Potchefstroom
("The Garden of the Transvaal")

An Illustrated Brochure Descriptive of Potchefstroom

as an Ideal Holiday Resort for the People of South Africa;
and as a Weekend Resort for the People of the Rand.

Issued Under the Authority of the Potchefstroom Municipality
and the General Manager of the
South African Railway.

December 1913.
OTCHEFSTROOM with a mixed population of 13,117 souls, situate 88 miles from Johannesburg on the main line to Capetown; and 4,436 feet above sea-level is recognised as one of the most beautiful towns of the Transvaal, and is, rapidly becoming perhaps the most popular place of resort in that Province. The town is laid out on the Boer principle over an open, undulating stretch of grass-clad country; giant willows and furrows of clear, sparkling water lining the streets throughout the whole of their length.

It has been rightly named the "garden town"—it is one; not on the lines of those towns built on an orthodox plan by a syndicate anxious for the better housing of the people but, none the less, a garden town of a real type for every home has its orchard and flower garden which in summer is a mass of bloom; then the hedges are laden with roses with here and there beautiful and delicate run-
nners and other climbing floral beauties peeping out from the foliage of cypress and quince. Then, too, the many feathered songsters returning from their migrations to warmer climes, help to sweeten the lives of the inhabitants and impart their joy to the hearts of all who go in quest of happiness and of oblivion of commercial strife and worries. It is during these months particularly that Potchefstroom proves so irresistible an attraction to the jaded men and women of places more populous but less favoured than this town where natures bounty is so strikingly manifested. It is a fine place with several up to date hotels, a public park and a commodious cemetery which is so seldom used that people there forget its existence or whereabouts! For holiday relaxation there are all the qualities appropriate to an improving of health and renewing of lost vigour. This town is not to be written about, nor is it to be read about if justice is to be done to its charm; it must be seen. A tripper may trip throughout the length and breadth of the Transvaal but if he does not visit Potchefstroom there will be a gem missing from his ring of reminiscences. Few "old-world" towns are so easy of as Potchefstroom. It is within easy distance of Pretoria and the Rand, and apart from its bracing air and climate it has characteristics entirely its own; it is a health blown little town open to the breezes that rid the brain of cob-webs. Its old-world picturesqueness whispers the romance of the past and Potchefstroom has, perhaps, more romance for its size than any other town in the Transvaal. Where modernity has stepped in it has been to add to, rather than detract from, the attractions of the township.

The Randite particularly should spend his holidays in Potchefstroom for there the cry is similar to that of the vain glorious Italian whose common boast was—"See Naples and die!" It is a clean, bright, summer haunt and one that is undoubtedly going to take a firm hold on all travelling South Africans.
GOLF LINKS.

To the golfing enthusiast for whom there is no greater attraction than a well-planned and orderly golf links, Potchefstroom holds an enticement greater than any other town in the Transvaal or, indeed, in South Africa. This course is the first in the country to have been Municipalised, and was laid out at a cost of £2,000. The fair-ways are of a thick carpet-like sward kept trim and in good condition, and the putting greens are of a thick velvety grass. The work of keeping the links in the best condition, devolves upon the committee of the Potchefstroom Golf Club while the Municipality provides the maintenance monies. The large numbers which are to be seen enjoying the grand old game on public holidays and on every other occasion that opportunity offers, testify to the popularity of the links.
and to the benefit which is certainly accruing to Potchefstroom from this Municipal venture. The course is well and rationally bunkered encouraging by their positions scientific rather than venturesome play, and the river which winds itself across the field at several points presents many natural, almost unique hazards, giving in not a few instances ample scope for the manifestation of the sweet temper of an unfortunate player. For the benefit of an indifferent shot there is a sufficient supply of “Pot-bunkers,” and woe betide the individual who is given to slicing in the neighbourhood of hole No. 11.

The course is well over 6,000 yards long, (the bogey is 77) and has already been the venue of two South African Championship contests. The professional record on the course stands at 68, while the amateur record is 72.

Following are the lengths of the various drives commencing with the drive to hole 1:—

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During May in each year a competition for the “King’s Cup” valued at £75, and presented to the club by the proprietor of the King’s Hotel, is held and is entered into with enthusiasm by members of outside clubs as well as by all the local players.

The Club fees are as follows inclusive of Municipal Green Fees:—
Gentlemen: Monthly permits 15/-, Weekly, 7/6, daily, 2/6.

Ladies: Monthly permits 10/-, Weekly, 4/-, daily, 1/6.

Special low fees are fixed for girls and boys.

Visitors are asked to kindly refrain from paying caddies more than the fee fixed for them by the Committee which is 1/- per round.
Potchefstroom is one beautiful "walk"; it is a park with flowers and foliage everywhere—and it is popularly known as the "Garden of the Transvaal." Many people in describing it say it is "Well-wooded and picturesque" but the feebleness of these words to adequately express its claims to its many hundred beauties occurs to those who have the faculty to distinguish between mere "well-woodedness" and true rural beauty. It stands in the midst of a green undulating country and is made up of gardens and orchards; great fields of fresh, green lucerne surround it, and stately willows offer protection against the heat of the mid-day sun. When summer is at its brightest with the roses abloom and hedges bright with a variety of brilliantly coloured runners; when the scent of the newly mown grass is wafted by the gentle breezes that come to one by
Witstinkhoutboom Farm
way of the leas, then with sunshine and beauty around mental contentment and quiet pleasure reign supreme.

Of course there are particularly charming walks just as there are favourite and sequestered nooks in the ornamented and elaborate City Park. The most popular of these, Rivier, Gouws, Greyling and Berg streets, are tree-embowled and remmdful of leafy Devon. There is the walk over the green swarded, carpet-like “Meadows” on the eastern side of the town where many half hours with the best of authors—Nature—may be pleasantly prolonged. It is bor-

dered by many stately trees and sitting beneath one midst the glowing beauties of summer the heart of the most unappreciative person is soon awakened to the delightful of the surroundings.

There are many interesting drives from which much pleasure may be derived, where all kinds of vehicles may be obtained and the usual taxis and cabs are always near at hand. Fortunate is the visitor who has plenty of time at his command to enjoy the scenery. The site now occupied by the Cantonments was ten years ago an area as barren as the
country immediately surrounding it; now beautiful avenues stretching in all directions over a very considerable area, afford an excellent example of what can be accomplished by a judicious scheme of tree planting. There are many fine buildings, cozy residences artistically treated and embowered by a variety of climbing roses; delightful gardens are spread before each house and an air of contentment and comfort is everywhere apparent.

The Government Experimental Farm, described in another section of this booklet, and the North Bridge also afford pleasant drives.

Six miles from the town is Spitzkop—the highest hill in the district—from whose summit can be viewed the Army Training Ground which was described by General Sir Ian Hamilton as the finest Artillery Training Ground in the Empire. The climb of the lofty and precipitous peak is well rewarded by the magnificent panorama obtained of the surrounding country.

Venterskroon, 18 miles from Potchefstroom and with a total population of 30, is pleasantly situated on the Vaal River in the midst of a fertile portion of the district and is a popular picnic and winter resort. The scenery here is
the finest in the district. The river banks are high and well-wooded, and the hills on the Transvaal side are covered with a rare sub-tropical vegetation. Good barbel and yellow-fish fishing may be indulged in and a wholly pleasant day may be spent — indeed the visitor will find time speeding all too quickly towards the time of return to civilisation for where the Vaal flows city folk are wont to linger, marking the splendour of the sunset on the hills, seeking solace in the lonliness of this new old-world, finding the balm of life in every puff of the cool and fragrant breeze. The country here as elsewhere in the vicinity of Potchefstroom offers pure air to the lungs, a glorious landscape to charm the eye and a rest to amply satisfy the most weary of town dwellers. There is an hotel in the town.

Witstinkhoutboom Farm, on the Mooi River northwards of the town is a popular picnicing spot for the inhabitants of Potchefstroom, as is "The Thorns" situated amongst the hills westward of the town.

The hatcheries of the Transvaal Trout Acclimatisation Society are situated at the upper end of the lake. Here are bred thousands of the trout which are distributed in the streams and rivers of the Province.

As the spawning of the fish and despatch of the fry is an interesting subject the visitor should not forego a visit to the hatchery, but should get in touch with the manager who is always in the grounds and glad to show interested persons round, and to explain the technicalities of the work.
SPORTS AND PASTTIMES.

The tastes and particular penchant of the lover of sport is well provided for in Potchefstroom. The district offers excellent shooting. On some of the farms are herds of Blesbok and Springbok; and there is the wily Partridge, the Kourhann, Snipe and, at times, Quail.

Both the Vaal and the Mooi Rivers are well stocked with fish, and the angler will find a varied and interesting sport awaiting him. In the Mooi River fish scaling 19 and 20 lbs. have been caught, and anglers state that many eighty-pounders have been pulled from the Vaal.

The favourite ‘Anglers Nook’ on the Mooi River is near the South Bridge. Yellow-fish and ‘Kla-verkop’ are plentiful and usually fetched with flies.

Those more generally used, are:

The Silver Doctor, Goldfinch, Jock Scott, Durham Ranger and Alexandria.

Boating can be indulged in on the Lake which is reached by way of the North Bridge Road or Berg Street. It is a magnificent sheet of water of over a mile long by a half-mile broad at its widest part. The hire charge for boats is 1/- per head per hour. The Lake, it might be of interest to know, was constructed at a cost of £20,000 and forms part of a water-conservancy scheme for irrigation purposes. Bathing may also be indulged in.

Racemeetings are held on an excellent Race Course near
the Cantonments once a month by the Potchefstroom and District Gymkhana Club.

There is a fine bathing pool on the river near East Bridge where swimming enthusiasts may while away part of the day amid pleasant surroundings.

In the Park games of Association and Rugby Football, Hockey, Tennis, Croquet, and Cricket is regularly played on Wednesdays afternoons.

Following are the names of the local Athletic Clubs:—Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club, Cricket Club, Potchefstroom Rugby Football Club, Western Transvaal District Rugby Football Club, Association Football Club, Hockey Club, Croquet Club, Rifle Club and Golf Club.
LEXANDRA PARK.

The Park is situated on the western side of the town, and has its main entrance in Kruger Street. It does not boast pretty and ornamental gardens, sculpture or hot-houses, but rather conforms with the rural nature of the town it serves. It has many pleasant walks, drives, arbours and a rosary, and is, it might be said, one of the most thickly wooded Parks in the country. Once amongst the tall trees, one does not wish for modern additions—the eye is always better pleased with nature unadorned, and a scent laden atmosphere often does more toward raising the mind above mundane reflection than the most beautiful works of man.

On early mornings the "Fir Grove" next the main entrance is much appreciated by visitors who delight to make themselves comfortable beneath the spreading branches of these
tall, odorous trees; to inhale the pure air to scent the delightful perfumes, and to give an undivided ear to the music of the many brightly-jacketed birds which then frequent this particular spot.

There is the broad canal which passes through the Park and on whose banks grow many flowers and a great variety of elegant and graceful trees.

The Park is the home of the local Athletic Clubs and contains Association Football and Hockey Grounds, Croquet Lawns, Tennis Courts, Cricket Pitch and Cycle Track on the eastern side, and a Rugby Football ground on the western side, all amid the most pleasant surroundings.
Historically Potchefstroom is one of the most interesting towns in the Transvaal and is closely associated with the memories of the Boer patriots Pretorius, Kruger, Potgieter (who founded the town), and other notable figures in Transvaal history. As is generally known, it was the first Capital of the old South African Republic. Romance and much danger played a prominent part in its transition from the primitive state to what it is to-day. In 1836 a party of hardy old Voortrekkers under the leadership of Potgieter settled at a spot known as Witkopjesfontein on the banks of the Mooi River but at a later date the camp was moved a little way down the river and this was the foundation of Potchefstroom. It was not until 1859 that responsible Government was founded and the seat of the Executive Government of the Transvaal placed at Potchefstroom.

In those days the native tribes were turbulent so that the lives of the settlers were very uncomfortable, and many instances of reckless courage and endurance were displayed by them.

The famous battle of Potchefstroom in which S. J. P. Kruger, who was than Commandant-General of the Republic's forces, bombarded the village from Vechtkopje, eventuated in 1862.
The historic old fort situated on the western side of the town close to the Municipal Power Station is worth a visit and bears eloquent testimony to the gallant stand of the British garrison against the forces of Piet Cronje. In the 1880-'81 war some 250 British troops under Col. Winsloe were cooped up in the small fort for a period of 93 days, (December 6th, 1880 to March 21st, 1881) at the end of which time they surrendered—ten days after the Boer Commandant, Piet Cronje, had been apprised of the declaration of an Armistice. This marks the only instance where the British laagers did not hold out to the close of the war.

The earthworks and trenches are falling into decay, but an idea of the original shallowness may be had and one marvels at the valour of the man who so stubbornly held out against the Boer forces for so long. In the little walled cemetery close by lie the remains of those who fell, or died of sickness during the siege, and to whose memory a cairn has been erected by the military authorities.
Potchefstroom is favoured with several large open spaces the chief of which are the Market Square, and Church Square in the centre of the town about sixteen acres in extent around which raged the battle between Major Clarke and Cronje which marked the opening of the 1880-'81 hostilities. On this square the first blood of the war was spilled. After a siege lasting two days the thatched roof of the Magistrate's Old Court of which Major Clarke had taken possession, was fired by the Boers by means of paraffine balls, and he surrendered unconditionally to Piet Cronje. At the north end is the historic Old Market Square on which stand the old and new Gereformeerde churches.
Since the inception of the Potchefstroom Municipality in 1903, improvements in all directions have been effected. Some forty miles of streets have been put in good order, many of them being macadamised and are to be further improved by a system of ashphalting. The kerbing of the side-walks and masoning-up of the gutters in the more important streets is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, and it is expected that ere long these works will be completed and other works of utility and beautification will be put in hand. The new works programme will include the construction of a swimming bath in the Park. In 1909 the fine block of buildings on the Market Square comprising the Town Hall Municipal Offices and Market was built at a cost of £14,500. The Town Hall has seating accommodation for 600 people and a stage large enough to enable the the production of most classes of entertainment.

In 1911 the Municipality took over the business of the Potchefstroom Consumers Electric Light and Power Company, and erected a handsome building to accommodate an
up-to-date plant comprising two 60 K.W. Belliss-Siemens Sets with single-voltage three-wire D.C. generators, also a battery consisting of 274 cells with a capacity of 300 ampere hours.

The irrigation canal by which water is conducted to the town from the Mooi River and which has its intake at a point some three miles from the town, has been greatly improved, and the furrows which lead from it and distribute the water through the town, have been fitted with a patent adjustable sluice-gate the invention of the Town Engineer of Potchefstroom by means of which a just proportion is secured to every street.
GENERAL.

Since the war Potchefstroom has made phenomenal progress from a commercial viewpoint, and anyone now walking along King Edward Street viewing the many pretentious business establishments each carrying stocks which would put to shame those of many shops in much larger centres, would scarcely credit the fact that prior to the recent war it was a typical straggling village street lined with huge willows with a diminutive shop at intervals; but so it was, and the street now speaks for itself in the matter of its own commercial advancement, and for the enterprise of the people of Potchefstroom. With the increase of business due to the influx of tourists, holiday-makers, sportsmen, and, in no small degree, permanent residents business premises are continually being altered, enlarged, or demolished and re-built on a larger scale. All this speaks well for the sustained prosperity of Potchefstroom, and there is small-
doubt that as this pretty little town becomes more widely known, it will entice holiday-makers in greater number than hitherto, and from this source at least will derive a considerable revenue.

From a residential point of view Potchefstroom is the ideal town of the average person. Houses are obtainable at moderate rentals, educational facilities for the children are excellent and sufficient, and the rates, like the death rate, are remarkably low. The climate is mild, and the town being unencumbered by surrounding hills, is invariably
fanned by refreshing and invigorating breezes which impart a glow to the cheeks and firmness to the most persistently flabby muscle. Being in the heart of one of the most successful agricultural districts of the Transvaal, living is reduced to the lowest possible inland minimum. Along the Mooi (i.e. Pretty) River north-west of the town, are situated a few of the finest farms of the province where, in addition to the pursuit of the ordinary agricultural industry, scientific dairying is carried on on a large scale.

In respect to Entertainment Potchefstroom is better-off than most country towns. Its proximity to Johannesburg, and the fact that it is situate on the main line from Cape Town, ensures visits from most of the musical performers visiting South Africa, while the Companies of Messrs Wheeler and Leonard Rayne, pay the town periodical visits. Needless to say, the town is not without its bioscope which screens first class pictures. With an increased holiday traffic, it is probable that something further will be done by private enterprise, or by the Council who are determined to leave nothing undone to make the town a premier weekend and holiday resort.
In agricultural possibilities the Potchefstroom district is second to none in South Africa. Progressive farmers are established throughout almost the whole of the district and their success as farmers is, no doubt, in a large degree attributable to the benefit they derive from the experiments conducted at the Experimental Farm whence all that is discovered or learned is circulated by means of graphically written pamphlets.

All kinds of cereals grow well; large quantities of maize, Kaffir-corn, forage, etc., being produced in the district. The output of these however could still be increased enormously.

Lucerne, Teff-grass and other fodder crops grow luxuriantly, and never fail to return an encouraging profit; particularly lucerne which invariably yields 5 or 6 tons of hay per acre per season in addition to providing excellent grazing through the winter months.

Fruit of every description does handsomely; peaches plums, apples
and quinces being produced in greater abundance and of a quality which leaves little to be desired.

Large and small stock thrive in every part of the district, and as the progeny of first-class imported stock can be purchased at the annual sales of the Experimental Farm this section of the farming industry is improving every year and bids fair to place the district at the head of the lists in the not very distant future.

As a dairying centre Potchefstroom needs no mention—it is too well and widely known to warrant it.

Naturally in a district where the soil is of the best possible, and other factors are the most favourable to a successful farming career, prices for land runs high; but a farmer who has the necessary small capital cannot do better than give attention to this district as to an energetic and progressive man the possibilities are unlimited.

As has been said the soil is exceptionally fertile, the climate is perfect, disease amongst farm products and sicknesses amongst stock is not prevalent, and furthermore, it has access to the largest markets in the country. It should be mentioned too that the district is watered by the Vaal and Loop Spruit Rivers and their tributaries which with properly constructed dams will irrigate large tracts of land consisting of rich virgin soil.
The Government Experimental Farm.

One of Potchefstroom's principal attractions is the Government Experimental Farm situated within the 2-mile Municipal radius on the South West corner of the town. As a demonstration of what can be done by industry and the application of scientific principles to agriculture, the appearance of the farm is a lesson not quickly forgotten and one which will interest even him who has no direct interest in agriculture.

The farm was established in September, 1902, on a bare stretch of country some 2,700 acres in extent which formed part of Potchefstroom's extensive town lands. The shallowness of the soil and natural infertile character accounts for its non-occupation by the old voortrekkers who preferred to embrace the river and lands adjacent to it. The locality however possessed certain valuable features which made possible the laying out of the farm for experimental and educational purposes, and afforded excellent opportunity to demonstrate to farmers what could be achieved on so-called worthless soil by bringing scientific principles to bear on agriculture. Accordingly large areas of land were systematically laid out, cultivated and sown, and are now yielding heavy crops of great variety. The development during the last ten years, not only in the growth of trees and permanent improvements, but also in the stocking and equipment generally of the institution shows in a striking manner what a combination of favourable factors can achieve.

The soil of the farm consists of a layer of brownish loam from 9 to 12 inches deep itself of poor natural ferti-
lity over a sub-soil of loose iron-stone gravel and a deep layer of yellow shale. With manuring and cultivation the soil has, however, been brought to such a perfect state, that heavy crops of almost every kind may be raised.

**OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION.**

The objects for which the farm was established, are mainly four-fold, and have been consistently and rigidly pursued by the principals. They are:

1. **Educational:** Especially to train young men in the practical and scientific aspects of agriculture, indeed to turn out well-trained, well-informed and up-to-date farmers.

2. **The Stud Farm:** To breed and to encourage, the breeding of pure-bred stock, thereby to promote and improve the Live Stock Industry and to experiment with different breeds and systems of breeding.

3. **Experiment and Demonstration:** To conduct experiments with the object of improving the yield and quality of crops grown, of obtaining reliable farming data, of introducing new plants and crops to the country, and to demonstrate the value of thorough husbandry.

4. **A Seed Farm:** To grow improved and tested varieties of crops for disposal as seed to farmers thereby to improve the plant industry of the country.

To these defined objects may be added the work of research and investigation undertaken by the scientific staff of the Agricultural school which, though still in its 'teens, has opened a large and new field of work for the scientist and has already proved of immense value to the farmer.

It is not unusual for institutions of this kind to suffer at the outset from a lack of support and confidence of the community it is intended to benefit, and to attract to it-
self more adverse criticism from ill-informed and old-fashioned conservatists than any other kind of institution, and in this respect the Potchefstroom Experimental Farm has had its share of abuse, but by means of its progress these obstacles were overcome till now a correspondence in all sections is carried on with some 1,000 farmers and others seeking advice upon all kinds of farming matters and topics, and it is estimated that some 2,000 farmers from all quarters of South Africa visit the farm annually apparently to see and to believe—and, it must not be forgotten—to return.

Reference to the poorness or natural infertility of the soil has already been made, and a comparison of the crops secured from certain fields in 1912, after the soil had been systematically, manured, with the crops secured in 1903 from the same fields not manured but well cultivated, will serve as an illustration of the improvement effected.

In 1903 3 bags of maize per acre was produced, 1,500 lbs. of Oat Hay, 4 bags of wheat and other crops in proportion. A chemical analysis was made of the soil which revealed its poverty in all "plant food" and it was ascertained that phosphatic manures applied to the land gave the best results; while to improve its physical condition, and to increase its humus content organic matter had to be applied.

The manures already applied to the soil are: 10,000 ox-wagon loads (about 20,000 tons) of stable manure, and 150 tons of artificial manures. This is of course heavy manuring for virgin soil but is amply justified in the circumstances. Today the same land produces 10 bags of maize per acre 4,500 lbs. of Oat Hay, and 10 bags of wheat.

THE BUILDINGS.

Notable among the buildings on the farm are the Hostel which affords accommodation for some 65 students besides resident staff, and the educational block of buildings near the head offices, containing a Lecture Hall which seats 120
persons, also separate laboratories for Chemistry, Entomology, Botany, Engineering and Veterinary Science, together with our Agricultural Museum, and the necessary offices and research rooms for the school staff, the whole being most artistically furnished and fully equipped with up-to-date appliances. This latter block has been named "Selborne Hall" in compliment to Lord Selborne who showed his interest in the farm movement by collecting a sum of about £3,000 from private donors as a contribution towards the cost of the building. The school was started in August, 1909 with 24 students who entirely filled the accommodation then available. The number of students enrolled during the past year including those attending a special "Short Course" or as it sometimes called "A Winter Course" was 137. The full course is one of two years, and the fees (including medical attendance, laundry, etc.) amount to £50 per annum.

The object of the school is primarily to train farmers and to equip them with a thorough and complete knowledge of the art and science of Agriculture.

INSTRUCTION.

The model dairy to the right of the head offices is equipped for teaching the manufacture of butter and cheese.

The students are required to take an active part in all the different operations of the farm, and in addition to this receive practical instruction in Blacksmithy, Carpentry and Building Construction, Saddlery and Harness-making, Slaughtering and Horsemanship.

To meet the needs of young farmers who for various reasons are unable to take up the full two years' course, a special course known as the "Short Course" was designed and started in August 1911. This was repeated in July 1913 and promises to become an annual institution. Despite the defects which were urged against such a course, the fact that much good and valuable information may be imparted...
to young men who have already had some farming experience, must be recognised. Such a course at least widens the views and broadens the outlook of those attending it, and lays the foundation upon which future knowledge may be built with safety.

POULTRY DIVISION.

This section was started in 1903 the object being to breed suitable utility stock for distribution among farmers and others, the distribution of settings of eggs, the education of students in poultry rearing and keeping, and to serve as an object lesson to visitors all of which objects are creditably fulfilled. The breeds of fowls kept and fostered are:

- Anconas, Black Minorcas, White and Black Leghorns.
- Silver-laced and White Wyandottes, Buff and White Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Indian Game, Old English Game, and Black Langshans.
- Ducks: Aylesbury and Indian Runners.
- Turkeys: Bronze American.

All the hatching on the farm is carried out by artificial means and visitors have the opportunity of seeing the incubators of which there are 12 at work; the breeder house where the chickens are kept for the first three weeks of their lives is well worth a visit and demonstrates the value of artificial methods in connection with the rearing of poultry.

The division is always open to visitors, and with the exception of Sundays and Bank Holidays they may always rely upon finding someone to show them round on enquiring at the office.

HORTICULTURAL DIVISION.

Work in this division was commenced in April, 1903, the objects of its inauguration being:
1. The testing of such varieties of fruit trees as may be deemed suitable for the district.

(a) as to the bearing qualities,
(b) as to the keeping qualities.

2. To thoroughly teach the rational pruning of fruit trees for the production of fruit of first quality.

3. To show by demonstration the deteriorating influence of non-pruning.

4. To teach students the general principles of fruit culture by demonstrations and by lectures.

5. To teach the art of drying fruit by natural and artificial means.

6. To do anything indeed, to encourage fruit growing in the country.

In order to attain the goal for which the staff of the farm is striving about 60 acres have been planted with some 3,000 fruit trees of about 400 varieties, and 1,500 grape vines of 60 varieties. Included in the buildings is a well appointed drying and fruit shed, and an evaporation plant for drying fruit by artificial means.
Notable among the many advances of Potchefstroom is the increase in the number and efficiency of the schools, and much is still being done to further increase such efficiency and number. Till recently the local educational requirements only were catered for, but with the growing popularity of Potchefstroom as a health resort, and the widely spread favourable reports circulated by all who visit here, a demand has arisen for boarding schools which formerly did not exist. The Education Department in its usually thorough manner has had several schools built and equipped included among which is the Boys' High School, or Potchefstroom College, and is further putting in hand the erection of a building for the Girls High School. The town is rapidly winning a reputation as an educational centre and, in view of the beautiful setting of the town, there is no reason why it should not at its present rate of progress take a position in the front rank of South Africa's Educational Centres.
Boys' High School.

This is one of the six schools built and equipped by the Government and stands in 40 acres of excellent playing fields. The two boarding houses, Granton House, under the principal, and Milton House under the vice-principal have in each case two resident masters responsible for discipline while the health of the boarders is attended to by Doctors Mortimer and Friel. In each house there is a thoroughly competent and fully qualified Matron. The buildings are constructed on the most modern plans, being lofty, cross-ventilated and draughtless. New buildings will shortly be erected which will give greater facilities than at present for the teaching of iron and wood-work. The games played by the school are Rugby Football, Cricket and Tennis. There are two football fields, two tennis courts and two cricket fields on the grounds. The school adjoins the Park, and the swimming bath which it is intended to construct there, will be, of great use and convenience to the boys.

The course of studies is that laid down for High Schools by the Transvaal Education Department. Boys are prepared for the Transvaal School Certificate, the Cape Matriculation, and the new Cape Senior Certificate. In the examinations of 1912 the entire senior class passed, four of them being in honours.

The teaching staff consists of the Principal, Mr. C. D. Hope, M.A., (Oxon.); the Vice-principal, Mr. P. M. Druce, M.A., (Camb.); Mr. F. N. Gammidge, B.A., Cape of Good Hope and Intermediate Arts, (London); Mr. F. G. Tyers, M.A., (Camb.); Mr. B. F. Woods, M.A., (Camb.); Mr. F. O. Quirke, Intermediate, Cape of Good Hope; Mr. H. C. de Wet, Intermediate Arts, Cape of Good Hope; Mr. G. A. Wright, M.A., (Camb).

Music: Miss Marshallsay, A.T.C.L.; Certificate R.A.M.
Manual Training: Mr. Tomkin.
Gymnastics: Serg.-Major Llewellyn.

An illustrated prospectus will be forwarded to anyone desiring information concerning fees, etc., on application being made to the Principal, Boys' High School, Potchefstroom.

The inclusive charge for junior boys is Fifty Pounds per annum.
Convent of the Sacred Heart.

The Convent of the Sacred Heart Boarding and Day School for girls was established in 1889, and has the distinction of being the first English Boarding School established in the Western Transvaal. It is conducted by the Dominican Order of Sisters, and is, of course, entirely self-supporting. The school, which stands in eight acres of playing ground, is fully equipped with every modern educational requirement and is pleasantly situated in one of Potchefstroom's most pleasant thoroughfares viz., Berg Street. To meet the increasing demand for accommodation a splendid building fitted on strictly modern lines and to accommodate 90 boarders has only recently been completed. Of the 180 pupils now attending 70 are boarders and the remaining 110 are day scholars.

The curriculum is designed to carry students from the Kindergarten to the Matriculation Examination of the Cape University, the Examinations of the College of Preceptors (Lon-
don); the Examinations of the Trinity College of Music (London) and of the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

Besides the ordinary curriculum extra subjects as under are taught:

Music (Piano, Violin, Guitar and Mandoline).

Painting in oils, water-colour, pastel, chrystoleum, pen painting, stencilling, poker-work.

Shorthand: (Pitman's Certificates) and type-writing.

Solo-Singing.

Boys under 12 years are admitted to the school as boarders and are managed in a separate house.

The religious persuasions of pupils are not interfered with, and a half-yearly report of each pupil's progress is sent to the parents.

Doctors Dixon and Hodge are the visiting physicians, and the school has an Infirmary and Isolation Ward attached.

The resident staff numbers 14, four of whom are music teachers and are occupied solely with that branch of training.

The games indulged in are Tennis and Hockey and are practiced under strict supervision. Swedish Drill is taught by a fully qualified teacher.

The colours of the school are black and red with a similar badge bearing the word "Veritas."
Girls’ High School.

This school is at present conducted in buildings situate on Church Square. In consequence of limited accommodation the School has not grown to the extent it otherwise would have done, but upon the completion of the fine buildings (both School premises and Boarding House) to be erected at a cost of over £20,000 by the Education Department, in Kock Street, there remains no reason why it should not expand and take a position among the best schools in the country.

The new School building (which will be fully equipped for the teaching of Domestic Science) will accommodate some 200 pupils, and the Boarding House will have accommodation for 40 pupils.

The boarding houses at present connected with the School are situate two in Kruger Street and one in Kock Street. The former are occupied by the Senior Girls under
the supervision of the Principal, and the latter by the Juniors who are under the care of a widely experienced matron. They are in the midst of pretty surroundings, and the girls have the use of fine tennis courts and play Hockey and Basket Ball in season. Physical Culture Classes are conducted by a fully qualified teacher.

Pupils are prepared for the Matriculation and the Certificate Examinations of the Cape University, and the Entrance to the Normal College. Music is taught by a highly qualified resident Mistress and pupils prepared for the examinations of the Cape University.

Provision is made for the training of pupils for a Business career.
Theological College.

This institution was originally founded at Burghersdorp C.P. in 1869.

From the beginning it comprised three courses: theological, literary and scientifical.

Since 1905, when the school was transferred to Potchefstroom, all three departments developed considerably.

Candidates are prepared not only for the theological degrees but also for the examinations of the Cape University, extending from Junior Certificate to B.A.

A Preparatory School is connected with it.

The Institution (both: College and Preparatory School) is based on the voluntary principle in education. Instructions is given according to the Christian National Principle.

Fees: £1 10s. per quarter below, and £3 per quarter above Matriculation.

Fees for board and lodging: £9 per quarter.

Further particulars and prospectus on application to J. KAMP, Honorary Secretary, Box 117, Potchefstroom.
Industrial Schools.

These institutions established in 1906 are the first of their kind to have been started in the Transvaal. They were originally founded as orphanages shortly after the war and have developed into schools which are serving a purpose of great utility. There are some 220 boys in residence at Vijfhoek and 110 girls at Sacville, and many thousands of pounds sterling have been expended on fine buildings and work-shops for their accommodation and instruction.

The boys receive instruction in Wagon-building, Smithy, Shoe-making, Tailoring, Tanning, Carriage-painting and trimming, Carpentry and Joinery, Cabinet-making and Gardening. Vegetables in large quantities are grown by the boys for home-consumption and for the town market.

The girls at Sacville are taught Dress-making, Leather Embossing, Weaving, Basket-making and Domestic Economy.

Both divisions are sisted in healthy localities on the outskirts of the town, and tree-planting has been carried out very liberally so that their immediate surroundings are of a cheery and restorative kind. It is pleasant to note the spirit of endeavour, good-fellowship and independence reigning amongst the boys and girls at these schools, and the total absence of squirmishness and servility.

The following are extracts from the Regulations governing the administration of the Schools:

Chapter V article 34 reads:—

No pupil shall be admitted to the Industrial School who has not either

(a) completed his fourteenth year, or
(b) completed his thirteenth year,
   and passed standard III,
provided that the Superintendent may send pupils under 13 years of age to light labour in the workshops and garden after school hours............"
Article 39.

All pupils in the Industrial School shall receive at least two hours instruction daily on five days in the week in reading, writing and arithmetic during the ordinary school term, unless specially exempted by the Director. Provision must also be made for religious instruction in accordance with section thirty-four of the Education Act, 1907.

Article 40.

The total hours of instruction for each pupil including the teaching mentioned in article 39 shall not exceed eight hours daily; Saturdays to be half-working day.

Chapter VI, article 45.

Boarders may be either:

(a) pupils of the Industrial School; or

(b) children not yet qualified by age or attainments for admission to the Industrial School, being either orphans or the children of indigent parents.

Article 46.

Arrangements shall be made by the Committee whereby all children in the Hostel may be brought up in the form of religion into which they were baptised.

Article 48.

Suitable recreation and amusement for the boarders shall be organised by the staff.

Article 49.

The Committee shall appoint a properly qualified medical practitioner to attend the boarders in the Hostel. It shall be the duty of this officer to inspect the institution once a week, and to report to the committee once a month on the sanitary conditions of the premises, and the health and physical condition of the boarders.

The games played by the boys are Rugby Football and Cricket, and they may enjoy Swimming in the river under supervision. There is, too, a cadet corps connected with the School.
OUR PIANO'S ARE IN THE FRONT RANK FOR EXCELLENT TOUCH, GENERAL DURABILITY OF TONE, STANDING INTUNE COMBINED WITH LOW PRICES AND EASY TERMS OF PAYMENT.

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