

1935

1935

38039

KENYA

38039

CO 533/456

Settlers Grievances

Previous

Subsequent

036.

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C.9.  
Title  
Nominal.

1 Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P.

16.9.35

Mr. Flood.

Please see the attached correspondence with Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P. The Secretary of State said that he would be glad if the Department would go through the extract from the "East African Standard" which Dr. Sterry forwarded to Sir Waldron, and mark any passages of particular interest. He thinks it advisable that a <sup>revised</sup> personal reply should be sent to Sir Waldron Smithers, and he would be grateful if the Department would let him have a draft for consideration in due course.

Ed Wood.

19.9.35.

To Sir W. Smithers (1 enclosure)

19.9.35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Mr. Freeston has prepared the attached draft and I am not sure whether it <sup>will</sup> meet the Secretary of State's view or whether he would like a fuller reply dealing point by point with Lord Francis Scott's speech.

There is nothing new in that <sup>speech</sup> ~~aspect~~. It only represents the views of the European settlers in Kenya, which to do them justice they have maintained for some time. The brutal fact in Kenya is that the farmers have gone on in the hopeless task of trying to make a living out of crops which cannot be sold at an economic price in the world market as it is at present. Kenya is definitely hampered by its distance from the sea and <sup>as</sup> things are, no amount of reduction in rail freight or shipping freight could do any good. The rail freights on Kenya produce for export are already low and to reduce them further would probably mean

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C.9. Nominal

*Ed. Boyd*

19.9.35.

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mean an indirect subsidy on export goods. The farmers have been hit by bad seasons of drought and by visitations of locusts. As a result they are all in debt to the banks and are now finding that they simply cannot carry on. In the circumstances they have got into a position of despair. It will be noted that Lord Francis Scott says he is not asking for spoon-feeding for inefficient farmers, but merely that the farmers should not be allowed to perish. Now it is very difficult to draw the line between spoon-feeding of the inefficient and assistance to those who can expect to weather the storm. It is also arguable how far the Government is justified in propping up what is an inefficient undertaking by itself. However, whatever may be the position in an economic vacuum, there can be no doubt that Kenya's prosperity, such as it is, is bound up with the maintenance of European agriculture, and for that purpose the Government has come to the rescue quite considerably with subsidies for maize and wheat and with the provision of £500,000 for the land bank; and proposals for increasing the land bank's capital by another £500,000 are now under consideration, and it is hoped will go through.

In the circumstances the <sup>plea</sup> ~~blat~~ of the Kenya settler is that he ought to have self-Government. Lord Francis Scott recognises that the root of the whole trouble is the low price of Kenya's products: that they cannot  
alter

3

alter, and they now want to explore methods of getting a better price locally. Attempts to do this by devaluing their currency could only lead to chaos because Kenya is not big enough or self-contained enough to carry a devalued currency while it would still have to meet all its sterling commitments in a market which would look with grave suspicion at any currency hanky-panky.

I should like to call attention to what Lord Francis-Scott says about the beneficent effect of control and organisation of wheat and essential oils. There is a hope for the essential oil crops, but from the very nature of things it can only be small and the crops can only be drawn in limited areas.

The reason that Kenya's crops are not directly subsidised is that the Government hasn't got the money to do it, although the agricultural advances scheme comes perilously near to a subsidy.

Then he goes on to the old cry that the cost of Government is too much and attacks pensions, salaries and the fact that Government officials are on incremental scales. It will be noted that he admits that cutting down Government expenditure is not so easy as people imagine, <sup>and in fact</sup> but the Kenya officials have been quite as hard hit as anybody else. When times are good in Kenya the unofficial laughs at the official for serving for small wages. When times are bad he accuses the official of being overpaid at his expense, quite forgetting that the essential feature of a Civil Service is that it should have some reasonable, not extravagant, permanent rate of pay which is not subject to fluctuation.

With regard to the Kenya loans, to read what Lord Francis Scott said one would think that it was possible to convert them. Well it isn't. When Kenya floated the loans the terms on which they were put on the market were the most favourable to Kenya that could be got at the time. When the terms of the 6% loan were under discussion the point was taken that the date of redemption was a long way off and <sup>we</sup> were definitely told that nothing less attractive would do. As it was, the underwriters were left with a very large proportion of that loan and were very angry about it. To put the thing baldly, the people in Kenya forget that when they floated a loan, they were buying money, and what they are now doing is simply to object to paying the bill. If it were possible to convert the loan it would have been converted, but it isn't.

The idea of employing Kenya youths in the Civil Service of Kenya is one that they are always trotting out because they find no opening for their children anywhere else <sup>also because they think it would help them to explore the whole machine</sup>. The Kenya young man is not in great demand elsewhere, and with the unification of the Colonial Service his prospects of getting an appointment, at any rate a higher grade appointment, are getting less and less.

Therefore in the end we come back to the abuse of the Colonial Office, which is a very nice whipping <sup>boy</sup>, but unfortunately there is nothing that this Department can do.

I have no doubt that the Governor will

4

will do his best to do something, but it is very hard to see what line of action can be adopted. None of the suggestions put forward by the unofficials would solve the problem, and the only thing that I can see that will do them good would be a large supply of capital at a very low rate of interest and with terms of repayment which would be almost unjustifiably generous. Even then, when they have spent all their <sup>extra capital</sup> ~~resources~~, they would repudiate payment and we should be back again where we were only with some extra debt.

One complaint <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ said to be that Government in Kenya did not take the unofficials enough into its confidence. By this ~~is~~ is not meant summoning round-table conferences of unofficial members and putting all the cards before them, although such proceedings might help to ease the friction, but rather that Government's spokesmen in the Council do not give full enough explanations. For instance, the unofficials have for a long time been talking about the loan burden, but according to one of the unofficial members no attempt was ever made to explain in detail exactly how the trouble existed and why it cannot be relieved by some scheme of conversion. That annoys them.

There is, however, another side to it. It is quite possible to take the unofficial Europeans far too seriously and as long as they are taken seriously they will go on mouthing and the noisiest would come to the top. It is also somewhat difficult for a Governor to co-operate cordially with gentlemen who

and especially his wife/

But this ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> a good deal  
of my good stuff  
over in the box.

settle element. Great  
allowance must be  
made for people who  
have suffered a  
great disappointment  
- who feel  
black indeed.

J.M.

who abuse him in vulgar ways, and further it  
is ~~more~~ difficult for a self-respecting  
Governor to associate cordially with some  
gentlemen of the character of those  
represented on Council. This is a somewhat  
unsavoury subject, but it is perhaps one  
cause of the accusation that the Governor  
in Kenya keeps himself too much aloof.  
After all His Majesty's Representative must  
preserve a proper dignity and he could  
scarcely be expected to receive cordially in a  
social manner people who <sup>would</sup> have not been allowed  
near Buckingham Palace or the Royal enclosure  
at Ascot. There can be little doubt that  
there is a large body of <sup>non-vocal</sup> opinion in Kenya  
which has not associated itself with the  
extreme element, but their opinion is not  
vocal and therefore is never heard.

J.M. 25.9.

Please see also the record of my talk with Mr. Hony  
and Mr. Marshall.

Direct for approval.

J.M.  
24/9

3 To Sir W. Smithers M.P. (Iain) 26.9.35

~~Dist. - Allen~~

Extracts from "Times"  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

5

Mr. Flood

H.A.

38051 1/2 11/35  
House of Commons  
document

The attached notes (mainly the work of Mr. Greenwell) have been prepared in response to a request from Sir John Maffey.

W. Greenwell  
4/10

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Maffey asked for a series of notes on the "Times" articles which he might, if he wished, show to Mr. Geoffrey Dawson.

The attached notes have been prepared by Mr. Greenwell & Mr. Freester, and I have added one of my own.

Mr. Wade's letter (NO 1 on 38041/35) is an illuminating document.

J. E. W. Flood  
8.10.

Sir J. Maffey

No comment, except that the settlers can't be blamed for all the development expenditure in 1921-29.

W.C.D.  
8.10.35

Mr. Flood

Sir John Maffey decides how to do any thing. You will wish to keep these notes or have them put on record.

W.C.D.  
8/10/35

Copy  
October 1935  
Sir J. Maffey's record  
6/10

e.2.  
Nominal

5 Note of an interview between Sir J. Phipps & Mr. Macgregor Ross on 23.10.35  
u.t. by. see min. in (5)

e.2.  
Nominal

6 Capt. H. L. R. Watts - 27.10.35  
Communications observations regarding conditions in Kenya.

7 To Capt. Watts - Private - (6 ans) 25.11.35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

8 Extract from "Manchester Guardian" 19.11.35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

9 "Morning Post" 27.11.35

Nominal (C.3)

(R) & (9) can be pub. by?

in medium business

J. Phipps

Macgregor Ross

H. L. R. Watts

Bygone

R. W.

sep/35

400

see Flood

1.1.36

attached

Letter to Sir J. Phipps

R 80 to enter into 1.1.36

R 298 to enter into 2.1.36

10 P.H. St. J. Wilson (Min of Labour) - 50 - 30.1.36  
Two extracts from letter from Mr. Hill regarding conditions in Kenya.

11 To P.H. St. J. Wilson - 50 - 1.2.36

~~To P.H. St. J. Wilson - 50 (10000)~~

R 297

6

Mr Pedler

attach to something

Mr. Flood.

Very many thanks. I have written to Mr. Wilson as you suggested

see 12

Flood  
1/2

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Mr. Pedler.

You may like to see the stuff and the minutes on 38039/35.

The position in Kenya as regards the purchase of land is quite well shown in the first paragraph of Mr. Hill's letter. Some years ago land in Kenya was driven up to extravagant prices and is now down, for the very good reason that, owing to the break in world prices and a succession of droughts, locusts, etc., farming in Kenya does not pay.

The idea, apparently, in the mind of Mr. Hill is that "the Colonial Office" ought to contribute financial assistance to them, in return for nothing, simply because they are farming in Kenya. There is no possible justification for that kind of thing and, as a matter of fact, the Government of Kenya which had very little in the way of cash balances available has sunk all its cash balances in assisting the settlers, and, in addition, has borrowed half a million which was lent to them through the medium of the Land Bank.

The total white population in Kenya may be 16,000 (it is over 17,000) but the number of farmers is, in round figures, 2,000. Of these, 800 odd are engaged in maize farming and 900 odd on coffee. The price of maize has gone down so low that the Government is busy subsidizing it to the extent of its available financial resources, and in the case of coffee the price has also fallen to a very low level owing to a decline in quality.

The yarn that Government officials get

£1000

£1000 a year and over is moonshine, of course, but it is bolstered up by taking into account and exaggerating the fact that Government officials get houses, medical attendance and passages. On this basis the settler contends that anybody who is in receipt of £700 a year is really over £1000 a year. Of course, you can do quite a lot with that, but the plain fact is that Government has got to pay to get people to serve and in the case of Kenya the official has got to live there and therefore has to be provided with a house; whereas the settler came along and wanted to settle and there is no compulsion on anybody to provide him with quarters. As regards medical attendance, what would be said if the Government sent people to tropical Africa and did not provide them with suitable medical attention?

The idea of the "vast administration" forced upon them by the Colonial Office is again quite silly. Kenya has not got a vast administration and where it has larger departments than other places the fact is due to the existence of and the demands of the European settlers. For instance, Government has to provide a huge staff of people to educate their children in separate European schools. In order to assist European agriculture Government has to provide a large staff of different experts which are no use for ordinary native agriculture. Similarly, it is quite likely that if there were no Europeans the country could get on with much less in the way of administrative and police staff (it certainly wouldn't employ so many white police officers in subordinate capacities). And when anything happens to a European in the outlying regions, there is always a squeal that Government ought to do more for their protection (see

the case of the late Mr. Rowys.

As to their being heavily taxed, Lord Moyne, who investigated the position four years ago, said that they were probably the most lightly taxed community in the world and the advertisement of Kenya which is issued by their own agent always refers to taxation as "light when judged by English standards".

As regards the railway, the fact is that comparison of the Kenya-Uganda railway with other railways shows that it is among the very cheapest of the lot and it gives specially low rates on the produce of the European farmers for export. It has further reduced rates quite recently and will probably do more.

Government does not and never has gone in for propaganda to encourage people to settle in Kenya. That is quite a prevalent impression but is totally untrue. What Government does is to maintain an Information Office to supply information to those who insist on going to Kenya, but the function of that Office is to discourage the settlers who have not got reasonably large capital and assured income. The attraction held out for Kenya at present by the settlers' representatives is that, on a given income, say £500 a year, a man living in Kenya can have a better time than he could anywhere else (e.g. shooting, golf, polo, fishing, etc.,) but if he goes there expecting to make a fortune he won't.

The short sharp answer is that he is quite right when he says nobody cares about Kenya in one sense. To read some of the articles

in

in the East African papers one would think that the Cabinet lies awake at night worrying about Kenya and in particular worrying about the Europeans in Kenya and, still more in particular, worrying about the European Members of Council. Of course the contrary is the case, and if the Kenya settler expects the tax payer in this country to put his hand in his pocket and bolster up the uneconomic farmer in Kenya, then he errs. It is probable that far too much has already been done in the way of assisting the settler

to submit an alternative draft

S. S. Flood

7-2

12 To P. H. St. Johnstone (re named) 8-2-36

Reo to [unclear]

Reo to [unclear]

For correspondence regarding representations by Lt. Col. O'Donoghue re position of Kenya Coffee Industry - see Economic Kenya - Coffee file

3-2-36 Extracts from the "Times" and "Daily Telegraph" 7-5-36

9  
Downing Street, S.W.1.

5th February, 1936.

Dear Wilson,

You rang me up to say that Colonel Muirhead would like to tell his constituent just where her nephew, Mr. Hill, is wrong and you asked me to provide refutations of his statements, in order that Colonel Muirhead might select as much as he thought suitable. He will, of course, realise the importance of avoiding anything which might convey the impression that our Secretary of State fails to appreciate or to sympathise with the plight of many of the Kenya settlers. In point of fact, we are well aware of their hard lot and the struggle which they have all had to make, with many of them the struggle is almost hopeless, but it is difficult to see what assistance can be rendered.

In the first place, the Government of Kenya has, and had, very little available money and with what it

had

P.H. St.J. Wilson, Esq.,

had it proceeded to institute a system of advances to the most necessitous agricultural industries. A sum of over £100,000 has been advanced to maize farmers and is, we fear, completely 'frozen' and it is doubtful whether a great part of it will be recovered eventually. In addition to that, however, the Government has borrowed half a million and used it to establish a Land Bank which makes advances, at reasonable terms, on security. Proposals for further extensions of the Land Bank's capital are at present engaging attention.

In addition to this, the Kenya-Uganda Railway gives specially low rates on agricultural produce and the latest move is that the Kenya Government has agreed to subsidize exported maize, so as to provide a reasonable price to the grower.

The allegations made in Mr. Hill's letter are common form and generally believed in Kenya, but they are not true. It is not the case that three-fourths of all the Government officials get paid £1000 a year and that the Governor gets £17,000. The figure of £1000 a year is, we think

think, arrived at by including, along with the actual pay the men get, imaginary amounts representing the value of houses, medical attendance, and passages to England. As to this, Government is bound to provide houses for its officials in places like the tropics where there are no houses available. There would be a considerable outcry if the Government of a tropical colony did not allow its officers to receive free medical attention, and it is recognised on all hands that leave must be given from time to time and that it is proper for Government to pay the passages. In the Provincial Administration there are over 100 European officers of whom only nine receive £1000 a year or more. The Agricultural Department which contains a large European staff, including research scientists, veterinary surgeons and so on, has only five officers with salaries of £1000 and over and so on with other departments. The Governor's salary is £5000 a year, together with an allowance of £2,500 and a further £1000 as High Commissioner for Transport, which is paid by the Railway. The figure of £17,000 is got by adding up the  
cost

cost of the Governor's entire staff, private secretaries, gardeners at Government House and so on. In point of fact, the salary is not excessive for a Governor in consideration of the difficulties which he has to face and the very high cost of entertainment which falls upon the Governor in Nairobi, (we have been told, though this is not for publication, that the minimum expense which a Governor can expect to have to face is at the rate of £500 a month). The idea that the natives would have no money if it were not for the settlers is simply ridiculous. In the adjoining territory of Uganda, where there are very few European settlers and the bulk of the industry is native, the people are as a whole much more prosperous than in Kenya and the natives contribute much larger sums to revenue. The financial position of Kenya was investigated in 1932 by Lord Moyne who stated in his report, which is published as Cmd.4093, that the "non-native population of Kenya are in the probably unparalleled position among civilised nations of bearing no direct taxation at all, beyond a male poll tax of Shs. 30 a male

male education tax of Shs.20 or Shs.30 and a comparatively light scale of death duties". In the advertisements of Kenya which are issued by the representative of the settlers it is generally stated that taxation is "light judged by European standards".

The statement that the railway is very dear is directly contrary to fact. Last November a statement was published in the paper called "East Africa" which showed that on a comparison of many railways in the Dominions, India, and other Colonies, the Kenya-Uganda rates were cheaper than any except New South Wales and the railways in the United Kingdom. Since then, the railway has gone in for further rate reductions on commodities calculated to perform the greatest possible assistance to the producing community.

Kenya has got all the social services that it can afford in the way of heavily subsidized education for Europeans, expensive medical services and so on.

It is not right to say that people are encouraged to go to Kenya by Government departments. Certainly the  
Colonial

Colonial Office does not and the East African Government Trade and Information Office confines itself to supplying information. We understand that the line taken is that while a man with a fixed income of say £500 a year can live at a higher standard in Kenya than anywhere else, no-one need expect to make a fortune and no-one should go there without either a fixed income or a considerable amount of capital. Since Lord Moyne's investigation four years ago a system of graduated poll tax has been introduced (this was instead of income tax, which Lord Moyne recommended) and this is paid by settlers and officials alike. We have recently had a complaint from the officials that they pay three times as much per head as the settlers and it seems somewhat odd, since the tax is graduated according to their income, but the statement has been made. In any case, as well as the poll tax there is a levy on official salaries, which was imposed some years ago in the most acute days of the financial crisis and has not yet been removed.

The

The fact is that the Kenya settlers have been hit by the fall in world prices which has struck most heavily at the producers of maize, wheat, cattle, etc., and by a series of droughts and locusts which have affected the other crops and especially the coffee on which Kenya used to depend. Owing to drought, Kenya coffee has fallen off in quality and can no longer command anything like its former price on the London market. It is difficult to see how the Government can be blamed for that.

Yours sincerely,

F. J. PEDLER

Downing Street, S.W.1.

1st February, 1936.

Dear Wilson,

May I introduce myself as Lord Plymouth's Secretary in succession to Hibbert.

(10) Hibbert has passed to me your letter of the 30th January enclosing an extract from a letter written by a Mr. Hill, of Kenya Colony. I have shown your letter to our Kenya Department and we suggest that Colonel Muirhead should reply to his constituent that he has passed on the substance of Mr. Hill's letter to the Colonial Office.

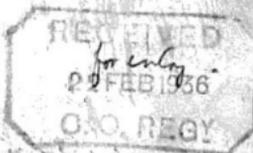
I trust that Colonel Muirhead will feel that this is sufficient. Mr. Hill's letter contains such extraordinary statements that I fear that any comment we might suggest upon its substance would be such as Colonel Muirhead would prefer not to include in his reply.

Yours sincerely,

**F. J. PEDLER**

P.H. St. J. Wilson, Esq.,

30th January, 1936.



Dear Hibbert,

I enclose copy of an extract from a letter written by a Mr. Hill, residing at Minnehaha Springs, Koro, Kenya Colony, which was forwarded to Colonel Muirhead by one of his constituents, the aunt of the writer.

Colonel Muirhead would be very grateful if you could make some suggestions as to the reply which he should send to his lady.

Yours sincerely,

*P. H. St. J. Wilson*  
P. H. ST. J. WILSON

J.G. Hibbert, Esq., M.C.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

*Ans 12*

.....

I have bought the Estate on which my factory is situated, 38 acres which includes 400 acres, bearing coffee, two houses, a complete water system, spring, hydram, reservoir. I have one of the houses based to the District Council. This place cost a little over £2000/0/0 to build a few years ago, and I bought it for £400/0/0. It includes running water and electric lighting. We are rather perturbed as apparently the Colonial Office turns a deaf ear to us out here and farmers are going broke by the score. A lot of fellows are more or less starving. If it happened in England you would have riots, but the majority of the crowd out here come from upper class families and just grin and bare it.

The great kick is that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all the Government officials get paid £1000/0/0 a year and over, while the Governor gets £17000/0/0.

All this money has to be found by the natives and settlers. The natives have no money but they are employed by the settler who pays them wages. So, only 16000 European men women and children have to pay for the vast administration which the Colonial Office forces on us. The Government has an official majority and just does what it likes, brings in fresh taxes etc. Each white man, woman and child is taxed directly and indirectly £50/0/0 per head per year. We also have the dearest railway and postage in the world and no social services of any kind.

I am sorry to bore you with our political situation, but really it is enough to break people's hearts. Derelict farms everywhere, places sold for £10,000 five years ago going now for £500/0/0 and no offers. People at home often do not realise what is happening in the Empire. But yet people are persuaded to go out with their all from the sincere different Government establishments in London, which are the greatest ramps in England. I have written to lots of people at home as we asked to endeavour to get as much publicity as possible to get the public at home to realise the position, but really only a few people care two hoots about anything outside England.

Yet if we fight the Italians the first people that will have to go will be the Kenyians to the Northern Frontier.

.....

Journal

x. hand

E.A.T.  
10.

C. O.

19 76

Mr. Austin 22/11

Mr. Flood 22

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. L<sup>3</sup>

Sir J. Shuckburgh.  
Perth. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

X Secretary of State.

For S. S. L. L. L.

Private,

25/11/35.

DRAFT. comin.

Capt. H. L. R. Watt

Thank you for your very interesting letter of October the 27<sup>th</sup>. I am grateful to you for sending me such a full statement of your views on many questions. ~~They~~ It

Your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup>

of October told me much that is illuminating about affairs in Kenya. First-hand comments are always of interest, even though they do not always tally precisely with what reaches me from other sources! You will not, I am sure, expect me to discuss in a private letter all the various matters of public policy which you have

FURTHER ACTION.

touchd upon. I can only assure you  
that, even before I came to the Colonial

Office, I took a particular interest in  
Kenya topics; and while I have  
been in Office, a great deal of  
my time has been occupied in trying  
to find solutions for some of the very  
difficult problems that confront the Colony.

Now, after five months here, I have to go ~~back~~  
to the Admiralty Office, and so I must leave these  
Kenya problems to be <sup>handled</sup> ~~considered~~ by my successor.

---

I have not had time to read that, but will do so when return M.M.

ETTRICK ESTATE. ELDAMA RAVINE.  
KENYA. 27th OCTOBER 1955. 20 6

RECEIVED  
26 NOV 1955  
C. O. REGY

THE RIGHT HONBLE.  
MALCOLM MACDONALD ESQ.  
H.M. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.  
THE COLONIAL OFFICE. LONDON. ENGLAND.

Dear Mr Malcolm Macdonald,

As a Meray leen I would like to congratulate you on attaining the High Office of State you now hold, the youngest to hold the Office, and, with I hope a still greater future before you.

My Grandmother Mrs Jack lived for many years at Clifton Lessieouth, overlooking Old Lessie, and her husband built a number of ships there, your Father may remember "Tery Jack."

You have not been to Kenya, I have had 25 years experience of this wonderful Colony. I write you in the hope that this letter may be, if not of use, at any rate of some interest to you. I write in all sincerity to a brother Meray leen in an endeavour to make you au fait with some of the problems of Kenya which you will have to face.

COLONIAL OFFICE GOVERNMENT. That this, in the past and also today leaves much to be desired is shown by the irritation displayed not only by Kenya but by every Colony under its charge. The system is obsolete, out of touch, out of sympathy with the aspirations of your kith and kin, and should be entirely divorced from party politics, administered by some Imperial Committee. If the British Empire is to remain this must come. The people who have made their homes and sunk their all in such a Colony as Kenya should in justice be given a greater say in running their own affairs.

OUR ADMINISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATORS. Our loans bearing the very high rates of interest 5% and 6% redeemable in 1947 are beyond the capacity of the Colony to bear. They were arranged by your Office, a bad bit of business, even at the time of issue the interest was too high for a guaranteed loan, the term was too long, and today looks as if it had been a gift to the issuing house or the underwriters. Your Office put itself in the hands of financiers to issue these loans, put yourself in their hands again with the order that they must immediately arrange a conversion scheme by means of a new loan on terms of equity as to interest and repayment.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR. Sir Joseph Byrne. A charming man who was given an opportunity recently of leading the Settlers of Kenya in a loyal effort to try and solve the difficulties facing the Colony, a sort of liaison officer between Kenya and the Colonial Office, an opportunity that comes the way of few Governors. He refused. He has a salary of £2000, apart from his vote. A comparison of the salaries paid in New Zealand with these paid in Kenya is very interesting. Lord Elphinstone voluntarily relinquished 45% of his salary owing to the financial condition in New Zealand. I might mention that a few years ago the salary of our Governor was more than doubled with a view to obtaining the services of the best type of man, the salaries of all Civil Servants were at the same time very largely increased, with the same object. In other countries salaries have been based on a figure calculated on an

Annex 2

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index figure based on the cost of living. In Kenya there has been no such basis and our Civil Servants for years have been drawing salaries at the rate of 120% to 140% above those of 1914. The Colonial Office must have been aware of this and should have taken steps to rectify the glaring anomaly. Your Office has a duty to the Colony which should come before that to its employees.

In connection with the burden of our Administration I commend to your attention the Report of the SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY with special reference to the chapter on Civil Service Salaries, Loans and the reorganization of the Government machine.

**INCOME TAX.** It may be necessary to introduce this but NOT ON TOP of present direct and indirect taxation. Provided this proviso is accepted and understood it is possible that the introduction of income tax would not meet with as much opposition as it did previously.

**DEVALUATION.** There is probably a big majority in favour of this, there are also a large number against it. Your Office has refused to consider the matter. Your predecessor told us when out here that "devaluation leads to damnation" notwithstanding the success alleged for devaluation in other countries. I may say that I can think of no other country where devaluation has been tried with conditions entirely similar to those in Kenya. If Sir Phillip Gualiffe-Lister knew enough about devaluation to have stated clearly why devaluation in Kenya would lead to damnation it is a pity he did not do so.

**THE WHITE HIGHLANDS.** The promise of the White Highlands must be considered sacred. The Indians in Kenya are of the lowest caste, no one who has not seen their mode of living can have any conception of what it would mean to have them inhabiting the Highlands. It has been said that the retention of the Highlands for Europeans is against the principles of Empire Settlement. You have visited New Zealand, can Europeans obtain land in the Maori Reserves? What land, if any is available in India for European settlement? We have critics of Kenya at Home, both in and out of the House of Commons, some seekers after cheap notoriety, some disgruntled Kenya Civil Servants, both sparing of the truth, and making statements they are well aware are false. We were told in our youth that "Hell holds no fury like a woman scorned" today this is out of date and should be "Hell holds no fury like that of a disgruntled Kenya Civil Servant."

**NATIVE POLICY.** It is no exaggeration to say the Government has none. There is a heap of good in our Kenya Native Tribes, there is also a hell of a lot that is not good. Under present conditions the Natives have lost their old respect for the Government. He understands discipline; without strict discipline he becomes a waster. The two big ideas in the mind of every Native are food and fermentation. He accepts from birth the superiority of the White Man, but at the back of his mind there is always the hope that he may be able to get the better of him. Education makes him an agitator, in a thousand years he may really become a Christian. The average Native in Kenya today is as well off as a 30/- a week single man in England. I served for 4 years in the Sudan if it was run on the lines Kenya is there would be a rising every six months. As a Native Chief informed the Carter Commission "the Native does not want his opinion asked, he does not understand this, he wants to be told what to do and have someone to see that he does it." What is wanted is some kind of

kindly and benevolent compulsion to prevent further destruction and desecration of land in the Native Reserves. This was recommended in the interests of the Natives by both Sir B. Hall and the Carter Commission. In the Stokes Commission a coloured cleric stressed the fact that the Native must be taught the dignity of Labour.

**LEGAL ADMINISTRATION.** The Native today is suffering from too much Law and too little Justice. A letter by a late Chief Justice of Tanganyika in The Times recently stated that there was "a certain amount of friction between the Law and the Administration" the one trying to maintain their dignity as representatives of the Law and the other to maintain their dignity as representatives of The King. This friction may be at the bottom of the numerous revisions in cases tried by Administrative Officers. Can you imagine the effect on the mind of a Native after being convicted on some small charge being brought back before the Administrative Officer who sentenced him and told the conviction is quashed. Now in no sense are these revisions the result of an appeal, the High Court simply reviews the evidence looking for a technical flaw, does not see the accused and has not the knowledge of the Native or his customs that the Administrative Officer has gleaned from years of experience. There is not an Administrative Officer I have spoken to on this matter who has not acknowledged that he tries a case with the thought always before him "can the High Court possibly reverse my decision. This is a farce not justice.

**RETAINING THE SETTLER ON THE LAND.** This is the biggest and most difficult problem before Kenya today. The real solution, the stabilization of an economic price of products, is an universal problem beyond the ken of Kenya. Subsidies even if available will not meet the case. In 1935 South Africa subsidised its farmers to the extent of £4000000 this all went into the pockets of the farmers creditors. The Settler does not desire repudiation, but some sort of moratorium to prevent foreclosure seems indicated with a reduction of interest. A Bank with sufficient capital to take over all mortgages on long terms of repayment and reduced interest, on the lines of the bank of New Zealand and given the handling of all produce, would meet the case and in my opinion pay its way.

**THE YOUTH OF KENYA FOR OUR CIVIL SERVICE.** There are too many Goans and Indians in our Administration, granted their efficiency, this has led to the average Officer putting too much work on them, and relying on them for information which it is his duty to know. Your Office missed a nice gesture when refusal was given to the request for the employment of the youth of Kenya in our Civil Service. It is bound to come as it has come to New Zealand.

**INDIA.** The future of India is the biggest gamble ever tried in history. This has nothing to do with Kenya, but we object to India having any say in our affairs or that Kenya should be a pawn in the political game.

**CLOSER UNION:** This matter will be decided when Herr Hitler is ready to make his demands, and unless England is in a very very much stronger position than she is today he will get or take just exactly what he wants. This will settle Closer Union.

This letter is the opinion of a brother Meray Iken who has spent 33 years in Africa, made his Home in Kenya, who has the welfare of Kenya at heart, and who wishes you the very best luck in carrying out successfully the difficult duties entailed by your Office. the best of luck in the coming Election.

*m. Ross* R 297

24 5

Mr. MacGregor Ross called on me to-day and spoke picturesquely and at length on the subject of his *bête noire*, the political settler community in Kenya, and described how, by their methods and influence, they were able to compel Civil Servants to grant them concessions and to alter laws, contrary to the public interests.

His specific representations were directed to the question of road repairs, which naturally interest him as an old Director of the Public Works Department. He says it is proved beyond all question that the method of handing over road repairs to local District Boards is wildly extravagant, compared with carrying out that work through the normal channel, the Public Works Department. He asked whether this latter question would be one that would be looked into by Sir Alan Pim. I said I did not know.

Does Sir Alan Pim know anything of this matter, and is he likely to enquire into it? I do not propose to let Mr. MacGregor Ross have any answer, but it may well be worth while to put the point to Sir Alan Pim as we are likely to hear more about it as the result of further activities on the part of Mr. MacGregor Ross.

*[Signature]*  
23.10.35.

*Certain*  
The question whether roads in Kenya should be under the control of the P.W.D. or the Local District Councils is one which was fully presented

to

to Sir Alan Pim before his departure. It is discussed in a chapter of the recent Kenya Economy Committee's Report and in the Governor's despatch commenting on this Report; Sir Alan has copies of both documents. Furthermore, we arranged an interview at his request, with Sir Cyril Hurcomb, (the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport) ~~and~~ so that he might familiarise himself with the principles governing the relations as regards road finance between the Central Govt. and Municipal bodies in the United Kingdom. We also discussed this particular question with Mr. Gurney, an officer of the Kenya Secretariat who used to handle it and who is now attached to the Colonial Office.

In the circumstances, it seems hardly necessary to communicate specially with Sir Alan.

*P. P. P.*  
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*Yes: he knows all about it*

*J. L. G. P. P.*  
24.10

*Thanks. Pat by. At once.*

*Alan*  
25/10  
*Mr. P. P. P.*

25 47.  
Notes on "The Times" Articles of {Alan} the 24th and 25th September 1955.

"After an initial retrenchment of £500,000 at the beginning of the bad years the Government has held steadily to the view that improvement is merely a matter of time, and has refused further reduction of expenditure, while making temporary increases in taxation".

Excluding those heads of expenditure which are not susceptible to departmental control, such as public debt funded, interest, pensions and gratuities etc, the actual recurrent expenditure since 1930 has shown a progressive reduction, the total for 1954 being £393,562 below the total for 1930. The estimated expenditure for the current year approximates very closely to that propounded by the Economic Advisory Committee which was appointed in 1932 and was composed of officials and unofficials.

As regards increases in taxation, it is necessary to turn to the report of Lord Moyne who enquired into the financial situation of Kenya in 1932. In his report he advised that "there is no present indication that the final difficulties of Kenya will solve themselves ..... Kenya can only ensure its escape from present difficulties by following the example of the rest of the world and by taking action without delay to restore her position .. ..... I am forced to the conclusion that fresh taxation is called for". After an exhaustive examination of the situation Lord Moyne expressed the opinion, which was generally endorsed, that the native community of Kenya could not be called upon to bear any increased financial burden. He accordingly advised that the necessary new revenue would have to be

*See page 9  
Economic  
Report 1954*

be found by some contribution from the non-native sections of the population; and he set-out the arguments in favour of income tax as the most appropriate form of taxation.

An income tax Ordinance was prepared at the request of the Secretary of State and was published in draft in January of 1933, for general information. There had always been much opposition to income tax in Kenya, and the Bill inevitably received a hostile reception. A new situation arose towards the end of March 1933 when the Governor reported that alternative proposals for raising the necessary revenue had been put forward. The Secretary of State agreed at once to the Governor's proposal to appoint a strong and experienced Committee consisting of officials and unofficials to examine the practicability of those proposals and the amount of revenue which they might be reasonably expected to produce.

After considering many proposals the Committee concentrated upon the following as practicable and calculated to produce substantial revenue:-

- (1) a <sup>graduated</sup> ~~gratuity~~ non-native poll tax based on income,
- (2) an extension of the system of trade licences,
- (3) a landing tax on passengers,
- (4) a package tax,
- (5) an increased tax on the registration of Companies,
- (6) <sup>an increased Stamp Duty on bills and promissory notes,</sup> and there was a prima facie case for supposing

that

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that these alternative proposals would produce a total of new revenue falling not far short of the anticipated yield of income tax. The Secretary of State thought it right that a full and fair trial should be given to the alternative measures which he had reason to believe would be more acceptable to the ratepayers than a system of income tax.

Of those taxes, the package tax has now been repealed. Representations have been made to the Government for the removal of all of those taxes introduced in 1933 as alternative to income tax, but it is essential to observe that it was only possible to balance the budget for 1935 on the basis of existing taxation. It must therefore be regarded as an essential condition precedent to the removal of the "alternative revenue measures" that revenue from other sources is assured, sufficient not only to balance the annual budget but also to provide a margin towards the re-establishment of the Colony's surplus balances.

It is contended by the settlers that the existing taxes are a grave burden on producers, but taking as an example the <sup>graduated</sup> ~~gratuity~~ poll tax, the incidence of the tax shows that the contribution made by farmers and planters in excess of the former flat rate of Shs.30 is below that of any other section of the community, viz:-

Civil Servants	.....	£7,547	or	£4.94	per tax-payer.
Farmers and Planters	.....	£2,316	or	£1.56	" "
Farmers' Employees	...	£1,316	or	£1.64	" "
Professional Men	....	£2,283	or	£4.03	" "
<sup>Commercial Men</sup> Employees	.....	£2,798	or	£6.42	" "
Others	.....	£1,323	or	£4.26	" "

In his report Lord Moyne provided figures to show that of the total amount of indirect taxation collected in respect of Customs duties, the amount contributed by Europeans was 3/7ths of the whole. On that basis the amount contributed by Europeans in 1954 was nearly £28,000 below the 1951 figure. It can therefore be argued, having regard to the progressive reductions in expenditure, that the imposition of direct taxation has been highly necessary to off-set the loss from indirect taxation.

Overhead Expenses.

"The overhead costs of the Colony, higher than in Uganda or Tanganyika, stand at more than £2,000,000 a year."

This is true, in fact the total estimated net local expenditure for 1935 is £2,157,770, but it is not to be imagined that this is the sum required to pay for the cost of the Civil Service. The amount includes such items as interest £4,224, local Government contributions to local authorities £72,291, public debt funded £183,275, rent and interest to H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar £16,000.

Loan Conversion.

The settlers pointed out that the Colony has had no benefit from Loan Conversion, as have other parts of the Empire in similar plight. Very full and sympathetic consideration has been given to the Colony's financial burden in this respect. But it has been found that no alleviation is possible without a breach of faith with Kenya stockholders, <sup>either</sup> a wholly disproportionate burden on <sup>posteriority</sup>

Terms

Terms and Conditions of the Kenya Colonial Civil Service.

"The existing terms of the Kenya Colonial Service are unnecessarily generous now that the hardships of life in the Colony have been removed and (that) many of the still existing privileges are unjustified".

The terms and conditions of service in Kenya are identical with those in all the other East African dependencies in accordance with the approved policy of unification of services in East Africa. Any further discrimination to the detriment of the Kenya Civil Service would be frankly unjust. As a matter of fact the salaries and allowances of the Kenya Civil Servants are subjected, as a revenue measure, to a special levy, at present 5% up to £300 per annum, 7½% on that part of any salary which exceeds £300 but does not exceed £1000, and 10% on that part of any salary which is in excess of £1000. It is most probable that in 1936 Kenya will be the only African dependency where the levy will be in force.

It is suggested that in general the present system, with its high degree of centralisation, is wasteful of time, men, money and efficiency. The question of reorganisation in the departments will however be examined by the Special Commissioner (Sir Alan Pim) who is shortly proceeding to Kenya to examine into the cost of Government and to advise in regard to the 1936 budget.

Devaluation.

The resolution recently passed by the Convention of Association, in favour of reducing the sterling value of the E.A. shilling, is already exciting alarm in financial circles in the City. The

settlers fails to appreciate that any temporary advantage which he might derive from a higher (selling) price for his exports would be immediately counterbalanced by proportionate increases in the overseas payments due from himself & his host, and ultimately by a rise in the internal price level.

#### Reservation of the Highlands for Europeans.

This is admittedly a thorny question, in which no final decision has yet been expressed. It appears that if the settlers' wishes are to be met, not only must the opposition of India be overcome, but two international treaties must be violated.

#### Closer Union.

The S.F.S. has drafted a draft despatch explaining the reasons for maintaining the status quo.

The settlers request that children born in the Colony should have a privileged position as regards employment in the Colony's public service.

Recruitment to the administrative  
and technical branches of the Colonial Civil  
Service

Service is open to British subjects throughout the Empire provided that they possess the requisite qualifications. The selection of candidates depends on the general educational attainments, the professional or other subsequent training and experience (if any) and on the character and personal fitness of the applicants. A high standard of general education is however an essential, and in the case of candidates selected for administrative appointments, in recent years, possession of a University Degree has been regarded as a sine qua non. It is felt that the possession of local experience can in no way be regarded as a suitable substitute for the higher standard of education desired in the Colonial Service generally, and that any relaxation of the qualifications required of candidates for appointments to the higher posts in Kenya would not be in the best interest of Government. During the past year a Kenya Local European Civil Service has been inaugurated. This Service which does not require higher education qualifications is primarily intended for the employment of local candidates and includes posts with salaries rising to £660 per annum, but so far, few local candidates appear and posts in it are being filled from this country.

If any proof is needed of this statement see the October "National Review".

One of the principles which governs the European attitude in Kenya is the idea that for some reason or other the settlers in Kenya are a chosen people and therefore ought to be specially treated and rendered immune by Governmental action from such things as economic disaster, loss of money, and other misfortunes to which everyone is exposed.

Kenya has always been and always will be an agricultural country (except of course for such development as may come from the new gold mining industry). From its earliest days its revenues were not sufficient to cover the cost of administration and it used to receive a substantial grant in aid from the Imperial Exchequer. Inevitably therefore Kenya was

and was also unable to do any real development

unable to accumulate any kind of reserve. The grant in aid came to an end just before the war and since then Kenya has managed its own finances but owing to the hectic development of post-war years Kenya was never

able to accumulate a <sup>really</sup> large balance. <sup>When they had funds in 1924-29 they spent largely on "schemes of development" and sort of expenditure being agricultural the growth of such a balance would</sup> ~~have been slow in any case and owing to the depression~~

<sup>£700,000 between 1928 & 1929. Then,</sup> which has hit the place there was not sufficient money available for Government to come to the rescue of the European agriculturists. As it was, <sup>mainly</sup> Government did advance over £100,000 <sup>then</sup> to the growers of maize which is one of the principal European crops, and has very little hope of getting any of it back. That advance has seriously crippled Government's financial resources by taking away most of the available balance required for current finance.

The railway rates are designed to help the exporter and crops for export are carried at very low figures which have to be made up by correspondingly high rates on imports.

The settlers' talk is now mainly directed against the "high cost of Government". It is perhaps as well to point out that a good deal of the "high cost of Government" is directly due to the settlers themselves. If Kenya were a <sup>purely</sup> ~~native~~ native community such as those on the west coast of Africa or such as Uganda it would be possible to reduce expenses considerably. But the existence of the Europeans and the Indians and the natives requires extra expenditure on Government. Further the demands of the settlers for assistance in various directions have led to an expansion of Government activities which would not be warranted on any dispassionate view of things. For example, the expenditure on the Agricultural Department in Kenya in the current estimates is £126,000 compared with £94,000 in Nigeria (which has six times the population and about ten times the trade) and £31,000 in the Gold Coast. Education in Kenya costs £178,000 of which £45,000 is directly chargeable to European education. No such provision is to be found any where else. £83,000 is provided for Local Government most of which goes in contributions to the various European-run municipalities. Nairobi gets £50,000, Mombasa £66,000 and various district Councils £32,000. The police force in Kenya costs £135,000 which is fairly large having regard to the area and population of Kenya. The Nigerian police costs £220,000 for a much more complicated and difficult job but a lot of the trouble in Kenya is that they insist on employing European police officers

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officers in subordinate ranks which in other places would be held by natives.

This I think is enough to show that the alleged high cost of Government is at any rate in part the fault of the settlers themselves.

As regards pensions and gratuities what everybody forgets in dealing with tropical African affairs is that the Services there are of very recent growth. Thirty years ago when Kenya was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office there were no pensions of any account on the funds of the territory which was natural since it was quite new. Then, by degrees, a Service was built up and inevitably officers were invalided and now retirements due to age and length of service are bringing up the pension list and <sup>even if</sup> ~~unless~~ stability can be reached in the Kenya Services it will be inevitable that that list will go on increasing for some time to come until the appropriate actuarial level is reached.

*How so  
Ged*

With regard to the famous Kenyan Loans it must be remembered that when the high interest loans were floated Kenya was a new thing on the market and the then Secretary of State was advised that any less attractive terms than a 6% loan with <sup>the</sup> full 25 year currency would not produce the money. Even as it was the loan was a "flop" and the underwriters were left with a very large proportion of it. It follows that, as I have said before, Kenya is now having to pay the bill for the money which it got mainly in order to develop the country as urged by the settlers, and like many another debtor, Kenya is objecting to pay the bill.

Lord Moyné in the course of his examination of Kenya's finances said that in the development of the undivided or colonial services in Kenya the prevailing bias

para 48

bias has been towards the <sup>benefit</sup> ~~advantage~~ of a civilisation in which the native so far shares little of the direct advantages. He criticized the amount spend on European education and the general conclusion which he urged was that the non-native population of Kenya was in the probably unparalleled position of bearing no direct taxation at all beyond a poll tax, an education tax and a light scale of death duties. In this connection it is perhaps worthy of note that in the advertisement of Kenya issued by the settlers' own agent it is stated that "taxation is light <sup>according to</sup> ~~as compared~~ <sub>English standards.</sub> with that in force in England".

It is I think obvious from an examination of Lord Moyne's report that the European community is not over-taxed to put it mildly, and what the Europeans want really by reducing the cost of the Government, is not to reduce the burden of taxation (which they do not pay) but to render more money available for grants and subventions direct and indirect to the European community. They claim to be the people of Kenya, calmly ignoring the existence of the Indian and the native population, and that claim must be resisted whenever and wherever it is made.

J. E. G. Hand

P. 10

31  
3

C. O.

Mr. Freeston. 21/9

Mr. Flood 23.

Mr.

For Secretary of State's signature.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Balfour.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S. 23/9

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State. 23/9/35

Downing Street,

26th September, 1935.

Dear Smithers

I have now read the letter

from Dr. Sterry and the cutting from the "East African Standard", enclosed in your letter to me of the 16th of September.

The desperate condition of many of the white farmers in Kenya is well known to us in the Colonial Office, and has our fullest sympathy. It is due, of course, not to any action of Govt. but to the disastrous slump in prices which has affected every agricultural country in the world, intensified by conditions peculiar to E. Africa - three years of drought and locust infestation. Sympathy, I know, is of little help; the trouble is that

practical

DRAFT.

SIR WALDRON SMITHERS, M.P.

FURTHER ACTION.

practical remedies are hard to find, and many of the suggestions put forward by the settlers themselves (e.g. devaluation of the currency) would inevitably defeat their own ends.

There is, I am afraid, no panacea

for the Kenya farmers' troubles, and anything

that Govt. can offer must be the most

effective. I had several long talks with

the Governor, Sir Joseph Byrne, before he

returned to the Colony last month, and I feel

know that he is <sup>very</sup> anxious that anything that can be of real

sure that he may be relied upon to listen to

practical help to the settlers should be done;

the settlers' case with attention and sympathy,

but neither he nor I, unfortunately, can work

miracles. I am giving the whole question my most

careful attention.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

CHISLEHURST DIVISION.

321  
Shelleys,  
Knockholt,  
Kent.

1st entry  
16th September, 1935.

Dear Mr<sup>s</sup> MacDonald,

I am sending you a copy of a letter and a cutting from a paper, which have been sent to me by a friend of mine, whose name is John Sterry.

He is a Doctor, and a man of quite exceptional character and ability. I have known him practically all my life. He was for many years our family Doctor, and I really know him intimately.

Some years ago he decided he would like to go out to Kenya, and he has corresponded with me regularly.

I thought it would interest you to see a letter from one of the Colonies written by such a man as Dr. Sterry, and you can be quite sure that his letter is perfectly sincere.

Yours sincerely

Waldron Smithers

The Right Honourable  
Malcolm MacDonald, M.P.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

C O P Y .

Thika,  
Kenya Colony.

6. 9. 35.

Dear Waller,

So many thanks for the paper. If a Socialist Government go in at home it would be the ruin of this Colony. I have forwarded it on to Sir Robert Shaw, our member on Leg. Co., who is a very good man.

I enclose the speeches at a meeting the other day at Nakuru to show you what we feel here about things. The condition of things is not over-stated. In this district alone there are not 10% making a living on their farms, but are living on capital or overdrafts, and have been doing so for the last four or five years.

It is impossible for a Government at home to understand conditions here, and the official members (the majority of Leg.Co.) fail to grasp the gravity of things in the Colony.

I will try and keep you posted with news from here.

Yours ever,

(Sd.) JOHN STERRY.

# An Appeal Addressed to H.E. the Governor

(Continued from page 5).

"We could certainly get a good deal of publicity and so bring our grievances more directly before the public in Great Britain. The difficulty, of course, as always, is the lack of finance. However, could this be brought about it might be the beginning of getting some unofficial representation for the Crown Colonies at the next Imperial Conference. I believe this idea might lead to some practical results as one of Government's arguments is always talk of a unified colonial service and so on—in fact playing off one Colony against another so as to avoid doing anything.

"We are living on the brink of a volcano to-day. These unprecedented bad times for producers have reduced us all to a stage of despair, and when people feel hopeless they are apt to become reckless. Here our feelings have been unnecessarily exasperated by the apparent lack of feeling and understanding on the part of Government. Any one who thinks, knows that it is not easy to find adequate remedies in such difficult times, but at least Government could have come off its pedestal of complacent self-satisfaction and admitted our case, which is too obvious to require any proof, and got down to business and a real determination to put things right, or at any rate as right as possible. Actually they have done nothing concrete, and whatever they have done, such as applying for extra money for the Land Bank, has been forced on them by the continuous pressure of the unofficial community.

### Eleventh Hour Appeal

"Even at the eleventh hour it is not too late, and I make this most earnest appeal to His Excellency Sir Joseph Byrne, on his return to the Colony, to grapple with the situation immediately. I urge him not to let the difficulties seem too great, but to come forward with a determination to save the situation by whatever means can be devised.

"If he will only do this—and it is an opportunity of a lifetime for him—he will find everyone only too ready to apply their brains and experience to help him find solutions.

"If, on the other hand, we are faced with the same situation as last year, then, I fear, there will be serious trouble in the country. If that does happen—and I sincerely hope it will not—it will probably put the country back years, but the blame will be entirely on the Government's head.

"It is the Government's duty to govern a country, and in governing to see that the interests and welfare of all sections of the communities under its charge are looked after and protected. A contented and prosperous country will go from strength to strength, whilst a discontented and bankrupt community can only live in endless trouble."

Referring to the statements on Kenya made in the House of Commons recently by Mr. Hann

that even now it would be possible for the European Elected Members to do something.

### Major Cavendish-Bentinck

Major Cavendish-Bentinck also devoted the major portion of his address to an analysis of Kenya's economic plight and possible remedies. He emphasised the need for keeping the farmers on the land, and for a bona fide inquiry, by authorities on the subject, into the devaluation issue. For the most part his address followed the lines of his recent utterances at meetings in other country centres.

We were living to-day, politically and economically, in very troublous times, he said, and the charge was sometimes made that the European Elected Members, as responsible people, were doing the country a lot of harm by constantly reiterating its difficulties and by constantly painting a black picture of things. The Elected Members were told, moreover, that they were keeping money out of the country and discouraging new settlement here.

He denied absolutely, that this was casting aspersions (amid applause) that they were doing anything not from the point of view of those whom the Elected Members represent, or of those who have made their homes in this country. They had tried year after year to get something done and a Government conceded very minor palliatives. Everybody was becoming increasingly irritated, and, in his opinion, there was ample reason for that irritation.

We claimed that we must one day get a definite answer from Government as to whether or not it intended to provide a white settlement. However, a definite answer was not enough, we had to insist on definite immediate action as well. This action could be along various lines. To a certain extent he agreed with Major Grogan that the economic difficulties could be remedied by raising internal prices, and by reducing the Colony's overhead expenditures. He suggested that although it was wrong to say to one or other of these courses would be a sufficient remedy in itself, it was not a bad thing to have these two courses in mind when seeking solutions to the country's difficulties.

Regarding the suggestions of control of selling and marketing organisations, and for various legal measures designed to keep up local prices, he expressed the opinion that we were too prone to accept this as a palliative of our ills. Our internal market was very limited, he pointed out, and we would have to seek a more fundamental solution of our problems than merely trying, by hit or miss, to keep up our internal prices.

In connection with Kenya's burden, he declared that the country should insist on being driven home in England that they were suffering to-day a gross injustice that England herself did not tolerate. Dealing with the service salaries he said it must

definite settlement scheme, and complained that, in contrast to other colonies visited by Major Cawthorne, Kenya had been unable to put forward any definite settlement proposals in connection with Major Cawthorne's settlement investigations into the possibilities of various territories from the point of view of retiring Indian Army officers. The country needed more white settlers, he declared amid applause.

### 'Cataclysmic Failure'

Condemning the Crown Colony government, he stated that even in good times this system of government would prove to be a failure when applied to a colony that had reached the stage now attained by Kenya, while in hard times it was nothing less than a cataclysmic failure. We were entitled to a further say in our own affairs, he insisted. We had rights as loyal British subjects and those rights were not going to be ignored any longer.

Alluding to the "walking-out" incident, he said his idea in leaving the Council Chamber when he did was that sometimes a little initiative on the part of a member of a team or side was not a bad thing. Sometimes a team or side had won as a result of such initiative. He believed that Government would find that they had not only eleven united members to face, but also that these members were backed up by a united country which was determined that this time we were going to get something done. If nothing was done then there would be a "cataclysmic failure" incident, *qua* incident, was foretold the better. What they all had to do now was to back the European Elected Members, who, he hoped, would not let them down, and who would really see that the future of the country and of the children was secured.

### QUESTIONS

During question time there appeared to be a difference of opinion among those present as to whether the proposed new Land Bank funds should be used to encourage new settlers or whether they should be solely devoted to assisting old settlers, so as to keep them on the land.

Major Cavendish-Bentinck felt that the mere provision of Land Bank funds would not keep the farmer on the land. He thought it would be a good thing if a portion of the new funds referred to was devoted to encouraging new settlers.

In reply to another question Lord Francis stated that if the emergency taxes were removed then the Elected Members would be prepared to go into the whole question of the incidence of taxation in connection with Government, and would even be prepared to consider the question of income tax.

### Elected Members' Policy

Commander Ward wished to know whether there was an agreed

policy among the European Elected Members that everything done by them was done after consultation among themselves. He felt that what the meeting wanted to hear was that the European Elected Members were not going to work disjointedly but as one body.

Lord Francis replied that when he and Major Cavendish-Bentinck had had a slight disagreement recently they had met together and had decided to sink whatever little differences they had, and he had every hope that they would work together harmoniously in the future.

Major Cavendish-Bentinck stated that if the Elected Members squabbled among themselves then the best thing the electors could do was to kick them out. They could count on him trying his best to see that the country was united in the battle that faced

### Vote of Confidence

When a vote of confidence in "Lord Francis Scott and the whole of the Elected Members" was proposed, Mr. J. Kinsey rose to move the following amendment:

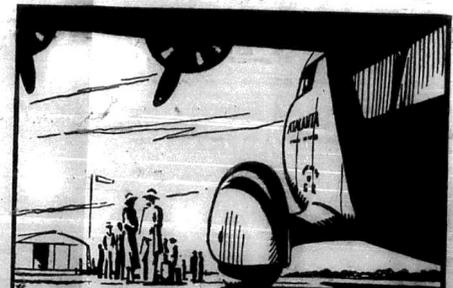
That this meeting formally records its sincere appreciation of Lord Francis Scott's valuable public services; and, convinced that we can no longer tolerate a system under which Elected Members cannot achieve results adequate to the gravity of the situation, it further wholeheartedly endorses Major Cavendish-Bentinck's protest against the futility of the existing system of Government.

At the request of Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. Kinsey subsequently withdrew this amendment, explaining that he had been under the impression that the original motion only expressed confidence in Lord Francis, thereby implying a vote of no-confidence in Major Cavendish-Bentinck.

Another member of the audience felt that the consciences of many of those present would be offended if they were called upon to vote for the motion while it applied to all the Elected Members; while yet another speaker felt that it should be made clear that the motion referred only to European Elected Members. A further suggestion was that Major Cavendish-Bentinck should be expressly mentioned with Lord Francis in the motion.

The motion as finally adopted accordingly expressed the confidence of the meeting in "Lord Francis Scott, Major Cavendish-Bentinck and the European Elected Members."

Commander Couldrey was accorded a vote of thanks, at the instance of Lord Francis, for taking the chair.



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## E.A. STOCKS AND SHARES

Following is the result of the "roll-over" held at the New Stanley Hotel Saturday at 11 a.m. The pieces quoted at the roll-over will be published daily.

	Buyers	Sellers	Business
E.A. Bonds, 5/	7/3 x.1	7/6 x.1	
Edwards Ridge		00/0	
Edwards Mining Syn. 5/	6/5 x.1	6/9 x.1	

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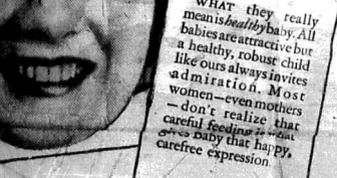
**DOOTH'S DRY GIN**

... remarks, a pretty baby"

"WHAT they really mean is healthy baby. All babies are attractive but a healthy, robust child like ours always invites admiration. Most women—even mothers—don't realize that careful feeding is what gives baby that happy, carefree expression."

... youngster was ... old—that the ... depends on the ... the doctor told me to ... the blood ... a real start in life.

... has done that— ... from the start ... to walk now and ... strength in those little ... Quaker Oats ... never seems to ... Yes, he is a ...



WHEN your youngster was three months old—that critical period when everything depends on the food you feed him—the doctor told me to feed him Quaker Oats gruel. He said it would build his bones and muscle—enrich the blood and give Baby a real start in life.

IT CERTAINLY has done that—and Baby loved it from the start. He's beginning to walk now and, my, such strength in those little legs. I feed him Quaker Oats porridge now—he never seems to get enough of it. Yes, he is a pretty baby but first a healthy baby, thanks to Quaker Oats.

Quaker Oats is the ideal food for every stage of life from babyhood to old age. Everyone likes its delicious flavor. And every child will benefit by its health-building properties. Economical to buy—serves 2-3 meals.

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it is an opportunity of a lifetime for him—he will find everyone only too ready to apply their brains and experience to help him find solutions.

If, on the other hand, we are faced with the same situation as last year, then, I fear, there will be serious trouble in the country. If that does happen—and I sincerely hope it will not—it will probably put the country back years, but the blame will be entirely on the Government's head.

It is the Government's duty to govern a country, and in governing to see that the interests and welfare of all sections of the communities under its charge are looked after and protected. A contented and prosperous country will go from strength to strength, whilst a discontented and bankrupt community can only give endless trouble.

Referring to the statements on Kenya made in the House of Commons recently by Mr. Lunn and Sir Robert Hamilton, he said: "It is this fact of our being the shuttlecock of party politics and votes that makes one so despair. Is there no hope that colonial affairs can be put outside that sort of business and dealt with on real Imperial lines? I feel that must come before long, and then, perhaps, we may have a chance of having our affairs properly looked after."

In conclusion he stated that Government's stone-wall attitude in Legislative Council brought one to the conclusion that the European Elected Members were wasting their time and that it was no good carrying on the uneven struggle. If Government persisted in this attitude then he would seriously have to consider whether he would continue to waste his time. He hoped, however, that Sir Joseph Byrne had come back with a changed attitude (laughter), and

penitence. It was suggested also although it was wrong to present as one or other of these courses would be a sufficient remedy in itself it was not a bad thing to try these two courses in mind while seeking solutions to the country's difficulties.

Regarding the suggestions of control of selling and marketing organisations, and for various legislative measures designed to keep up local prices, he expressed the opinion that we were too prone to accept this as a palliative of our ills. Our internal market was very limited, he pointed out, and we would have to seek a more fundamental solution of problems than merely trying, by bit, to keep up our internal prices.

In connection with Kenya's burden, he declared that the country should insist on it being driven home in England that we were suffering to-day a gross injustice that England herself did not tolerate. Dealing with the service salaries he said it must be perfectly obvious that the country could not afford to pay the high salaries which it was at present called upon to furnish (Hear, hear and applause).

**Interwoven Questions**

The question of the economic survival of the White Highlands was closely interwoven, he said, and vitally affected the future of the Colony. He strongly criticised the long delay in implementing the recommendations of the Inter-Land Commission.

Dealing with the subject of closer union, he suggested that Kenya should get the sympathetic touch with the territories to the south of her—Tanganyika, the two Rhodesias and even South Africa, as these countries understood the problems and knew to a certain extent what we were up against. They could assist us greatly in the battle we were fighting.

He stressed the need to solve

whether the proposed new Land Bank funds should be used to encourage new settlers or whether they should be solely devoted to assisting 'old' settlers, so as to keep them on the land.

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another speaker felt that it should be made clear that the motion referred only to European Elected Members. A further suggestion was that Major Cavendish Bentinck should be expressly mentioned with Lord Francis in the motion.

The motion was finally adopted accordingly expressed the confidence of the meeting in "Lord Francis Scott, Major Cavendish Bentinck and the European Elected Members."

Commander Coudrey was accorded a vote of thanks, at the instance of Lord Francis, for taking the chair.

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**E.A. STOCKS AND SHARES**

Following is the result of the call-over held at the New Stanley Hotel, Saturday, 11 a.m. The prices quoted at the call-over will be published daily.

	Buyers	Sellers	Business
E.A. Goldfields, 5/	7 1/2 x 1	7 1/2 x 1	
Edzawa Bldge		30/50	
Eldoret Mining Syn. 57	6/3 x 1	6/3 x 1	
K. Cons. Gold (London)	8/9 x 1	8/15	8/6 x 1, 8/7 1/2 x 1
Kenya Cons. Gold (local)		8/65	
K. Gold Mining Syn. 51	7/9 x 1	7/5 x 1	8/40
Kenya Reef, 5/		9/15	
Kenton, 10/	12/3 x 1	12/0 x 1	
Kenya Uganda Minerals		0/	
Kimimani, 10/	14/ x 1	14/6 x 1	13/7 1/2 x 1
Koa Mulimbi, 20/		0/	
Legs, 2/50	1/9 x 1	1/9 x 1	
Leoneora	9d. x 1	1/5 x 1	
Leont	9d. x 1	1/6 x 1	
Nyanza Gold Ord., 5/		5/50	4/65
Pakimani, 5/	6/50	6/6 x 1	6/4 x 1, 6/6 x 1
Rosterman, 5/	6/50	6/6 x 1	6/4 x 1, 6/6 x 1
Tangani, 1/	1/40 x 1	2/4 x 1	2/50
T. Concessions Ord. 20/	9/8 x 1	10/3 x 1	
T. Cons. "B" Prof., 20/	9/8 x 1	10/3 x 1	
Tanganyika Div.,	4/3 x 1	4/9 x 1	
Wanani, 5/	11/6 x 1	12/ x 1	11/6 x 1 (3)
E.A.P. & L. Ord., 20/	32/6 x 1	33/6 x 1	34/4 1/2 x 1
E.A.P. & L. Prof., 20/	31/6 x 1	32/6 x 1	
E.A. Breweries, 10/	25/		

Note.—x.1. (ex London), x.d. (ex dividend), c.d. (cum dividend), c.r. (cum rights), r.r. (ex rights).

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# The Brink of a Volcano

hundred people in District and gathered at el on Tuesday the meeting l Francis Scott order that the opportunity of constituents on and economy.

R. W. Caven- (North Nairobi) oke at the re- rance, while ce were, the t (Aberdare) G. M. Riddell, P. J. they would all be able to agree to put up the country's case to Government on firm, constructive and definite lines, avoiding all hot air and exaggerations.

We had to concentrate to-day on how to achieve some measure of economic recovery and the future of white settlement. We had to say how they were going to preserve the farms on the land, and had to go on pressing our demands on Government to safeguard the White Highlands by an Order in Council. We would have to insist that this matter be dealt with without further delay. Every day it was becoming more necessary and recently a case had arisen at Limuru, where Indians had tried to evade the law by means of forming a company, to which, he was sorry to say, some white men had lent their names.

Having secured the Highlands, he said, we would have to do all in our power to people them and develop them, and in this connection he appealed to those present to support the Kenya Association of which Major Cavendish-Bentink was chairman. If we were to do this successfully, however, we would have to see that steps were taken to make farming in Kenya a reasonable profession. He was not asking for special feeding for inefficient farmers, but merely that the farmers should not be allowed to perish.

## Not a Racial Question

Some people tried to make the question a racial one. It was not. We wanted to help all producers—black as well as white. It was only by ensuring producers adequately remunerative prices that wealth could be distributed all through the Colony to all classes. The question of how this was to be brought about was a difficult one. It had been suggested that the only alternative remedies were liquidation or deflation. He thought it a pity that possible remedial measures should be docketed into watertight compartments like that, and gave the view that even if deflation was the best remedy, other methods of assistance would still have to be sought.

Unfortunately Kenya was not self-governing and was one of a group of colonies controlled by

now, but he said for consideration by the Director of Agriculture had taken ill and the report had been delayed in consequence. There would certainly be opposition from certain quarters as any scheme for control of the dairy industry on the ground that it would raise prices to the consumers, but he would see that the country as a whole would be benefited by the advantage of the industry and the selfish interests of individuals should not be allowed to wreck the control scheme. All economists agreed that prices had to be raised for the producers, and if this was so some one would have to pay, and that some one would be the consumer who had had the best of things so long in being able to buy products at less than the cost of production.

Control of the maize industry would benefit all producers, whether European or Native. At present the legal price to both was forced down by the lawlessness of world prices and the unsound methods of marketing of Native maize. Even with development of 33 1/3 per cent maize would not be brought in a profitable way, so he was convinced that control of the industry was essential in any case.

There would, of course, be opposition from sections of the industries which used a lot of labour, such as the sisal and coffee industries, but he appealed to sisal growers and coffee planters to take a broad view and to realise that the death of maize growing by European farmers meant the extinction of real white settlement, for if no maize was grown prices would go up. A Committee had been appointed to investigate this problem and he hoped that they would produce a workable scheme before it was too late.

Referring to the fact that England, South Africa and Australia had subsidised certain of their industries because they believed it to be essential to their prosperity, he asked why subsidies were not considered essential in a purely agricultural country such as Kenya? As we had no means with which to subsidise directly, we had to adopt other means. Some critics spoke as if it was Kenya's fault, or because of inefficiency on the part of Kenya farmers, that farming was not profitable here. The only reply to them was to refer them to what was happening in every other agricultural country.

We had been promised reductions in railway rates. It was the Government's duty to instruct their representatives on the Railway Advisory Council to press for the reductions being made in such a way as to give most relief to the hard-pressed producer. It could be done, but there would be opposition from other interests.

**Taxation**

Dealing with taxation, he said that apart from relief in direct taxation which he was afraid would benefit farmers less than anyone, there should be relief in other taxes, such as petrol and postage. Perhaps the biggest handicap of all to the producer, however, was his heavy burden of debt. Prices were so low that it was impossible to pay back loans

Turning to the question of taxation, the Chairman, delegate to the Conference, reported progress, with special reference to the Board's marketing and short term finance proposals. He gave as his personal impression that the Board was composed of a level-headed lot of members working on the right lines (b) that the number of duties might well be reduced, and that the substitution of the Chairman of the Coffee Board as permanent delegate, might be considered; (d) that the Conference should extend over two days if necessary in order to allow time for fuller discussion of subjects, some of which were rather rushed at the end of a heavy day.

Very few questions were forthcoming, the meeting generally capturing the conclusions of the Conference as outlined by Mr. Heres.

**Agricultural Bulletins**

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from the Director of Agriculture intimating that departmental bulletins would no longer be issued free. These would, however, be incorporated in the East African Agriculture Journal which could be obtained for a small fee.

**Farm Rents**

On the motion of Mr. P. C. Geddes, J.P., seconded by Capt. G. L. Smith, O.B.E., it was unanimously resolved that Government be asked to remit farm rents of this area for 1935 and 1936, and payments that may have been made for 1935 to be credited to 1937. It was pointed out that although no fault of their own, land farmers had not made their farms pay for the last few years, while profitable farming of maize and coffee was still possible. The question at present stage a conference in London with representatives from the various Crown Colonies, and to put up a strong united protest to the Colonial Office which, he believed, might have some real effect in stringing them out of their contented apathy.

(Continued on page 6).

## THE FARTHING-PENNY

### New Theory of Bicycle Design

Parting-penny bicycles are being made by a British firm. A speed of 30 m.p.h. is claimed for them. The new cycle upsets all modern theories of design. The wheel is small and the rear front wheel is large. The pedals are above the front wheel. The rider has his legs parallel with the ground and the handle bars are almost level with his face.

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(Continued on page 6).

## Refund to Taxpayer Charged Twice

It is pleasing to be able to record that the Revenue authorities at Kisumu have met the demand for postage refund of a gentleman from whom duplicate taxation was demanded and one of the Postmaster-General's very largest 20-cent stamps is likely to occupy an honoured place in the trophy room of the party concerned. All the same it is hoped that franked envelopes will be sent in future, anyhow until times improve.

## K.U.R. APPOINTMENT

### Arrival of the New Chief Accountant

Mr. Reginald P. Walker, A.M.I.T., the new chief accountant, Kenya and Uganda Railways, arrived by train in Nairobi yesterday to take up the post vacated by Mr. A. E. R. Mayne who retired in April. Mr. Walker (who was accompanied by his wife and small son) has served in a similar capacity on the Federated Malay States railways.

Born in 1891, he was travelling auditor, F.M.S. railways from 1914 to 1918, assistant accountant from 1918 to 1925 and was appointed deputy accountant in January 1926. He has on several occasions acted as chief accountant.

## NJORO POLO TOURNAMENT

Great preparations are afoot for the Njoro Polo Tournament and the 8th September, after the Nakuru races, which take place on the 7th. No less than six polo teams have already entered for the American Polo Tournament.

## WATER ORDINANCE

The necessity for applying the Water Ordinance in this district was challenged, and in the motion of Capt. Smith, seconded by Mr. F. C. Geddes, it was decided to ask the Hon. Member for Nyanza to do what he could for the district in this connection.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

["STANDARD" CORRESPONDENT.]  
Koru, Sept. 1.  
All eligible young men leave for camp at Nakuru to-morrow and it is most gratifying to observe the keenness displayed in accepting their responsibilities in connection with the Kenya Defence Force.

## INGENIOUS FRAUD

### Native Who Got "Batch Rate" Tickets.

What was described as an ingenious fraud on the Railway was revealed in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Nairobi on Tuesday, when Kayele, a very large labour recruiter employed by a local farmer, was charged on three counts involving over Shs. 800.-. The accused admitted having obtained "batch rate" tickets for some 97 natives from Kiboko to Nairobi by falsely pretending that they had been recruited by him for work on his employer's shamba. The ordinary third class rail fare was Shs. 13 cents 25, and the batch rates which Kayele fraudulently obtained amounted to Shs. 4 cents 84 each. It was stated that the accused had charged each of the natives Shs. 7/- thus making a profit to himself of some Shs. 200.-.

The prosecution brought of the investigation of the railway police was conducted by Mr. T. S. Ebbelwhite, and the Resident Magistrate, Mr. A. C. Gamble, imposed a fine of Shs. 100 on each count, with an alternative of one month's imprisonment to each fine.

## THE WEATHER

The following note on the weather was received yesterday from the Director of the East African Meteorological Service:

Showers were again general in Uganda and the Lake Area, with scattered showers over the Highlands. Kisumu recorded 0.68", Eldoret 0.11" and Nakuru 0.05".

A depression is approaching the Mozambique Channel from South Africa. Weather will be fair or fine with afternoon showers in Uganda, the Lake area and over the Highlands.

## Passing of Well-known Indian Trader

The death occurred yesterday morning of Mr. Alibhai Sheriff at his home in Forest Road. He came to the Colony about 35 years ago, and settled in Nairobi as manager of the firm of Messrs. Walji Haji and Sons. Later he established his own hardware business and was senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Alibhai Sheriff and Sons. Mr. Alibhai Sheriff was 54 years of age. He leaves a widow and family.

## Obituary

["STANDARD" CORRESPONDENT.]  
Koru, Sept. 1.  
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(By "Air Mail")  
In a London omnibus on Route 383, plying between Richmond and the Strand, there is a genial conductor, white-haired but whose life story, if he told it, would astonish his "fares," says the Daily Mail.

For instead of his present uniform, he might now—had he followed the path he started to tread—be wearing the gilded robe of an abbot.

He is Mr. Bertram George Aubrey Cammell, and he was once at the Monmouthshire Manors of Llanthony.

Mr. Cammell still a devout by man and a member of the London Diocesan Conference, has written a book about himself, "From Monk to Businessman," (and the Bishop of London, Dr. Wmington-Ingram, has written a foreword. It is to be published shortly by Skeffington & Son, Ltd. (4s.).

"I spent four years at Llanthony, three as a professed novice, which is the closest step to being a monk bound for life," Mr. Cammell said.

"It was a rigorous trying life. I had to get up at 2 a.m. to attend chapel, and the rules were very strict. Penances were very severe.

"However, after four years I left the monastery, and after being a clerk in the City, I took out an omnibus conductor's licence in 1912.

Mr. Cammell lives with his wife, she is his second wife—in a flat at Tavistockham, and on the door he has inscribed the name "Llanthony."



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