

The cause is somewhat obscure, but the sickness is believed to be due to ham sandwiches, which were packed in air-tight boxes, being left exposed to the strong rays of the sun. A number of adults were slightly affected. Great excitement prevailed at the hospital, where a crowd of parents and relatives of the sufferers besieged the gates for news of the sufferers.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

The Government notifies that the grant of three millions under the Vereeniging terms is not applicable to burghers in good financial position. The notification corrects the current impression that any burgher suffering from war losses is entitled to a share in the grant. Another notice claims interest due on the late Government advances to burghers.

Seventy irreconcilable Boers have sailed from Capetown for the Argentine, where they are to receive a thousand acres each free, and five thousand acres additional at 8d an acre payable in five years. Many more are afraid to sail, being sceptical as to the promises made.

A new ordinance in the Transvaal provides for the application of local option by a majority or exclusive control of the liquor traffic by trusts for public purposes. The employment of barmaids is prohibited.

The Government has submitted a vote of three million pounds for free grants for burghers and two millions for loyalists in the Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony, and three millions for supplementing the loans to burghers and loyalists.

In the Assembly Sir Gordon Sprigg, in Committee of Supply, moved the reorganisation of the forces by the appointment of a commandant-general and staff, and the selection of a new corps from the district mounted forces, involving an extra outlay of £130,000 per annum.

Mr. Sauer protested against the mania for arming everybody.

Mr. Malan's amendment to reduce the vote by £14,000 was carried by 84 to 29. This was Sir Gordon Sprigg's fourth defeat.

Mr. Schermbrucker moved to report progress to allow Sir Gordon Sprigg to reconsider the position; but Sir Gordon Sprigg resisted this, and with the help of the Bond negated the motion by 40 to 19.

The projected vote of three millions for loans is intended to enable the colonies to make loans in accordance with the Vereeniging agreement. They will repay Britain out of future colonial loans.

Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking the House of Commons to proceed into Committee of Supply, intimated that the Government originally understood that the free grant would emanate from a colonial loan, but would yield to the Boer interpretation in order to prevent a grievance. The present moment was unfavourable for a loan. It was anticipated that a favourable opportunity would occur in the spring.

The Supreme Court of Pretoria, in an action for recovery of rent, decided that Kruger's proclamation of October 25, 1899, abrogating payment of rent and interest during the continuance of hostilities was invalid.

The invalidation of Kruger's rent proclamation has created the greatest consternation in Johannesburg, owing to fears of a general foreclosure. An appeal has been made to the banks to avert their threatened ruin.

Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, Governor of Cape Colony, on Saturday cabled to Mr. Chamberlain that he had received his Ministers' confidential minute as follows:—"Ministers are informed incidentally that Mr. Chamberlain intends to visit South Africa, and beg to convey to Mr. Chamberlain the entire satisfaction wherewith they have received the intelligence. They desire to receive him as the guest of the colony, together with any others accompanying him, among whom they hope Mrs. Chamberlain will be included, and trust he will be able to spend at least a fortnight and visit the eastern and northern districts, where he will receive a most hearty welcome. The people will be disappointed if they are debarred an opportunity of personally expressing their apprecia-

tion of his invaluable services to the colony and South Africa during the prolonged period of unexampled difficulty."

Mr. Chamberlain replied on Monday that he had received the cordial message with great pleasure, and would gladly accept the invitation, adding that his wife much appreciated the kind reference to her. He hoped the details of his visit would be arranged.

Botha, De la Rey and Schalk Burger were keen listeners to the debate in the House of Commons on the motion for granting financial aid to the new colonies.

Eight millions were voted without a division.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a conciliatory but strenuous speech, declared that he was predetermined to listen while in South Africa to any representative men or body. He repelled the notion that the vanquished must be treated better than the victors, or put in a better position than before. The three millions was not intended as compensation for war losses. Our care was firstly to the destitute, and secondly to those needing assistance to make a living. If more money was wanted the Government would not hesitate to ask for it, but not a penny would go to rebels. His aim was to weld the kindred peoples into a great African nation under the British flag. Replying to Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman Mr. Chamberlain added that if a distinction was necessary those assisting us in the war must certainly be afforded more favourable treatment than those opposing us.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech created an excellent impression on the Continent.

The grant to the sufferers through the war is acknowledged to be a noble example of generosity, some newspapers describing it as unprecedented in the relations of victor and vanquished.

Sir W. Harcourt made a pessimistic speech.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman recognised that Mr. Chamberlain was going in the right spirit and hoped his expectations would be fulfilled.

Natal and Cape Colony have placed cement and manufactured timber in transit to the Transvaal on the free list.

The Assembly has resolved that the colony's representative at the Customs Congress should ask for free exchange of all South African products, giving preferential treatment to colonial wines and spirits.

Mr. Chamberlain states that 70,000 out of 123,000 people in the concentration camps have been repatriated. The camps are still costing £200,000 a month.

All excepting 3000 Boer prisoners will be repatriated before Christmas.

Lord Milner, who has arrived at Johannesburg after visiting Standerton and other south-eastern pastoral districts, declares that the Boers have lost everything except their land. Happily, however, the value of land has risen considerably.

The prospects of the agricultural and mineral industries, especially coal and iron, are bright.

The Government are starting form schools to which boardinghouses will be attached.

Large quantities of Krupp, pom-pom and Mauser ammunition have been dug up in the vicinity of Harrismith.

Mr. Malan withdrawing his opposition, the military vote passed the Assembly unamended.

The "Standard's" Brussels correspondent says the Boer generals will try to obtain an allowance for Kruger, a whole or partial amnesty for the Cape rebels, especially those at Bermuda, and permission for the delegates, Fischer, Wessels and Wolmarans to return to South Africa.

Prior to Mr. Malan withdrawing his amendment to the Military Vote in the Cape Parliament, Sir Gordon Sprigg appealed to the Afrikaner Bond to trust him.

Mr. Sauer explained that he had previously thought it was his intention to arm one section against the other.

Sir Gordon Sprigg, after the vote, thanked the Bond for its generosity.

Large South African orders for electrical machinery, horse ploughs,

and finished doors and windows are being placed in America.

The Johannesburg Chamber of Mines has increased the wages of native labour to 50/ a month.

Lord Milner has urgently asked for several thousand harrows for the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. The Crown agents ordered 2000 in Canada for immediate delivery and invited fresh tenders for the remainder in England, where they are not stocked.

Horse sickness being prevalent in many parts of the Transvaal and Orange Colony, Lord Milner is purchasing all the donkeys available, and has imported 30,000 small, hardy, Madagascar cattle, which are better able to resist the disease. He is also lending hundreds of steam ploughs, charging 5/ per acre.

#### AUSTRALIA.

Madame Melba will make three appearances in grand opera.

Twelve persons at Randwick, Sydney, are suffering from ptomaine poisoning through eating brown.

Owing to the continued drought the Bourke water supply has been shut down for 15 out of the 24 hours.

A shipment of 75,000 bags of maize has arrived from Argentina at Sydney.

Mr. W. H. Cooper, of Melbourne, has won the Single-handed Bowling Championship of Australia.

Lord Tennyson, the Acting-Governor-General, who is suffering from appendicitis, is making steady progress towards recovery.

At the sheep and cattle sales heavy catalogues caused a restriction in prices. No New Zealand stock were offering.

The mail steamer Sierra, which has arrived at Sydney from Auckland, has been detained, owing to the reports of plague from San Francisco.

Sir Richard Baker, President of the Senate, has been appointed one of the Federal representatives at the Delhi Durbar.

New South Wales returns show that the area under crop for wheat has fallen 143,000 acres below last year, while the area under crop for grain is 915,000 acres less.

Madame Melba received advice that a donation of £1500 would be sent from New York towards the sufferers by the drought, but has now cabled cancelling it.

Counsel for the defence of the Kenniffs (who are standing their trial for the murder of Mr. Dalke and Constable Doyle) said he would bring evidence to prove an alibi. One witness, when cross-examined, admitted that he would tell a lie if paid for it.

A tram guard named Russell shot his wife dead at Erskineville, Sydney. The deed was caused through domestic unhappiness over the wife's passionate love of dancing. Russell fired three shots into his body, and died subsequently.

Madame Melba writes to the press to say that she had no idea that her action in seeking contributions for the drought sufferers would be regarded as a reflection on the credit of the Commonwealth or the ability and generosity of Australians in relieving distress. She has now informed her friends that the local response has rendered outside assistance unnecessary.

A cyclone at Canolindra wrecked many houses, and the Presbyterian and Catholic Churches.

Numbers of people are homeless. Roofing and debris were carried for miles.

Peak Hill and other townships in the district suffered severely. Houses were blown down and unroofed.

The storm was succeeded by dense darkness, caused by the dust-clouds.

At Sydney on Saturday a report received from the Government commercial agent in London states that a clause is being inserted in the new army contracts that frozen mutton and rations must be supplied from the British

colonies. The clause was to come into operation on November 1, but owing to the drought in Australia and the consequent high prices, it is doubtful whether it will be given effect to at present.

Regarding Mr. Brodrick's criticism on Australian troops, Sir E. Barton denies that disparagement was implied. He was urging the propriety of forming a trained reserve in the colonies to act with other troops of the Empire in the event of war. While speaking of the colonials with great admiration Mr. Brodrick pointed out that the training of European troops was so long and thorough that similar training was required for colonials if they were needed to participate in a European war.

The Kenniff brothers (James and Patrick) have been found guilty and sentenced to death for the murder, on March 31, at Maranoa, of Mr Dalke (a station manager) and Constable Doyle.

The Kenniffs both solemnly declared that they were innocent. James Kenniff, addressing the Chief Justice, said: "You never gave us one atom of justice. I have no other witnesses to call, except Almighty God, to show I am innocent. I hope when Your Honor shuffles off this mortal coil, you will find I am innocent."

In sentencing the Kenniffs the Chief Justice declared that he fully agreed with the verdict.

[The crimes for which the Kenniffs are to be hanged created a great sensation in Queensland a few months ago. The Kenniffs had for a long time given the authorities much trouble, and in March they visited the Merivale station, Maranoa, and stole several horses, and subsequently stuck up a teamster and robbed a Chinaman. On Sunday, March 31, they killed Mr Dalke (manager of the Meteor Downs run), and Constable Doyle. The police were hunting for the three brothers Kenniff, and Mr Dalke and Doyle, who were accompanied by a black tracker, came up with and captured James Kenniff. The other two Kenniffs came to the rescue of their brother with revolvers in their hands, and several shots were fired. The black tracker (Johnson) ran away, and told what had occurred. When the police came to the scene of the shooting, the three had disappeared. Then the chase after the bushrangers began, but it was a long time before they were captured. Some days after the chase commenced the missing constable's horse was found in a party of police wandering in the ranges, about ten miles from the scene of the encounter. It was making for the police station at Upper Warrego, and had probably been turned adrift, or had escaped some days ago. Two pack bags were strapped across the saddle, and on opening them the police found they contained the charred remains of a man. They were filled with charcoal, and had bone, buttons, and teeth. It is supposed that the Kenniffs murdered their victims and roasted their bodies on the spot, afterwards placing the burnt remains in bags, in the hope of finding a place to dispose of them where they would not be likely to be found. It is surmised that the bushrangers intended taking the horse away, but that it became frightened and made an attempt to escape with its terrible burden. It was believed that the Kenniffs had a "down" on Mr Dalke, because he had prosecuted them on a previous occasion, and because, moreover, he was again being the police to arrest them for horse stealing.]

## BOOKS.

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