SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Constitution and Government.

The South African Republic, also known as the Transvaal, was originally formed by part of the Boers, who left the Cape Colony in 1835 for Natal, but quitted that colony on its annexation to the British Crown. In 1852 the independence of the Transvaal was recognised by the British Government, and the constitution of the State is based on the 'Thirty-Three Articles,' passed May 23, 1849, and the 'Grondwet,' or Fundamental Law of February 2, 1858. The Constitution has since been frequently amended down to July 1887. The legislative power of the State is vested in a Volksraad of 39 members, elected for four years, one-half retiring every two years. The franchise qualification for people not born in the Republic is residence for five years, the oath of allegiance, and payment of £25. The qualification for a member of the Volksraad is: age 30 years, born in the Republic, or 15 years burgher entitled to vote, member of a Protestant church, residence in the Republic, and possession of landed property in the State. The executive is vested in a President, elected for five years by all enfranchised burghers, assisted by a council consisting of three official members (the State Secretary, the Commandant General, and the Secretary), and three non-official members elected by the Volksraad. On April 12, 1877, the Transvaal was annexed by the British Government, and an administrator with an Executive Council and Legislative Assembly appointed.

In December 1880 the Boers took up arms against the British Government, and as a result a treaty of Peace was signed March 21, 1881. According to the convention made (ratified by the Volksraad October 26, 1881), self-government was restored to the Transvaal so far as regards internal affairs, the control and management of external affairs being reserved to Her Majesty as suzerain. A British Resident was appointed, with functions analogous to those of a Consul-General and Chargé d'Affaires. Another convention with the Government of Great Britain was signed in London February 27, 1884, ratified by the Volksraad, August 8, by which the State is to be known as the South African Republic, and the British suzerainty considerably restricted.

1 There are two separate voting divisions, one being the Witwatersrand goldfields, the other the 'De Kaap' and Komatie goldfields together. Each of these voting divisions is represented by a member who is elected by the qualified voters in the fields.
SOCTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

State President.—S. J. Paul Krüger, elected for the second time May 8, 1888.

State Secretary.—Dr. W. J. Leyds.

Members of the Executive Council.—Commandant-General P. J. Joubert.


Area and Population.

The area of the republic is estimated at 121,854 square miles, divided into 17 districts, and its white population in 1889 at 110,000, of whom 62,000 are Dutch; the native population is estimated at 500,000. These figures, however, can be regarded as only approximate until a regular census is taken in 1890. The boundaries of the State are precisely defined in the convention of February 27, 1884—since altered by a supplementary convention, by which the former New (Zulu) Republic was annexed to the South African Republic as a new district, named Vrijheid. The seat of government is Pretoria, and the chief town Potchefstroom. The largest town is Johannesburg, the mining centre of Witwatersrand goldfields, with a population of 30,000 and a floating population of 100,000. The bulk of the population are engaged in agriculture. There are 20,000 gold-diggers and 10,000 engaged in trade.

Religion.

The Dutch Reformed Church is the dominant religious body, claiming 43,821 (1888) of the population; other Dutch Churches, 18,100; English Church, 6,581; Wesleyans, 3,866; Catholic, 3,000; other Christian Churches, 1,500; Jews, 2,000.

Instruction.

In the estimates for 1889 17,137£. was allotted for education. In 1888 there were 16 village and 100 ward schools, with 3,685 pupils. There is a higher State school at Pretoria, with 100 pupils. There are 7 English schools in Pretoria with 90 pupils.

Finance.

The following table shows the ordinary revenue and expenditure for four years:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1884-85</th>
<th>1885-86</th>
<th>1887</th>
<th>1888</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>£161,595</td>
<td>£292,353</td>
<td>£668,433</td>
<td>£884,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>£184,822</td>
<td>£213,975</td>
<td>£621,073</td>
<td>£770,492</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The credit balance being on December 31, 1888, 276,006£. The revenue is derived from land sales, quit-rents, customs, hut-tax, stamps, transport dues, and principally from licences on the goldfields. The revenue derived from goldfields during the nine months ending September 1888 amounted to 283,806£. and in same period 1889 to 560,303£. The total goldfield revenue for 1888 was 739,637£. The estimates for the complete year 1889 are set down as revenue 1,382,661£., and the expenditure at 1,030,890£. The actual revenue for the first nine months of 1889 amounted to 1,171,377£.,