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 13, 1858.

On April 12, 1877, the Transvaal was annexed by the British Government, against which in December 1880 the Boers took up arms, and a treaty of peace was signed March 21, 1881. According to the convention 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 restricted to control of foreign relations. Instead of a Resident the British Government is represented by a Diplomatic Agent.

The Constitution has been frequently amended down to September 1895. The supreme legislative authority is vested in a Parliament of two Chambers, each of 24 members, chosen by the districts. Bills passed by the second Chamber do not become law until accepted by the first. Members of both Chambers must be 30 years of age, possess fixed property, profess the Protestant religion, and never have been convicted of any criminal offence. The members of the first Chamber are elected from and by the first-class burghers, those of the second Chamber from and by the first and second-class burghers conjointly, each for 4 years. First-class burghers comprise all male whites resident in the Republic before May 29, 1876, or who took an active part in the war of independence in 1881, and the Mafikeng war in 1894, and their children from the age of 16. Second class burghers comprise the naturalized male alien population and their children from the age of 16. Naturalization may be obtained after two years' residence, and registration on the books of the Fieldcornet, oath of allegiance, and payment of 2l. Naturalized burghers may by special resolution of the first Chamber, become first-class burghers 12 years after naturalization. Sons of aliens, though born in the Republic, have no political rights, but, by registration at the age of 16, may, at the age of 18, become naturalized burghers, and may, by special resolution of the first Chamber, become first-class burghers 10 years after they are eligible for the second Chamber, or at the age of 40. The President and Commandant-General are elected by the first-class burghers only; District-Commandants and Fieldcornets by the two classes of burghers conjointly. The Executive is vested in a President, elected for five years, assisted by a council consisting of three official members (the State Secretary, the Commandant-General, and the Minute-keeper), and two non-official members elected by the first Volksraad.

State President.—S. J. Paul Krüger, elected for the third time May 12, 1893.

Area and Population.
The area of the Republic is 119,139 square miles, divided into 19 districts, and its white population, according to a very incomplete census of

J. S. Keltie (Ed.), *The Statesman's Year-Book*
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April 1, 1890, 119,128, of whom 66,498 are men and 52,630 women; the native population in April, 1895, was estimated at 653,662. These figures, however, can be regarded as only approximate until a better census is taken. The boundaries of the State are defined in the convention of February 27, 1884—since altered by a supplementary convention, by which the former New Republic (Zululand) was annexed to the South African Republic as a new district, named Vrijheid, and by the terms of the Convention regarding Swaziland, ratified by the Volksraad, August 20, 1890, by which a small portion of Swaziland becomes part of the Transvaal. The seat of government is Pretoria, with a white population of 8,000. The largest town is Johannesburg, the mining centre of Witwatersrand goldfields, with a population of 60,000 and a floating population of 45,000 in the goldfields along the Rand. The half of the population of the Republic are engaged in agriculture.

Religion.

The United Dutch Reformed Church is the dominant religious body, claiming 50,000 (1891) 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.

There are 20 English schools in Pretoria, 40 in Johannesburg, and one or more in each of the other towns. According to the report of the Superintendent of Education for the year 1894, the sum of £34,407, was spent for the education of 6,691 pupils. In 1894 there were 61 village schools and 358 ward schools, besides a model school with 255 and a gymnasium with 38 pupils at Pretoria.

Finance.

The following table shows the ordinary revenue and expenditure for the last 5½ years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1890</th>
<th>1891</th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1893</th>
<th>1894</th>
<th>(6 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>£1,229,060</td>
<td>£967,191</td>
<td>£1,255,829</td>
<td>£1,702,684</td>
<td>£2,247,728</td>
<td>£1,472,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>£1,531,461</td>
<td>£1,350,073</td>
<td>£1,188,765</td>
<td>£1,302,054</td>
<td>£1,734,728</td>
<td>£971,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The credit balance being on June 30, 1895, 882,919l. The revenue is derived from land sales, quit-rents, customs, hut-tax, stamps, transport dues, and principally from revenue on the goldfields. The revenue derived from goldfields for the year 1890, amounted to £492,830l.; for 1891, 405,397l.; for 1892, 636,313l.; for 1893, 581,977l.; and for 1894, 972,311l. The provisional estimates for the year 1895 are set down as revenue 1,859,582l., and expenditure 1,595,757l.

The public debt on September 15, 1895, was 2,704,351l., including direct liabilities to the British Crown 165,767l., and Rothschild loan, 2,500,000l. The State lands were valued in 1884 at 400,000l., but may now be valued at some millions, as the principal goldfields at Barberton are on Government lands. The debt due to Great Britain bears interest at 3½ per cent., and is to be extinguished by a sinking fund of 3l. 0s. 9d. per cent. in twenty-five years.

Defence.

The Republic has no standing army, with the exception of a small force of horse artillery, all able-bodied citizens being called out in case of war. According to the official records of 1894, the number of able-bodied men below 18 and above 50 years amounts to 26,299.