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HAS ROMANTIC PAST

South Africa Possesses No Literature to Tell Its Story.

"Of all the dominions of the British Empire, South Africa has had the most varied and romantic history Ambrose Pratt writes in "The Real South Africa." "From north to south, from east to west, the country is dotted with monuments to commemorate battles, treaties, and other critical events. South

Africa, moreover, is a land of extraordinary scenic splendor, of fascination and of mystery. In no other part of the world are there to be found vaster stretches of high tableland so weirdly broken and relieved with stronge shaped hills, deep gorges and dongas, and dark inaccossible ravines. There are taller mountains elsewhere, but none more bold and starkly menacing in form; none that fling out such endless suc cessions of jagged, frowning spurs none that offer a more powerful appeal to the imagination.

The most experienced traveler neets startling surprises in South Africa at every turn. The country s been built in a fashion peculiar tself. The veld is without a foran profotype. It resembles nohing so much as the flat roof of a lighty battlemented Gothic castle pushed sheer upward into the blue on tier on tier of precipitous Cyclopean rocks, and supported and defended from the lower world by a multitude of giant flying buttresses each rock a straight and lofty mountain, each buttress a naked magnificent and stern. The air has a quality of clarity that makes even the limpid brightness of the Aus- would be no safety in home waters tralian atmosphere seem like mist. The sunsets surpass in gorgeousness and brazen glory the sunsets of all other lands; and the vivid coloring of the 'bush,' the dour scarlet starred monotone of the veld, are facts and contrasts that strike like shafts of fire into the fancy. Inexorably the thought arises in the traveler's 'Here is a country to compel into existence an original and peerless literature, to breed a race of poets, with a brand new message for mankind.' He merely prepares for himself another astonishment.

"This wonderful land is practicaly destitute of an indigenous literature; it has almost absolutely failed to inspire its own children. Olive Schreiner has written 'The Story of a South African Farm.' Sir Percy Fitzgerald has written 'Jack of the Bushveld.' The prose achievements of South Africa that are worthy of note very nearly begin and end with those two books. The country is equally tongue-tied in poetry. One hears of a few English versifiers and reads their songs only to be sharply disappointed. The Dutch Afrikanders have no prose literature deserving of the name at ail, and but one singer, Mr. Jan Cellers, has ever reached a reputation. The Taal has no grammar. It is a wretched patois, merely the slang of half a dozen languages jumbled together. That Mr. Jan Cellers is acciaimed a poet at all, confining himself to such a medium, is remarkable; yet even his warmest admirers admit that his voice is 'still and soft,' and his range

READ THE ADS They Pay

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Task of Mine-Sweepers

Is Filled With Peris.

Fut It Has Fasc nation

<del>~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~</del> THE correspondent of The London Daily Mail, Jackstaff, writing on minesweeping and its fascinations and perils, says:

"There is just a hint of Sisyphean labor about mine-sweeping. Throw back your minds to your school books and you will recall that Sisyphus, unhappy wight, had to keep on continuously rolling a stone uphill. Although this job kept Sisyphus so busy that he had no need to go in for 'physical jerks' (fifteen minutes a day immediately after the morning tub; see handbook) in order to keep up his muscle, it did not apparently do anybody else the least bit of good.

"Therein it differed vastly from mine-sweeping, which must be scheduled among the most useful operations of the war. Where a resemblance does come in is in the fact that an area once swept will not stay swept. After the ships have gone over it they must turn back and start again, and so ad infinitum.

The procedure is something like this: One mine-sweeper in the course of combing over a particular stretch of sea come across a mine field. With great care they destroy this, rooting up and smashing every 'bulb' that has been planted in it. As soon as they have done so out creeps the wily Hun in a submarine and lays a fresh lot of mines. Sometimes the new field is put down so soon after the previous one has been removed that it seems as if the Hun must have been going along in the wake of our 'sweepers' when he laid it.

"In most cases mine-sweeping falls to the lot of trawlers manned by fishermen or other R.N.R. ratings. Nobody else could do the work quiteas well as the men who are inured by long experience to the vagaries of the trawler which in bad weather displays the vices of every other type of ship and the virtues of none. At one minute she imitates a submarine just starting to dive, the next she tumbles clumsily over the crest of a wave and brings up in the trough with a thump that makes all her

"At another time-she will stand awhile on her heel and after making and if the size of the batch could be bows burrow headlong into an oncoming roller. With wind and sea abeam, her decks are no place for a timid man nor for the queasy stomached, either. Even experienced sailore accustomed to big ships alone go down like very landsmen.

"The trawlers carry on their rough and dangerous task in pairs. whatever may happen. And plenty

"Much else may have to be done too. Above all, eyes must be kept lifting for periscopes, as there is a chance that at any moment a submarine may start shooting 'tin fish' at the vessel. Or they may perchance bump on a mine. No lookout can avail against this, though the danger of such a mishap is smaller than it used to be. Nevertheless, the knowledge that a thing like this may happen at any moment does not help to make life more cheery for the crew. Death, in fact, stands by and grins in their faces all the time they are at work. And it is a great tribute to their nerve that they take his grim presence so calmly and 'carry on' with their duty as steadily as if they were free of his grisly company. "How many tens of thousands of mines the unassuming heroes of this branch of the navy have destroyed mountain spur incomparably bleak, during the war probably nobody can say. But it is very certain that were it not for the mine sweepers there

> war or trading 'bottoms.' " Labor in England.

for any of our ships, be they men-of-

The immediate course of the labor movement in England will be greatly nfluenced by the Fabians, or intelectual socialists, who have had a subtle and pervasive influence upon soon surmounted, and the whole arthe party. Bernard Shaw, George rangement works smoothly and with lansbury, Philip Snowden, Mr. and ince the country at large.

British labor movement, however, men at the front will next year be and the one that should come as a greatly increased, for the 1917 level pec'al mersage to the labor leaders has already been considerably exf this country, is the attempt to ceeded. In addition to the work on raw the line, not between wage- the home farm, whenever any of the arners and other earners, but be- farmers in the neighborhood have ween all earners, whether of brain been short of labor they have been r of hand, and the spenders. To the assisted as far as possible with Gerctent that all producers of wealth man labor, and, in consequence, some an be made to see that their inter- of them were enabled to turn on a sts are opposed to those of non-proggang of half a dozen men to assist lucers, the way will be prepared for with the harvest, carting mangolds final settlement of the social and and other work. ndustrial problem.—The Public.

The Neutral Idea.

Neutral countries—Sweden. Holloing us these kindnesses—and the war is prolonged.

ike the lady who said: "I'm a Christian through and ther labor as they required it. hrough, and I'm always grateful for any kindness, but the one kindness i can never succeed in being gratecul for is that of the man who brings my husband home at 3 a.m. with his man feels when he runs and jumps

German Prisoners Work

For the English Farmers And Prove Satisfactory

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* HE land labor problem has been a vexatious one in England for quite a period, the war draft having laid so tremendous a levy on the agricultural workers. Various tentative solutions were offered, and finally the employment of German prisoners of war was advocated, provided suitable arrangements could be made for the housing and guarding of the men. At first it was insisted that prisoners could be released for service only in large batches, a condition which virtually obliterated the chances of the agricultural employer. Experience has put a brighter complexion on things, however, says a London communication, and already considerable numbers of German prisoners are at work on the land, helping to produce the corn and

other articles the country needs so

badly.

The example of a prominent landowner on his home farm of 1,200 acres (70 acres arabic) in a southwestern county is instructive. At the beginning of this year the authorities were induced to allocate to him about 30 prisoners. Most of the prisoners chosen had been engaged in farm work in their own country, and the others were skilled artisans used to country life, and they and the trained hands adapted themselves quickly to the new conditions of work and living. The laborers beside whom they were to work offered no opposition to their employment. Of course, it was made clear to them that it was a choice between German prisoners and reduced food production, and this removed instantly whatever objection was entertained to the introduction of enemy prisoners to the farm and the neighborhood. The idea that the prisoners were to be utilized to produce food for the nation instead of being kept, as many of them were, in idleness, commended itself to the shrewd people of the south-western district.

The number of employers who could provide work and accommodation for as many as thirty men is probably small, but it would be as reduced, say to ten, or better still, to five, wider possibilities for the scheme would be opened up. The plan involved the erection of new buildings on the farm referred to, beyond an ordinary army hut to increase the accommodation provided

by the adaptation of three unoccupied cottages. In the summer some Between them stretches a long wire it was only when winter quarters beof the men were under canvas, and hawser, and with this they sweep came necessary that the hut was No matter how wildly their craft may block, and communicating doors be beating about, how cold the wea- were made in the interior walls for ther or how stormy the sea, all the convenience of the prisoners and hands except the engine-room people the guard of three soldiers. The must be on deck while the wires are prisoners draw their rations from the camp at stated times, and one of does happen. Mines caught in the have given proof of their industry sweep have to be destroyed as the and skill in the cottages and in the use to which they have put their in closure as well as on the farm. The dormitories and living roms are near and clean, and the area within the barbed wire fence is used for grow ing vegetables and breeding rabbit in wonderful abundance, the latte the progeny of a few given by th employer.

In a few weeks the prisoners wil have completed a year's work, and they have been tested in all kinds o labor. The nature of employmen varies as the season changes; som of the men have driven horses i field operations, such as plowing harrowing, and drilling, others hav done carting and others manua work. In all capacities they have shown equal aptitude and willingness to help. The standard of efficiency is high, and there has been no friction between the prisoners and local workers. When I visited the farm the day's program included the carting of mangolds from the field to the homestead, where the roots were being stored in a huge Dutch barn, and although this work entailed the inclusion of both English and German labor, amicable relations appeared to exist, and only the armed guard and the tunies of the prisoners indicated the exceptional nature of the situation. The language difficulty was troublesome at first, but with the aid of dictionaries it was appreciable advantage to the coun-Mrs. Sydney Webb, and a number of try, for the work on the farm is far other brilliant minds will go far te- more forward than is common in the ward directing the thought of labor district, and the additional forty eaders, even though unable to con- acres of corn grown this year as a direct result of the labor which has The great outstanding fact in the replaced that previously supplied by

The matter would appear to resolve itself into a question of whether it is possible for more landlords to start similar schemes on their and and the rest—are continually estates, or, in the alternative, whether it would be practicable next spring to have in different parts of the We feel toward these dear neutrals country camps of prisoners of war from which farmers could draw fur-

Defined.

Tommy-Uncle, what's chagrin? Uncie Well, it's what a steut feet sticking out of the cab wininto a train that doesn't start for
dow.'"—Exchange.

# A Business Should Be As BIG AS ITS JOB

If bigness is a benefit to the public it should be commended. The size of a business depends upon the needs which that busines is called upon to serve a business should be as big as its Job. You do not drive tacks with a pill driver or pills with a tack hammer\_\_\_ the Falls' Co.'s. Growth has been the natural and inevitable result of wide varieties of dependable merchandise and unbeaten values.

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#### Motor Rugs and Motor Gauntlets

Casseroles, Nickl Plated, lagre size worth \$2.00 for

special at \$6.00 a dozen, selling for \$5 25 dozen.

Extra heavy tall shape Cut Glass Tumblers, Plain style, a

A Special Sale of the above Items is now goinglon at Falls' Store, Simcoe.

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Full fluffy things they are in the fashionable colors—and they are becoming to most every woman. Priced at \$4.75, 5.50, 7.50, 8.75, 9.75 and \$12.00.

#### Clever May Millinery

Some of the Prettiest little Flower Trimmed Hats we have seen for many-a-day. - We trimmed them ourselves each \$4, 5, \$6. <del>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</del>

If you are to have new curtains, new upholsteries of any kind-now is the time to visit the Home Furuishings Department-Third Floor. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

<del>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</del> Men with a prejudice against lower priced suits are invited to come to Falls' Men's Store and see the splendid suits they can buy at \$12, 15 and 18.

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