About this time, there occurred two related events which further complicated matters already confused, and inflamed the emotions and quickened the lust of disputants and their referees, while also providing sinister motives for some of the most dishonest acts, most tortuous decisions to be found anywhere in history.

At the end of 1866 and the beginning of 1867 diamonds were discovered on the Orange River and the northern bank of the Vaal River adjacent to the boundary of the Transvaal, and in December of the same year, a German mineralogist—Earl Mauch discovered gold at the Tati district about 200 miles north-west of the Transvaal border. Shortly after this more gold was discovered in Matabeleland.

With a view to including these gold districts within the S.A. Republic, Pres. M.W. Pretorius sent messengers to Macheng, chief of the Bangwato at Shoshong, and Mzilikazi the Matabele potentate at Inyati in whose respective districts these discoveries were made, inviting them to become subjects or allies of the S.A. Republic. Without waiting for their answers, however, he, on the 29th April 1868 issued a proclamation extending the limits of the S.A. Republic to include these newly discovered goldfields.

On the Molopo River, for several months, nothing had been heard about hut-tax, but now, possibly due to afflatus of this proclamation, there was a sudden renewal of such demand, and a commando was sent to enforce it. But again Molema opposed the demand and drove back the commando. He then made a formal protest by letter to the landdrost at Potchefstroom. At the same time Montshiwa addressed Pres. Martimus W. Pretorius, protesting vehemently against the intrusion of the Transvaal burghers and their occupation of his land and demanding their immediate removal. But of course Pretorius was too busy with expansive schemes to answer such petty letters.

Receiving no reply to his letter, Montshiwa on the 28th August wrote to Sir Philip Wodehouse the High Commissioner, asking for help and protection:

"May it please your Excellency to permit the undersigned chief of the Barolong to take refuge under your protecting wings from the injustice of the Transvaal Republic, whose Government has lately, by proclamation included our country within the possessions..."
The letter recalled the history of the dealings of the Bafrolong and the Boers leading up to their recent land disputes and counter-claims. The letter began about the time Sir Philip Wodehouse received this letter that he saw referring to the inclusion of land belonging to independent Afrikaner tribes, and he was obliged to rescind it. On the east also the proclamation had included part of the Portuguese territory and had to be amended.
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"May it please your Excellency to permit the undersigned chief of the Barolong to take refuge under your protecting wings from the injustice of the Transvaal Republic, whose government has lately, by proclamation, included our country within the possessions of the said Republic.

About 1850 one Boer after another took possession of the mountains and lands of the Barolong. When in 1851 the latter complained to Commandant A. Pretorius, he appointed a commission of some commandants and fieldcornets, and a boundary line was agreed upon between the Republic and the Barolong. This line was to be the Harts River from whence it enters the Vaal River up to the eye of the Harts River... from there with the wagon road to the head fountain of Molopo River, thence to a very large fountain called Pooosedumane, from there to the wagondrift of the road from Lotlhakane across the Molopo to Klein Marico.

..."And now, without the least provocation on our side ... the Transvaal Republic deprives us by the said proclamation, of our lands and liberty, against which we would protest in the strongest terms, and entreat your Excellency, as her Britannic Majesty's high commissioner, to protect us."

As stated in a previous paragraph, the Sand River Convention (1852) guaranteed the independence of the emigrant Dutch north of the Vaal River but did not worry to define the boundary of their territory on the north, east and west. The Transvaal authorities therefore conveniently assumed that all territory on these points of compass was open to them for expansion. To put the matter beyond question, and immediately to gain control of the Tati gold, the Missionaries road and the Vaal River diamonds for the South African Republic just now in the throes of financial depression, President Mathimus W. Pretorius on the 29th of April 1868 issued a proclamation extending the western boundary of the South African Republic to a straight line from Lake Ngami on the north thru to the Langenberg on
the Orange River at a point where the 22° E. Longitude crosses it, while the northern boundary swept from Lake Ngami in an arc to the Limpopo River where it is crossed by the border of Portuguese East Africa. Sir Philip Wodehouse no sooner saw this proclamation than he objected to it as including within the South African Republic extensive territories belonging to independent native tribes. The Portuguese Government also objected to the proclamation encroachings on its frontiers and and the South African Republic received such was the state of affairs when two events, that were destined to change the history South Africa happened. These were the discovery of Diamonds on the Orange and Vaal Rivers 1867-8 and the discovery of Gold on the Tati River, a tributary of the Limpopo, both localities being adjacent to the South African Republic. These were event to inflame the acquisitive passion of even prosaic people.

In 1869 one Schalk J. Van Niekerk and one John O'Reilly found three Dutch children named Jacob Spaying near Hopetown with stones one of which was a 21½ carat diamond and was sold for £900 to the High Commissioner Sir Philip Wodehouse.

In 1869 after several small finds on the Orange and Vaal River 63½ carat banks a second stone was found near Hopetown in the possession of a "Bastard - Bushman-kaffir" (whatever kind of creation that may be) named Swart Booi who exchanged it with S.W. Van Niekerk for a wagon with a span of oxen, and trek gear, a horse with a saddle, bridle and saddle cloth, a rifle and 800 sheep. Van Niekerk sold the diamond for £11,250 to Lilienfeld Bros of Hopetown, they in turn sold the diamond for £18,000 and it was again sold for £30,000, and is today known as the star of one of the Royal Crown gems of South Africa and constitutes one of South Africa and constitutes, and would now probably fetch more than a million pounds (R.H. Henderson: An Ulsterman in Africa pp 36, 37). By the end of 1869, it was proved that the northern bank of the Vaal was rich in diamonds, for about 50 miles above its
These powerful men ultimately changed the views and sympathies of High Commissioner Hercules Robinson, a man never remarkable for originality and stability, and thus, almost from Mackenzie's first day of Deputy Commissioner, he was working under a running fire of adverse criticism from his powerful opponents, from his superior officer, from members of the Colonial Parliament, and of course from the officials of the Transvaal, whom he had so annoyed at the negotiations of the London Convention, and whose plans to include Bechuanaland in the Transvaal he had so thoroughly spoiled. It was no wonder, therefore, that after assiduous misrepresentations by Rhodes, who offered to replace Mackenzie as Deputy Commissioner in Bechuanaland, and hostile criticism by Sir Thomas Upington, the High Commissioner on the 18th of July already groans and moans in self-pity that "great pressure is brought to bear upon him to remove Mackenzie from his post. It is hard not to sympathise with a man of weak will-power who seeks to please everybody and in the end pleases nobody.

On the 30th July, he appoints Rhodes as Deputy Commissioner, and on the same day, in a wire which shows conscious and deliberate subterfuge calls Mackenzie to Capetown—"To come down here at once to confer with me, I have asked Mr Rhodes to proceed from Kimberley to Vryburg, and he is authorised to act as Deputy Commissioner in your absence."(C.31.3.13)

It had been decided jointly by the High Commissioner and Mackenzie to enrol a force of 200 police to assist Mackenzie to keep order in Bechuanaland-Transvaal border. Major Stanley had been appointed to raise and organise this force. Many applications than were required to fill the required quota soon came in, but owing to intrigues and plots among the leading politicians in Cape Town, the force was not enrolled, purposely to hinder the development of Imperial interests, abrogate the Imperial protection, and finally remove the Imperial Commissioner from Bechuanaland, or as Rhodes happily put it "to eliminate the Imperial factor."

In 1884 the year 1884 saw the fall of Thomas Scanlen's ministry because he favoured the direct Imperial control of Basutoland, Transkei, and other countries formerly ruled by Cape Colony
Scanlen was there in favour of Bechuanaland coming directly under Imperial control. Also, Mackenzie and the High Commissioner were of this mind also. Sir Thomas Upington his successor and his ministry were opposed to this Imperial policy. Some of his ministers favoured the control of such countries by Cape Colony. Among such were Rhodes and Graham Bower, and subsequently the High Commissioner Hercules Robinson was induced to adopt this view, while some others of the ministry openly advocated that Bechuanaland should be given to the Transvaal irrespective of Montshhwa's and Mankurwane's desires or the inclination of the Colonial Office, and despite the terms of the London Convention. Jan Hofmeyr voicing the views of the Bond or Afrikaner party as well as the wishes of the Transvaal authorities—Paul Kruger, Rev. J. S. du Toit, Piet Joubert—advocated this course.

Each of these competing influences had its apparent rise and fall, its phase of ascendency and phase of failure. At one stage, the struggle would appear to be between Imperialism on the one hand and Colonialism and Republicanism on the other. At another stage, between Colonialism and Imperialism in one camp and Republicanism in the opposite camp. The first round went to Imperialism, the second has gone to Colonialism, the final round is going to Republicanism.

In their opposition to Mackenzie's ardent Imperialism, Rhodes and Upington seemed, but really only seemed in their Colonialism to be supporting Kruger's and Hofmeyr's Republicanism, while Kruger, Hofmeyr and the Bond generally consciously supported Colonialism as a step to Republicanism.

From the moves and double-crossings of this controversy Sir Hercules Robinson has emerged with his lance broken and his armour rather damaged as a man of rather feeble will-power, a pliant administrator, or some one has put it—"a lath painted to look like a steel rod", a leader by name but a follower by nature, while Rhodes showed the signs of his development to political maturity, and what was to be his main characteristic as a man of iron determination, totally devoid of scruples. His great rival Paul Kruger says of him—"He is the curse of Africa... He found bribery a useful ally when fine speeches were insufficient for his purpose and he was not the man to spare money if some object was to be obtained... Rhodes was capital incarnate. No matter how base, no matter how contemptible: be it lying, bribery or treachery, all and every means were welcome to him if they led to the attainment of his object. (Memoirs, p.219); that he deceived all Europe and Africa into the belief that he had in love with the Dutch-Afrikaner, and that he had the colonial as against the Imperial interests nearest his heart.
hated him

But of course the President hated Rhodes bitterly, as Ralph Williams says "with a
detestation he accorded to few" (How I became a Governor p.159), and it is well
known that hatred and envy will indiscriminately assault its object with the weapon
nearest to hand. Probably, however, Rhodes vision at any stage of his political
development was broader and larger than that of his contemporaries, and embraced
Dutch-Afrikaner interests and British colonial interests as factors in its sweep if not a
progressive revelation culminating in a compromise/such as we have now in the Union of S.A.
and union of two opposed ideas -Imperialism and Republicanism, such as we have now in the Union of S.A.

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For though he might make a stand in Mackenzie's favour
when he was in London, in Cape Town, surrounded as he was by virulent politicians, independence of thought and action became almost impossible at least to a man of his nature (S.P. Hyatt: The Northward Trek p.37)

Having arrived in Cape Town on the 13th of August, and after several discussion
with the High Commissioner, Mackenzie found the latter's views so changed completely since the Conference of the London Convention and its programme to which he had pledged himself that it was clear the High Commissioner had given an undertaking directly to the members of the Cape parliament and indirectly to the Transvaal officials to have Mackenzie removed on any pretext from his office because he was unpopular with them and must be punished, as it were, for his stubborn resistance to the Transvaal Deputation to the London Convention; thus in compliance with a letter addressed to the High Commissioner by the Government of the Transvaal in which Mackenzie's withdrawal is urged.
Under these circumstances, Mackenzie on the 19th August tendered his resignation as Deputy Commissioner.

Rhodes who succeeded Mackenzie reversed his policy completely in his desire to conciliate the burgers of Stellaland, and at the same time assumed an unsympathetic attitude towards the Boshana whom he was supposed to protect, and from hearsay evidence blamed Mankurwane for cattle thefts, while that chief had actually lost 40,000 cattle.

On the 8th of August Rhodes wrote to Gey van Pittius to notify him that he had been appointed Deputy Commissioner, and that he intended to visit Rooigrond with a view to effecting some reconciliation between the Goshenites and Montshiwa. He also wrote to Montshiwa in a similar strain, sending him the letter, however, through van Pittius for reasons only known to himself.

When Rhodes' messengers reached Rooigrond they were put under surveillance for a day, brought before the war council and forbidden free movement and communication, and finally shown the way by which to return, and no answer was vouchsafed to the message they brought.

Leaving Barkly West Rhodes accompanied by Matebele Thompson went to Lichtenburg, met Commandant - General Piet Joubert who had been appointed Special Commissioner for Bechuanaland. With him he proceeded to Rooigrond, arriving there on the 25th. To his dismay not only notice was taken by the Goshenites of the arrival of Her Majesty's Deputy Commissioner but he was also treated with studied indignation. There was actually a battle on against Montshiwa and it was carried on uninterruptedly.

Rhodes and Joubert could not agree on the terms of peace between the Goshenites and Montshiwa because Montshiwa wanted the claims of the Goshenites to Montshiwa's country recognised in spite of the ratification of the London Convention by the Volksraad on the 8th August. He pointed Joubert that the Goshenites
were nothing else than Transvaal burgers and yet the Commandant-General made no attempt to restrain them. During the whole night when the two commissioners were at Rooigrond, Gey van Pittius and his men kept up a bombardment of Montshiwa's town. Matabele Thompson, who was present says that Gey's attacking force consisted of "500 Boers and 1,000 natives." (Autobiography) and p.35). and that a wagon load of rifles and ammunition under Joubert's men was brought from Lichtenburg for use against Montshiwa.

Gey van Pittius drew up conditions which he asked Rhodes to agree to preliminary to discussing peace terms. These were (1) A joint protectorate by the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and the Cape Colony over Bechuanaland. (2) Rhodes to acknowledge the independence of Goshen Republic, (3) Montshiwa to receive a small portion of the land and to pay a war indemnity of £25,000, (4) Montshiwa to move from his stronghold of Mafikeng and to destroy all his defences and fortifications, (5) The Transvaal and the Cape to guarantee the good behaviour of Montshiwa and his allies.

Rhodes characterised these conditions as preposterous, but said he would submit them to the High Commissioner, asked for a truce of fourteen days, but being asked to agree to further conditions he rejected the lot as inadmissible.

Before he left Rooigrond Rhodes received a letter by a messenger from Montshiwa in which the chief informed him that he was reduced to the last extremity, but having reposed faith in the promises made to him of Her Majesty's protection he had refused every overture made to him by the Boers, that he still relied on the pledges of Her Majesty's representatives, and that if he should be compelled to submit to his enemies, which he only do in order to save the lives of the women and children of his tribe, he wished him to understand that any treaty to which he might offer his name would be wrung from him under the (Circumstances).