



### President Burgers.

By kind permission of his daughter,  
Mrs. T. F. Burgers.

warriors to raid Natal and the Republic.

It was this threat, coupled with the fact that the State was bankrupt—the Transvaal's pound being worth only one shilling, and its public debt totalling £215,000—which caused him to favour the Republic's annexation by Sir Theophilus Shepstone, and provoked his historic speech in the Volksraad in March 1877:

"I would rather be a policeman under a strong Government than the President of such a State. It is you—you members of the Raad and the Boers—who have lost the country, sold your independence for a drink. You have ill-treated the natives, you have sold them into slavery, and now you have to pay the penalty.

Do you know what recently happened in Turkey? Because no civilised government was carried

and  
roused  
pathy of  
began to adv  
social and religio  
not now uncommon to  
widow's re-marriage and  
caste Hindus. One is not  
surprised either, to see the whole

## Cameos of History

By Allen Loxton

on there the Great Poers inter-  
fered and said: Thus far and  
no farther. And if that is done  
to an empire, will a little repub-  
lic be excused if it misbehaves?"

• • •

It is an interesting fact that among those who desired the annexation and accepted a salaried post under the English administration, one finds the name of Paul Kruger, though when it was an accomplished fact and the power of England was felt to be supreme he joined with those who appealed to the British Government to revoke the Act.

President Burgers finally settled down as a farmer in the Cape Province, where he died in 1881. During his government he raised £90,000 in Holland to link the Transvaal with Delagoa Bay by railway line, and planned many other far-visions schemes. A patriot, a fluent speaker in both languages, and a man of boundless energy, he failed to rescue the Transvaal because his plans were visionary and too big for his small means.

1933

Dclj

...the regiment  
...this year's re-  
...been enrolled and are  
...parades preliminary to  
...sworn in before the  
battalion.

J.L.

## A HERESY CHARGE of LAST CENTURY

**E**CCLESIASTICAL, no less than secular history apparently, has a way of repeating itself.

For the past three years the Dutch Reformed Church has suffered internally from the "heretical" opinion of Professor Jan du Plessis. Suspended from office by ecclesiastical courts, he has won all his appeals to the civil courts; denounced fervently by one section of lay and clerical opinion, he is supported with equal passion by the other.

It is a drama of variant convictions upon which the curtain has not yet fallen, but in which already the most costly and potentially unhappy issues have become involved. Yet, whatever its ultimate outcome, there are many to whom not the least interesting aspect must be that, in almost every essential, it is a faithful re-enactment of a drama which shook the church sixty-two years ago. Could conservatism go further?

The "Professor du Plessis of Queen Victoria's day ended his drama as far as the Church was concerned by becoming a great

statesman—he was Thomas Francois Burgers, President of the Transvaal Republic from 1872 until its annexation by England—which, characteristically, he was wholly in favour of—in 1877.

Born in the Cape Colony in 1834, President Burgers was educated in Utrecht, Holland, where he took his degree as Doctor of Theology. He returned to South Africa, was ordained a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and was stationed at Hanover, where he ministered for eight years.

In 1862 his teachings began to attract notice, and two years later he was suspended by an ecclesiastical court for "heretical" opinions. He took the matter to the civil courts, won his appeal, and had it confirmed by the Privy Council in England in 1865.

In 1872 he was elected President of the Transvaal Republic. Soon afterwards the Transvaal, weakened by an abortive attempt to overthrow Sekukuni, was threatened by a native invasion from another border—Cetewayo, the Zulu king, had mustered 40,000

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