TRAVEL IN SOUTH AFRICA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649724482

Travel in South Africa by South Africa Railways and Harbours Board

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SOUTH AFRICA RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BOARD

TRAVEL IN SOUTH AFRICA

Trieste

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Published under the Authority of the General Manager, South African Railways and Harbours 1921.

1.1.1

Information about the Union of South Africa may be obtained from

 THE MANAGEB,
 THE PUBLICITY AGENT,

 Publicity Dept.,
 Office of the High Commissioner

 South African Railways
 or
 for Union of South Africa,

 and Harbours,
 Trafalgar Square,

 Johannesburg.
 London.

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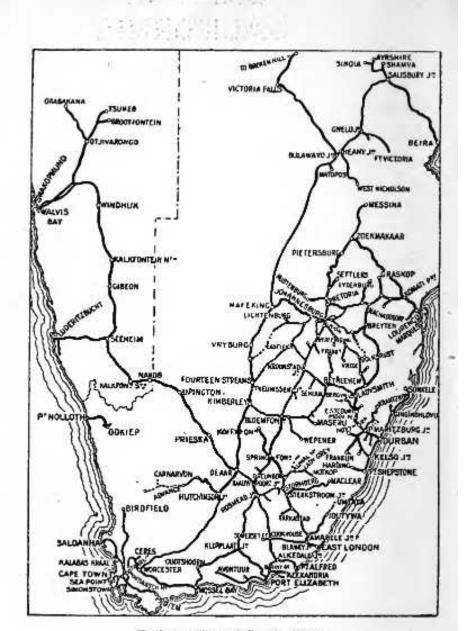
FOREWORD

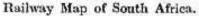
THIS volume is one which does not fall within any well defined literary category. Such a production is liable to be criticised less for what it is than for what different readers may think it purports to be or should have been.

In the circumstances it may be useful at the outset to explain the aim and scope of the volume. It deals with travel in the Union of South Africa, without, however, any pretence of conveying the last word on such travel; indeed the volume is confined to what was seen and felt by only one party of travellers, and they did not see everything.

There has been no attempt to describe the Union in detail. Not much, for instance, has been set down about the remarkable development, and the even more remarkable prospects, in South African farming, manufacturing, and general industries. These are diffuse, complex, and important subjects that should preferably be handled separately by competent authorities. They have therefore been reserved for other publications, and the present volume has been confined to the subject of travel; an account of the tour being given under the "we" of the party whose experiences and opinions are set down.

The only reason for publishing this material is that as the party travelled the Union recently and extensively much that has been set down in these pages will, it is believed, be fresh, at least to readers outside South Africa, and of sufficient general interest to warrant perusal by whoever may be seeking a little-known but remarkable field of travel.





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TABLE OF NOTABLE SOUTH AFRICAN DATES.

- 1487. Discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Bartholomew Diaz.
- 1497. Landing of Vasco de Gama at St. Helena Bay and at Mossel Bay.
- 1503. Discovery of Table Bay by Saldanha.
- 1580. Sir Francis Drake's voyage round the Cape.
- 1601. First British East India Fleet at Table Bay.
- 1602. Netherlands East India Company formed.
- 1652. Landing of van Riebeck. First settlement.
- 1688. Arrival of Huguenot settlers.
- 1820. Arrival of 5,000 British immigrants.
- 1835. Durban founded.
- 1836. Great trek from Cape.
- 1837. Winburg founded.
- 1839. Potchefstroom founded.
- 1843. Natal proclaimed a British possession.
- 1846. Bloemfontein founded.
- 1848. British sovercignty proclaimed between Orange and Vaal Rivers.
- 1852. Sand River Convention, recognising independence of TransvasI.
- 1854. First Cape Parliament,
- 1855. Pretoria founded.
- 1856. South African Republic Constitution (Grondwet) established. Natal made a separate colony.
- 1857. First legislative council in Natal.
- 1859. First railway in South Africa commenced.
- 1860. Pretoria established as the scat of Government in Transvaal,
- 1867. First diamond discovered.
- 1872. Responsible Government introduced in the Cape.
- 1884. Barberton goldfields opened.
- 1886. Opening of goldfields on Witwatersrand.
- 1888. First mining concession granted by Lobengula. British South Africa Company founded.
- 1893. Responsible Government granted to Natal.
- 1899. Conference at Bloemfontein between Sir A. Milner and President Kruger. War declared (October 11th).
- 1900. Occupation of Blocmfontein, Johannesburg and Pretoria.
- 1902. Peace of Vereeniging (May 31st). Death of C. J. Rhodes.
- 1904. Death of ex-President Kruger.
- 1906. Constitutions given to Transvaal and Orange Free State.
- 1909. Passing of the South Africa Act by Imperial Parliament. Death of Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr.
- 1910. Constitution of the Union of South Africa.

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