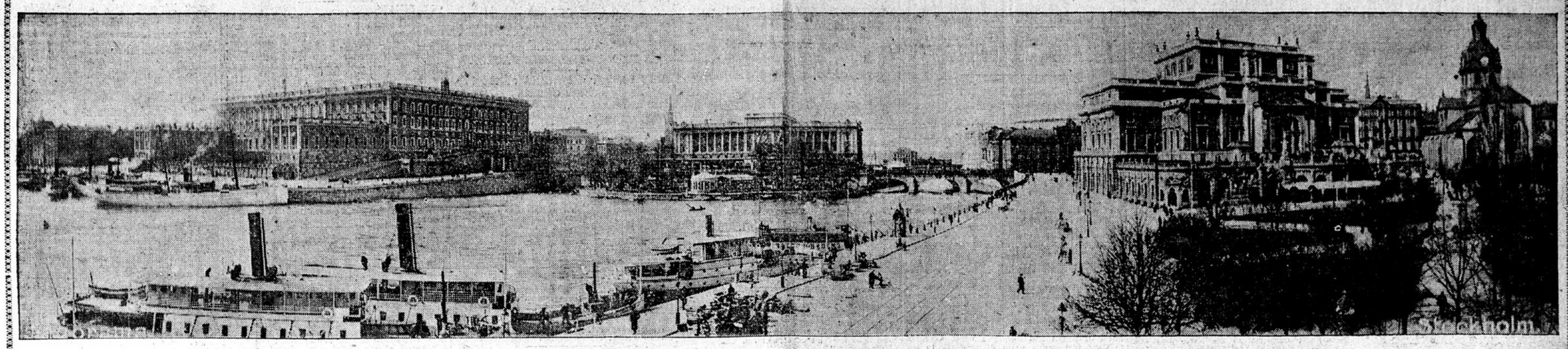
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

COL. GRAVES, AMERICAN MINISTER TO THE COURT OF KING OSCAR, HAS WON CORDIAL REGARD OF THE AGED MONARCH AND COURT

PANORAMA OF STOCKHOLM.



SKEPPSBRON LANDING. Where prince and princess land. ROYAL PALACE. STROMPARTERREN, Popular outdoor cafe. NEW RIKSDAG BUILDING. Statsgarden Landing. NORRBRO (North Bridge). ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

Minnesota Man in Diplomatic Post Quickly Gained Good Standing in Corps.

Retiring Minister Thomas Will Continue to Make His Home in Sweden.

BY. W. B. CHAMBERLAIN,
Managing Editor of The Journal.

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Stockholm, Sweden, July 4.—The new United States minister to Sweden and Norway, Colonel Charles H. Graves of Duluth, Minn., has been most cordially received in Stockholm, whither he came with his bride from Athens, Pa., about a month ago. His predecessor, W. W. Thomas of Portland, Me., had represented the Washington government here for many years and had endeared himself to the court and the people. He had become a thoro-going Swede in his ways, had written a charming and valuable book about Sweden for his countrymen and had become an important factor in the social and diplomatic life of the capital.

While Mr. Thomas has welcomed his successor with generous cordiality and done everything in his power to smooth the path before him, the task of establishing himself at court is always a difficult one at first for a new minister. Yet in a surprisingly short time Colonel Graves has won the good opinion of the diplomatic corps and the cordial regard of the king and his court, while Mrs. Graves by the simple charm of her manner and her unobtrusive tactfulness has been of the greatest assistance to her courtly husband.

Home of the Legation.

One of the first things Colonel Graves did was to move the legation into commodious quarters in a pensionat at the head of Birger Jarl street, close to the noble Kungstradgarden or park, which is in the midst of the best section of modern Stockholm.

Next fall, however, the legation will move into still better quarters on the Strandvagen, in a modern building, where the Japanese, Spanish, Italian and several other legations are already located. Colonel Graves and his wife will also have their quarters here, and this will make an ideal arrangement.

Colonel Graves has retained the very efficient clerk and interpreter of the legation, Dr. D. O. Bell, who served with Minister Thomas six years. Dr. Bell is an American from Battle Creek, Mich., but he married a Swedish lady and has become a Stockholmer of long standing, thoroly conversant with the language, customs and institutions of the country. He also speaks and reads Norwegian—a necessary accomplishment, since the minister is accredited to both countries. This arrangement may, however, be changed when the new Norwegian government is finally organized, as it will probably desire an American minister accredited direct. If this is not done, Colonel Graves will continue to represent his country for both Sweden and Norway, but will be compelled to make frequent trips to Christiania to look after the legation which he will necessarily establish in the Norwegian capital.

Presented to King.

Colonel Graves was presented to the king on May 92, the function having been delayed for a day or two until the king should have taken over the government again from the crown prince, who had been acting as regent. He was conveyed to the palace in a gorgeous coach of state in great ceremony, with four horses, outriders and lackeys galore, and was received there with great honors. Chamberlain Schwan was in charge of the ceremony, and he ushered the minister into the presence of the king. Oscar wore the brilliant uniform of a Swedish general, and his stalwart figure became it well. On his breast were the insignia of many orders, while on his head was the crown he wears on such occasions. At the proper moment Colonel Graves stepped forward and presented his letter of credence from the American department of state and made the following remarks:

COLONEL CHARLES H. GRAVES,
The American minister to Sweden and Norway, in the uniform of a colonel of the American army.

I have the honor to present this letter of credence addressed to you by the president of the United States of America. I am charged to maintain and promote by my best efforts the cordial relations that have so long subsisted between the kingdoms of Sweden and Norway and the country which I have the honor to represent. And my personal desire to that end is enhanced by appreciation of the long and distinguished service of my predecessor at this post, and by the fact that I come from that one of the states in the American republic which contains the largest number of those citizens of the United States whose birthplace was in the dominion of your majesty. These excellent citizens of my state have been my friends and neighbors for many years, and have sent by me messages of respect and love to your person and for the country of their nativity. It will therefore be my pleasure and duty to assist in establishing still more firmly the friendship existing between your majesty and the president, to advance the interest and prosperity of both governments, and to render myself acceptable to your majesty. I beg you to accept the assurance that I esteem most highly the honor of being accredited to this government and graciously received by your majesty.

King to Minister.

The king's reply was briefly given in English as follows:

It is very agreeable to me to hear your address at this occasion. I wish you most cordially welcome and I beg you to let my thanks be brought to the president with the assurance of my quite reciprocal feelings for himself and for the whole North American people. Be assured that not only I myself, but also the two nations, as well as their governments, will always receive you with cordial sympathy and thus facilitate your mission with us.

The king then requested Colonel Graves to be seated, and engaged him in friendly and pleasant converse. Soon afterward he was escorted back to his quarters with the same state in which he came.

In American Uniform.

Colonel Graves wore, upon this occasion, the uniform of a colonel in the American army, and this gave great pleasure to the king and the court, who had never before seen an American minister in uniform. Colonel Graves' service in the civil war gave him the privilege of donning the uniform of his rank, as congress passed an act not long ago according this privilege to representatives of the government abroad. One in democratic America can scarcely realize the advantage to be obtained abroad thru this privilege. A uniform is the invariable mark of rank and representatives of the United States have frequently suffered from the lack of it. Indeed, the state department has seriously considered the advisability of adopting some sort of court dress for American diplomats. But the fear that such action might be misunderstood in some quarters has prevented. Colonel Graves was advised at the state department, however, that it would be well to take advantage of the congressional permission, as to appear in uniform would give him a better footing in this court. And so it has already proved, for he has worn the uniform on all state occasions, to the great gratification of the Swedes.

King Oscar was wont to remonstrate with Mr. Thomas in a jocular way about his democratic simplicity, and once said to him with a laugh, "Why, Thomas, I sometimes mistake you for one of the servants when I don't get a good look at you." Mr. Thomas retorted that gewgaws were all well enough for the ladies, but he saw no reason why a man should bother with them.

First Court Function.

The first great court function at which Minister and Mrs. Graves appeared was the formal opening of the extraordinary session of the riksdag in the hall of state of the palace two weeks ago. This was a very solemn and ceremonious affair, not merely on account of the ancient customs that figured in it, but because of the rupture imminent between the brother nations after nearly a century of amity under the union. On the left of the chamber in a special gallery sat the diplomatic corps and their ladies. These were all seated in their proper order of precedence, according to seniority of appointment, with the charges of the legations behind them. Oddly enough, the Japanese minister was appointed just before, and the Russian minister just after Colonel Graves. Thus it happened that the American minister was neatly tucked in as a keeper of the peace between the representatives of the warring nations—which was appropriate enough, in view of President Roosevelt's achievements as a peacemaker. On the other side of the hall was the gallery for the royalties, while on the floor, of course, appeared the members of the riksdag. All these various personages reached the hall between long lines of soldiers in full dress. The last to appear was the king himself, who began his address: "Good Gentlemen and Swedish Brethren." The text of the address has long since been cabled to America and I need not repeat it here.

Colonel Graves enjoys the duties of his new post very much, but if he may judge from an incident in Duluth just before his departure, he is fain to conclude that many of his Scandinavian-American constituents do not, perhaps, understand exactly what his duties here are.

The Swedish domestic in the house at Duluth where Colonel Graves was staying was much impressed by the announcement that he was going to Sweden as minister. She pondered over it for some time and then expressed herself to her mistress in this wise:

"Ay tank Maester Graves ban purty gude man for meenister, men ay not know how he skol talk Svenska vell enough so he skol preach to des har Svenska folk."

Thomas in Sweden.

Mr. Thomas will continue to make his home in Sweden, where he has been in the service of the American government for eighteen years altogether. He was first appointed a war consul by President Lincoln to Gothenburg in 1863, and he served in that capacity for a little over two years. His first service as minister came in 1883 and lasted two years. During the two Cleveland administrations democrats were appointed by Mr. Thomas was named thrice, once by Arthur, once by Harrison and once by McKinley. His service as minister lasted fifteen years in all. He married a Swedish wife, talks fluent Swedish, and in every way is very much of a Swede.

In another letter I shall tell you of the reception of Colonel and Mrs. Graves by the queen and the ceremonies that attended this notable event.

Great Publicist Talks.

At the Publicist club—which corresponds to an American press club—I had the good fortune today to meet Dr. V. Millqvist, political editor of the Aftonbladet, a leading afternoon paper. He is dean of the corps of riksdag journalists. Dr. Millqvist is a veteran newspaper man of generous proportions—as fat and jolly and astute as Joel P. Heatwole—and he has the ear of the great ones in all parties.

"The riksdag members," he said, "don't know their own minds yet. They are all at sea. In the nature of the case they must reach some sort of an agreement, but it will take time to accomplish it. The ruling element in the upper house would, I am sure, favor the use of force or at least the strongest coercive measures, short of actual war, to bring Norway to time. The leaders of the lower house, on the other hand, want guarantees of the strongest sort from Norway, but they are much more pacific in their attitude. They won't let Norway go without these guarantees, but they expect to get what they want peacefully. And so it happens that the committee will take its time. The festivities marking the return of Prince Gustaf Adolf with his bride, the English Princess Margaret, will absorb the attention of the court and the official world, and no one will have much time for politics. Not sooner than July 10 will there be anything doing."

The Publicist Club.

The Publicist club was founded in 1874, and it has won for newspaper men a recognition in Sweden that they had theretofore been unable to secure. Journalists from all over Sweden hold memberships and the roll contains over 600 names. It has commodious quarters with all sorts of conveniences, including library, newspaper files, cafe and the like.

The press gallery in the new riksdag building is managed by a committee of the riksdag reporters, just as is done in Washington. The government has provided seats for a very limited number of writers in the two galleries, but has given them every convenience, including writing rooms, telephone booths, club rooms and attendance.

Little Talk of Republic.

If one may judge by what one hears here and reads in the Stockholm papers, there is as yet very little talk in Norway of a republic. The Norwegians are still looking for a king and don't know where to find him. King Oscar, as you know, has absolutely declined to permit any member of his house to take the crown. Naturally, the royal house of Denmark, which has been remarkably successful in placing its scions on alien thrones and wedding its daughters to rulers of other countries, would hesitate to offend the House of Bernadotte by obliging Norway with a princeling. The Almanach Gotha has been industriously thumbed in the endeavor to discover an eligible. There of, course, are among the German principalities many royalties out of a job, who would have no objection in the world to founding a new royal house and presiding over the destinies of the new monarchy, and several of these have been seriously canvassed by the Christiania newspapers. But Norway has misgivings about tying up to Germany and there would also be objections from England and possibly Russia to such a course. The kaiser is very fond of Norway as an objective for a summer's cruise and no one believes he would object to taking it under the wing of his eagles if he could. And so it may be the republic will be almost forced on the Norwegian leaders—a consummation that would be vastly grateful to the Norwegians in America.

Apropos the question of a king, comes an interesting bit of news from Bergen, Norway. At a gathering of 4,000 young men at Bergen it was resolved to petition the storthing to require the new king to assume the name of some of the old Norse heroes who ruled the land in the middle ages. So we may have King Harald or King Olaf or King Haakon ruling once more in the "North Way."

Art of Circumlocution.

Swedish officials have the art of circumlocution down quite as fine as those of any country. One high official will receive you with many ceremonious bowings, and there will be kowtowing on every side, but in the end he will tell you nothing and will politely refer you to some other high official, who has an office in some other group of buildings in the center of Stockholm. There are no elevators in these more or less ancient piles, and you wearily trudge up and down the winding stone stairways to find your man. The trudging of many feet for many years has worn depressions in these stairs and you gather that circumlocution is an old Swedish custom. Yesterday I accompanied Secretary D. O. Bell of the American legation on a quest for pavilion tickets and despite the utmost patience and persistence on his part and faithful following thru miles of offices and corridors and stairways on my part, we obtained nothing more in the end than a promise that may or may not be kept. And yet many American tourists abroad think the staffs of our legations have sinecures!

STEAD AND NANSEN

Explorer-Statesman Is Interviewed by the Famous Editor.

W. T. Stead, in his Review of Reviews, publishes a deeply interesting interview with Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer-statesman. The interview, which took place before the separation act of June 7, throws additional light on the Scandinavian situation. Mr. Stead says:

Right glad was I to meet Dr. Nansen again. The redoubtable Norwegian explorer was sitting at the entrance to the inner lobby of the house of commons in deep converse with a well-known liberal leaguer. As soon as it ended, I was glad to be able to make an appointment for a meeting later in the evening at the Royal Societies club, where I heard from Dr. Nansen's own lips a lucid statement of the trouble that has arisen in Scandinavia. He was in London to read a paper before the Royal Geographical society on observations made as to the disturbance of sea levels, but it was evident that he was much more concerned about a threatened disturbance in the political level in regions much more easily placed under observation than the floor of the ocean.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN,
Explorer-Statesman Interviewed by W. T. Stead on the Scandinavian Situation.

"I thought your difficulty was ended about the consuls?" I remarked.

"No," said Dr. Nansen. "You are just two years behind the times. It was ended on paper in 1903. It would have been ended, in fact, if the Swedish government had carried out the agreement drawn up by its own representatives. But it has broken its promise, violated its agreement, and that is where the trouble comes in."

"Why and wherefore?" I asked.

"We don't know. We can only suspect and draw inferences. Post hoc, propter hoc is bad logic, but it is a curious coincidence that the sudden volte face on the part of the Swedish government followed immediately after the first disasters which Russia suffered in the Far East."

"I see," I replied. "Sweden, relieved from dread of Russian pressure on the east, thinks it is safe to put the screw on Norway on the west. 'Tis the old story. 'When the devil was ill the devil a saint would be; when the devil got well, the devil a saint was he.'"

Sweden's "Breach of Faith."

"I don't call Sweden a devil," said Dr. Nansen. "I only say that her breach of faith has compelled Norwegians to think of many eventualities which were before quite unthinkable."

"What was this breach of faith?" I asked.

"You know the controversy between Norway and Sweden over the consular service?"

"Do I not?" I replied, "It is as plain as A B C. A protectionist old aristocratic farmer (Sweden) has gone into a strictly limited liability partnership for definite political purposes with a free democratic shipowner and manufacturer (Norway). The articles of association did not stipulate who should appoint agents to look after their business over sea, and the farmer usurped the right to make this appointment. The shipowner protested, on the reasonable ground that as three-fourths of the foreign business was entirely in his hands, he did not see why the farmer, who owned the remaining fourth, should appoint and control the agents who had to look after the whole business done over sea. After much squabbling, the two partners agreed in 1903 that each should appoint his own agents, and so I supposed the question had been settled."

"It would have been but for the breach of faith on the part of Sweden," said Dr. Nansen. "The agreement of March 24, 1903, was placed before the two governments simultaneously on Dec. 21 in that year, and was signed by the king as a joint resolution."

Terms of Agreement.

"What, in precise terms, was that agreement?"

"In brief, the agreement embodied in a joint note with much detail the following main lines of settlement, originally drawn up by the unanimous action of a joint committee of experts, of whom M. Bildt——"

"What, our Baron Bildt, your ambassador here, the ablest diplomatist of all those accredited to the court of St. James—was he a party to the agreement?"

"That is the man," said Dr. Nansen. "He was one of those who drew up the agreement. But I was about to tell the main lines of the settlement. The first was to affirm the principle for which he had always contended: 'Separate consular service shall be established both for Norway and Sweden. Each kingdom's consuls shall be placed under whichever department the country concerned shall decide.' The second principle was that the relation between the respective consuls and the foreign minister and embassies should be arranged by identical laws which could only be altered or suspended by the consent of both governments."

Dean of the Corps of Riksdag Journalists Talks on the Scandinavian Crisis.

Dr. Nansen, Statesman, Gives Stead Norway's Early View of Crisis.

Where the Hitch Came.

"Now, where did the hitch come in?"

"In the refusal of the Swedish government to carry out the agreement; perhaps I should say of the Swedish Premier Bostrom, for the foreign minister was compelled to resign by the manner in which the prime minister treated him. It was agreed by the two governments at the beginning of 1904 that the foreign powers should be notified of the intended appointment of separate consulates. That has never been done."

"But why was it not done?"

"Because we Norwegians could only communicate with foreign powers thru the Swedish foreign minister, and as that minister was dependent on the Swedish prime minister, the joint agreement of both governments was by him rendered of none effect."

"But surely that is very bad policy," I replied, "because it illustrates and aggravates the injustice and inconvenience of the existing arrangement as to the foreign office in the very worst possible way for the advocate of the statu quo?"

"You would think so; but they do not mind that. Not only did the foreign minister, who is supposed to represent both countries, fail to act under the joint instruction of both governments, but the Swedish government took no steps to work out plans for establishing its own consular service. We, on our part, have all our plans ready."

Forcing to a Head.

"What did you do to force things to a head?"

"We only asked the Swedish government to carry out the agreement. To this the reply of M. Bostrom was to spring upon us a series of unheard-of, undreamed-of conditions, unconstitutional and impossible, which, if assented to by us, would not merely destroy the whole benefit of the new arrangement, but would destroy our national independence."

"What are these conditions?"

"They are practically summed up in this, that our consuls—Norwegian consuls—appointed by the Norwegian government, are to be controlled by the Swedish foreign minister, a Swedish official responsible only to Sweden. As our constitution forbids the removal of a Norwegian civil servant by any authority but the crown, it is obvious that this condition is not only unconstitutional, but is a direct inroad upon Norwegian independence. To this we can never, and will never, consent. Hence the deadlock which has set some people talking of a national demand for the repeal of the union."

"Tut, tut," I said, "that is nonsense. That is unthinkable. The Swedish farmer will not insist upon controlling the foreign agents of his Norwegian partner. If he persists he will simply precipitate a demand that the Scandinavian foreign office shall no longer be the perquisite of the Swedish minstry. And that, surely, is the last thing that the Swedish government wishes to do?"

"I hope you are right. I sincerely wish you may be right. At any rate we shall appoint our own consuls."

"How can you do that, excepting thru the foreign minister?"

"You will see," said Dr. Nansen.

THE THRIFTY BOER COLONY IN MEXICO

Fifty Families Start on 83,000 Acres in Chihuahua and Immigration Is Increasing the Number Daily—The Boer Is Likely to Dominate the Entire State Before Many Years.

Correspondence Philadelphia Record.

Santa Rosalia, Mexico.—Readers will no doubt be interested to learn that the leaders of the Boer people, since the close of the war with Great Britain and the consequent loss of the Transvaal, have established a colony in Mexico. Santa Rosalia, in the big state of Chisuahua, bordering on Texas, is the capital city of the district comprising 83,000 acres which has been purchased by General Synman, representing the Boers, from the Mexican government. The colony is prospering and growing rapidly, every ship from South Africa bearing passengers from the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. Climatic conditions are very favorable, as the temperature of the state of Chihauhau is almost identical with that of the Transvaal. The soil in many respects is not unlike that of which the burghers are accustomed.

The Synman Concession.

The concession was made to General Synman on Dec. 29, 1903. During the last year settlement has progressed rapidly and already upward of 4,000 acres of land are under cultivation. The terms of the purchase provided for a consideration of $190,000 (Mexican). $50,000 of which was advanced by the Mexican government at 6 per cent per annum and the remainder by the Banes Agricola at 7 per cent per annum. Twenty-five years are allowed for repayment of the money. It is also stipulated that during this time the colony shall be virtually exempt from taxation and exempt from import duties on agricultural machinery. The Mexican government has granted also the privilege to the Boers to frame their own municipal laws, of the enjoyment of religious liberty and to educate the youth as they see fit. The colonists are exempted from all military service except in case of foreign invasion. It has been largely due to these favorable conditions, agreed to by President Diaz in his broadminded policy of encouraging any movement that will ultimately benefit Mexico, that the Boers are meeting with such great success in building for themselves this new home in America.

Residents of the United States, who no doubt are astonished at the very liberal terms granted to the Boers by the Mexican government, must take into consideration the peculiar condition now prevailing in this country. Two-thirds of the population of Mexico is composed of Indians, descendants of the Aztecs, who were reduced to slavery by the Spaniards. Fallen into ignorance and very poor, they have not the means to educate themselves, and it is this task of educating 7,000,000 Indians that President Diaz is now attempting. The Aztecs were a brilliant people and, given the opportunity to rise, they have proven that they are endowed with ability that could make Mexico a great nation. President Juarez, who defeated Maximilian, was a full-blooded Indian. American capital is pouring into this country and the resources are fast developing.

The Boers who are now in Mexico are the wealthiest and most enlightened of the Transvaal. They number among them the generals, the leading merchants and miners and commercial men. President Diaz is anxious for men of this character to settle in Mexico. The country is a storehouse of wealth, and only intelligence and capital are needed to exploit the vast resources. The hills are rich in silver. The natives were so ignorant of the wealth that they made brick of earth which contained so large a proportion of silver that these houses are now being torn down and the ore extracted. Even with very antiquated mining facilities commonly in use here the profits are enormous.

Where the Boer colony is established the country is a great plateau, ranging between 6,000 and 8,000 feet above the sea level, so that the weather, even in summer, is mild at midday and cool at night. The Conchos river, a branch of the Rio Grande, that divides Texas from Mexico, flows thru the state of Chihuahua for a distance of about 330 miles, dividing at Santa Rosalia into two branches. The abundant water supply, combined with the splendid climatic conditions, makes this an ideal agricultural country. Corn and wheat are raised in great abundance. Cotton, fruits and vegetables are also being cultivated on the lower slopes of the hills. In the purchase price of $190,000 paid for the land was included payment for 2,000 head of cattle. With these as a nucleus, stock farming is becoming an important industry.

Many of these Boers who are now establishing homes for themselves under a new sort of government in Mexico have never been back to their South African homes since the first year of the war with Great Britain, a great number of them having been captured during hostilities and exiled in Bermuda. When the conflict ended and the little South African republics were absorbed into the nation of Great Britain, Generals Synman, Cronje and others began to plan the colonization of some new country. The republics of South and Central America and that of Mexico seemed to offer the only refuge for a people accustomed to universal suffrage and democratic principles.

Mr. Schermerhorn of Philadelphia took an active hand and succeeded in having the department of state of the United States look into the matter, and weight was brought to bear on the English ambassador. His majesty's government relaxed the rigor and harshness of its rule in Bermuda, so far as to let some of the men go back and get their families from South Africa. Meanwhile the Mexican colony plans were maturing and arrangements perfected for the purchase of passage for the burghers to Mexico. The first settlers were General W. D. Synman, his wife and six children and six other Boer families. It was not long before fifty families had spread out over the 83,000 acres and the Boer colony was under way. Immigrants have been constantly arriving, and agriculture and mining are flourishing. It is confidently asserted that by the time the twenty-five years has elapsed, the period allowed for the payment of the purchase price of this first hacienda, that the Boer people will dominate the entire state of Chihuahua, comprising about 80,000 square miles. The energy of the Boer, his thrift, devotion to duty and his unquenchable patriotism, under the excellent conditions that surround him in this republic of Mexico, will enable him to build where stood the temples and palaces of the Aztecs before the Spanish plundered them. The colonists, knowing that they have the well wishes of their countrymen in the Transvaal and in Holland, and that they will be supported by the scions of Dutch families in the United States and by the good-will of every liberty-loving American, are pressing forward in their fight, and every month is bringing greater strength and more recruits.

Carey Cement Roofing better than metal or tar and gravel. See W. S. Nott Co., Tel. 376.

SOLD HIS WIFE FOR $5

Woman Objected and Money Was Refunded in Court.

Philadelphia Ledger.

Igel Vino, an Italian of Pittston, who sold his wife for $5, was arrested because the woman refused to fulfil her part of the transaction.

A few months ago Vino was married. He soon tired of wedded life, and agreed to sell his wife to John Sandy, who had long been in love with her. Sandy paid the money to Vino, but his wife refused to be sold.

Sandy had Vino arrested for the purpose of recovering his $5. Before Alderman Redding Vino refunded the $5 to Sandy, paid the costs in the case and was discharged.

Save your Bird's Eye Match card till you go to the grocer's. It's worth a box of Bird's Eye Matches.

All cases of weak or lame back, backache, rheumatism, will find relief by wearing one of Carter's Smart Weed and Belladonna Backache Plasters. Price 25 cents. Try them.

Read the State Mutual ad and also what they offer under "Business Chances" column.

Defective Page