

SKETCH
OF THE
Orange Free State



Of
SOUTH AFRICA

BLOEMFONTEIN
1875

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THE ORANGE FREE STATE

The Republic of the Orange Free State is situated on the north-eastern Boundary of the Cape Colony and is bordered as follows: On the west and north-west, by the territory claimed for the chief, Nicholas Waterboer, under the name of Griqualand West, and by Bechuanaland respectively; on the north and north-east , by the Transvaal Republic; on the east by the colony of Natal; and on the south by the British Basutoland, the Native Reserve Lands, and the Cape Colonial divisions of Albert and Colesberg.

Its boundary lines are as follows: Commencing from the “Mont-aux-Sources” in the Drakensberg Range of mountains, along that range in a north-easterly direction to the source of the Vaal River, as taken by His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Keate, in capacity as arbitrator between the governments of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic, in February 1870; thence along that river in its northerly, westerly and south-westerly direction to its junction with the Riet River; from this confluence in a south-easterly direction, along the Vetberg-line to Ramah; thence to the nearest point on the Orange River, and along that river in its south-easterly and easterly direction to the point of confluence of Cornet-spruit and the Orange River; thence northward over Jammerberg to the Caledon River, and north-easterly along the centre of that river to its rise in the “Mont-aux-Sources in the Drakensbergen.

The extent of territory situated between these lines is roughly taken to be about 70,000 square miles, but no accurate computation has hitherto been made, and the probability is that the actual extent will be found considerably greater.

The country is divided into the following districts:

Bloemfontein	Chief town and Capital	Bloemfontein	Villages	{Reddersburg {Brandfort {Bethany Edenburg
Fauresmith	" " "	Fauresmith	"	
Caledon	" " "	Smithfield	"	
Winburg	" " "	Winburg	"	Ventersburg
Harrismith	" " "	Harrismith	"	Frankfort
Kroonstad	" " "	Kroonstad	"	Heilbron
Boshof	" " "	Boshof	"	
Jacobsdal	" " "	Jacobsdal	"	
Philippolis	" " "	Philippolis	"	
Bethulie	" " "	Bethulie	"	
Bethlehem	" " "	Bethlehem	"	
Rouxville	" " "	Rouxville	"	Wepener
Lady Brand	" " "	Lady Brand	"	Ficksburg
Pniel	" " "	Pniel	--- this district under protest	

The country consists of extensive, undulating plains, which slope from the great Watershed northward and eastward respectively to the Vaal and Orange Rivers, and is intersected at varying intervals by the Wilge River, Rhenoster River, Valsch River, Vet River, and Riet River, emptying their waters into the Vaal River; and the Caledon River, which empties itself into the Orange River.

The Wilge River and its tributary streams Elands River, Liebenbergsvlei, and Correlis River and Milt River drain the districts of Harrismith and Bethlehem, taking their rise in the Drakensberg and Wittenberg Ranges; the Rhenoster and Valsch Rivers run through the district of Kroonstad, the latter also rising in the district of Bethlehem.

The Vet River is formed by the junction of its tributaries, the Sand River, and the Great and Little Vet Rivers, all of which take their rise in the mountain ranges on the border of the Winburg District, which formerly separated the Orange Free State from Basutoland, but now form part of the Winburg and Lady Brand districts. The Modder River taking its rise near Thaba-Nchu and receiving in its course Leemo River, Rhenoster-spruit, Kaal-spruit, and other minor streams, runs through the

districts of Bloemfontein, and skirting the district of Boshoff, forms a junction with the Riet River at David's Graf, about twelve miles below Jacobsdal, and is lost in that stream, which takes its rise near Paul Smitsberg, and in the Watershed between the districts of Bloemfontein and Smithfield.

The Riet River receives on its course, the waters of the Kaffir River, Kromellamboog-spruit, and other minor streams, and forming a junction with Modder River, as above stated, empties itself in the Vaal River.

The Caledon River receives all the small streams arising in the new districts of Lady Brand and Rouxville, as also the tributary streams of Wilgeboom-spruit and Slik-spruit, and joins the Orange River near the village of Bethulie, on the south-east border of the State.

Physical Geography

The courses of the largest rivers are extremely tortuous and hollow, the banks of the rivers being for the greater part very precipitous, and generally lined with water-willow, mimosa, and other trees indigenous to this country. The streams are usually fordable; during the rainy season, however, they become swollen and impassable.

In every district there are small ranges of rocky hills, the highest being found in the districts bordering on the Drakensberg and Wittenbergen Ranges, and on the Caledon and Orange Rivers, but everywhere forming the Watersheds, in which various streams take their rise, and affording landmarks for the division lines of the various districts.

Vegetation

The plains and table-lands of the Orange Free State are covered with grass, which in rainy seasons becomes rank and luxuriant, affording excellent pasture for stock of all descriptions.

In the southern and eastern districts the grass is burnt off once a year, in order to destroy the old crop, which rots, by reason of the rain, and becomes injurious to sheep and cattle. In the western districts the grass is gradually becoming supplanted by a dwarf bush vegetation, such as is commonly met within the colony.

On the mountain ranges are generally to be found bushes of larger growth, as well as the wild bastard olive, and several other species of trees known in the parlance of the country as the Kareiboom, Guarrieboom, Kiperrolete.

Agriculture

The Orange Free State is for the greater part a grazing country, and though agriculture is everywhere attended to on a larger or smaller scale, according to the natural capabilities of the farms, still it is chiefly in the southern and eastern districts that it is carried on as the principal source of production, and it is almost exclusively from the districts of Rouxville, Lady Brand, Winburg, Bethlehem and Harrismith that grain is brought to the markets of the other districts.

Mineral

Neither is it altogether without mineral wealth, as diamonds, rubies and other precious stones have been discovered in various parts of the country.

Coal also of a very good quality, and in paying quantities, has been found in the Winburg district, as well as on farms in the Lady Brand and Harrismith districts; and if report speaks truly, a concession has already been granted to a Coal Mining Company, by a farmer in the Winburg district. A geological survey would no doubt tend greatly to prove the existence of various other valuable mineral products hitherto only suspected.

Animal

In the early days of this republic the distribution of animal life was a subject of great interest, from the fact of the immense variety of wild animals inhabiting the country. Even now the lion still frequents some sections of it. But, owing to the advance of civilization and human industry, the larger animals, as the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus and giraffe, are disappearing. Upon its vast, undulating plains, however, a large and splendid variety of antelope tribe roam in countless numbers.

The country being favourable for the rearing of horses, cattle and woolled sheep, the number of the latter contained therein may be estimated by millions.

Birds abound in great variety, and among these of the larger kinds, may be emierated the ostrich, eagle vulture, pelican, hawk, and various species of crane.

Exports and Imports

The staple articles of export from the Orange Free State, are wool, skins, and ostrich feathers, of late years diamonds and other precious stones, while owing to the mining population in the disputed territories along the Vaal River, a large trade in grain and other agricultural produce, has been productive of great wealth to the country.

Commerce

From the same cause, although more indirectly, trade in all articles of import, such as ironware implements, and manufactures in woollen, cotton and silk goods, and articles for consumption, either as necessities or luxuries, has received a great stimulus, and commercial community is to all appearance in a very healthy and prosperous condition. The dividends of the Bloemfontein Bank and Board of Executors at 20% and 15%, respectively, for the past year, may be taken as fair evidence of this assertion.

A Statement of import and export for the Orange Free State could only be furnished with accuracy by the merchants of the seaport towns of Port Elizabeth, in Cape Colony, and Durban, in Natal, who not only receive the produce exported, but also furnish the goods imported.

Climate

The average height of the Orange Free State above the level of the sea is about 5,000 feet, and the climate generally salubrious. The winter here is cold but dry, the summer usually warm and moist, although droughts are sometimes experienced in the summer months. The air, however is healthy and dry, as a rule, and this is particularly felt at Bloemfontein and its vicinity; consequently, numbers of individuals suffering from pulmonary affections resort to

Bloemfontein and experience much benefit from a residence in this part of the country.

In other respects it has been noticed that the changes of the seasons are to a greater or less degree, according to their duration, accompanied by a greater liability to colds and fevers, generally of a typhoid type, and inflammatory affections, especially amongst children.

The rate of mortality, however, would not seem to be extraordinary, though from the absence of statistics they can only be guessed at. Foreigners do not seem to suffer after being acclimated, on the contrary, they are benefited by the change.

Population

The population of the Orange Free State has been variously computed, but as a steady and uninterrupted stream of immigration has been flowing into the country for years, and in very considerable numbers since the satisfactory settlement of the Basuto war, the white population may be estimated at 75000; the coloured or native 25000.

Form of Government

The Government of the Orange Free State is Republican, and its Constitution vests the legislative powers in the *Volksraad*, the members of which are elected by their constituents for four consecutive years. The whole number of representatives there being one for each chief town of a district, and one for each field cornetcy, is fifty-two. Of this number, the half retire by rotation every two years, and a new election takes place to fill up the vacancies.

The *Volksraad* meets in session annually at Bloemfontein, which is the capital of the State and the seat of the Government, if no extraordinary session be convened by the State President, for the consideration of any urgent question which might demand immediate attention.

The executive power in the State rests in the State President, which officer is elected by suffrage of burghers throughout the whole State; his term of office lasts 5 years, and he is eligible for re-election. Candidates for the Presidentship are generally recommended by the *Volksraad* to the burghers, and a change

taking place in that office does not affect the positions of the other officials in this country, as is the case in the United States of America.

The State president is assisted by the Executive Council, in which the Landdrost of Bloemfontein and the Government Secretary have session also as official members, and three others chosen by the *Volksraad* from among the most influential members in the neighbourhood of the chief town of the State, form the unofficial members provided for in the Constitution.

The unofficial members hold office for three years, retiring successively, and are eligible for re-election, or rather re-nomination, by the *Volksraad*.

The entire control of the affairs of the State, internal as well as external, rests in the hands of the State President, as far as the public service of the State is concerned, and with the exceptions specified in the Constitution.

The chief executive officer in each district is the Landdrost, who is clothed with the functions both of Magistrate and Civil Commissioner in his district, and is assisted in his duties by the Landdrost-clerk.

Each district has furthermore its Sheriff and deputy; gaoler and staff of constables. Where there are no Government buildings, offices and gaol are hired by the Government.

Each district is divided into the necessary number of wards, each of which elects a Field Cornet, under whom it serves, and who has certain judicial, and in times of war, military powers. All the wards combine in the election of a Commandant, who is military head of the whole district in times of war or disturbance, and takes the chief command over the burghers of his district on command.

As soon as the contingents from the various district have taken the field, and before active operations against the enemy are commenced, the officers, viz.: the Commandants and Field Cornets of the several contingents, meet and proceed to the election of a Commandant-General from among their number, who thereupon makes over his charge to an elected successor, and takes supreme command of the whole commando, receiving his instructions from the State President.

Burghers of the State are constituted by the following three classes: *First*, Whites who were born in the State. *Secondly*, Whites who have resided in the State during one year, and have fixed property to the amount of £150, registered in their own names. *Thirdly*, Whites who have resided in the State for three successive years; always provided the two latter classes furnish the President with good conduct certificates and written engagements to respect the laws of the State, whereupon they can obtain certificates of burghership.

Burghers of eighteen years of age and upwards have right of suffrage at the elections of Field Cornets and Commandant, but they must be of age and have sundry other Constitutional qualifications to be entitled to vote for a State President.

Judicial

The administration of justice in the Orange Free State is regulated by the local ordinances enacted by the *Volksraad* from time to time, and further according to the Roman Dutch law. The Law Courts of the Orange Free State are at present the following:

First, The Landdrost Court, which has police and criminal jurisdiction, and can bind over in the some of £100 for six months, fine up to £5, imprison for three months, with hard labour, and give lashes up to twenty-five; while it has a civil jurisdiction in all cases up to £37/10s. Special laws, however, give this Court a higher jurisdiction for certain offences.

Secondly, The Court of Landdrost and Heemraden, consisting of the Landdrost and two assessors, who can bind over in the amount of £200 for twelve months, fine up to £10, imprison with hard labour for four months, punish with lashes up to thirty-nine, and have civil jurisdiction in cases from £37/10s up to £75. This Court also has special jurisdiction under certain ordinances. From these Courts there is appeal too.

Thirdly, The Combined Courts of Landdrosts, the Circuit Court of the State, which has unlimited jurisdiction, and can try criminally all heavy crimes and misdemeanours, and dispose of all civil cases, from £75 and upwards, brought in the first instance before it, and hears all appeals from the two lower Courts.

This Court consists of three Landdrosts, at present it holds its sessions once annually, sometimes in each district, and sometimes for two or three districts combined in one place. During the interval of its session, the Landdrost of each district is Judge in chambers for his district, and all interlocutory orders are made by him

Fourthly, The Highest Court of Appeal, before which all appeals from various Circuit Courts are brought, hold session at Bloemfontein once or twice a year. Till last year the Executive Council constituted the Court of Appeal in highest resort, but the *Volksraad* has made provision for a separate Court, under a Chief Justice properly qualified and two assessors from among the Landdrosts of the districts. The ordinance constituting this Court is No. 4, 1872 and was enacted last year; hitherto it has not been carried into effect; but there is every probability that a bench of Judges will be established as Supreme Court, as the necessity for the measure is becoming more apparent year by year.

The State Attorney conducts the public prosecution for the State in person before the Circuit Courts, but is represented by the Landdrost-clerk before the lower Courts.

The Law Registry Office for the Higher Courts throughout the whole State is at Bloemfontein.

Ecclesiastical

The Constitutional Church of the Orange Free State is the Dutch Reformed Church. The chief governing body of which viz., the Synod, meets once every three years, while the various congregations of the State are classed under two circuits or rings, and each ring meets yearly. Each congregation is governed locally by the Kerkeraad.

Under this Church there are at present eighteen congregations, fifteen of which receive State support.

Besides the Dutch Reformed Church, a branch of the Anglican Church of South Africa, represented by the Bishop of Bloemfontein and a numerous staff of clergy, is established in the Orange Free State.

The capital of the diocese is Bloemfontein where the Bishop resides, and congregations of this church are ministered to in

Smithfield, Bethulie, Philippolis, Harrismith, Modderpoort, Thaba 'Nchu, and other places. The English minister at Smithfield is the only one of this body receiving State support.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church also has a circuit in the Orange Free State, under a superintendent, resident at Bloemfontein, and a numerous body of ministers, and has congregations in Fauresmith, Smithfield, Harrismith, Thaba 'Nchu, and other places. It receives State support for two of its ministers.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church is represented in the State by a superintendent and several ministers, who labour at Bloemfontein, Bethany, and other parts of the State.

Finally the Roman Catholic Church, under the care of a Priest, is ministering to the wants of its people at Bloemfontein.

Educational

The educational part of the country is only now receiving that vital attention, which a subject of so vast importance to any country ought to have; and the legislation has only of late years been impressed with the absolute necessity of placing this department on the best possible footing. Accordingly, a fund is gradually being raised for educational purposes, which in 1876 will place at the disposal of the Government an amount of £56,000.

Meantime, in accordance with Order No.5, 1872, an Inspector of Education has been appointed, who has already entered upon his colossal task, namely, that of remodelling the whole educational system, and great hopes are now entertained for the future of the rising generation. It is only right, nevertheless, to state, that a Government allowance of £90 a year has for years past been given to each district town, on condition of its subscribing at least one-half more, and attempts to establish good schools have everywhere been made by the District School Committees, comprising the Landdrost, Dutch Reformed Church and three elected members, with varying success in some places, but in others only to meet with failure, which is principally to be attributed to the defective system hitherto pursued.

The principal support hitherto afforded by the Government, consists in the liberal allowance made for the salaries of

teachers in the Grey College, but owing to the short time that has elapsed since the arrival of one of them, and various other circumstances beyond the control of the Government, the desired results are still to be looked for. Very praiseworthy efforts have also been made on behalf of education by the Anglican Church, in schools established at Bloemfontein and at Smithfield, and this latter has already shown very satisfactory results.

Financial

The financial department of the State is under the control of the Auditor-General and Treasurer-General, whose offices are also at Bloemfontein. The accounts of revenue and expenditure, with vouchers for each district separately, are sent up monthly, and all balances in the district treasuries remitted monthly to the Treasurer-General.

The Auditor-General publishes a quarterly statement of revenue and expenditure, and makes up the estimate for each ensuing year, which are revised by a Commission out of the *Volksraad*, and after their report voted for the service year.

Notwithstanding the heavy expenditure and consequent debt, occasioned by the last Basuto war, and the issue of Government paper to the amount of £130,000 which for a long time was not valued at more than half the coinage it represented, the financial status of the Government has been steadily improving as will appear from the following statement of revenue and expenditure for the various service years from 1857:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
1857-1858	£18,421	13s	5d	£15,862	7s	3d
1858-1859	£24,646	7s	7d	£24,699	11s	1d
1859-1860	£19,707	1s	7d	£20,978	12s	1d
1860-1861	£20,949	3s	10d	£21,555	13s	1d
1861-1862	£32,168	18s	2d	£32,368	0s	2d
1862-1863	£44,555	5s	10d	£41,698	13s	9d
1863-1864	£42,219	15s	3d	£42,603	7s	7d
1864-1865	£41,650	15s	2d	£41,637	4s	8d
1865-1866	£66,549	19s	8d	£64,664	3s	9d
1866-1867	£132,293	9s	9d	£130,606	0s	8d
1867-1868	£146,739	9s	1d	£142,021	1s	7d
1868-1869	£70,297	5s	4d	£68,928	19s	9d
1869-1870	£59,802	11s	9d	£51,783	12s	9d
1870-1871	£78,904	1s	2d	£74,175	14s	1d
1871-1872	£84,282	1s	10d	£74,252	5s	6d
1872-1873	£112,949	8s	3d	£102,141	16s	10d

When it is remembered that the country was engaged in war with the Basutos in 1858 and in 1865-69, the extraordinary difference in the relative amounts for these years is readily accounted for, as also the decrease in revenue and expenditure during 1869-1870, the country being then prostrated from the effects of a protracted struggle, during which the interests of trade, agriculture and flocks could not receive the necessary attention, and the powers of production were proportionably lessened.

The amount of revenue for 1872-1873 contrasts favourably with the last mentioned amount, as does also the fact, that of the £130,000 issued as Government notes, little more than one-third is still in circulation, nearly two-thirds having already been redeemed.

The revenue of the country is raised by quit-rents on farms, transfer dues, stamp duties, and fees in the various Governmental departments, licenses, hire of State lands, huttax on the coloured population, and from various other sources; the mode of taxation being for the greater part indirect.

The estimates voted for the service year of 1873-74, for the expenditure of the State, amounts to £75,188. Under this amount are sundry sums as follows:

<i>for Civil and Judicial Departments</i>	.....	£18,275
<i>for Police</i>	.....	£2,800
<i>for Churches and Schools</i>	.....	£7,560
<i>for Administration of Justice</i>	.....	£1,505
<i>for Prisons</i>	.....	£2,495
<i>for Hospitals</i>	.....	£443
<i>for Hire of Buildings</i>	.....	£692
<i>for Postal Departments</i>	.....	£4,530
<i>for Roads</i>	.....	£640
<i>for Members V.R.,</i>	.....	£2,200
<i>for Stationary, Printing, &c.,</i>	.....	£1,963
<i>for Artillery</i>	.....	£2,000
<i>for Ammunition</i>	.....	£4,000
<i>for Withdrawal of Government Paper</i>	.....	£16,840
<i>for Orphan Chamber</i>	.....	£1,200

And also, for various other purposes, the above will be sufficient to convey some idea of the mode of expenditure.

The facts adduced all tend to show that the country is in a prosperous condition, and that if only allowed to improve the

years of peace it may soon be able to undertake various reproductive works from which it has hitherto been debarred.

State Lands

The Government lands of the Orange Free State are still very considerable, though as nought, compared with their original size, owing to the sales of farms which have been held from time to time. The value of fixed property of all kinds has increased greatly within the last few years. Even in the districts of Harrismith and Kroonstad, where land formerly was almost valueless, farms are now eagerly sought after, and change hands at very high rates.

The average price of land throughout the whole State may now be fixed at 10s. per morgen.

A rough estimate fixes the number of farms throughout the country as between 6,000 and 7,000. Fixed property changes ownership by registration.

Mode of Registration

The mode of registration of deeds of all descriptions in the State, is generally held to be a more publicly useful one than that in vogue in the colonies. There is a Sub-Registry Office in each district, while the Chief Deeds Registry Office is at Bloemfontein. The transfers or other deeds are passed before the Registrar of Deeds, or Landdrost of the districts, as the case may be, and after registration at the head office, are also registered in the district offices, so that an intending purchaser can at once satisfy himself as to the titles, &c., of any property at its district office, thereby sparing both time and expense.

Historical

The earliest traditionary records concerning the territory now known as the Orange Free State, would convey the idea that it was not inhabited by any definite race, but rather that marauding bands from tribes of Kaffirs, Bushmen and Corannas from time to time infested it, either to secure pasture for their flocks, or to escape destruction from the hands of some stronger race, and it is only

about the years 1816 to 1820 that these records become definite, as determining the facts that about that time an immigration of Griquas, under Adam Kok settled at Griquatown, and that bodies of Dutch Farmers used first to cross the Orange River with their flocks, during times of drought in the colony, and afterward settled in the new territory, more especially in the vicinity of the Riet River.

These pioneers were afterwards followed up by whole bodies of immigrants; one body settling in the present district of Boshof, on land purchased by them from the Chief Dautzeo, and another settling on what was afterwards known as the Vaal River District, on lands bought from Chief Matagnau. While many more either leased or bought lands in the territory of the Griquas, who, under Adam Kok, in 1820, had established themselves at Philippolis, along the Orange River up to the junction of the Roschjas-spruit.

The numbers of the immigrants were greatly increased by the influx of Dutch colonists, who felt themselves aggrieved by the emancipation of the slaves, in 1839, and left the colony in large numbers, in order to place themselves beyond British control. These settlers formed a Government for themselves, after the model of the old Dutch Government of the colony, and matters went on quietly up to 1845, when in consequence of some fracas between the Boers and the Griquas, which resulted in hostilities, the British Government intervened, and assisting the Griquas with Her Majesty's Troops, defeated the Boers at Zwart Koppies; and to prevent a like occurrence, a British Resident was established in the country, with a small force to support his authority.

But a treaty had been entered into between the British Government and Adam Kok, in 1845, in which certain terms affecting the Boer tenure of property in Griqualand, were comprehended, which gave great dissatisfaction to the immigrants.

Their acknowledged chief, Andries Pretorius, endeavoured to procure an amelioration of these terms, but without success, and after the proclamation of sovereignty over the territory, discontent broke into rebellion, and the British authorities were driven back across the Orange River, in July 1848. Subsequently a force of 500 men was brought up by Sir Harry Smith, and after a short but

sharp encounter with the Boers at Boomplaats, the latter were defeated, and the British authority re-established the Orange River sovereignty.

The territory now remained under that Government, represented in the person of a British Resident at Bloemfontein, where a fort had been erected, mounting three guns, and where the seat of Residency had been established up to 1854. During this period many Europeans and colonists of European decent, also took up their abode in the sovereignty.

Owing, however, to the continual embroilments of the burghers with the Basutos, under Moshesh, not in their own quarrels, but in those of the allies of the British Government, and the costs thereby occasioned of keeping up a considerable military force, the abandonment of the Orange River sovereignty was recommended to the home Government and carried out, under the Special Commissionership of Sir George Clerk, who, in spite of the opposition of an influential body of the inhabitants, especially of Bloemfontein, made over the Government of the Orange River Sovereignty to a body of delegates, representing the inhabitants of the various districts, by virtue of the convention entered into with them on the 23rd of February, 1854; which convention is the Charter of the Orange Free State.

A Provisional Government was at once formed by the delegates under the Presidency of Mr. Hoffman, and afterwards a Republican Constitution was drawn up and adopted by the *Volksraad*, the members of which had in the meantime been duly elected.

For some time after its erection into a separate State, the Government of the Orange Free State was principally engaged in meeting the difficulties arising out of the many boundary questions with petty native chiefs, in and bordering on the Free State; the principal settlement arrived at being the definition of the Vetberg-line, between Adam Kok and Cornelius Kok and Waterboer; and it was only during the able Presidentship of Mr. Boshoff, that attention was first given to the internal affairs of the country, and some order established by salutary local ordinances, which are in force at the present day, regulating, among other matters, the establishment of proper law courts, tariffs, sale of gunpowder, and liquor laws. But this dawn of order was soon to be clouded by the questions

But this dawn of order was soon to be clouded by the questions with the Basutos, which assumed greater importance, and eventually, in March 1858, terminated in war between the burghers of the new Republic and their thievish neighbours.

The hostilities lasted with varying fortunes, and were finally brought to a close by the Convention of Aliwal-North, on the 29th September 1858. The following year, 1859, saw the Orange Free State deprived of the further services of President Boshoff by the resignation of his office; and although there are those who may have differed with him, still the most universal voice was one of regret at the loss of the man who not only did so much for the internal welfare of the country, but so ably conducted the State through its difficulties with the tribe of Witzie, with the Transvaal Republic, with Scheel Cobus and with the Basutos.

A successor to President Boshoff was elected in the person of President Pretorius, son of the well-known Commandant-General, Andries Pretorius, of Boomplaats celebrity, who assumed office in 1860. The two principal events during his term of office were, *first*, the annexation to the Orange Free State of the Bethulie lands, by special treaty with Chief Lephin; and *secondly*, the purchase from the Griqua Chief, Adam Kok, on his migration to the territory of Nomans-land, in 1861, of all his lands and those he inherited from Cornelius Kok, of Campbell, whereby, the Vetberg-line became part of the boundary of the State. It is on this purchase, also, that the right and title to the Campbell Lands to the north of Vaal River is founded by the Orange Free State Government. On the resignation of President Pretorius, in 1863, a new election was held, and President Brand assumed office as the chosen of the people, in February 1864.

The peace secured by the Treaty of Aliwal proved a hollow one, and as the Basutos not only repudiated their treaty engagements, but continued their depredations and committed various outrages on the burghers inhabiting the frontier, President Brand's first endeavours were directed to the attainment of a satisfactory settlement of the boundary line question, and he succeeded in getting this defined by the arbitration of Sir Philip Wodehouse, Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, October 1864. Notwithstanding this peaceful solution of the question, the attitude of the Basutos grew daily

more and more threatening, and the Orange Free State saw itself forced to arms, and took the field in May 1865. The struggle lasted eleven months, and a treaty of peace, on very advantageous terms for the Orange Free State, was signed April 3rd 1866, by which, among other conditions, a large tract of country was ceded to the State.

This new territory was inspected by commissioners, and the farms granted and sold on conditions of military tenure. And as Basuto squatters had everywhere re-occupied this tract, it became necessary to clear the country by a commando, called out for that purpose, March 12th 1867. But this measure had not the desired effect, for in the months of June and July the Basutos murdered two subjects of the Orange Free State, named Bushe and Krynauw, and flung defiance at its Government, when it demanded the delivery to justice of the murderers.

Consequently, in the month of August 1867, the commandos of Free State burghers took the field afresh, and soon victory crowned the cause of the Free State, as mountain stronghold after mountain stronghold was taken from the enemy; and there remained now only to Moshesh his own fastness called Thaba-Bosigo.

When hostilities were brought to a close by the intervention of the British Government, to whom the Basutos had applied to be received as subjects, a lengthy correspondence was carried on during an armistice or truce which had been agreed upon, and it was only after a deputation from the Orange Free State had been sent to England, that a satisfactory settlement of the question was arrived at, and defined in the Convention of Aliwal North, March 12th 1869, where advantageous terms of peace and a satisfactory boundary were obtained by the Orange Free State.

Immediately after the settlement of this question negotiations were carried on with the Transvaal republic, which resulted in a deed of submission, by which the settlement of the boundary between the two Republics was confided to the arbitration of Lieutenant-Governor Keate, of the Colony of Natal, and his decision was recommended to the respective Governments in February, 1870, and adopted by them.

But another boundary question which had from time to time engaged the attention of the *Volksraad*, namely, that between

the Orange Free State and Nicholas Waterboer, now assumed prominence, owing to the discovery of diamonds in the Vaal River, near Pniel, a mission-station of the Berlin Missionary Society. Every means was used to bring the matter to a satisfactory solution without avail, and at last the Orange Free State Government, after a meeting with Waterboer and his council at "*Novitgedacht*, on the Vaal River, August 18th 1870, saw itself constrained to proclaim the territorial boundaries of the Campbell lands to the north of the Vaal River, purchased by it from Adam Kok, as heir to Cornelius Kok 1861.

Meantime a large influx of people from all parts of the Colonies and from foreign countries, to the diamondiferous banks of the Vaal River took place, and gradually spread itself to the present diggings at Du Toits Pan, Bultfontein and Vooruitzigt, in the district of Pniel, and while the Orange Free State Government was engaged in the establishment of a proper system of control and sanitary regulations for a mining population, Waterboer urged on by his agent, presented a petition to the British Government, representing that a great part of his territory had been encroached upon by the Orange Free State Government, and requesting their acceptance of himself and his people as subjects, and asking their intervention on his behalf.

Lieutenant-Governor Hay, then acting High Commissioner at Cape Town, thereupon identifying himself with Waterboer's representations forthwith, in violation of the second and other articles of the Convention, appointed Commissioners and empowered them with authority over the diggers, which authority was at first only exercised on the north side of the Vaal, though sundry intrigues were carried on amongst the diggers on the south side also, in order to obtain a footing there.

Matters came to a crisis however, after the arrival of Governor Barkly at the Cape in 1871, who, adopting the views of the then Government Secretary, Southey, and ignoring the fact that all the grounds to the south of the Vaal River had been in undisputed possession, and under the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Orange Free State, since the Convention of 1854, issued a proclamation, October 27th 1871, declaring Waterboer and his people British subjects, and claiming as his territory, not only the Campbell lands to the north of the Vaal, but also the territory on the

south side of that river, right up to a straight line from Ratberg to David's Graf, at the junction of Riet and Modder River, and thence in a straight line to Ramah and the Orange River.

This proclamation was followed up by forcible possession being taken of the lands in question, in a time of profound peace. In order to avoid a collision, and the dire effects which a war with a consanguineous race in the colony would inevitably entail, the Government of the Orange Free State withdrew its authority and officials from that part of their territory, under solemn protest against this breach of the Law of Nations, and sought to obtain justice for the violation of their territory in arbitration and deeds of submission; forming subject matter for a continued correspondence and discussion between the Government of Her British Majesty and that of the Orange Free State.

Many events have occurred in connection with this question, which each in their turn threatened to disturb the peaceful relations between the countries concerned, but sufficient proof has been given that the terms of the Convention, February 23rd 1854, have not received that due regard which a weaker power may, with justice, expect from a stronger; and that the endeavours of the Government of the Orange Free State to secure a satisfactory definition of the boundary line made over to them, have but too often been thwarted by those, from whom it had a right to expect every possible co-operation.

At all events, it is certainly beyond dispute, that the action hitherto taken by the British High Commissioners in these various questions, does not evince the spirit breathed forth in the despatch of the Hon. H. Labouchere, June 5th 1857, to Sir George Grey, then Governor of the Cape Colony, from which the following extract is quoted: "The outlines of that policy, I would recapitulate as follows: to observe strictly the letter and spirit of the treaties into which we have entered with the neighbouring States; to maintain the integrity of our possessions on the confines of these States, but to avoid any extension of their limits to which they may justly object; and to forebear from mixing ourselves up with the affairs of the native tribes, except so far as may be clearly indispensable for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects".

Such then, are the principal events which have occupied the

serious attention of the Orange Free State Government to such a degree, that the internal affairs of the State have not received that vital attention which many important branches still urgently demand; and to this it is owing that the Judicial, Administrative, and Educational Departments, still call for earnest study of every well-meaning citizen, with a view to their establishment on the best possible footing.

To the political questions also it may be attributed that the national feelings of Dutch and English are not more fully united and merged in the consolidation of the various interests of the country with a sole view to its future greatness.

Happily, however, of late years, a great deal of the bitterness has passed away, and the sympathies of all parties are becoming more concentrated in the common interests of the State.

When it is considered that but twenty years ago, the management of the affairs of this country was cast upon the shoulders of a people untutored as regards government; exposed to crafts of enemies, without and within; without any standing force; without military stores, or a public treasury; with a sparse population spread out over a large extent of territory; and without any definite legislation; the rise and present prosperity of the Orange Free State Republic, surely bears witness to an almost unprecedented success, and have earned for it the right to be looked upon as one of the leading States of South Africa.

In concluding the short sketch of this Republic, it would be well to state, that besides the amicable relations which the Orange Free State enjoys with the various European powers, it has lately formed a general convention of friendship, commerce, and extradition with the United States of America.

President of the Republic
Hon. J.H. BRAND

Government Secretary,
Hon. F.K.HOHNE.

Treasurer General,
Hon. C. DE JONGH BLOEM.

Postmaster General,
Hon. W.H. CANISIUS.