1932 CO533/425 18210 18210 **KENYA** PROVINCE NORTHERN FRONTIER Diary of the visit of Six Joseph Byrne February, 1932. Previous Subsequent de comeste >17 ri Brash hajor se

Bir J. Byrne 8.0. Trai 20 copies of a diary of his visit to the Nothem Prontier Province and suggests that copies should be sent to W.O. and Addis Ababa. This dies with appear to he of much o smd 2 apris so both Palys on to suggesting that I addis alaka 1. Pega ble miph like & send one so kino sacts Nhowas most h cicloset is to Rus fel The ackess saying that to him his has med with i. Frank in franchista Its make ينية تا الدن بالديم المدينة كون Ban E Care - Xema N. S. William V star in the a copy to and of on one i alma a graff who has

out

2_ 7. المسلم = 1 مسلم 5. 18 ما 2 المسلم = 1 مسلم 5. 18 ما 2 3 70 M. Pilan - 17/2 of Ding)-8:7:32 Out I 2 appear received there you DEBTINDYED WIRDAR BYATUTE COLY Of the Draw & Br. Minister as

ANIC MONDAY ? Party gary 13131 P.J. Whiliombe Zi.). 32 aç Auce

C. O.

Mr. Priestman 5

Mr.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

M. PETERSON, ESQ. FOREIGN OFFICE (Qto. for signature by Mr. Freeston)

8 July 1932

-Dean-Peterson.

I enclose two copies of

Sir Joseph Byrne's diary of his recent tour in the Northern Frontier

You may be interested in his

"impressions" and might like to send

a copy of the diary to the Minister

at Addis Ababa.

Province of Kenya.

your sienty

(Signed) L. B. FREESTON

2 drafts

18210/32 Kenya C. O. Mr. Priestman 6 m. From (Qto. for signature by Sir C. Bottomley) ar. Parkinson. Mr., Tomlinson: Sir C. Bottomley. 7 July 1932 Sir J. Shuckburgh. Permit, U.S. of S. Party, U.S. of S. My dear Byrne, Secretary of State. Thank you for your letter of (O) DRAFT. Comon the 23rd of May with which you forwarded copies of the diary of your SIR JOSEPH BYRNE K. B. E. C. B. tour in the Northern Frontier Province. The diary has been read with interest and we have noted your "impressions". Copies are being sent as you suggest to the Foreign Office for transmission to Addis Ababa and also to the War Office, and we are also L'dall. furnishing the Inspector General with а сору. Yours sincerely, (Signed) W. O. BOTTOMLEY.

EAST AFRICA

23rd May, 1932.

My dear Bottomley,

i i

On the 11th November I sent you a diary of my tour in Turkana and I now send you 20 copies of a similar diary of my recent safari in the Northern Frontier Province.

The only value of these booklets is that you get a bird's-eye picture of the country at the expenditure of ten minutes' reading.

You might like to send the diary to the War Office and to our Minister at Addis Ababa: should you

require any more copies please let me know.
Yours sincerely,

SIR W. C. BOTTOMLEY, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E., COLONIAL OFFICE, DOWNING STREET. S. W. 1

NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE KENYA COLONY

DIARY OF THE VISIT OF His Excellency the Governor Sir JOSEPH BYRNE KCM.G., K.B.E., C.B.

1932

NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE

DAIRY OF THE VISIT OF His Excellency the Governor SIR JOSEPH BYRNE K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

1932

	NOTE 54				
LAND AREA	• • •	ويشر برووو	93,568	Square	Miles
WATER AREA	LAKE	Rubolf).	2,004	,,	.,
POPULATION			74,710		

CONTENTS

PAGE
DIARY. 1-12

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS 13-15

SPEECH AT BARAZA 16-17

MAP AT END

NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE

DAIRY OF THE VISIT OF His Excellency the Governor SIR JOSEPH BYRNE K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

1932

		NO	TE			
LAND AREA	٠٠,		~	93,588	Square	Mile
WATER AREA (Lake I	Supor	F)	2,004		,,
POPULATION				74,710		

CONTENTS

* * * * /	. " 5.			PAGE
DIARY	• •	٠.	 • •	1-12
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	` \		 	13-15
SPEECH AT BARAZA		• •	 7 tb.	16-17
MAP	i		 ·	AT END

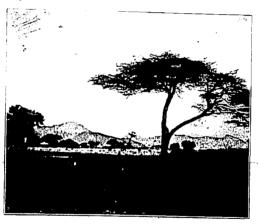
AT E

NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE. DIARY OF 8 1F 1RL, 1939

We have the soft soft and, accompanied Monday.

We have the soft soft are the Silverbeck to Feb. 15th

The soft soft soft the right at the Silverbeck to at the silverbeck to at the soft the great infestation of Natives, we only met two small swarms are to software. Near and Nanyuki, neither the software though to the grazing in this which optics.



18101.0

Here we man Mr. Casendish, the Commissioner of Police, who was a companying me on my safari

Left the hotel at 0.30 a.m. and drove to Isiolo, the head-Tuesday, practices of the Provincial Commissioner, Northern Province (55) Feb. 18th unles — For about 19 miles we followed the Nanyuki-Meri road.

which was in good order, although in wet weather it can be very treacherous, owing to the prevalence of black cotion soil. We then branched off on to the direct road to Isiolo, which in parts is exceedingly bad, and which I imagine would be almost me passable in the rains. At Isiolo we mer the Provincial Commissioner (Mr. R. G. Stoner, the Officer Commanding Norther Brigade, Eing's African Rifles (Colonel R. Wilkinson, D.S.O., the Asting Chiel Native Commissioner (Mr. A. de V. Waile, O.B. E.), and the Assistant Game Warden (Capitan Roy White). M. C.), all of whom were to be with me on my tour. I also met the District Commissioner, Isiolo (Mr. C. A. Cornell).

Isolo is a flat, uninteresting place, but the surrounding view is attractive, owing to the hills in the distance. With the exception of two or three brick houses, the buildings are of the usual primitive type. Fortunately the officers are continually on safari, otherwise I imagine the station would be an impleasant one, more specially as it is inclined to be very hor in the daytine. When funds are available quarters for officials serving in these frontier stations. They have a hird life, with few amenities, and they deserve some comfort when they return to their permanent stations.

In the alternoon I visited the 'Irican Training Centre, accompanied by Mr W & 'Servay, the Veterinary Officer in charge of the Province. It is a most excellent institution, admirably run by Mr R. H. Cameron, a Stock Inspector in the Veterinary Department. Here, youths from various parts of the Province are taught the elements of stock rearing, dairying, etc., coupled with some elementary interary training. As the Province is at present almost wholly dependent on stock, I regard this small beginning as of great importance, and I trust that when times get better we may be able to extend its activities.

We left Isiolo at dawn, and motored 113 miles to a camp close to MERTI on the Uaso Nyiro River. There we met Mr. R. G. Darroch, the Assistant District Commissioner of the Isiolo Bise to 1 in the control of the cont

On the North State
 Washington



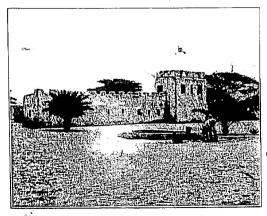
Harder to harder to the second of the second

Arduesday. Feb. 17th On that we were set stone to the numerous wells, from the set set of the tree detailed from borings made in the



AMELS WATERING AT WAJIR

limestone rock to a depth of about 30 feet. Some say that an underground lake exists; certainly skin buckets lost in one well have been recovered from another! Our visit was during the less weather, when cattle and camels were collected from a wide area. there being no other water within a radius of 70 miles. The arrangement for watering these thousands of camels was ex-Atremely interesting and ridiculously primitive, the natives refusing to avail themselves of modern conveniences such as troughs and numns. The camels were eathered in batches of a hundred. and one was much struck by their patience, as most of them could only be watered every ten days. At each well, the water was drawn up in small skin buckets, and put into a hollow trough shaped from the trunk of a tree of a particularly light weight wood, and about 24 feet in length. The time taken to water this large number of camels can readily be imagined, and the watering proceeded during the whole night. After watering, the unfortunate animals had to be driven great distances to suitable grazing grounds.



WAILR FORT

Thursday, Feb. 18th

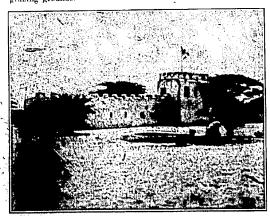
We left at daybreak for Wajir (114 miles). Parts of the road were very bad, and we were only able to proceed at a slow pace. For the first 40 miles the road/kept close to the river, and the journey was not uninteresting, "as we saw numerous game birds and some game. The last 70 miles were desolate to a degree—absolutely flat land covered with small scrub. I am told, however, that in the rains the country becomes green and covered with thick rough grass. No water was to be found until we got near Wajir, and we saw neither animals nor human beings during the whole course of our journey. We reached Wajir about 1 o'clock, and I was greatly struck with my first view of this station, where a company of King's African Rifles and about twenty Regular and a number of Tribal Police are garrisoned. Here we met Mr. F. G. Jennings, the District Commissioner of the Wajir District.

The station owes its existence to the numerous wells, from which good water can be obtained from borings made in the



CAMELS WATERING AT WAJIR

limestone rock to a depth of about 30 feet. Some say that an underground lake exists; certainly skin buckets lost in one well have been recovered from another! Our visit was during the dry. weather, when cattle and camels were collected from a wide area, there being no other water within a radius of 70 miles. The arrangement for watering these thousands of camels was exstremely interesting and ridiculously primitive, the natives refusing to avail themselves of modern conveniences such as troughs and pumps. The camels were gathered in batches of a hundred, and one was much struck by their patience; as most of them could only be watered every ten days. At each well, the water was drawn up in small skin buckets, and put into a hollow trough shaped from the trunk of a tree of a particularly light weight wood, and about 21 feet in length. The time taken to water this large number of camels can readily be imagined, and the watering proceeded during the whole night. After watering, the unfortunate animals had to be driven great distances to suitable grazing grounds.



WAJIR FORT

The civil and military station is quite modern, and fortunateir the others who started at showed considerable taste in the design of the furldings, all of which are of Moorish type, with thick walls, main of them surmounted by turrets. The presence of line and hinestone facilitated the construction of such buildings

WATER is the main centre for the Soniali tribes with the many other Mohammedan substribes, such as the ADURAN. GURRER, etc. These Mohammedan tribes are continually lighting with the Borry, a Gyrry and largely pagan timbe, whom we are now endeavoiding to keep west of a line striking north-west from the Lorian Swamp. All the disagreements among these noticable peoples are over water and grazzeg, but ance fromble starts there is always the possibility of religious passion adding fuel 1. the flatio .

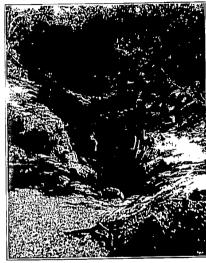
I course

At 6 a.m. 3, acrit round the civic and inditary lines, and was man'h angressed by their clean and tidy appearance. At 9 a m Uncld a barara with Headmen of the various Somair tribes. It was repetition of the saraza at Mercial complaints about graze ing and water and I found that it was quite impossible to satisfy anyone. Each tribe thought they should have more extensive water and grazing facilities, forgetting that there was only a himited amount to go round. I pointed out that the confining of tribes to certain well-defined areas was introduced to prevent those frequent feuds which invariably resulted in the most brutal murders, often of women and young children. I attach as an Appendix the gist of what I said to these tribesmen

At 2 p.m. we left Warm and proceeded for 60 miles on the road to MOYALE, where we camped for the night. We ran through a herd of giraffe on the road.

Saturday

At daybreak we continued our journey to Moyvix - 100 Feb. 200h miles north. The scenery was exactly the same as on the previous days-nothing but sand and scrub. I am told that the country has not been so dry and burnt up for about twenty years. There is no water between WAJIR and MOYALE (160 miles) except a partially eried up well at Br vv and a small well at Dimur. It is pathetic to see these normal tribesmen endeavouring to keep their stock and carrels aire during such a period of drought. The well at Bexy is about 70 feet deep, the water-shall zigzagging

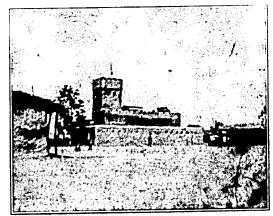


WATER HOLD AT BUSA

from shell to shelf. It takes sixteen or seventeen men to raise water, and these unfortunate individuals have to stand on stick platforms placed at varying distances. The water is passed from one to the other in small backets made of giraffe skins, each holding but a couple of pints; the water obtained, which has to supply not only human beings but numerous stock and camels, is thick and muddy.

We have set Moster about 2 pm. This station, which is only esheat list one from the Atvesiman frontier, is situated on a runge of the which med to be clambed by an escarpment road We not these Map r Moles. His Majesty's Consul at Mega, who had to be face days parties (90 miles) on burseback for the purpose threeting no Mr. A. C. M. Mullins (the District) Commission for Mr. T. C. Colchester Cadet. Acting Assistant District on trassomer and Dr R M Dawdesacii the Covers ment Medica, Officer) also met me hen

In the afternoon I went round the station, which consists of district and house that of the District Commissioner of a mud that with a tower which was used as a magazine and



guardroom. The remainder of the buildings were of mud with earth or grass roofs. The residence of the Medical Officer and the hospital were particularly had and I intend to take the matter up when a reach to National Outside the station there was one native stage containing a tounder of Indian and Soniali shops, which is read to be shown rabit patronized, and another, inbalatter 's tolk known as the Bookli

I held a burnza at 8 30 a m attended by the Chiefs and Sunday, Headmen of the Albertain, who sat on my left, and of the Boxes, who sat in my eght. The subjects discussed were exacts the same is at the previous burgauss grazing areas, water of a to I banched with Major Miles, and then proceeded for so make an the newly contracted patrol road constructed 1929 at to MASOCRA, where we camped for the night

We entired our porties to Massekka, and reached RAMU Monday on the Dana River (12) unless. This is the pinction with the Feb 22nd road leading south to Er Wax. Here we camped under the shade of the dom paints, adjoining the river, which was actually dry, but water could be obtained by digging for I few feet. There were numerous guinealowl and partridges, which were evidently drawn to the river owing to the drought. In a couple of hours we got fourteen brace of the former, the shooting much resembling pheasanteshooting, as the birds were driven over our heads

We motored in the morning to MANDERA, along 50 miles of Tuesday, very hard and dusty goad, the heat being very oppressive. Man-DERA is a small, well laid-out and clean boma, close to the Daua River, which constitutes the Abyssiman boundary, and it is situated about a unle from the boundary with Italian Somaliland Mr. E. B. Beetham is the Assistant District Commissioner in charge, and there is also a small police force under Mr. Horley After going round the boma, I field a baraza, at which were present the Headmen of the various local tribes, such as the MORELLI the GURRER, and the DEGODIC Exactly the same points were raised as at the other barazas. After the baraza, I visited the commencement of the Italian boundary line, which we propose to inspect this year, with a view to re-installing the beacons, many of which have disappeared. I then visited the

And the second of the second o



CAMPBULL STEELS AND

graphs which should be of assistance to the sursex reary which will later formulate operations. It is not bring to Rexic, where we spent the right

Wednesday, heb. 24th We started at dawn or roots to Fr. Who is mades, whereas we proposed to spend the night. The country we proceed through was even more and and desidate it in that previously seen, and

the their was anterest. At Weinst into we came to a number of street up wells, where it is intepded to make an effort to find scatter at a deeper level with the water-boring machine.

Ex Wys. a needy a whole and dusty limestone plain, with a number of wells. A large number of causels were collected carriedly waiting to get sufficient water to last them last the days. One saw again the distressing spectacle of numbers of men and women inderground passing up the water in that backets made of greatle lade. I have urged my officers to



TRUBESMEN ALTER WAR

esamine the teasibility of installing a hand pump as an experiment in the shaft of the pain well, and foully hope that this can be done, and that the native can be induced to give it a fair trial. Et. Who was so hot and unattractive that after I had held a berraza of the Headmen present we decided to push on for another 48 nodes on the White road and camp.

Thursday Feb. 25th We motored to Wajir (96 miles). At 76 miles from Wajir we saw the water-boring machine, which was temporarily out of action. So far we have been most unsuccessful in our efforts to find water by means of this machine. The bore-hole we visited had been sunk to a depth of over 200 feet without any result, although to water diviners there was every indication of the presence of water. It is all very disappointing, but we must continue the work, as success would be an incalculable boon to the nomadic tribesmen living in this parched land.

Friday Feb 20th Motored to Muddo-Gashl (104 miles) via Habbas Wein, where we crossed the river by a wooden bridge, the timbers of which are being eaten away by white ants, making the whole structure very dangerous. A crossing at this point or in the neighbourhood is of great importance, as it is essential for maintaining trade with Lamu. In my opinion, a permanent bridge should be erected without further delay, and I intend to look into the matter when I return to Nairobi

Saturday . Frb. 27th Started at 5.30 a.m., as we wished to see the flighting of sand grouse to the permanent water at Benani, which is about 12 miles short of Garda Tulla. The birds began to arrive about 8 a m, and literally came in thousands from within a radius-of 30 or 40 miles; they settled for a few seconds only and then flew away. As we required food both for ourselves and for distribution at Meru, we shot for about an hour, and picked up fifty brace. We had a late breakfast at Garda Tulla, and then went by the new direct road linking with the Archers Post-Istolo road. We camped about a couple of miles south of Archers Post. The day's journey of 130 miles was a tiring one, as the road was in parts thick with lime dust and in parts covered with masses of lays stones.

Sunday, Feb, 28th

Motored to Manu via Isioto (45 miles), where we spent the night with the officers of the 3rd King's African Rifles.

Monday. Peb. 29th

Major Wells and I motored to Nairon via Empu (198 miles).

正写。

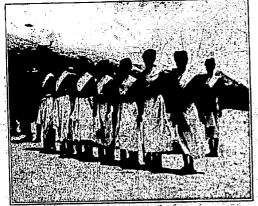
IMPRESSIONS FORMED AS THE RESULT OF MY VISIT.

1. The Northern Frontier (I have not yet visited the Marsabit or the Tana River areas, but I imagine that with the exception of certain localities they do not differ greatly from the rest of the Province) is one vast arid plain, with occasional hills, covered with thorn scrub. In the dry weather the difficulties confronting the unfortunate wandering tribes in regard to water and grazing are intense. Unlike Turkana, away to the west, which is comparatively well watered but has very little grazing for stock, the Northern Frontier Province has in many parts surprisingly good grazing considering the great scarcity of water. Wells and rivers dry up completely, and sometimes one travels for over a hundred miles before coming to'a well containing water. The arduous and slow task of watering camels and stock at these places has been commented on in my Diary. There is indeed little or no grazing in the vicinity of the wells themselves, and the animals have to be driven very many miles before they can obtain sufficient food for their very existence. Life is hard for these people, and the idea that pastoral tribes enjoy a life of east certainly does not apply to the Northern Frontier. Its area is immense-95,000 square miles-and its population-65,000 -very sparse.

2. The provision of more water and the introduction of measures to enable stock to be brought to market are without doubt the most pressing needs of the inhabitants. Water can only be obtained by water boring, an expensive and uncertainfundertaking. As I have stated in my Diary, we are doing what we can, so far without much success. The prevalence of rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia make it necessary to quarantine the Province, but certain veterinary precautions enable a very limited number of stock to be released through Lamu. Accordingly, sheep and goats, which are sent in great numbers to the Kikuyu-Reserve and other places, are practically the only means by the sheep and goats, which are driven, sometimes for great distances, to the open markets.

We are now in touch with the Italian authorities, and I trust before long that a combined vaccination campaign will be started, somewhat on the lines of that which has proved so successful in the Masai Reserve. The Veterinary Training School at Isiolo I have already described; the training given there should eventually spread useful knowledge among the tribes.

3. Politically, the outstanding problem is the continual pressure from the east of the more virile Mohammedan tribes upon the pagan Boran, who inhabit the area to the west of Wajir. This relentless pressure is the cause of disputes over grazing and water, such disputes giving rise to fighting or to brutal murders, often of women and children. This pressure must be stopped, and I believe the Government is following a sound policy in fixing definite lines over which the Somali tribes must not cross. Boundary lines must be visible if they are to be respected, and so boundary roads (like the track I have mentioned as running north-westwards from Habbas Wein) are being cut.



TRIBAL POLICE AT MOYALE, CALLED "DUBAS",
meaning "ped haus"; their Turbana are of scarlet cloth.

4 From the conversation I had with Major Miles and the administrative officers. I am glad to hear that our relations with the Abyssimans are satisfactory. It is true that there are some differences of opinion about portions of the boundary line, but I feel very strongly that the existing position should be streetly maintained until the Boundary Commission has reported and it-recommendations dealt with ∃ succeedy hope that our Minister will be able to persuade the Ethiopian Government to disarm, the Boran residing on their side of the frontier. We have repeatedly pressed for this

5. I was much impressed with the keepness and energy. If Mr. Stone and the officials serving in his Province. Their sympathy with the tribesmen and their desire to guide and assist them was very noticeable. Officials serving in the Northern Prontier and Turkana have no easy task, but theirs is a maniph, one calculated to be of value to young officials, for they are frequently called upon to display both self-reliance and readmess—to assume responsibility. I only wish that funds were available to provide reasonably comfortable houses for all these officials. They are for the greater part of their tour on safari, but they certainly deserve a decent home to return to after weeks of travel in a hot and rather desolate land.

APPENDIX

SPEECH AT BARAZA HELD AT WAJIR ON 19th FEBRUARY, 1932

I am the Governor of Kenya Colony; the representative of His Majesty King George. I am spending as much time as I can in meeting His Majesty's subjects of all races. I am particularly glad to meet you Somali peoples of the Province, in the contury where you are hving. Especially I am glad to see here you Headmen, because you are the men whose duty it is to help me and my officers to govern this country. When I go back to Nairobi I shall write to the King to tell him that I have seen you, because the King likes to hear news of his people



I have brought with me from Nairobi, to meet you, the Officer Commanding Troops, the Chief Native Commissioner. and the Commissioner of Police, who are some of those who

advise me. I am sorry to hear from the Provincial Commissioner that this has been a bad year in many ways, that you have had little rain, and that this has affected the water supplies and the grazing, both of which have been scarce. But you must remember a that this is the same over all the Province, and in some places Conditions are worse than here. You have, however, permanent water here in Wajir, where you know there is always plenty of water for your stock. But I have to tell you that you cannot expect Government to find for you grazing which does not exist, not because your grazing is scarce, can you be allowed to go upon that of your neighbours

I am very sorry, very sorry indeed, to hear that the Degodia people have been fighting with the Boran and the Sakuye, and show that there have been wrongs on both sides, but my officers tell me that they have stopped the lighting and that they will do ail that they can to keep peace

I believe that some of the Headmen of the other Somuli trakes do not approve of this lighting, and I have to tell you that any of the tribes, no matter who they are, who make war in the Kong's country will be possished severely. The Degodus, the Boran, and the Sakuye have been punished for the recent fightany You have seen that your Provincial Commissioner has used soldiers to stop the fighting, to protect His Majesty's subjects, and to pain she the aggressors. You must understand that I am b termined to have peace in my country.

I am pleased to hear that you paid taxes last year, and that you have agreed to pay more during this year. I shall hope to so hear from my Provincial Commissioner of your peace and prosperity. He writes to me and comes to see me in Nairobi to give the news of you. I should now like to listen to anything you wish to say to me. I have told my officers to present you with a bullock for food while you are here.

SKETCH MAP OF THE N F P. KENYA COLONY DRAWN TO ILLUSTRATE THE GOVERNORS SAFARE FEBRUARY 1932

