

EAST AFR. PROT.  
Uganda  
4357 Secret

4357

Dec. 28 1915

C. H. Johnston

Loyalty of the Katikio in Uganda

1915

21 Jan.

Forward copy of a private

next previous Paper.

letter from him.

At present.

Copy to no. 21 of Jan.

next subsequent Paper

Copy should be sent to W.O.

Ch. 23.1.15

~~Ch.~~ 25.1.15

21st Jan., 1915.

Dear Mr. Ross,

I thought perhaps you might like to see the enclosed letter from the Uganda Kafirise, though no doubt you have received even more explicit assurances of loyalty and sympathy through official channels.

I am naturally intensely interested in all that is taking place in connection with German Africa because, as you may remember, I have at different times lived or travelled in German East and South-west Africa and the Cameroons. I once administered the little British colony of Ambas Bay until it was surrendered to Germany in 1887.

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I fear that in German East Africa we have the

toughest proposition of all. It will need very strong forces and heavy artillery to dislodge by force from their strong places to the north and north-west of Lake Nyasa as well as in the swampy parts of the east coast, on Kilimanjaro, and in the swamps of the Victoria Nyasa and in the mountainous country between Tanganyika and the Uganda frontier. In fact, I should imagine that the only final solution will be starving them out, not only by cutting off their supplies from Europe but even cutting off their local supplies of food by inducing the bulk of the natives first of all to compel the Germans to aggregate in their fortified places, and secondly, by refusing to supply them with provisions or labour. They would hardly be able, I should think, to range over the whole country compelling the allies and

of the natives and commandeering supplies of food, because in that case they would be insufficient to garrison their forts. I should think that in the hinterland of the Germans they cannot hold out indefinitely. Though my personal visits to all these parts of German Africa are of quite ancient date - an ancient at any rate as fourteen or fifteen years ago, I happen to have kept somewhat closely in touch with these regions through acquaintance and friendship with missionaries and educated natives cultivated with a view amongst other things, to obtaining information regarding Bantu languages. I have been at work for a long time on a comparative Grammar of these languages for an indefinite period and it is now slowly being printed by the Oxford University Press. Some two years ago a certain "Fritz" Saka Ball - a son of the king who originally signed away the Cameroons River to the Germans in 1884 - in consequence of some vexatious demands had filled up, accompanied it

by a rather impudent letter hinting at the extreme dissatisfaction with German rule on the part of the Nuala people and of allied Bantu tribes. But he said that, on the other hand, the Germans had quite vanquished the Fula chiefs of the Far Interior and did all they could to flatter the Muhammedans and put them in power over the pagans. I did not answer the letter as I thought very naturally two years ago that less we meddled with the affairs of German Africa the better, and as this particular Bell was merely less of a native official under the Germans, I was surprised at his writing in such strain. He was a favourite pupil of the Baptist missionaries, however, and never forgot his indebtedness to them. Not long ago he published in German, I believe, a very remarkable Grammar of the Fula as spoken in the Cameroons hinterland.

In regard to German South-west Africa, I

a letter a few days ago, the second within a short time from a Mr. Chapman, a son of the well-known South African pioneer-explorer of Karabesia and Swampoland. This particular Chapman has been settled in Angola since 1882. He has now got a large estate of about 8,000 acres in the Bailunda hill country, as well as the original property which I saw him shaping in 1882 when I passed through Southern Angola on my way to Swampoland. There the other English or English-speaking South African pioneers settled more or less in the same region, and they are doing all they can, naturally, to help the Portuguese to repel German attacks. Their impression seems to be that the Germans are going to make a second great effort (especially if driven out of Winduk and other places in Namaland) to establish themselves strongly in Southern Angola, more especially with a view to having access to

abundant food supplies and perhaps with the prospect of capturing stores and munitions of war from the Portuguese, who - if we are to face the truth - are, I fear, almost unable to resist them. In the present stage of the war I am afraid there is little we can do, but I have wondered once or twice whether something like an Anglo-Portuguese expedition could not be got up to land at Benguela or Mossamedes and resolutely drive the Germans across the Kunene. Personally I believe the Portuguese would fight far better with an intermingling of British officers than a purely Portuguese force.

As to German East Africa, though I think large numbers of the natives would be only too willing to turn against the Germans, there is also the fact that the latter - even with their very drastic measures of enforcing law and order - have attracted the admiration and won the loyalty of the bigger sultans, nowadays all

of them Muhammadans. Sughmen, for example, as Marere used to be in the region north of the Livingstone Mountains and Nyasaland.

Incidentally all I have written is already known to you. But on the chance of their being any one scrap of novelty in these opinions, I set them down.

I have been away some little time in the United States and Canada. I was invited to come there by several American and Canadian Universities to address their students on the Causes of the Present War, and indeed not to limit my addresses to the students, but if possible to sound some sort of counter blast to the German propaganda. But I thought it wiser after taking over the matter at the Foreign Office, to limit my discourses as much as possible to essays on the British Empire. Wherever I went in the States I found opinion as expressed by the people in the streets, in the cars, in the universities, in

Mengo, Uganda,

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East Africa,

December 14th, 1914.

To Sir Harry H. Johnston, G.C.M.G.,  
St. John's Priory, Poling.

Dear Sir Harry Johnston,

It is quite a long time since I wrote to you, and I hope you will forgive me for taking such a long time in answering your nice long letter, but I have been so busy on account of this accursed war, that I have had very little time to attend to my own private affairs. The state of affairs in England must be a great deal worse than it is out here, with so many wounded and refugees pouring in from the Continent. This war, in my humble opinion, is an iniquitous war, and the person or nation who is responsible for it will in the end be punished very severely. From what I hear it appears that Germany had long prepared for this great war, and I only hope England was also quite ready for it. It is quite well known all over the world that the cause that England is fighting for is a just one, one which ensures, if England comes out victorious in the end, the safety, and protects the neutrality, of the small nations in Europe. Even an uneducated native of Africa, when the reasons for this war are explained to him, understands at once that England is fighting solely for the welfare of all the Nations of Europe, and has no ambitions whatever, of adding any more territory either in Asia or Africa to her vast Empire. But of course, as Germany has



has forced England into this war the English nation will naturally see it through, and the end of it will undoubtedly, be the extension of the British Empire.

Out here in Uganda, as I daresay, you have already heard, we are very busy making preparations in case our German neighbours choose to attack us. In some places along the border we have successfully repulsed their attacks, and in British East Africa our forces have several times attacked very successfully the German forces comprising of a few Europeans and a great number of the natives of German East Africa. On the whole we are doing very well, and the casualties on our side, since the war broke out, is nothing compared with that of the Enemies. We are therefore quite confident that the time is not very far when the flag, which is so beloved by all the Baganda, - THE UNION JACK will be flying over what is now known as German East Africa.

I, personally, as a servant of His Majesty's Government, am quite ready to do whatever little work I can in connection with this war, not only to keep and defend my own country from the enemy but also to go wherever my assistance may be needed.

Hoping, Sir, to hear from you soon, and to give me what war news you can let me have.

I beg to remain, &c.

(Sd.) APOLO KAGWA.

28th January 1915.

Dear Sir Harry,

Very many thanks for your interesting letter of the 21st and its enclosure, which I now return. They have been seen by Mr Harcourt and the Under Secretaries concerned and we are sending a copy to the War Office, as it may be of interest to them.

I am sorry to say that a Chief of Duals, called Bell and presumably the man referred to in your letter, has been hanged by the Germans.

Believe me, &c.

(sd.) H.J.READ.

Secret

The U.S. presents  
this copy to the  
Sec. W.O. & begs to  
forward herewith a  
copy of a private  
letter rec<sup>d</sup> from Sir  
H. H. Johnston which  
may be of interest  
to Sir R. B. Wade

DRAFT.

8 pm

The Sec

W.O.

MINUTE.

Mr. Egan 28/1/15

Mr. Deane 28/1/15

Mr. Reed 28/1/15

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

*[Handwritten scribble]*

Sir H. Johnston 21 Jan

C.O.

Jan 1915