in order, that at length there seemed to be an almost entire absence of effort to make them available. The Agents of the various Fire Insurance Offices held a meeting, when it transpired that the following amounts represent the losses sustained by each in the late fire at Yokohama.

COMPANY	STERLING.	DOLLARS.
Chiao Fire		341,000
Imperial	220,000	
Pine Hill		66,900
North British	66,000	
Northers		306,570
Commercial		9,000
Green		9,000
Royal		79,000
London & Lancashire		132,000
Liverpool & Globe		90,000
London Assurance	43,730	
Sun		156,500
Samarang		2,000
Albert		45,000
	£227,730	\$1,145,900

In round numbers £2,150,000, the property insured and destroyed will probably bring up the loss to the amount originally estimated £4,000,000. We believe that a resolution was come to that the rates of insurance should be increased, but as yet we are unable to state to what extent.

At the time of the departure of the mail it was impossible to obtain any certain data on which to base a calculation of the loss, but rough estimates put the total Japanese and foreign loss at between four and five millions independent of the losses of non-insurers which may be considerable. Luckily no Banks have sustained any loss although at one time the Hindustani Bank was in eminent danger. The loss of the Japanese merchants would appear to be severe as they had large quantities of silk stored in the Godown of foreigners. It has been ascertained that the fire had its origin in a small cook shop; some grease dripping on to the fire caused a blaze that caught the dry woodwork, and in a few minutes sustained mastery over the whole place.

Best Ichaboe Guano FOR SALE at the Stores of DE PASS, SPENCE & CO., Burg-street, Cape Town.

S. A. ASSOCIATION, SALE OF WINE.

In the Insolvent Estate of ROELOFF ABRAHAM ZEDERBERG, of Cape Town, Wine Merchant. The Trustees will cause to be sold, AT THE STORES IN HOUT-STREET, This Day, Monday, THE 4TH MARCH, AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M. ABOUT 40 Leaguers of Cape Wine of different qualities.

C. J. C. GE., Joint F. J. BROERS, Trustees. Cape Town, Church-square, 4th March, 1867. Mr. J. H. HOFFMYR, Auctioneer.

PUBLIC SALE OF HORSES, AT KLAPHUTS STATION, ON THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH NEXT, 50 HORSES. BRED in the District of Murraysburg, among which some capital Saddle Horses, and Draught Horses to match, as also some well bred Mares. A. B. DE VILLIERS, J. J. HOFFMYR, Auctioneer.

