This article was downloaded by: [University of Kent]

On: 04 December 2014, At: 08:56

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954

Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK

Scottish Geographical Magazine

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rsgj19>

The economic value of Rhodesia

F.C. Selous F.R.G.S. F.Z.S.

Published online: 30 Jan 2008.

To cite this article: F.C. Selous F.R.G.S. F.Z.S. (1897) The economic value of Rhodesia, Scottish Geographical Magazine, 13:10, 505-514, DOI: [10.1080/14702549708554605](https://doi.org/10.1080/14702549708554605)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14702549708554605>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

THE SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF RHODESIA.

By F. C. SELOUS, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.

(*With a Map.*)

BUT little more than two centuries and a half have elapsed since the first colonists from Western Europe left their mother lands in search of new homes across the sea; for it was not till 1620 that the *Mayflower* set sail from England, carrying with her the Puritan fathers, who, with their wives and families, may be considered the first British colonists who settled on the Continent of America, whilst another forty years had elapsed before Van Riebek founded the first Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope. Since those dates emigration from Europe has continually gone on; at first, fitfully and intermittently, but latterly, owing both to the rapid increase of population in the British Isles and other parts of Europe, and to the ever increasing facilities for ocean transport, at a rate which bids fair ere long to people with Europeans every portion of the globe where the climatic conditions are such that the white man can live and thrive and rear strong, healthy children. The last half century has seen the spread of the white race across the whole North American continent, and witnessed the colonisation by Europeans of immense areas in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

Until recently, however, Africa has not been looked upon with favour as a country in which to settle. The original Dutch immigrants, augmented by a number of French Huguenots who had expatriated themselves after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, increased and multiplied beneath the genial climate of the Cape Peninsula, and gradually occupied the land to the north and east; but as their numbers were augmented to but a very slight degree from outside, and as almost every inch of ground had to be won from hostile native tribes, their progress was but slow—so slow, indeed, that when the Cape Colony was finally ceded to the British after the Peace of Paris in 1815, it did not

extend as far north as the Orange river, nor as far east as the Great Fish river, and beyond these boundaries the whole of Africa south of the Equator was an unknown wilderness, as yet untrodden by the foot of a North European. Since that time great progress has been made. The flight of a large number of Boers from British rule in 1836, and their migration northwards across the Orange and Vaal rivers opened up much new country, and proved that the high open plateaus of what are now called the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were eminently healthy for Europeans.

Of the countries to the north of the Limpopo but little was known until very recently. In the year 1890, however, Mr. Rhodes' pioneers occupied the high plateau of Mashonaland, and subsequently wrested Matabililand from its savage possessors. These vast territories are at the present time attracting much attention, not only in Great Britain, but also in America and in Australia. At any rate, we find to-day in the newly opened lands lying between the Limpopo and the Zambezi, English-speaking men from every portion of the British Empire, as well as a number of American citizens; and it is because of this general interest in the temperate plateaus of the interior of South Africa, and because of the ever increasing difficulty of finding unoccupied land suitable for colonisation by the surplus population of Europe, that I propose to say a few words concerning the economic value of these territories as a field for European colonisation.

To begin with the climate. It must be obvious that the hygienic conditions of a country like Rhodesia, which is larger than France and Germany put together, and which includes the low-lying valleys of the Zambezi and the Limpopo, as well as the high open downs of Matabililand and Mashonaland, must be very diverse; and it may be broadly stated that only those portions of the country are suitable to North Europeans where the altitude above sea-level renders the climate temperate. For in tropical Africa malarial fever is the white man's most deadly enemy—an enemy in whose despite Europeans can never hope to establish themselves and colonise the country; and as this most insidious disease is everywhere prevalent in Rhodesia where the altitude is less than 4000 feet above sea-level, it is only the elevated backbone of the country, which forms the watershed between the Zambezi and the Limpopo in the west, and the Zambezi and the Sabi in the east, which can be looked upon as likely to become peopled by white men; whilst in Eastern Mashonaland, where the country is extremely well watered, many people suffer much from fever—though of a very much milder type than in the hot tropical lands in the basins of the great rivers—even up to an altitude of over 5000 feet. Still, I think that the cultivation of the land and the draining of the swamps will gradually eliminate the causes of fever on the highlands, and I look upon all those portions of Rhodesia which lie at an altitude of over 4000 feet above the sea as certainly destined to become peopled by white men. Possibly in the distant future, when the highlands of Rhodesia have become thickly peopled, the white man may be able to extend his livable area to a somewhat lower level than the 4000 foot altitude, below which I now consider the

country unhealthy for Europeans; but as almost the whole country at present lies waste, it would be as well to settle up the highest and healthiest portions first. The superficial area of that portion of Rhodesia which lies at an elevation of 4000 feet and upwards extends to approximately 26,500 square statute miles, whilst 72,500 square statute miles may be added which lie between 3000 and 4000 feet. The whole of the watershed, which extends from some twenty miles to the westward of Buluwayo, north-eastwards to Salisbury, and from thence south-eastward to the sources of the Ruenya, Odzi, and Pungwe rivers, attains an altitude which is never less than 4700 feet, and which rises to the east of Salisbury to from 5400 to 6000 feet, and in the Inyanga country at the source of the Ruenya river to over 7000 feet.

All people are not equally susceptible to malarial fever. I myself, for instance, although I have suffered much from fever in the Zambezi valley and the swamps of the Chobi, have never contracted fever in any part of the Rhodesia highlands; but many people suffer much from this disease in the town of Salisbury in Mashonaland, which is 4900 feet above sea-level, and from my own observation I should say that in the copiously watered highlands of Eastern Mashonaland fever ceases entirely to exist only at an elevation of about 5400 feet.

Once beyond the range of fever, however, the climate of this part of Africa is probably one of the finest in the whole world. Even in the hottest weather the heat is not excessive, for the thermometer seldom registers a temperature of over 90° in the shade on the high plateaus of Eastern Mashonaland—and 90° in the shade is not very trying at an altitude of over 5000 feet—whilst the nights are always cool and bracing the whole year round. During the winter months, namely, in May, June, and July, the nights are cold and frosty, and the days bright and clear—pleasantly warm but not hot. During the months of November, December, January, February, and March, heavy rains may be expected, with thunder-storms during October and April, and sometimes a little light rain during the winter months. The rainfall is, however, very unevenly distributed over the five months I have mentioned, as in some years continuous rain sets in early in November, whilst in others little or none falls till late in December. As a rule the heaviest rains take place after Christmas. The average annual rainfall would be probably over forty inches, though of late years it has frequently been much below that figure, droughts or inadequate rains having been prevalent all over South Africa since 1891. In the rainy season, which ended in April of that year, however, a rainfall of fifty-three inches was recorded in Salisbury, Mashonaland.

The altitude of Western Matabililand is not as great as that of Eastern Mashonaland, but fever is not at all prevalent there, and I think I may fairly say that all those portions of that country which lie at an elevation of over 4000 feet are exceptionally healthy and thoroughly suitable for colonisation by Europeans. I attribute the superior healthiness of Western Matabililand to that of the countries lying farther eastward, whose altitude above the sea is greater, to two causes. The first is, that during the last sixty years Western Matabililand—that is, the

country in the actual occupation of the Matabili—has been thickly inhabited, much of its soil annually cultivated, and its rank herbage constantly fed down by large herds of cattle. During the same period, the countries farther east have been depopulated, their former inhabitants having been driven by the Matabili from the open country into the hills, and their cattle swept off. Thus large areas in that country have relapsed into a state of nature, and will have to be cultivated by Europeans and fed down by imported cattle before the fever fiend is banished. In the second place, Western Matabililand, though well watered, is a much drier country than the higher downs lying farther eastward, which are so copiously watered by innumerable small streams, that at the end of the rainy season every valley becomes a morass. In the future I feel sure that this superabundant water-supply will prove most valuable for agricultural purposes, as the bogs will be drained and cultivated, and the surplus water stored for purposes of irrigation during the long dry season; but at present, it is doubtless the presence of these morasses which is accountable for the prevalence of malarial fever in Mashonaland at an altitude where one would imagine that that disease ought not to exist. I have gone into this question of malarial fever in Rhodesia at some length, because I consider it a matter of vital importance to any intending settler in that country.

There are portions of Matabililand, Mashonaland, and Manica, where Europeans can live and thrive and will see their children grow up strong and healthy; but it is absurd to assert, as some people do, that the whole of that vast territory is a white man's country. The excessive drinking of bad spirits is, I believe, often more responsible for ill health in Rhodesia than the climate, but it certainly is not responsible for all the fever in that country; and it may be safely asserted that Sir Wilfred Lawson himself would not long remain free from that disease were he to camp out during the rainy season on the banks of the Zambezi. Now I have spoken of the climate of the highlands of Rhodesia as temperate, and I think I am justified in doing so, as Europeans are able to work at any time of year, all day long, in the full heat of the sun. I do not think the heat is ever greater than it is in summer time in Paris or Vienna, whilst in Buluwayo and Salisbury the nights are always cool and pleasant, which is not invariably the case in the cities of central Europe.

I will now consider Rhodesia from an agricultural and pastoral point of view, but before doing so must point out that at the present moment the whole of South Africa is not in its normal condition, but is suffering from a combination of plagues, which have reduced it at the present moment to a very pitiable state. In the first place, the terrible scourge of rinderpest which was probably originally introduced into North-eastern Africa from India or South-eastern Europe some seven or eight years ago, after first sweeping the great herds of cattle belonging to the Masai from the face of the earth, and causing thousands of their owners to die of starvation, has been creeping gradually southwards ever since. Like a destroying angel it passed through Central and East-central Africa, leaving millions (probably hundreds of millions) of dead animals on its

path. Wherever it has been, the great herds of buffaloes, and all the various beautiful forms of antelopes which graced the plains and forests of Central Africa, and without which the country becomes a dead and dreary wilderness, have almost completely disappeared. Creeping ever southwards, this dreadful scourge reached the Zambezi in 1895, and early the following year it appeared amongst the cattle in Matabililand. In March 1896 there were over 100,000 head of horned cattle in that country. By the end of the year there were probably not 500 left alive. From Matabililand the plague travelled rapidly southwards, and after destroying the almost countless herds of the Bechwana tribes, invaded the Dutch Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, and finally crossed the Orange river, which it was hoped would prove a barrier of defence to the Cape Colony; but by the last advices, it is still advancing, and will probably sweep through the whole of South Africa to the sea.

Now, were this terrible disease of rinderpest indigenous in South Africa, it would render that country a very undesirable one to live in. But it is not so, any more than it is indigenous in England. This, I think, may be positively asserted since the coasts of South Africa have now been known to Europeans for four hundred years, and it is certain that during that period no such visitation has swept through the land, for the coast tribes are known to have been constantly in possession of cattle, whilst there is no record of any such disease as rinderpest ever having visited their herds. Thus the rinderpest is an evil, the effects of which, though very terrible, will only be temporary, as when it has at last died out for lack of fuel, and the country after an interval has become free from its poison, fresh stock will be imported from South America, Australia, and Europe, whose progeny will gradually restock the land.

Another plague from which South Africa has been suffering of late years is locust swarms. For seven years have these winged hosts devastated the whole country from the Cape to beyond the Zambezi, causing famine amongst the natives and making agriculture wellnigh impossible. In the autumn of 1895 I cleared about forty acres of waste land in the Matabili country, and sowed some thirty acres with maize, planting the remaining ten acres with blue gum-trees. In the following February I had a nice crop of maize coming on. The stalks stood about three to four feet high, and the cobs were already forming. One afternoon the Kaffirs called my attention to a vast cloud of locusts drifting up over the hills to the south-east. Nearer and nearer they came, and about four o'clock settled in one dense mass, like a heavy fall of snow, on my thirty-acre maize patch. In two hours there was nothing left but the bare stalks, and some of these were actually eaten off to within a foot of the ground. The maize patch seemed to satisfy the locusts for the time being, but the next morning a lot of them turned their attention to an acre and a half of melons, where some of the fruit was fast ripening. They did not interfere with the melons, but effectually destroyed them by eating off all the leaves and stalks, leaving the fruit to dry and shrivel up.

In September 1896 I visited Amatongaland, a country lying to the

south of Delagoa Bay, and here I found that the natives had suffered so much from the devastations of locusts, that many of them had given up cultivating the land in despair, saying that it was better to eat their seed corn than sow it for the benefit of the locusts. These people were selling their cattle to European traders for maize, which I was told had been imported from Bombay.

The present plague of locusts in South Africa has, I believe, been a particularly prolonged and destructive one, though history, I am sorry to say, teaches that such visitations are to be expected from time to time, since the devastations of these insects, and the resultant famines amongst the natives, have been chronicled by Dos Santos and other early Portuguese writers, and the plague has apparently recurred from time to time ever since. However, locusts are not always present in South Africa. My own knowledge of Rhodesia dates back to 1872, and from that year until August 1891, I never saw such a thing as a locust, either in Matabililand or Mashonaland, or in any of the territories I visited during that time to the north of the Zambezi, and as the present plague must have almost spent itself I think intending settlers in Rhodesia may now look forward to seeing the country free from these pests for some time to come.

Lastly, South Africa has suffered of late years from a deficient rainfall, which has caused much distress and discontent among the natives, and made agricultural operations very difficult for Europeans. The last rainy season, however, has been a fairly good one in Rhodesia, and one can only hope that the period of droughts or partial droughts has come to an end for the time being, for, without water, the agriculturist can do nothing in that country. Given, however, an abundant water-supply in the way of rain or by means of irrigation, and almost anything can be grown there.

The natives of course only raise crops during the rainy season. They grow maize, three kinds of kaffir corn (sorghum), ground nuts, three varieties of beans, pumpkins, gourds, water-melons, sweet potatoes, and in Mashonaland tomatoes, peas, and most excellent rice. The European missionaries have successfully cultivated wheat and many different kinds of fruits and vegetables in their gardens.

Indeed, it may be said that anything that can be grown in the Cape Colony will grow in Rhodesia. Wheat, however, can be grown successfully during the dry season only by means of irrigation, for if sown during the rains it becomes rusted. The same rule applies to oats. The facilities for irrigation are much greater in Eastern Matabililand and in Mashonaland and Manica than in Western Matabililand, and I think that those parts of the country are capable of producing all the flour that will be required for consumption in Rhodesia, even should considerable centres of population spring up in different parts of the country in connection with the mining industry. This may not seem a very grand achievement, but should Rhodesia prove to be self-supporting as regards its bread supply, it will be the only colony in South Africa that is so, as there is not a town in that country where the bulk of the bread is not made from flour imported from Australia.

I think it quite impossible that wheat or any other agricultural product can ever be grown in Rhodesia for exportation, for even supposing that a wheat could be found that would ripen without suffering from rust during the rainy season, which of course would render it possible to put very much larger areas of ground under cultivation than would be done by a system of irrigation during the dry season, the cost of transport to Europe would effectually prevent the Rhodesian farmer from entering into competition with the wheat-growers of America or Russia. As for rice, Rhodesia could never compete with India, but in time to come it ought certainly to tin its own fruits, make its own jams, and be entirely self-supporting as regards every kind of vegetable product which is now imported into South Africa from either California or Australia.

I have said that fruits and vegetables of all kinds grow well in Rhodesia, and I speak from experience, as I have not only seen them grown in the gardens of missionaries and settlers in many parts of Matabililand, Mashonaland, and Manica, but have grown in my own garden most excellent potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, peas, turnips, parsnips, lettuce, vegetable marrows, beetroot, broad beans, scarlet runners, and tomatoes.

There is one industry connected with agriculture which I think might be successfully tried in Rhodesia, and that is the production of oil from ground nuts. At the present time thousands of tons of ground nuts are annually exported to Rotterdam and Marseilles from South-eastern Africa for the manufacture of oil. These nuts could be bought very cheaply and in immense quantities from the natives of Rhodesia, and I think it possible that it would pay to crush them locally, and export the crude oil to be clarified in Europe.

As to the soil of the high plateaus of Rhodesia, my knowledge on the subject of soils does not enable me to speak with authority. Light sandy soil prevails, and is in fact almost universal wherever the hills are of granite formation. This sandy soil certainly looks very poor and has been summarily dismissed as such by all those who have rushed through the country in order to qualify themselves to write it down, but on the other hand, the natives appear to grow very good crops in it. When in the Maputa country, near Delagoa Bay, where the natives are said to grow remarkably good crops, I noticed that the soil was apparently almost pure sand, so it is possible that the soil of the high plateaus of Rhodesia may also prove to be better than it looks. Possibly the natives change their ground very often, as they use no manure except the ashes of the burnt branches of the trees they chop down when they first clear a piece of forest land for cultivation.

My conclusion as regards agriculture in Rhodesia is therefore that, given a year of normal rainfall and freedom from the visitations of locusts, good crops can be grown—though only by irrigation during the dry season—of every vegetable product required by civilised man, including tobacco. For his market, however, the Rhodesian farmer must look to the local towns, the rapid growth of which must be entirely dependent upon the number of the gold-bearing quartz reefs which eventually prove

to be payable. The stock farmer might look for a somewhat wider market, for when the railway system, which is now fast approaching Buluwayo from the west, and Umtali from the east, has been completed throughout the country, he would be able to export slaughter cattle to Kimberley and Cape Town, and also to Johannesburg if the present heavy import duties on live stock were removed, as it is probable they will be, owing to the recent destruction of the cattle in the Transvaal itself by rinderpest having made it impossible for that State to supply its own markets.

At present there are practically no cattle in Rhodesia. The rinderpest last year swept every herd in the country off the face of the earth. But that scourge has passed and is not likely ever to occur again, and in course of time the whole country will be restocked. That Matabililand is a good cattle country no one can deny who remembers the innumerable herds which covered the land in Lo Bengula's time, and I can testify from my own experience that all the high plateau lands of Rhodesia are equally suitable for horned cattle, the easterly portions of Matabililand and the high downs of Mashonaland being, in my opinion, even better suited for cattle-ranching than the western portion of the former province. In the moist upland valleys of Eastern Rhodesia there is a kind of short, sweet, succulent grass, which springs up towards the end of the dry season, and on this grass cattle and horses thrive well, just at the time of year, in August, September, and October, when farther west, where this grass does not grow, the pasture has become as dry as tinder, and very deficient in nourishment, causing all stock to become very lean and the old animals unable to survive until a new crop of grass springs up after the first rains. In the country to the east of Salisbury, and, in fact, all over Eastern Mashonaland, I have found that breeding cattle, or indeed any cattle which are doing no work, except very old animals, keep in good condition in ordinary years the whole year round. Heavy flights of locusts destroying the grass, or an insufficiency of rain causing it to wither prematurely, would, of course, affect the condition of cattle.

As far as I have been able to learn from the natives, the cattle indigenous to Rhodesia were very free from disease. The lung sickness (pleuro-pneumonia) originally introduced into South Africa from Holland, spread to Matabililand in 1854, but was unknown in Mashonaland until 1890, when it accompanied the pioneer expedition to that country. The effects of this disease are most disastrous amongst a herd of uninoculated cattle, but if the year's calves are inoculated regularly every year, as is the practice of all careful farmers in South Africa, there is but little to be feared from it, and it is now most virulent amongst native cattle, which have never been inoculated. Besides lung sickness, there is no other disease at all prevalent amongst cattle in Rhodesia, as far as I know. A few die annually from gall sickness, which is apparently produced by the richness of the grass, as cattle are always very fat when they die of this disease, which is an affection of the liver and gall bladder.

Besides cattle, the natives in Rhodesia used to possess considerable herds of sheep and goats, which, however, have now ceased to exist, as

they have been all killed and eaten, owing to the scarcity of food caused by the rinderpest and the late war. The native sheep are of the fat-tail species found all over Africa, and do not grow any wool. Whether Merino sheep will thrive in Rhodesia, as they do in parts of the Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal, remains to be seen. Some years ago a small flock was taken up to the high downs near Fort Charter in Mashonaland, and this small flock has thriven exceedingly well, the sheep producing a good crop of wool and the mortality amongst the lambs having been very small. So far as it goes, the experiment has been thoroughly successful, but only further experience will prove whether the country is capable of carrying large flocks of wool-bearing sheep.

As regards other live stock, pigs and donkeys do well, the former thriving wonderfully in the damp valleys of Eastern Mashonaland, whilst the latter can live everywhere. Well-bred fowls are subject to much disease, and the native birds are very diminutive and lay very small eggs. Horses do very badly in all parts of Rhodesia, being subject during the rainy season, and to a certain extent at other seasons of the year as well, to the disease known in South Africa as horse-sickness, which, although only occasionally prevalent at the present day in the Cape Colony and Natal, annually destroys large numbers of horses in the Transvaal and in Bechwanaland, and becomes even more virulent farther north. Horses apparently contract this disease when feeding upon dewy grass during the night or early in the morning, but they sometimes appear to contract it even when constantly stabled and fed on nothing but dry food. As a rule, however, a large percentage of horses that are regularly stabled during the rainy season, and never allowed to eat grass until it has been thoroughly dried by the sun, escape the disease. But with very few exceptions, all unacclimatised horses allowed to graze day and night during the rainy season contract the disease, which is fatal to over ninety per cent. of them. There are two forms of the disease, that in which the head swells, known to the Boers as *Dikkop ziekte*, being the most virulent. Should a horse really have and recover from the *Dikkop ziekte*, he becomes for the future immune from any form of horse-sickness, and is known as a "salted" horse. Should a horse, however, recover from the milder form of the disease, in which the head does not swell, he will very likely later on contract and die from the more severe form. One portion of Rhodesia—the Inyanga country—lying north-east of Umtali, which is over 7000 feet above sea-level, will possibly prove to be free from horse-sickness, and as the progeny of salted mares by salted stallions in other parts of the country usually only contract the disease in a very mild form, an acclimatised race may eventually be evolved; but at present Rhodesia cannot be called anything but a bad country for horses.

As the success of farming in any country depends very much upon the labour supply and the cost of the same, I will add a few words on this subject. Just now the natives in Rhodesia are in a very unsettled condition, into the causes of which it would be impossible for me to enter in the limits of this paper, nor do I care to hazard an opinion as

to how long it will be before that state of unrest comes to an end. But when peace has been firmly established, and the distrust which now prevails on the part both of blacks and whites alike has ceased to exist, I do not think there will be much difficulty in obtaining a supply of labour for farm work in Rhodesia for any one who will treat the natives fairly and justly. They hate mining work, and it is difficult to get them to work underground even for high wages; but farming work they do not object to, and personally I never had any difficulty in obtaining the labour I required when carrying on farming operations on a small scale in Matabililand in 1895 and 1896. I paid my men fifteen shillings a month, and their food cost fifteen shillings a month per man besides, as at that time grain of all kinds was very dear in the country. The Kaffirs I employed, on the whole, worked very well. When I found that any of them were lazy, I paid them for the number of days they had been working and got rid of them, and I think it is much better to do this than to knock them about and try and force them to work. As I have said before, the greater part of the men I employed worked well and cheerfully.

Now, from what I have said in the foregoing pages, it will be seen that I do not look upon South Africa in general, nor Rhodesia in particular, as a ready-made Paradise for a man to step into. Nor do I believe that such a spot is to be found in any unoccupied part of the world at the present day: the earthly paradise of a happy home in a wild land must be created by a man's own labour, patience, intelligence, and perseverance. The higher portions of Rhodesia are certainly fitted for colonisation by Europeans, and sooner or later the white race will spread over all the elevated portions of that country. The chances of success for farmers will depend almost entirely upon the richness of its gold deposits, at any rate for some time to come; but with or without large markets for produce, it is at present a country in which a man can choose a pleasant spot for a homestead, enjoy a genial climate in which his wife and children will thrive, and with a few cattle be able to live comfortably, and grow everything he requires in the way of fruit and vegetables in his own garden. If this picture should be considered overdrawn, I would refer my critic to the mission stations of Hope Fountain, Shiloh, and Inyati. What was done by the men and women, who years ago made pleasant homes for themselves in Matabililand, can be done by others all over the highlands of Rhodesia, and I trust that it will be done by colonists of British blood rather than by Dutch Boers, for I think that the ultimate supremacy of Great Britain in South Africa depends more upon the settlement of her sons upon the land than upon the building of cities upon a gold or diamond mine, which must sooner or later cease to exist.