

EAST AFRICA AND RHODESIA

Thursday, 1 March 1951

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Cabinet Flight from Independent Inquiry

Agitators at Work in Kenya Unreliable African Opportunists

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES of the Somali Youth League are described in the latest African Affairs Department report from Kenya.

The provincial commissioner of the Northern Province wrote that when officers of the league were describing its aims as charitable and social, it has in fact become violent political. "The usual professions of loyalty continue to be made by the leaders, but there can be no doubt that the league's activities presented a real threat to the good administration of the Somali areas and the maintenance therein of the authority of the Government. The situation was particularly bad in the Garissa district, where normal administrative work had been brought virtually to a standstill.

Attempt to Subvert Authority

"Beyond doubt an organized attempt had been made to subvert the authority of the Government as exercised over the tribesmen through the recognized chiefs and headmen.

(1) The setting up of unlawful courts. In these courts had been levied for offences, such as referring a dispute to the Government headman or acting as a guide to the tribal police.

(2) Unlawful killings. This was organized by members of the league who had no services in the police or K.A.R.

(3) The spreading of a legend that members of the league were immune from arrest and that the Government had no power over the league.

(4) Encouraging members to defy the Government headmen and tribal elders.

"The means used by the organizers to achieve their ends included:

(a) Promises of a Somali Youth League Utopia where no taxes need be paid and where there would be neither tribal boundaries nor grazing control measures.

(b) False reports that the British Government was shortly to leave the whole of the Northern Frontier District and would be replaced by a Somali Youth League government. The new government would be strong both of itself and as a result of an alliance which had been made between it, Ethiopia, and Russia. (In this connexion it was of interest to note that the salute of the Giffo was the clenched fist—but of the right hand).

(c) Intimidation of those reluctant to join."

Opportunists Lining Their Own Pockets

The provincial commissioner pointed out that the leaders were not men of standing in the tribe, but opportunists who under the cloak of running a social and cultural organization were lining their own pockets and acquiring positions of power. "A total of £4,000 estimated to have been collected in the Garissa district by the local branches, only £1,000 was recovered; the remainder had found its way into the pockets of the league's officials."

The Kikuyu Central Association, though proscribed by Government, continues to exercise some influence which extended even to the slave of Kikuyu settlers in the Kisii district, where on one occasion a number of Africans were indiscreet enough to tell the district commissioner that they could not accept a policy which he had explained until he had consulted the leaders of the association.

Of the African Workers' Federation, which confined its activities almost entirely to Mombasa, the provincial commissioner at the coast recorded that "the real intentions of the leaders are to line their own pockets."

Of the Mau Kenya Union, the report says: "Two of the collectors were sentenced to three and in the same district alone it became apparent that more than £300 out of £1,000 collected from subscriptions had disappeared and was not available for expenditure on the declared objects of the union."

The district commissioner of the Central Province commented on increased drunkenness among the younger generation, one writing from the coast that

there is a formidable inertia on the part of the decent-minded majority, with the result that public opinion carries singularly little weight, since there is little outspoken comment and even less action."

Rift in Kenyan Society

The D.C., Nyeri, commented the rift between the young (and mainly uneducated) men and their elders the most unhappy aspect of modern Kikuyu society today. "As always, the older men have a vested interest in conservatism, and the younger men continually strive to get what they think they want without having to wait and work for it."

East African Posts and Telegraphs

ALTHOUGH SOME CONCERN is expressed in regard to the cash position of the East African Posts and Telegraphs in the report for 1949, the first year of its working as a self-contained department, the absence of obsolescence and renewal funds is not remarked upon the head of finance. The report reads (in part):

"Beyond the conversion to a self-contained service over two years of strenuous preparation and planning on the one hand, and the knowledge, on the other, that the department had now entered upon the most difficult period of its existence. Only a small nucleus of experienced staff was in position at headquarters to operate a new and untried cost accounting system."

"Another real anxiety at the onset was the uncertainty of the cash position. With a budget of more than £2m. of gross expenditure, against an expected cash revenue of £1.7m., the department was relying upon reimbursements and loans to fill the gap, and to do so in good time to provide the ready money required."

"The whole of the cash in hand and at the bank at the beginning of the year was less than the department's liabilities in other connexions, owing to the fact that money had yet to be recovered from the territorial Governments in respect of payments made before 1949 on their behalf."

The Cigarette of Good Taste

GOLD FLAKE

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

The Sudan Legislative Assembly will reassemble early in April.

There is now a daily air service on week-days between Nairobi and Entebbe.

An African woman and 10 cattle were killed by lions last week at Tabora.

The Empire Press Union has changed its name to the Commonwealth Press Union.

The next session of the Uganda Legislative Council will open in Kampala on March 6.

The annual general meeting of the Royal African Society will take place at 2.45 p.m. on April 12.

A travel film in colour of East Africa has been produced by East African Sound Studios for Caltex, Ltd. It is called the Land of Zim.

An Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research has been opened at M'pum, West Africa. About 47m. square miles of Africa are infested by the tsetse-fly.

Locusts Delay Aircraft

Aircraft were delayed in taking off from Nairobi airport a few days ago, when the first swarm of locusts reached the area. The swarm has since moved south towards the Masai Reserve.

"We hereby denounce all Arab elders as not representative of Arab opinion, and ask that the Government cease to regard them as such." This resolution was passed by the Central Arab Association in Mombasa, when some 3,600 Arabs confirmed their allegiance to the Association and declared: "It is our wish that this body be looked on by the Government as representing the community in place of the elders at present nominated by the Government."

present Legislative Assembly of Southern Rhodesia. Redoubtable four-inch tanks of a new gun-fronted pattern are to be made and installed.

Seven votes saved the Government last night on Tuesday night on an Opposition motion for an independent inquiry into the revised groundnut scheme in Tanganyika.

A proposal to establish an Italian consulate in Salisbury covering the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, has been raised informally with the Southern Rhodesian Government. There was an Italian consul in the city before the war.

Salisbury City Council has asked the Southern Rhodesian Government for permission to raise money for a £750,000 scheme of 200 terraced houses for Europeans. Another block of 192 flats, now building, will cost £250,000.

As the South African Government refuses to give an assurance that non-European delegates will not be hindered, the fourth international conference on African tourist traffic arranged for September in Johannesburg has been cancelled. Representatives of 40 African territories as well as Great Britain, France, Portugal and Belgium had been invited.

Frederick Mfune, general secretary of the African Drivers' Trade Union in Northern Rhodesia, was recently sentenced at Lusaka to two years' hard labour on each of two charges of embezzlement and attempted false pretences, the sentences to run concurrently. The accused earned £6 a month as a timekeeper in the Public Works Department.

Several hundred African employees of the Public Works Department in Kampala recently came out on strike, protesting that a 15% increase in the pay of unskilled labourers employed by the Uganda Government was not enough. Most of the men drifted back to work after they had been warned that if they broke their contracts they would forfeit any pay so far earned during the month.

Illegal Strike

Light sentences only have been passed on the 2 members of the executive committee of the Sudan Railway Workers' Union who pleaded guilty to charges in connexion with the three-day illegal strike of December last. The president of the court considered that the accused had acted without full knowledge of the law, and hoped that the trial would be followed by better relations between the workers and their employers.

Supplementary estimates in respect of expenditure in Southern Rhodesia for the year ending March 31 amounted to £570,745. The chief items are: £200,000 for equipment and vehicles for the Central Mechanical Equipment Department; £123,000 additional capital for the Rhodesian Iron and Steel Commission; £53,000 for higher pay and allowances for the police; £50,000 for trunk telegraph and telephone installation; £42,000 for the purchase of Nantwich from Lord Sysonby, as an addition to the Wankie Game Reserve; £32,000 for the purchase of the Fison Factory at Msasasa, a distributing centre for imported cement; £30,000 increased milk subsidy; and £27,000 for the Far East Volunteer Unit.

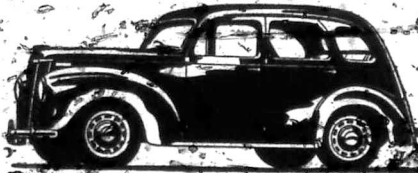
New Colonial Office

THE MAIN FAGE of the new Colonial Office is to be set back 72 ft. from the frontage of the old Westminster Hospital, and the pavilions on each side of the building facing the Admiralty are to be set back from that line. The drastic revision of the plan is the result of a long dispute between the Government in Parliament and the Press. The building will house a staff of 154; the extension was to accommodate 1,300. This change of plan means that about half of the old hospital site will be surrendered.

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Coffee and Sugar Contracts Criticized

Auditor-General's Comments

CRITICISM of the Ministry of Food and the Treasury in respect of their agreement to double the prices paid to Colonial coffee growers is implicit in the 1949-50 report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, Sir Frank Tribe, on Government "Trading Accounts and Balance Sheets" (H.M. Stationery Office, 4s.).

The section on coffee reads:

"In 1947 the Ministry of Food entered into agreements with Colonial and other producers for supplies of coffee for the crop years up to and including 1951-52. The objects of these long-term agreements were defined as being to ensure future supplies of coffee for the United Kingdom and to give the growers some measure of insurance against market fluctuations."

Owing to a very steep rise in world prices for coffee, the producers in the autumn of 1949, after the Ministry had asked permission to resell coffee to dollar markets, sought revision of the prices contained in the agreements, some of which included a prohibition on export save in the form of processed coffee. No evidence of any substantial increase in the production appears to have been produced, but the Ministry did not feel able inequity to stand upon the terms of the agreements in view of the seriously altered market conditions, and with Treasury approval prices for the 1949-50, 1950-51, and 1951-52 crops have been increased on average by about 100%.

As part of these arrangements the producers agreed to remove the prohibition on export, where it existed, but in fixing the revised prices no distinction was apparently made between producers who had included the embargo on exports in their respective agreements and those who had not done so. The additional cost of supplies is estimated at some £2,500,000 per annum, but as coffee is not sold at subsidized prices, the cost falls on consumers, and no net extra charge to the Exchequer is expected.

When the prices in the 1947 agreements for the crop years 1949-50 to 1951-52 were revised, the Ministry also agreed to share equally with the producers the profits on clean exports of coffee of the 1948-49 crop. The trading and profit and loss account includes some £223,000 as the Ministry share of profits arising under this arrangement. The Ministry will retain the whole of any profits of subsequent crops."

Drawbacks of Bulk Buying

That bulk buying has serious inherent drawbacks is suggested in the following references to purchases of raw sugar from the Empire:—

"The Ministry of Food have undertaken to purchase the whole of the exportable surplus of the Commonwealth sugar-producing countries at reasonably remunerative prices up to and including 1952. A uniform price applicable to all producing countries has been agreed annually, irrespective of any differences in conditions and costs of production."

"The price of £27 5s. per ton payable for 1948 and 1949 included £2 15s. per ton which was to be set aside by Colonial producers for price stabilization, labour welfare, and rehabilitation of the industry; no such obligation, however, applied to producers in Australia and South Africa."

"For 1950 the uniform price was raised by £3 5s. per ton to £30 10s. on account of claims by producers in respect of increased costs. Papers made available to me indicate that in one instance the country concerned did not claim any increase on the 1949 price on account of increased costs, and that in another only 35s. per ton was claimed on this ground. Both countries, however, insisted that there should be no discrimination between Commonwealth producers, and accordingly received the full increase of £3 5s."

"The price to be paid for all Commonwealth raw sugar in 1951 has recently been fixed at £32 17s. 6d. per ton, an increase of £2 7s. 6d. over the 1950 price."

A curious feature of the accounts of the Ministry of Food is revealed by the statistical tables that trading in coffee and cocoa is combined in one account, so that the facts in regard to coffee cannot be extracted.

The Ministry of Supply sold in the year ended March 31, 1950, copper to the value of £1,387,988, tin £36,464,209, zinc £10,232,222, and lead £1,183,715.

The accounts in the Board of Trade show that sales of metals (including steel) for the same period slightly exceeded £1m.

Industrial Fibre Production

1938 Production Exceeded

WORLD PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL FIBRES continued to expand in 1949, and at 25,348,000 lb. for the first time since the war exceeded the figure for 1938, states a summary of information about commercial fibres compiled by the intelligence branch of the Commonwealth Economic Committee and published by H.M. Stationery Office at 5s.

The world area under cotton, which reached its peak of 92m. acres in 1937-38, was 68m. acres in 1949-50 when total production amounted to 14,500m. lb. In that season Uganda had an acreage of 1,629,000 and a production of 12m. lb.; Tanganyika, 184,000 acres and 18m. lb.; Nyasaland (acreage not available), and 5m. lb.; the Sudan, 430,000 acres and 112m. lb.

Sudan and Uganda Cotton Yields

Comparative yields per acre for 1948-49 show that the Sudan with 30s. lb., though behind Egypt with 380 lb., was a long way ahead of Uganda with only 101 lb. At the end of the season 1949-50 world stocks were estimated at 7,900m. lb., against 11,800m. lb. in 1938.

World production of wool in 1949-50 was estimated at 3,938m. lb., an increase of 376m. lb. over the previous year. Kenya is shown as having a sheep population of 1m. in 1948-49 and to have exported 1m. lb. of wool in the latter year.

Areas under sisal are shown as not available for Tanganyika and Nyasaland, but Kenya appears as having 228,000 acres in 1949 when Tanganyika produced 723,000 tons of fibre and Kenya 37,000 tons. Exports of sisal fibre and tow during the year were: Tanganyika, 133,000 tons; Kenya, 33,000 tons; and Uganda, 1,000 tons.

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Of Commercial Concern

The Brush Electrical Engineering group have opened an office in the capital of Southern Rhodesia, with Mr. J. M. Baines as resident director, and Messrs W. T. Goose and W. H. Mullen as mechanical and electrical engineers covering the two Rhodesias, Nyasaland, and Portuguese East Africa north of Lourenço Marques. The companies represented are the Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., Associated British Oil Engines, Ltd., Mirriease Bickerton and Day, Ltd., and H. McLaren, Ltd., and Petters, Ltd. The company covering Southern Africa has changed its name from Brush (South Africa), Ltd., to Brush-Abos (South Africa), Ltd. The parent company has a capital of nearly £34m.

Mr. Stewart R. Green, chairman of the Northern Rhodesia Tobacco Co-operative Society, Ltd., told the recent annual general meeting in Livingstone that, whereas Northern Rhodesian leaf tobacco sold at auction in Salisbury which had been graded by the co-operative averaged 42d. per lb. last season, that graded by others had averaged only 36d. In the previous season the comparative prices had been 33d. and 28d. per lb.

Cost of Living Allowance

A cost-of-living allowance of 15%, with a maximum of £150 a year, is being paid to civil servants in Tanganyika from the beginning of this year. The coastal allowance of £5 per month, introduced last April in respect of Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mikindani and Mtwara, has been discontinued. The annual cost of the new allowance is estimated at £400,000. An increase in the daily wage for casual labourers is under consideration.

In response to the Southern Rhodesian Government's appeal to accelerate construction of petrol and oil storage tanks, the Vacuum Oil Company has completed the first of five tanks at the Salisbury industrial sites, and the others should be ready within three months. The first tank, the largest, has a capacity of 400,000 gallons. It was prefabricated in the United States.

Messrs. Hubert Davies and Co., Ltd., the South African and Rhodesian engineers and contractors, whose accounts for the year ended October 31 last show a trading profit of £387,215 (£346,048), are considering an increase of capital by the issue of 250,000 5% cumulative preference shares of £1 each.

A twice-weekly air mail service between Nairobi, Nyeri, and Nanyuki on Tuesdays and Fridays was introduced last week. The inland air mail rates of postage in East Africa are 30 cents of a shilling for the first half-ounce and 20 cents for each additional half-ounce, and 20 cents for an air letter form.

Output of African Labourers

Mr. C. B. Taberer, manager of the Lytten Tobacco Co., Ltd., has told the Rotary Club in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, that the American Negro does as much work as three or four Africans. He thought the average European unskilled worker was the equal of six or seven Africans.

It is proposed that an international commodity committee should be established to advise Governments on the expansion of cotton production, the conservation of supplies, and the most effective means of distribution.

B.O.A.C. recently carried a five-ton consignment of pyrethrum extract from East Africa, 4,200 kilos being loaded onto a York freighter and the balance into a Hermes leaving Nairobi the same day.

Company registrations in Southern Rhodesia last year totalled 492, with nominal capital of £147,489,137. In addition, 83 existing companies increased their capital by £5,365,090.

Rhodesia railways have ordered 20 German locomotives within a year. Costing £26,745 each, they will be delivered in Britain was unacceptable.

More than 230 appeals have been lodged against assessments under the new valuation roll in the municipality of Nakuru, Kenya.

No horns fetched 34s. 6d. per lb. at last week's sales in Dar es Salaam.

Dividends

Messrs. Firth and John Brown, Ltd., announce an ordinary dividend of 11.9477% for the financial period as defined in the Iron and Steel Act of 1949. For the year ended March 31, 1950, the total dividend was 12% (British American Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Interim, 6% (the same).

Messrs. Alex Lawrie and Co., Ltd.—Interim, 7% (23%).

Cable and Wireless Holdings, Ltd.—6% (4%).

Trans-African Car Rally

A. COLONEL M. B. B. organizer of the Mediterranean-Cape motor rally, recently arrived in Northern Rhodesia to make arrangements for the rendezvous of all cars at Victoria Falls. He and his wife, Mrs. Cladler, had travelled some 7,000 miles in a French Colonial-type vehicle, and had had only one puncture. Thirty-eight competitors and four official cars started from the North African control points, and all crossed the Sahara without mishap. Seven nations are represented—France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and South Africa—and one surprising 61-year-old woman. The cars are expected in Cape Town at the end of this week.



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Central Line Sisal Estates

CENTRAL LINE SISAL ESTATES, LTD., report a profit of £141,623 for the year ended June 30 last, compared with £25,802 in the previous year. Taxation absorbs £79,956; provision for taxation in dispute stands at £5,200; general reserve £255,830,000, and dividends totalling 25% require £26,812, leaving £2,539 to be carried forward, against £1,956 brought in.

The issued capital is £195,000 in shares of £1 each. Capital reserves stand at £59,418, revenue reserves at £72,439, reserve for future taxation at £34,240, and current liabilities at £200,747. Fixed assets are valued at £110,671 and current assets at £425,278, including tax certificates at £47,900 and £77,449 in cash.

Production for the year amounted to 3,499 tons of fibre, against 3,724 tons in the previous year, and the total planted areas were 2,644 hectares, of which 1,962 were mature. Kiwege and Msunde Estates were sold for £200,000, and Kingiwa estate, which was been leased since 1939, was bought by a wholly owned subsidiary for £161,200, including £58,900 payable on a royalty basis.

The directors are Messrs. E. W. Bovill (chairman), N. C. S. Bosanquet, L. J. D. Mackie, A. F. S. Sykes, and R. W. Bryon (alternate for E. W. Bovill). The managing agents are Messrs. Bovill, Matheson and Co., Ltd., and the secretaries Messrs. R. C. Teak and Co., Ltd.

The 15th annual general meeting will be held in London on March 14.

The text of the chairman's statement appears on another page in this issue.

News of Our Advertisers

MR. HAROLD HOSBON has joined the board of the General Electric Co., Ltd.

ELECTRIC AND MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES, LTD., are to establish a factory in South Africa.

METROPOLITAN VICKERS ELECTRICAL CO., LTD., have filed particulars of an increase in capital by £5,750,000.

BRIAN J. J. HICKMAN and M. J. A. MASON have joined the board of Automatic Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd.

LAUXHALD MOTORS, LTD., have completed the first half of their £11m. two-year development programme, by which annual vehicle production will be raised from 34,000 to 120,000.

ORD MOTOR CO., LTD., announce increases in the prices of cars and trucks ranging from 2% to 10%. On one model of tractor with exceptionally high tyres the increase is 13%.

AVELING-BARFORD, LTD., announce that gross trading for the year to September 30 last was £372,128 (£360,254). After tax the net group profit was £130,746. The 10% dividend absorbs £20,625.

MESSRS. A. C. GIBBS and J. T. RYMER have joined the board of National Gas and Oil Engine Co., Ltd.

MR. A. DEARRODUS, managing director, of M. E. N. BENJAMIN.

BRITISH THOMSON HOUSTON CO., LTD., report that among important orders executed last year were 15,000 kW electrical plant for a power station in Bulawayo, two 100 kW gas turbine alternator sets for the East African Power and Lighting Co., Ltd., and a repeat order for six 65 kW 76.5 KVA, 0.85 power factor 400-volt-30 cycle 3-phase 600 r.p.m. engine driven alternators for Kosti power station in the Sudan.

Bird & Co. (Africa) Ltd., the wholly owned subsidiary of Sisal Estates, Ltd., produced 1,230 tons of sisal and tow in January, compared with 890 tons in January last year.

Mining

Falcon Mines, Ltd.

FALCON MINES, LTD., earned a profit of £17,764 in the year ended September 30 last, compared with £1,256 in the previous year. £30,000 is allocated to general reserves. £25,000 is written off investments, and a balance of £63,500 transferred to the balance sheet against £66,773 brought in.

The issued capital is £453,900 in shares of 5s. each. Current reserves stand at £259,430, revenue reserves at £193,537, and current liabilities at £19,139. Fixed assets are valued at £591,427, stores and live stock at £41,567, quoted investments at £9,727 (market value of £0,807), unquoted shares at £13,115, and current assets at £270,371, including £253,246 in cash.

During the year the Sunnag mine produced 7,336 oz. gold from the milling of 23,950 tons of ore, an average recovery of 6.46 dwt. per ton, for a working profit of £45,379 and at the Bay Horse mine 9,020 tons of ore were crushed for 1,819 oz. gold and a working profit of £6,687. The ore reserves of these two mines were estimated at 68,000 tons averaging 5.3 dwt. over 43 inches and 22,300 tons averaging 5.4 dwt. over 42 in. respectively.

The directors are Mr. E. W. Paganis (chairman), Sir Digby Burnett (alternate), Mrs. B. W. Nurmala and Messrs. S. F. Drench (alternate), F. E. Wigley, C. F. Osmond, J. G. Patn, and E. L. Wigley. The London committee consists of Messrs. A. Hedley Williams, J. F. Loe, L. R. Peters, and R. B. Woakes.

The 41st annual general meeting will be held in Bulawayo on March 8.

Beryl Production

BERYL, a mineral used in atomic energy production, first mined in Southern Rhodesia just over a year ago, is now being extracted at the Colona pit at a rate of over 100 tons monthly. It sells at £80 a ton. Mr. D. Lawrie, owner of the Mauvekop mine, in the Baka area, is the principal producer of the mineral. It can be used for sheathing uranium or transformed into fittings for fluorescent lighting, X-ray screens, cathode-ray tubes, or sparking plugs.

Rhokana Preference Shares

RHODESIAN ANGLO-AMERICAN, LTD., have offered holders of the 5% cumulative preference shares of Rhokana Corporation, Ltd., 22s. per share, for accrued dividend. With the transfer of control to the Anglo-American group in the Southern Rhodesia, holders of the shares are expected to profits tax would be adversely affected.

Metal Allocations

ZINC ALLOCATIONS in the U.K. for March will be the same as for February. Copper supplies for March and April will also be unchanged at 85% of the average monthly consumption during the first six months of 1950. Supplies of virgin lead will be restricted to 90% of the average monthly consumption last year.

Company Progress Reports

Bushick.—35,200 tons of ore were treated in the December quarter for 3,908 oz. of gold. The net working profit was £900.

New Baza.—14,497 tons of ore were treated in the December quarter for 3,448 oz. gold and 239 oz. silver.

Kagera.—Output in January was 20 tons of tin concentrate.

Fanti Consolidated

FANTI CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LTD., are paying 6% and a bonus of 1% less tax, for 1950. After providing £30,844 for taxation, the profit was £38,034.

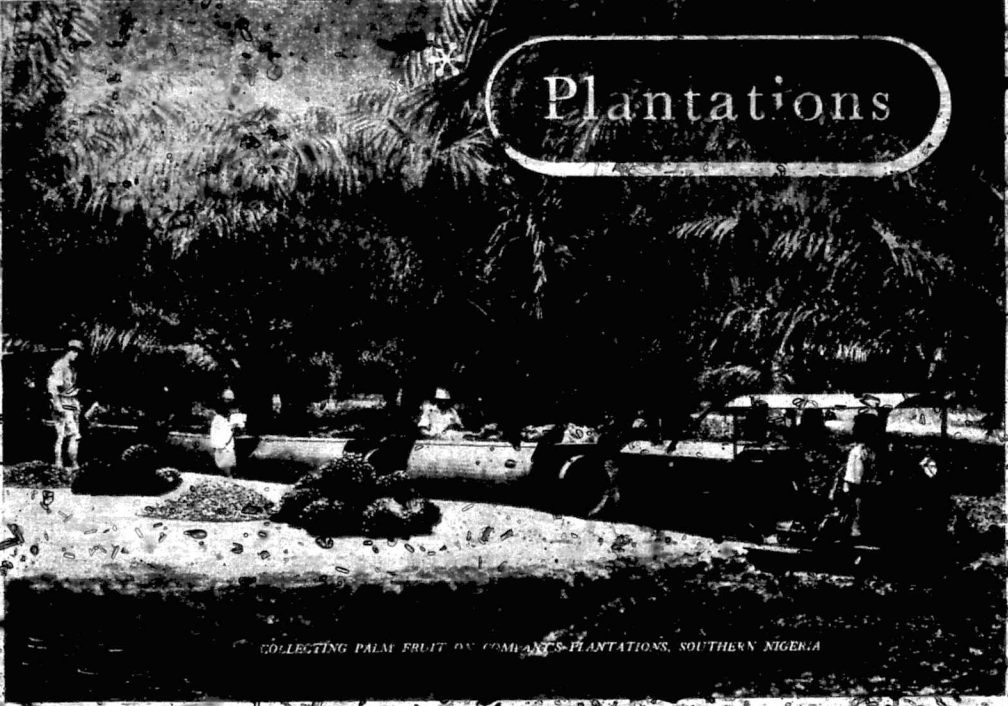
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Company Meetings

Sisal Estates, Limited

Burden of Increasing Statutory Obligations

Cushion Against Price Fall Industry's Most Important Issue

Mr. E. F. Hitchcock's Review

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SISAL ESTATES, LIMITED, will be held on Wednesday, March 7, in Tanga, Tanganyika Territory.

The following is the statement by Mr. E. F. Hitchcock, C.B.E., which has been circulated with the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1950.

This is the fourteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company, and the first to be held in Tanga, Tanganyika, East Africa, following the resolutions for transfer of the control of the company passed at the extra-ordinary general meeting held in London on January 31, 1951.

This is also the first time on which I have exercised the office of chairman following my appointment by the reconstituted board of directors in East Africa. I would refer to the distinguished and able services as chairman of this company over the last fourteen years of Colonel C. E. Ponsoby, T.D., D.I. His experience, you will be glad to know, will not be lost to the company, of which he remains a director.

The Accounts

The audited consolidated accounts for the year ended June 30, 1950, have been circulated, and show in some detail the accounting particulars concerning your company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Bird and Co. (Africa), Ltd.

The final net profit for the year was £301,318, compared with £232,095 for the year to June 1949, after providing for all replanting and maintenance of immature areas, depreciation, directors' and auditors' fees, administrative expenses, and taxation, including the sisal export tax.

Apart from the depreciation, etc., allowed for the purpose of arriving at assessable profits on which tax is based, the sisal industry in East Africa is faced with an increasing statutory obligation to provide on a considerable scale facilities for the housing, health and welfare of its staff and labour which, certainly in the United Kingdom, is no part of the financial responsibility of the employer, especially in respect of the capital expenditure involved. In principle, we support this extension of the burdens on the employers in Africa, but contend that adequate means to do so should be recognized on a more realistic basis under the taxation provisions.

Taxation Inadequately Considers Local Conditions

East African taxation is largely based on the United Kingdom model, and in so doing inadequately takes the East African conditions into account. Out of our so-called profits this abnormal provision has to be met, while from the taxation which we pay we derive few services or benefits. This state of affairs is a heavy burden on many of the functions which are usual in more settled communities for Government to finance or undertake.

A good deal has been said about the risks and costs which the British Government has discovered to be inherent in large-scale tropical agriculture under the groundnut scheme. The sisal industry has had to meet precisely similar conditions, the only difference being that they have had to do so gradually but solely over a period, rely-

ing mainly on local personnel of all races, and have thus successfully surmounted these difficulties and achieved a sound and prosperous industry.

Policy of Prudence

"We have to recognize that costs of replacement of our assets to-day greatly exceed the past provision which we have been able to make by way of depreciation based on 'practical' capital values, and moreover, that these costs continue to rise.

It is true that under the Tanganyika Taxation Ordinance we have the option of setting off against current revenue the full expenditure incurred in the year in replacing and maintaining our planted areas, and of this we have taken full advantage, instead, as was the case in the past, of placing such expenditure to a capital account to be written off at an average figure per ton against production costs in the future as the areas come into production. That of course will reflect advantageously on our future costs, although I am increasingly dubious as to the advantages of large-scale heavy mechanization in tropical agriculture in Africa.

It is necessary, however, in respect of buildings, plant, and equipment to make a replacement provision in excess of that allowed under taxation, and this is an increasing burden on what is, I think, fallacious, to meet the profit.

Collation of Dividend and Profit

Other than the profit which we make is not all available for the purposes of dividend, but a part has to be retained in the business and applied in the manner which I have described. We also have to make some reserve against the future. Such expenditure goes to build up the strength of our position and our assets, but it is present burdensome and to that extent affects the return to the shareholders.

I have been an ordinary shareholder in this undertaking since it first started in 1920, and have experienced more than most of the present shareholders the long break dividendless years. I hope that the prudent provision that we are now making will assist in our establishing a more reasonable and consistent dividend policy than was possible in the past, and I also consider that, as far as we can, we should make as adequate a return to shareholders as possible, bring up the average return on their past investment and to sustain and augment the capital value of their holdings. Only by this means can a financial confidence be created in sisal as an enterprise, and more reasonably prices be obtained in the capital market. As the former sisal group we have a responsibility in this matter.

Collations

You will see from the accounts that out of the profit for the year of £301,318, after taxation, £232,908 is retained in the accounts of Bird and Co. (Africa), Ltd. of £68,410 is shown as profits of Sisal Estates, Ltd., and after adding the amount brought forward from the previous year and deducting dividends paid amounting less tax to £68,475 a sum of £897 is carried forward in their accounts.

Of the amount retained Bird and Co. (Africa), Ltd.

Ltd. £156,895 has been appropriated for reserves leaving £76,912 to which is added the amount brought forward from the previous year of £2,284 and £9,761 for adjustment of valuation in respect of previous years, thus increasing the carry-forward to £378,918. The general reserve is increased by £75,000 and the special development and capitalisation reserve by £71,800 bringing the respective totals to £125,000 and £150,000. £10,000 has also been added to the staff fund.

Production

The year 1951 coincided with one of the driest droughts experienced for the last twenty years and the retarded sisal growth, resulting in a 12% reduction on the estimated line fibre yield for the year, the production being 2,611 tons. The recent development of a new fibre, however, added during the year a further 1,097 tons, making a total fibre output for the year including fine fibre and fowls, of 19,720 tons, compared with the previous year's total of 19,350 tons. The production of fine fibre for 1950-51 is 12,000 tons and the proportion of output to date has some what exceeded this year's production for the seven months to the end of January, 1951, being 7,827 tons. Comparative monthly outputs will in future be published in the next issue.

As mentioned in last year's statement Hard and Co. (Tanganyika) Ltd. had sold the greater part of its 1951 production forward and did not derive any immediate profit from the rise in fibre prices resulting from devaluation of sterling. The average price received by us for line fibre in the year under review was £41.58 per ton f.o.b. after deducting freight, insurance, bank charges, overheads, and sisal export tax. Since prices have advanced considerably since March 1950, to over £100 per ton in the end of January, 1951.

Prices of Hard Fibres

It is impossible to forecast the future and we can only say that the Tanganyika Sisal Marketing Association Ltd.—Fasima—of which we are a member, has sold our sisal well ahead of our next financial year ending June 30, 1951, at a very substantially higher level of price than in the year under review.

Prices on the present level are not only to have some effect on consumption, but to increase world production of hard fibres, although the setting up of new long-term agricultural enterprise for the high capitalization required for sisal production as present capital costs is an extreme and costly undertaking, especially in the period of immaturity of sisal extending from two to three years. Moreover, the high level of price of agricultural commodities still leaves the margin for growth in the more moderate price group of textiles.

East Africa is the only hard fibre producing area within the Commonwealth, or indeed, within the Empire. I know of no adequate substitute for sisal procurable at the required price and in the required quantities. For many years before the war the best sisal was consumed for one ton of wool.

Manila production is unlikely to reach its former production for some years. The attempt of the East African Development Corporation to develop the manila plantations in North Borneo, where it was given the assistance of the ex-Japanese plantations on similar terms, appears to have met with little success.

The Outlook

Obviously the world market for sisal is being influenced by general world conditions of credit expansion and contraction, also the situation of world trade contracts. There is, however, no doubt that the sisal situation, more than any other, is to be

growth than will be needed to meet demand for a few years. Although sisal is normally a well-functioning industry with good supply and demand, however, supplies are still to be replenished and a certain amount of stockpiling of sisal is inevitable.

It appears that the balance between supply and demand through various factors of a variety of other strategic commodities is likely to be close at the earliest tilson. After and rearmament has postponed date. After work production is likely gradually to increase at a rate which will be in line with the World Bank's estimate of the abnormal price level.

The ability of sisal buyers to arrange their purchases to suit their requirements is all probably the most important factor in the industry. We can regard with fine confidence our more immediate future.

The properties of Hard and Co. (Tanganyika) Ltd. at June 30, 1950, excluding the leased estate of Hale (referred to below) comprised 2,162 2/3 hectares (54,072 acres). This was made up as follows:

	Hectares
Mature areas being cut	7,254
Immature areas	4,539
Cleared or in preparation for planting	2,616
Bath, plant, village, building	7,147
	21,629

In 1948-49 the mature areas were just over 5,000 hectares and the immature just over 4,000 hectares. The bulk of the land leased from the Colonial Development Corporation throughout the year was 3,200 hectares (7,924 acres), of which about 1,100 acres are planted as mature. Hard and Co. (Tanganyika) Ltd. had the full 99 year lease of this property from the Tanganyika Government. As it is adjacent to other sisal estates and has been operated by the company throughout the war and its conveniently situated from the point of view of labour and control, the management have taken the lease.

The total area leased by the company will be 12,196 hectares, or nearly 30,000 square miles of estates with 100,000 acres and 100,000 head of cattle.

The sisal estate is the only sisal estate in the world which has been fully equipped with a processing plant which should be completed by the end of 1951. The increased sisal production of the estate of the class of the £15,000; this has been financed by a bank loan repayable out of the proceeds of the sale of sisal produced on the estate. The loan stood at the end of December, 1950, at £15,000.

Zaire substantially complete the development of the sisal estate which includes a modern factory, estate and 100,000 head of cattle, housing, water supply, and 100,000 miles of graded railway.

The sisal estate is being developed by the purchase of the sisal estate for £278,000, of which £15,000 is being financed on the same terms as for the sisal estate. The sisal estate is being developed by the purchase of the sisal estate for £278,000, of which £15,000 is being financed on the same terms as for the sisal estate. The sisal estate is being developed by the purchase of the sisal estate for £278,000, of which £15,000 is being financed on the same terms as for the sisal estate.

was negotiated towards the close of the financial year. These estates, while having considerable merits, were not as good as Pangawe and Kingolwira, and their comparative remoteness from our headquarters at Pangawe made them difficult to control, especially where, as sometimes happened, the communications had become impassable. We appear to have timed the sale wisely and I hope that shareholders will regard the price of £200,000 as eminently satisfactory.

Shareholders will recall that on Kingolwira estate has been leased some 1,000 acres of Enemy Property since September, 1945. Although it has always been our hope that we should ultimately be able to purchase this fine estate, which almost conveniently adjoins Pangawe, there was never any certainty that we should be able to do so. It was the need to be in a position to do so which partly influenced our decision to sell Kiwege and Migude estates.

Kingolwira Sisal Estate, Limited

After the close of the year under review the company was offered Kingolwira for the sum of £161,200, about a third of which, £53,700, was payable on a warranty basis. The price appeared reasonable to the board and the offer was accepted. The estate was taken over on January 1 last by a wholly-owned subsidiary company, called Kingolwira Sisal Estate, Limited, which was formed for this purpose and which will be controlled by Messrs. A. J. Marr & Co. The accounts of this subsidiary will be incorporated in consolidated accounts.

"Last year I warned you that the high prices for sisal then ruling, averaging about £120 per ton c.i.f. for all grades, were not a matter for unqualified congratulations on account of the encouragement they were giving to substitutes for sisal fibre. Since then the price

has risen to over £220 per ton for No. 1 grade, so the warning I then uttered is more than ever necessary. It is, however, satisfactory to have on our books a number of contracts at very attractive prices.

Future of Sisal Market.

Meanwhile, the search for substitutes goes on, and the time when the East Indies will be placing a substantial tonnage of sisal on the market draws nearer. One must also remember that the higher the price goes the greater will be the reaction and more violent the fall when the market turns. That there is no immediate cause for alarm about the future of the market is suggested by the readiness of some speculators to cover their requirements up till the end of 1952 at prices only slightly below those asked for near positions.

"We hope that when that time comes our estates will be efficient units, well supplied with leaf, and with costs low enough to meet any reverse the market may offer. That a time of stress is in store for us cannot be too firmly impressed on the mind of every shareholder. To meet the board are making every effort to improve the efficiency of the company's estates, and they trust that shareholders will appreciate the need to pursue a very conservative dividend policy.

"During the year our estates were visited at different times by Mr. Sykes, Mr. Mackie, and myself. I hope to visit them again before meeting the shareholders at the annual general meeting. All that I have heard from recent visitors leads me to believe that I shall find the estates in good order and a credit to our excellent general manager, Mr. A. J. Marr, to whom and his staff our thanks are due for the satisfactory accounts now before you."



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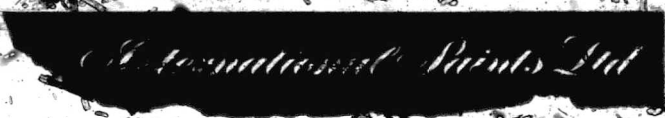
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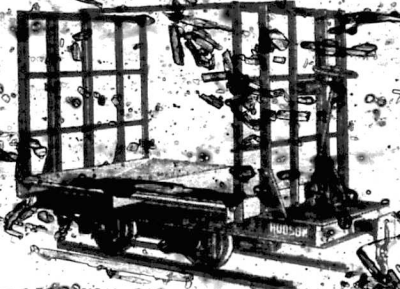
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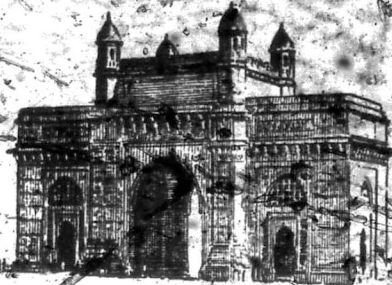
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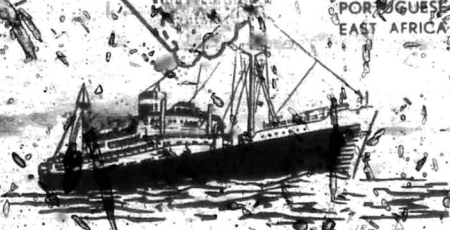
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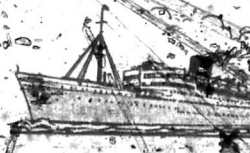
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MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE ARTIFICIAL NATURE of the case which the Government put to the House of Commons last week in the groundnut debate may be deduced from the peroration of the Secretary of State. He exaggerated, in the House that if it agreed to the Opposition amendment asking for an industrial inquiry before further heavy expenditure was incurred on the scheme, we should be sending a message of despair to the people of Africa. That was not a spontaneous and ill-considered exaggeration, but a deliberate and carefully calculated climax, for speaking just before the vote was to be taken, Mr. Griffiths concluded that on behalf of the Government, though made on behalf of the Cabinet, his suggestion was fair. Excepting those people who could not hope to emerge scatheless, we do not believe that any official or non-official European in Tanganyika would have had the slightest objection to the proposal, excepting that impartial equity for which the Conservative and Liberal spokesmen jointly asked. To assert that action of that kind would plunge "the people of Africa" into despair is to deprive

language of all meaning. Earlier the Secretary of State had asserted that a decision to abandon the scheme or set up an inquiry would cause dismay in the Territory. That also we regard as an unjustified, and certainly an unwarranted, assumption.

Though East Africa and Rhodesia has criticized the mismanagement of the scheme as harshly as anyone anywhere has, we have never supported the idea of abandoning

Minister's Claim Examined.

ment, we consider that there is still a good case for operations to be continued, provided that it be on drastically amended principles and not less important under different direction. But if it had been decided to abandon the scheme, why should the people of Tanganyika have been plunged into despair? The Minister presumably had the African situation in mind. The vast majority of the white population in Tanganyika know little or nothing of the scheme and only a very few understand the true causes of the debacle. Those who do understand what has happened would be most unlikely to misinterpret a decision to abandon so expensive and unsuccessful a venture. Dis-

confidence of this particular piece of work could not be regarded as unwillingness to finance Colonial development, for throughout British Colonial Africa there are large-scale activities which demonstrate the readiness of British taxpayers to spend generously from their sadly strained resources for precisely that purpose. Finally, if the scheme were abandoned, the inheritors of the land already cleared would be Africans; such individuals might indeed prefer present visible benefits to prospective future advantages for the country as a whole.

It is unfortunate that the Secretary of State, to whom responsibility for the revised Bill has now passed, should have ended his speech on this false note. He had also started unhappily

Opportunities Missed By the Opposition.

by suggesting that Opposition speakers had engaged in "vindictive hunting for scapegoats," a tactic which made him proud that he "belonged to the miners, and not to a gentlemanly party." Our assessment would be that few of the speakers concentrated on bringing home to the House in adequate detail the ghastly record of mismanagement and worse, and that there was no concerted, insistent, and documented demand for the dismissal of those who have shown such disastrous and continuing incompetence. As in all the earlier debates, the Opposition speakers made no different use of their opportunities to expose the full folly of the State corporation entrusted with scores of millions of public money.

Touching on the demand for an independent inquiry, Mr. Griffiths emphasized the experience of his group of five outside members of the working party sent to

Kororua. Nobody has ever questioned those qualities. The critics among the first of whom was this new Member, old and such inquiries should have been had among independent people.

Planning a special session to such reasonable proposals, the Opposition, with the approval of the Minister appointed as chairman of the party, formed a group of its members, one who bore a heavy burden of responsibility for the costly and costly muddle and mismanagement. His role should have been that of a witness before the working party, not of a judge in his own cause. This vital point of principle was not forcefully and convincingly pleaded in

Parliament, which accepted almost without delay the very vulnerable remarks on the subject made by the Minister of Food. He and the Colonial Secretary evaded all substantial criticism, and used their time to drag convenient red herrings to and fro across the stage. All criticism has been focused on the miscalculations of the past three years; it was precisely that period that the Socialist apologists were determined to disregard.

Good speeches from the Opposition benches were made by Captain Crookshank, Mr. Walter Fletcher, and Mr. Lennox-Boyd. Captain Crookshank, saying that the corporation had filed a

Vanity the Root Of the Trouble.

petition in bankruptcy and that the duty of Parliament was to inquire why it had happened, who was to blame, and what should be done next; emphasized that all the inquiries so far made had been under the guidance of members of the corporation; the completely impartial assessment which was so necessary had never been made. Mr. Fletcher asserted that the root of the trouble had been the overweening vanity of the former Minister of Food, Mr. Strachey, his stubborn refusal to face facts, and the veil of half-truth which he drew across the scene; he accused the Government of having shown a positive genius for doing things in the wrong order, and related in detail the launts of Labour members that the critics were being wise after the event.

Lennox-Boyd recalled that his party had tried to create a friendly climate for the scheme, but had not given a blank cheque for that mismanagement and misrepresentation which he marked

Appalling Waste And Ignorance.

it throughout, with the result that the losses incurred in three years surpassed the entire revenue of Tanganyika Territory for the four years 1948 to 1951 inclusive. The Opposition, he said, had not grudged the money, but grudged such appalling waste, from which very little indeed had been learned. The Conservative party could not be associated with the Bill because of the attitude and lack of candour, which had characterized the scheme, because of the fantastic, hasty, and ignorant assertions which were still being made, and because there was no real justification to continue the corporation. Two Socialist critics, Mr. Geoffrey Cooper and Mr. John Hynd, made some surprisingly harsh comments, but got no replies to the points they raised.

Had the Cabinet decided that the expedient policy was for Ministers to make little attempt to answer criticisms or questions? That is the impression derived from the course of the debate. Was it by order of the Prime Minister that Mr. Strachey was absent until the closing stages? That impression also is widespread. By a majority of seven votes only, the Government survived the Opposition amendment for an independent inquiry. Why has it steadfastly declined to grant so reasonable a request, which was supported

by all but one of the Liberal members, and was known to be sympathetically regarded by some Socialists? Surely because it dared not face the certain disclosures of lamentable facts which have been the subject of much discussion in Tanganyika, but have still not been mentioned in public anywhere. So much for "open diplomacy." So much for the grandiose "planning" which lesser mortals are adjured to admire. So does a Socialist-dominated Parliament deal with as grave and gross a political scandal as this generation has known.

Notes By The Way

Archbishop Not Going

A FRIEND, whose office appeared to guarantee the authenticity of his statement, told me recently that the Archbishop of Canterbury would shortly visit East Africa, and that idea may exist in other quarters also. If so, it is doomed to disappointment, for Dr. Bisher tells me that he has no such intention.

Pest Control

E. RIPPER, the founder and very active managing director of the Pest Control organization, which has subsidiary companies in the Sudan, East Africa and Central Africa, has left in air for another visit to East Africa about three weeks' duration, primarily in connection with the investigations into certain diseases the plant being made by his group on behalf of the Tanganyika Sisal Growers Association. Promising progress has been made since the work began a year ago, and there is high hope that the experimental work now in train will produce results of great importance. Before his departure Dr. Ripper was host of a luncheon in London to many leading newspaper representatives, in whom he told a thrilling story of the progress recently made in pest control. Penicillin travels in the blood stream of man and kills bacteria, so new compounds can, he said, be sent through the stream of plants on an annual basis. A revolution in agricultural science has begun and it may bring a great revolution in agricultural and horticultural methods as has been achieved in medicine by the discoveries of the last few years.

Background Farewell

MANY READERS have from time to time written appreciatively of the "Background to the News" feature in this newspaper. Now, regretfully, it might disappear in consequence of the harsh cut in paper consumption imposed by the Government. Periodicals as a direct result of its own muddling. Last year this country was allowed to import the newsprint per head of the population than any other civilized nation, with the result that small towns all over the world have newspapers two or three times the size of great British journals of immense influence. British publishers are likely to go seriously short of the raw material for news and comment for several years—in which it is highly improbable that the public should be well informed. The shortage, because of this desperate lack of paper, which will force us to restrict

the size of each issue by at least four pages, meantime. How long this further infection will last we have no means of knowing. The "Background" feature being mainly non-African, it must be the first sacrifice to the beauty-planses (some of whom are not regret its disappearance, for it incidentally pun their follies in the foreground).

Mr. W. M. Cogrington

MR. W. M. COGRINGTON, who has been appointed His Majesty's Lieutenant of and in the county of Rutland on the resignation of the Earl of Ancaster, Chairman and managing director of Nyasaland director of Trans-Zambesia Railways and the African Railway Company. The second son of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Cogrington, he was educated at Harrow and New College, Oxford, and then served through the 1914-18 war in the 16th Lancers. On demobilization he joined the Diplomatic Service, from which he resigned in 1925 to become secretary of the Great Western Railway Co., Ltd. He has since joined the board of many other South American enterprises. Throughout almost the whole of the last war he was chief security officer of the Foreign Office, being also for three of those years security adviser to the War Cabinet Office. Amongst the non-African companies of which Mr. Cogrington is a director are Antofagasta (Chili) & Bolivia Railway Co., Ltd., Chilean Northern Railway Co., Ltd., Great Western of Brazil Railway Co., Ltd., Midland Railway Co., Western Australia, Ltd., Primitiva Holdings, Ltd., Primitiva Gas Co. of Buenos Aires, Ltd., Cordoba Central Trust, Ltd., Sun Insurance Office, Ltd., Sun Life Assurance Society, Ltd., British Overseas Holders Trust, Ltd., Powell Duffryn, Ltd., and Urwick, Orr & Partners, Ltd.

Special Secretary to Visit East Africa

A SPECIAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES AND OVERSEAS, EAST AFRICA AND RHODESIA on November 2 last, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. James Griffiths, intends to visit East Africa in May in order to obtain first-hand information on the spot. As it is unlikely that he will be able to spend more than two weeks away from this country, his tour will be confined to Kenya and Uganda, where he hopes to see as many representatives of local opinion as possible in the time.

Demand for Independent Inquiry Into New Groundnut Plan

Opposition Criticisms of Government and Especially Mr. Strachey

WHEN THE SECOND READING of the Overseas Resources Development Bill was taken in the House of Commons last week, Mr. MAURICE WEBB, Minister of Food, said that the Bill was necessary because the plan to produce large quantities of oils and fats in Africa had failed.

Having recapitulated the history of the scheme, he said (in part):

"I am anxious that those who have worked so hard and loyally on this scheme should not be inhibited by their regret or by the special criticisms or cast judgments of those who wait until things have gone wrong and then say 'We knew all along this could not work.' We all regret that the scheme in its original form was not a success, but we on this side of the House do not feel that in 1947 the Government should have stood aside and ignored the possibilities of this scheme because of the undoubted risks."

Revised Long-Term Programme

The risks were taken and the results are now quite clear to all of us. The Government have not attempted to disguise or minimize them. They involve, in view of the declaration of the Overseas Food Corporation of its inability to fulfil its financial obligations, a decision to write off the capital expenditure so far undertaken; a new and realistic assessment of the practical possibilities of agricultural production; a revised long-term programme on the basis of variable and experimental cultivation of the land; and a transfer of financial control.

The revised proposals make it clear that too much has yet to be learned about methods of land-clearing and large-scale mechanized agriculture in Tanganyika before we have any reliable ground for supposing that rapid development over wide areas is practicable. These plans cover a period to 1957.

Two of the areas—Kongwa and Urambo—will be setting down to agricultural work, but there will be no further clearing in either of these places.

The Kongwa working party recommended that in three years there was more evidence that crops could be grown successfully at Kongwa than 20,000 acres should be farmed, of which about 12,000 acres should be under a crop of sorghum each year. Experience at Kongwa so far has not been encouraging, but the working party recommended a continuation of agriculture on a limited scale for the time being. The corporation accepted this recommendation and this year they are planting groundnuts, maize and sorghum. Very little has fallen before the beginning of January, but good progress has been made since then.

Tobacco Experiment at Urambo

Urambo will be farming about 60,000 acres, of which 45,000 will be under crop each year. This year groundnuts, maize and sorghum are being planted. There are good rains in December, and the winter groundnuts were planted by the end of the year, quite a good harvest. An experiment is being undertaken with the planting of tobacco on 120 acres, it is hoped that the acreage will be increased in 1954. The Southern Province of the Southern Province, considered the working party, whose report was published in January. The party included the agricultural officer in the secretary's State. They also recognized that much experimental work would be essential, but they awarded the principal prospects in the Southern Province as being the most favourable to justify the corporation proceeding with agricultural development of the land already cleared. This year the corporation propose to plant 200 acres in the province for the next harvest, of which 100 acres had been planted at the end of January.

The Southern Province is the one region in which land clearing is to continue. At the start of the current wet season 20,000 acres had been felled, of which 9,000 are now completely cleared. During the current wet season a further 40,000 acres are being cleared and the corporation will clear another 10,000 acres for agriculture during the next three

years by slower and cheaper methods involving the use of hand labour for some of the work now done by machines. By 1954 this will give a total of 60,000 acres cleared area.

The corporation aimed at further felling at the rate of 15,000 acres a year in each rainy season, but my colleagues and I feel that it is prudent to limit clearing in the Southern Province to 60,000 acres for the time being. A review will be held in 1954.

"On this basis the corporation will have about 64,000 acres under crop this year, about 74,000 acres under crop for the 1952 harvest, and about 81,000 acres under crop for the 1953 harvest. Acres of this size are not going to make a direct contribution of any great significance to the world supplies of food, but they are large enough—and this is the point—to enable new techniques and the economics of large-scale farming to be really tested and really established."

Mr. HARRIS: "What new techniques does the corporation suggest can be obtained for growing maize?"

Mr. WEBB: "The general technique of varying crops and carrying out a variable agriculture."

The corporation have expressed their view that given freedom from natural calamity, their agriculture ought in time, and not necessarily within the seven-year period of the plan but in time to pay its way and to have its future overheads and the depreciation of the assets paid for use. The corporation could see no hope of paying a return on the capital so far invested.

Demand for Inquiry Refused

Members opposite do not want Parliament to ratify the new proposals until an inquiry has taken place. What do they hope to elicit from a further inquiry? The corporation has published two lengthy annual reports containing detailed information about every aspect of its work. A year ago the Public Accounts Committee held a very full inquiry into its affairs. This is the first debate since the beginning of 1949.

"Do members opposite want to cast doubt on the possibility of achieving the revised plans? If so, no further inquiry is likely to carry that aim forward. The corporation have held two inquiries of that sort, at Kongwa and in the Southern Province. They invited experienced men to take part in these inquiries, and the reports of both working parties were published. The corporation have framed their plans on the basis of the recommendations of those two reports."

The suggestion that the corporation should not have been associated with the working parties is spurious. The members of the corporation have more experience than anyone else in the world of the work which they are doing. It would have been only for them not to take part in the investigations of those working parties. Surely the combination of the corporation's experience with the independent judgment of the other members of the working parties is just the kind of balance needed. I have no hesitation in saying that the corporation acted wisely and with great foresight in both those two inquiries.

"How could we expect any of the staff to stay if the whole future of their work was once more to be brought into question? If we want them to go on doing the best in their work, we must express our confidence in the future of the project. How can we do that if we have far another inquiry into the future plans?"

Original Objective Unattainable

Some members opposite may argue that we should give up and abandon the whole scheme, that we should give up and abandon the whole scheme, that we should give up and abandon the whole scheme. The original objective was never attainable. Although the original objective was never attainable, we think it right to let the work go on to such a point as to have a final report brought into production economically. That is why the scheme must be regarded now as a scheme of large-scale experimental development to enable the economics of farming and mechanized agriculture under tropical conditions to be established.

The corporation stressed the need for continuation of agricultural operations for at least seven years and asked for some assurance that this is the intention. The request is very reasonable. It is impossible to obtain any worthwhile results except over a period of this sort, and it is right that the staff should be given an assurance of continuity. Provided the costs do not greatly exceed the estimates, it is the Government's firm intention to continue for seven years. The new plans envisage the expenditure of about £6m over a seven-year period, without allowing for contingencies.

and further both clearing after 1954. By this means the Government will pay for new work. The corporation estimates that they need about £2,750,000 to pay for the organization, the liquidation of past commitments and the general run-down of their project to the scale now proposed. The remainder is the estimate of the additional funds needed to finance these new plans.

The best of going on is not widely different from the best of abandoning the scheme, with all the grave consequences for Africa which would follow abandonment. If it had been decided to abandon the whole project at once, the corporation would face the heavy liabilities which they would have had to meet for breach of contracts and other unavoidable commitments would have been about £4m., and in addition they would not have been able to obtain repayment of the loan of about £3m. advanced to East African Railways and Harbours.

The corporation think that in time and on this changed new basis the scheme will pay itself. To abandon it now would mean the loss of many valuable tangible assets, the loss of disappointing and even bitter experience—but experience which, if continued, will be invaluable.

Administrative Changes

Given the decision to go on, the new conception of the corporation's role calls for changes in the obligations laid upon the corporation, and, obviously, in the administrative arrangements. It has therefore been decided that Government functions to be transferred to the Colonial Office, and that the object of Clause 1. There will be general assent to this proposal. It would be quite improper for my Ministry now to run this scheme. It is essentially, in its proposed new form, an undertaking which must be integrated with all general plans for the development of our Colonies. It will be an area, a welcome addition to the social and economic machinery with which my hon. friend hopes and intends to bring new life and hope to our fellow citizens of Africa.

To give the corporation greater scope for establishing satisfactory agricultural relations, their obligation to secure the large-scale production of groundnuts has been removed. They are already concerned with cotton, sisal, and we want them to be free to make the best use of the available land. Indeed, this variable conception of future agricultural work is the basis of these proposed changes.

The new plans do not lead to a large board, its responsibility has diminished. A commission has been made for a board consisting of a chairman and not fewer than two or more than six members, as the Secretary of State may determine. Previously there was provision for a board consisting of a chairman, a deputy-chairman, and not fewer than 16 or more than 10 members.

We have also decided that the right place for the board to be located is no longer London but East Africa. So long as it was envisaged that the corporation would run a number of schemes throughout the world, it was necessary to have the board in London. But in the changed circumstances it is obviously desirable to have the board in East Africa. The board will accordingly be transferred to East Africa during the year.

Sir Donald Perrott and Mr. McFadyen

Sir Donald Perrott, the deputy chairman and Mr. McFadyen will leave the board shortly. Sir Donald Perrott was seconded from the Civil Service for this appointment, and the corporation owe much to his administrative ability and the way in which he tackled their organizational problems.

Mr. McFadyen will be leaving because the changed content of the scheme means that he will no longer be the same need for a man of his experience. The Government are appreciative of the public spirit which led him to join the corporation and of the loyal service which he has given it throughout. Mr. McFadyen's own field of service in the corporation has been on the whole immune from public criticism. He leaves its service with the assured knowledge that the misfortunes which have overtaken so much of the labour of the corporation are not due to any lack of application on his part to his exacting duties.

The Government's intentions in Nyanyika will also be clearly associated with the scheme and arrangements are being made for their work on the board.

The Government are also aware that Africa will be the theatre of considerable industrial development. The Government will be glad to see the functions of the corporation's present performance handled by the Government.

The Government are aware that the corporation are of course a permanent fixture of the State whose appointments are ended on grounds of redundancy. But I know that to many of these people financial compensation, however generous, might make it "cold never make up for the disappointment of having broken an end of a career in which they had hoped to contribute to the solution of a world problem. I am very sure that they

suffer this disappointment, but it is much too early yet to say that their efforts have been in vain.

By the end of the current financial year about £30m. will have been advanced to the corporation. The Government have decided to adopt the course of financial prudence and write off the whole of this investment.

These advances are guaranteed in quite large degree by tangible assets in East Africa. Some of these assets have a present value. Others, like cleared land and buildings in remote places, have a contingent value depending entirely upon their access with which the corporation meets in its future. The corporation expects to obtain quite substantial sums from the disposal of equipment which will now be surplus to their requirements. These sums will be paid back into the budget.

The next sum, which the Exchequer will be called upon to lend during the next seven years will be of the order of £6m. I must emphasise that this figure contains no allowance for contingencies like widespread droughts, floods, and all the other hazards to which Africa is subject. Certainly it makes no allowance for any striking which may be decided to do after 1954.

The corporation will act under the direction of the Secretary of State for East Africa, and will be responsible to the House through him.

Sir H. Glyn: "It is quite clear that in future the corporation will act only through the Colonial Office and not independently."

Mr. Webb: "Yes, that is so."

"We Have Learned the Hard Way"

We all know now what is needed to save and conduct tropical Africa. (HON. MEMBERS: "Nonsense.") We have learned the hard way, but this may prove to be not the most expensive or the most protracted way.

It is quite easy to shout: "What about groundnuts?" Rather let all of us say, not "What about groundnuts?" but "What about our Colonial fellow citizens in Africa?" They wish to see their hopes and new aspirations, must be the focal point of all our argument for the future. Their needs and our needs for such potential wealth as is latent in their still unworked soil are the great challenge before us to-day.

CAPTAIN CROOKSHANK (Cons.) moved an amendment that: "In view of the immense losses already incurred on the groundnut scheme, this House declines to give a second reading to a Bill which gives authority for further substantial expenditure of public money before there has been an impartial inquiry into the scheme and independent estimates have been obtained."

He said that the Minister of Food had shown none of the enthusiasm of a great transport of delight of his predecessors two years ago, on March 14, 1949, the last words of Mr. Strachey in the debate had been: "I have the most perfect confidence that in a very few years the groundnut scheme will be one of the acknowledged glories of the British Commonwealth."

The comment which I made, however, speaking just before Sir hon. gentleman was to refer to the picture of muddle, mismanagement, miscalculation, and misadventure which was then going on, and I asked the public to judge. That was our position two years ago.

Parliament is to-day almost the grand banquet of the nation because the Overseas Food Corporation have faced first a serious bankruptcy, and then a plan which it is proposed will cost £30m. a year for 10 per cent of our adult population.

The British gentleman never quite acted on the principle of the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Sometimes he omitted factors which would very much have altered our consideration of the problem.

We entirely agree that the scheme should pass to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. There is one thing which this party has taken since even before the Act was passed. I expect the Government now wish they had followed our advice.

We ask that there should be another inquiry because the inquiries which have all been conducted by the various parties during the past two years have been under the guidance and far as we know the chairman and the members of the corporation. Therefore they have not been impartial. In view of the failures of the past, someone else should inquire and have a look at these problems. We have gone on saying that, and we repeat it.

Two years ago we asked for it formally in a debate of this kind, and one of the reasons was the miscalculation which had been made. Were we not right? We were then talking about a series, we are now talking about the possi-

(Continued on page 710)

Dr. Malan Attacks British Government's Colonial Policy

Foundations of the Commonwealth Being Undermined

ANOTHER ATTACK upon the policy of the British Government was made in Cape Town last Friday by Dr. MALAN, the South African Prime Minister, when he made a special message to the Nationalist newspaper, *Die Burger*.

Britain and the United Nations between themselves, killing the Commonwealth, he said. The recently announced policy of the British Government of putting the Colonies on the same footing as the existing members of the Commonwealth was nothing less than undermining its foundations.

"The Commonwealth is a closed group, all free and all equal, and consequently one would expect that in admitting a new member all would have an equal say, because it may affect the whole complexion and character of the group. But what do we find? Acting on her own, and without consultation with or the approval of other Commonwealth members, Britain has admitted India, Pakistan, and Ceylon to the Commonwealth, and now intends to continue the process without restriction and in the same way.

Admitting Colonies to Commonwealth

It is true that the Colonies these territories belong to Britain alone, but as prospective members of the Commonwealth there are others who have just as much interest in their position, and who should have an equal say as to whether they should be admitted or not. This anomaly should be removed without delay.

The Commonwealth can and could in the past exist only as a result of a feeling of solidarity between its members. This feeling of solidarity could and does exist only on the basis of two things—namely, specific common interests and sufficient homogeneity of cultural and political outlook.

The bond of kinship, whereon so much reliance was placed, did not appear to be strong enough, as in the case of Quebec, India, and Burma, and in any case it was too distant and vague a thing to exercise any real force in the long run. As far as the Commonwealth as a whole is concerned, it has become a symbol separated from fulfillment of any constitutional function.

When the Commonwealth consisted of only five members—Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand—the position was simple, because the conditions of solidarity were still present, namely, common interests and the necessary homogeneity.

Common Interests

But now, as the result of latest events and declarations of policy, the question necessarily arises—what greater solidarity or common interests or homogeneity does there exist, for example, between South Africa and India than exists between South Africa and Holland, or Belgium, or France, or Germany, or, for example, between Australia and the Negro States in West Africa than between Australia and the United States? To this question there can be only one answer.

Referring to the recent elections in the Gold Coast, Dr. Malan said the arrangements there, found obviously to affect South African interests, is the policy of the Convention Peoples Party, led by Nkrumah, who had gained an overwhelming majority, and they asked for government in the Gold Coast, they asked the British Government to, through the Secretary of State, cordially conceded this.

The Native population of Africa was now, as a result of the general world situation and Communist propaganda, in a state of ferment. All other African territories would be affected by the Gold Coast elections, and they demanded, with reason, that the West

Africans had gained, the result would be the expulsion of white men from practically everywhere between the Union and the Sahara. White civilization and leadership, indispensable for generations to come, would be at an end.

What that will mean for us on the southern tip of Africa, said Dr. Malan, "but even more so for white communities to the north of us, is not a matter for conjecture. Anyone with common sense must know.

In his opinion the West African experiment was bound to fail, for it was an example of the good principle of democracy wrongly applied, and making itself ridiculous. This unrealistic experiment must be a repetition of idealism which would end in tragedy.

In a recent speech the British Colonial Secretary Griffiths welcomed in advance the new West African Negro States a member of the Commonwealth, and also announced the policy of converting British Colonies one after the other into free independent members of the Commonwealth, presumably on an equal footing in every respect with existing Commonwealth countries.

"According to this speech, the process will certainly not end there, but we must expect that a series of new Commonwealth members will soon be completed by the addition of other territories like Indian-dominated East Africa, Uganda, and Nyasaland, to speak only of Africa."

The South African Prime Minister added that between the United Nations, which with its policy of intervention, made it possible through that organization for one Commonwealth country to interfere in the domestic affairs of another, and the new British Commonwealth policy, the Commonwealth itself could not last. The new situation held nothing good for South Africa.

Press Comments

The Cape Town correspondent of *The Times* cabled on Sunday that Dr. Malan's statement had caused a political sensation in the Union.

The *Cape Argus* says that Dr. Malan sees in the possibility of an extension of Commonwealth privileges to Native communities an increase in the numbers of independent Governments whence criticism of South African Native policy may arise. The newspaper suggests that the true answer would be to frame a Native policy which would be immune from criticism.

"In connexion with Dr. Malan's statement that Britain unilaterally gave Commonwealth membership to India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, it is worth remembering that Dr. Malan was a member of the Prime Ministers' conference which agreed unanimously to allow India to retain membership, even as a republic."

Although many South Africans agree with Dr. Malan that the Gold Coast experiment in democracy is unlikely to show any immediate success, opposition opinion believes that he takes an unnecessarily gloomy view of the immediacy of the threat which he sees in these and other developments. The Gold Coast may have surprised Parliament, but it is still far from Dominion status—which even Southern Rhodesia after a generation of successful government, has not yet achieved."

Die Burger, in whose columns the interview appeared comments that the Prime Minister directed his massive words of considered sense and warning to the Commonwealth, in whose affairs to drive the voice of authentic and open-hearted statesmanship is seldom heard.

Supporting Dr. Malan's firm view of British policy of giving self-government to Africa, who do not read "for it," *Die Burger* says that the outbreak of white civilization in Southern and Northern Rhodesia, led on with increasing tranquillity by British apparently blind to the consequences, assigns her estate in Africa.

What is the eventual picture that is in West Africa a series of Liberias led by black demagogues, in East Africa a number of nominally black States with the better equipped Indians as the ruling caste.

The *Cape Times* severely criticizes Dr. Malan for, in *Die Burger*, calling, in the columns of *Praxis*, to amplify his words,

deliberately intruding into normally informal and friendly Commonwealth exchanges the technique of long-distance and public dispute.

The newspaper argues that a man or may not be a man to have a veto on Commonwealth membership, but that it is to be a matter of controversy with our friends as if they were friends and not people on the other side of the curtain.

Mr. Patrick Gordon-Walker, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, who has been visiting Southern Africa, said in Johannesburg on Monday that Britain's policy of working towards self-government for

the Commonwealth was not new, but had been repeatedly reaffirmed during the last 20 years.

Information had always been passed between the Commonwealth Governments, whenever steps had been taken towards it. (Gordon-Walker) is a member of the Commonwealth, which is a very important thought about it clearly new patterns were being to rise alongside the Western nations, and the Commonwealth provided perhaps the most important bridge between the older and the new nations.

Parliament

Africans and Asians in Kenya Ask To Be Conscripted

Prime Minister's Statement on Central African Discussions

NATIONAL SERVICE IN KENYA was the subject of questions in the House of Commons last week when the Colonial Secretary was asked by Mr. RANKIN (Lab.) what reply had been given by the Kenya Government to the request of the leaders of the Asian and African peoples that National Service should not be confined to Europeans.

Mr. J. GRIFFITHS: "When Asian and African members of the Kenya Legislative Council asked whether Asians and Africans could be conscripted for military training, the Government spokesman replied that it was thought best to apply the principle of conscription first to Europeans, but that he would welcome discussions with the Asians and African members with a view to its extension. There has not yet been an opportunity for those discussions."

Mr. RANKIN: "Will the Minister impress upon the Kenya Government the fact that the introduction of conscription for one section in a mixed community will certainly tend to increase the present discontent in Kenya?"

Mr. GRIFFITHS: "That is why it was stated by the Government spokesman that he would welcome discussion on this matter with representatives of the Africans and Asians."

Opportunity to Expand Colonial Forces

Mr. C. ALPORT (Cons.): "In view of this voluntary proposal to serve in the armed forces in East Africa, will the Minister call the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the fact that this gives a great opportunity for expanding the Colonial forces in East Africa?"

Mr. RICHARD AGLAND (Lab.) asked the Prime Minister whether the statement by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations in Salisbury on Southern Rhodesia on January 23 concerning the desirability of closer association between the three Central African territories represented Government policy.

The Prime Minister: "The reports which I have of the statement made by the Secretary of State at his Press conference in Salisbury on January 22 indicate that he said that the United Kingdom would be happy if the forthcoming conference of officials produced unanimous recommendations; there could, however, be no question of the United Kingdom Government forcing a decision on a reluctant people. The work of the conference will be purely exploratory, and will not commit any of the participating Governments to the adoption of any of the proposals formulated by it."

Mr. R. AGLAND: "Is the Prime Minister aware that at least one influential opinion of opinion circulating in these parts has taken the statement made in Salisbury as a whittling away of the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 8, particularly in relation to public discussion and consultation with

African opinion? Can he assure the House that there is no such whittling away or any such intention by the Government?"

The Prime Minister: "There is no change in Government policy in this matter. I cannot be responsible for Press comments."

Mr. J. PARKER (Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations whether he would recall Lord Hailey's view of his pronouncement on South-West Africa and its effect on African opinion.

The Prime Minister: "No."

Mr. RANKIN asked why the Kenya Government shared its interest on loans to African farmers.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: "The rate of interest charged is that recommended by the Committee on Agricultural Credit for Africans. The Committee recommended a rate of 8% to be reduced to 6% where a clear title to land existed as security. The rate was calculated as being just sufficient to cover interest payable to Government, working expenses and bad debts, and not being so favourable as to prejudice the chances of forming and developing a system of credit through co-operative societies, including the establishment of a co-operative central bank. The committee's aim was ultimately only such a system could achieve the aim of providing the credit required for African farmers."

Mr. G. A. PRICE (Cons.): "Will the Minister take steps to ensure that the Kenya Government are not described as 'shabby moneylenders'?"

Mr. FENNER BROCKWAY (Lab.) asked what extent permits had been given to African farmers to grow coffee in the Fort Hall and Nyeri districts of Kenya, and when permits were similarly to be granted to African farmers in the Kiambu and other districts of Kenya in which Africans were not now allowed to grow coffee.

African Coffee Growers in Kenya

Mr. GRIFFITHS: "Areas in Nyeri district were scheduled only in November, 1949, and so far 400 licences have been issued. Plantings have been provided free in order to popularize growing of coffee in this area; later a small charge may be made on lines similar to that introduced by cooperatives elsewhere. The areas in Fort Hall have only recently been scheduled, and in consequence no licences have yet been issued, but experience elsewhere has shown that few licences are issued until considerable propaganda has been carried out by agricultural officers. The question of permitting cultivation of arabica coffee in Kiambu is under consideration."

Mr. BROCKWAY: "While expressing appreciation of the permission to grow coffee in the Fort Hall and Nyeri districts, may I ask the Minister to press for the rapid acceptance of no racial discrimination in other parts of Kenya in this matter?"

Mr. GRIFFITHS: "Yes, sir, I will. At the same time, in view of the danger of disease, it is very desirable that the extension of the growing of coffee should be controlled. It is purely for that reason, and for no other, that control is necessary."

Mr. W. FLECHER (Cons.): "Will the Minister bear in mind the need to maintain the quality of coffee from those areas, which has gained a most enviable reputation over many years, and which might be endangered if native coffee were permitted in the former *buvi* were allowed to be planted?"

Mr. GRIFFITHS: "Yes, sir. That is why control is essential, but it is essential for that purpose."

Mr. BROCKWAY: "Should not the principle of action be determined by whether the plants are open to disease and not

...they are grown by European or African farmers?
 Mr. GRIFFITHS: Yes, sir.
 Mr. A. HALLIWELL (Cons.) Is the Minister aware that there is no discrimination about coffee growing by African farmers, and as it is best to leave the decision in the hands of the competent agricultural experts in Kenya?
 Mr. PROCKWAY: It is not a fact that regulations issued in 1927 and 1929 prohibit Africans from growing coffee in Kenya, except in certain scheduled districts.
 Mr. GRIFFITHS: That was a fact. Perhaps I may refer my hon. friend to the last part of my answer. The question of permitting cultivation of arabica coffee in Kambari is under consideration.

Kenya Officials Owning Land

Mr. F. BROWN (Lab.) asked the Colonial Secretary if he would publish a list giving the names of the established and temporary members of the administrative services of Kenya who owned land in that Colony.
 Mr. GRIFFITHS: Under Colonial Regulations an official may be given permission to acquire land only if it is clear that his private affairs would not be a reason for such acquisition being brought into conflict with his public duties. In the circumstances, I see no reason for publishing such a list.

Mr. L. GARDINER (Cons.) asked how many technical posts in the Colonial Empire normally filled from Great Britain were still vacant owing to lack of applicants.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: If the question relates to technicians who recruited by the Crown Agents, the figure for January 31 was 469.

Mr. P. SMITHS (Cons.) asked on what principle Colonial students were selected for admission to the Hans Crescent Hostel, and whether any preference was given to students preparing for Government service.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The aim is to produce a balanced student community, solely representative not only of the various Colonial territories but also of the different subjects of study. Priority is given to new arrivals in the United Kingdom, for whom up to half the places are reserved. There is a place reserved for 15 cadets taking the first Devonshire course and 20 English students attending London University, who in turn release a corresponding number of places at their hostels for Colonial students. This admission of U.K. students has been a conspicuous success. The future career of a student is only one factor, though an important one, affecting his admission to Hans Crescent Hostel.

Uganda Farmers' Union

Mr. D. PALMER (Lab.) asked the Colonial Secretary why he was unable to register the Uganda Farmers' Union under the law regarding co-operative societies.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Uganda Farmers' Union never applied for registration under the Uganda Law. During 1948 officers of the Co-operative Department fully explained the advantages of registration under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance to individual groups of farmers connected with the union. None of these groups would agree to be registered or followed the advice given to them.

Mr. C. ALPORT (Cons.) asked whether the initial survey of the railway link between the Northern Rhodesian and East Africa railway systems was now complete.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: A preliminary survey was completed in November, 1949. A detailed engineering survey is now in progress and arrangements are almost complete for a complementary development survey.

Mr. ALPORT asked what facilities existed at Makerere College, Uganda, for training civil engineers.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There is no training in civil engineering at a technical college shortly to be established in Nairobi.

Mr. R. SCHLESSEN (Lab.) asked what modification was being considered in respect of assisted economic and social development in Colonial areas, either in regard to financial expenditure or the acceleration of plans.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The policy of pressing ahead with economic and social development has recently been reaffirmed by the amendment of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to provide a further £20m. for this purpose. Although rising costs have diminished the real value of the moneys provided under this Act, the high prices prevailing for most primary commodities have resulted in increasing resources readily available to many territories. These resources or credit will depend largely on the extent to which requirements of capital and consumer goods are met.

Mr. MUSAZIZA (former member of the Legislative Council) asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Uganda Farmers' Union in Uganda, who were arrested from the Protectorate in 1949 and deported to the West Nile district, according to the reports, he will be free to move in the area on which the Commission has given permission.

Bishop Stanway on Kenya To-day
Publication of Heraldic Correspondence

THE RT. REV. A. STANWAY, the new Bishop of Central Tanganyika, last week addressing the Kenya Church Aid Association in London a few days ago that the two most striking things about Kenya to-day were the tremendous development in the towns, in which half the European population now lives, and the great programme of research of all kind, mainly on an inter-territorial basis.

Town development was such that the valuation for rating purposes of the land on which the C.M.S. compound in Nairobi stood increased last year by 900%.

A great deal of harm, said the Bishop, was done by the appearance in local newspapers of correspondence expressing extreme and unrepresentative opinions. It was most unfortunate that such letters should be published, especially when there was a rapidly growing awareness that there could be no satisfactory solutions of the difficulties of that inter-racial country which did not allow for the full development of each race. To find the right solution in the greatest of all the problems facing East Africa would require deep thought, great care, and mutual goodwill.

Never previously had Kenya had so many Europeans been so interested in the work of the Church; though it could not be said that there was a spiritual revival, the need for the work was widely recognized.

At that moment a mission was being held in Nairobi, to bring to the notice of the public the Governor had given a party and the mayor a dinner. Those might seem strange ways of opening a mission, but they did mark its significance.

More Churches Than Ever

Never were so many churches being built simultaneously in different parts of the Colony as now. For 40 years Machelos had talked of the need of a church. Recently in the local club a settler said there was enough surplus money in the room to raise the £1,000 required on the spot. He contributed £100 himself, and asked all the others present to put down their contributions. The total was £270, and the challenger made up the difference.

Never among Asians had not succeeded and new methods must be tried. Yet there was interest; recently the speaker had addressed about 150 Indians at one meeting. The problem was to turn interest into conversion.

Never had the prospects for work among Africans been so good. There was an increasing desire among them to play their part and an unprecedented supply of good candidates for the ministry. In the past it had often been difficult to find suitable candidates for ordination; now the best from many good areas could be picked.

When the Nyanza deanery was recently offered 100 out of 15 places in a divinity school, 43 candidates, almost all of whom were very good, remained after preliminary screening; if they entered the ministry, many of them would start at salaries now those they now received.

African wages were rising more slowly than the cost of living, and many African Christians found it more difficult to pay to make ends meet than ever before. Yet there was a great increase in African contributions for church work.

Military Value of Askari

SUGGESTIONS made in some circles in this country that the vast numbers of African troops in war would be chiefly in labour battalions and non-combatant roles, cause concern.

The General Officer Commanding in East Africa, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Bowles, wrote to the local press a few days ago: "I entirely dissociate myself from those views as applied to askari of the East African Forces. The East African soldier, like any other type of soldier, obviously gives of his best when employed in the situations which suit him; but there need be no doubt as to his value as a fighting soldier, even when he is not used as such. Any suggestion to the contrary is not only a gross insult to his courage and loyalty, but is also a serious disservice to the least of us. We must have the honour of our soldiers."

Closer Union in Central Africa Conference Opens Next Week

THE CONFERENCE ON CLOSER UNION OF CENTRAL AFRICAN TERRITORIES will open in the Colonial and Foreign Office, Downing Street, on Monday. The first suggestion that such a conference should be held came from Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, and in November last the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. James Griffiths, made an announcement in the House of Commons.

The British Government had, he said, come to the conclusion that there should be a fresh examination of the problems of closer association between the territories. The conference would consider whether it was possible to formulate proposals for a further advance. Mr. Griffiths emphasized that the work of the meeting would be purely exploratory, and would in no way commit any of the participating Governments to the adoption of any proposals.

Africans Will Be Consulted

He added that there were no African officers with the necessary qualifications for attending such a conference, but adequate opportunity would be afforded for public discussion of any proposals, including consultation with African opinion in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The Southern Rhodesian delegation is headed by Mr. A. H. SACHAN, Secretary to the Treasury. He is due to arrive at Southampton to-morrow on the ATHENE CASTLE, accompanied by Mr. T. G. GIBSON, Secretary for External Affairs, Mr. J. R. H. STAUN, Director of Census and Statistics, Mr. J. WARD, assistant secretary, Trade and Industrial Development, Mr. A. J. EVANS, assistant secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, Mr. G. BOWLES of the Native Affairs Department, and Mr. G. NICHOLAS, Cabinet Secretary (secretary of the delegation). Mr. L. POWYS JONES, Secretary for Native Affairs, will arrive in London by air to-morrow.

The Northern Rhodesian delegation, which will arrive by air to-day, is composed of Mr. E. C. S. STANLEY, Chief Secretary, Mr. GEORGE THOMSON, Financial Secretary, Mr. R. P. BUSH, Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. E. UNSWORTH, newly appointed Attorney-General in the territory, and Mr. J. BATHURST BROWN, former Accountant-General, now officially on leave pending retirement.

Nyasaland is represented by Mr. C. W. FOOTMAN, who was last month appointed Chief Secretary after being Financial Secretary since 1947, and the members are Mr. V. FOX-STRANDEWAYS, Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. W. J. PINCOTT, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. J. A. CORRIE, an administrative officer.

No Real Differences

Mr. A. B. COHEN, head of the African Department, will head the Colonial Office representatives.

In January Sir Godfrey Huggins said in London that the main aim of the forthcoming conference would be to tabulate whatever differences there might be in the laws of the three contiguous African territories, the administration of the law, and the general conduct of Native Affairs. He had no doubt that they would find that there were practically no differences, but it would be advantageous to have that made quite clear by non-political men whose business was administration.

During his recent tour of Southern Rhodesia, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. Patrick Gordon-Walker, said in Salisbury that the Colonial Government would be happy to accept the conference and to accept any recommendations.

"We do think," he added, "that if proper ways and means can be found, a closer association in one way or another between the three territories is desirable, but unless it is willingly done, it cannot be done at all."

The Prime Minister was questioned on this subject in the House of Commons last week. Sir Richard ADELMAN (Labour) asked whether Mr. Gordon-Walker's remarks meant a "whitewash" of Mr. Griffiths's statement in November. Mr. ADELMAN replied that there was no change in Government policy on this matter.

"Community development was started in Northern Rhodesia before anywhere else in the Colonies," Mr. Gordon-Walker said.



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VAUXHALL

PLANE NOAH, secretary of the international subcommittee for the progress of peoples against Imperialism, is spending six months in Uganda. It is reported that her purpose is to help in the organization of "The Federation of Partnerships of the Uganda African Farmers," a body which has come into being since the Batak in Uganda and the African Farmers Union were proclaimed illegal.

FRANK E. MILLS, formerly in the service of the Palestine Government, is to be attached to the Sudan into a corps of service for civil servants there and elsewhere, is chairman of a commission appointed by the Governor-General of the Sudan to examine terms of service and superannuation arrangements of officials and employees of Government establishments. The other members are **MR. G. D. CAMPBELL**, a former Governor of Darfur Province, and **AHMED EFF. AL-WALEH-EL ATABANI**, assistant legal secretary.

Obituary

Lady Muriel Ilex-Blake

LADY MURIEL ILEX-BLAKÉ, who has died at her home in Kenya after a period of illness, was perhaps the Colony's best known gardener, for in addition to her writings on the subject, including "Some Wild Flowers in Kenya," she was president of the Kenya Horticultural Society for 29 of the 30 years of her residence in the Colony. For these services she was awarded the Veitch Silver Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain. The herbarium in the Coryndon Museum also benefited from her work. The funeral, which was conducted by the Bishop of Mombasa, was attended by the Governor and Lady Maschell.

Mr. Robert Tait Bowie

MR. ROBERT TAIT BOWIE, son of Lady and the late Sir William Tait Bowie, has died at the age of 36. He had recently undergone a serious operation in Johannesburg, and was flown to the country, accompanied by his wife, formerly a nurse in the Colonial Service, born in the Protectorate. Mr. Tait Bowie joined the staff of **LUXURY LEA** Estates after leaving school. The outbreak of war found him in Britain, and he joined the Scottish Borderers, later being seconded to the 2nd Northern Rhodesian Rifles and serving with them in the African campaigns and later in Burma and Ceylon. At the end of the war he worked for a time with the military rehabilitation organization, and became a Government administrative officer.

CAPTAIN ROBERT STEVENSON PARKE, M.B.E., who has died suddenly in Southern Rhodesia, served with the 1st (Nyasaland) Battalion, The King's African Rifles, during the war, and came to London for the Victory Parade in 1946.

MR. A. E. WHITE, one of the earliest councillors of Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia, died there recently. He founded an auctioneering firm, was a past president of the Midlands Agricultural Society, and chairman of the Midlands Cricket Board.

MR. EDWIN ERIC THOMSON, who has died in London, was vice-chairman of Messrs. Pinchin, Hanson and Associates, Ltd., and is a director of Reed and Compton, Ltd.

THE VERY REV. FATHER STEPHEN MACKIE, who died in Cairo in his 57th year, went to the Sudan in 1902 and became Vicar Apostolic of Juba in 1905.

MR. RICHARD LYON, a director of **REARSON LTD.**, has died at the age of 61.

MRS. ANNA FRANK, widow of **ALBERT FRANK**, died suddenly in Nairobi.

MR. J. M. GIBSON, the late of Slatyuk, died in Nyero.

International Materials Conference

VISCOUNT KNOLLYS will represent Great Britain, **M. RAUL DE VIGY** France, and **MR. EDWIN T. GIBSON** the United States, on the central group of the International Materials Conference in Washington. **MR. C. W. JEFFERY**, of the United States, is executive secretary in charge of the central secretariat which is being established for the commodity committees, each of which will work independently, making recommendations direct to Governments and not through the central group, and each drawing up its own rules of procedure. The first committee, dealing with copper, zinc and lead, in which Australia, Belgium (for Benelux), Canada, Chile, Western Germany, France, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States will participate, met last Monday. The cotton and cotton linters committee, composed of representatives of Belgium (for Benelux), Brazil, Canada, Western Germany, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Peru, the U.K., and the U.S.A., will meet on March 27; the tungsten and molybdenum committee, of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Western Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the U.K., and the U.S.A., on March 28; the manganese, nickel and cobalt committee, with Belgium (for Benelux), Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Western Germany, France, India, Norway, South Africa, the U.K., and the U.S.A., on March 12.

African Political Advancement

EVENTS IN OTHER BRITISH TERRITORIES in Africa have had a profound effect on the native population in Southern Rhodesia, and the Minister of Internal Affairs in a recent address, "Because of changes elsewhere more rapid progress will be forced upon us here," he continued, "It is therefore doubly important that we should look to the quality of the voters, and the character and morals of the African people should be improved. If there is to be an acceleration of the African political, it is important that his development in other directions should be accelerated. It was a fundamental requirement in all dealings with the African."

A motion by Major A. C. Keyser, leader of the European elected members of the Kenya Legislative Council, exploring the opinion of the Government in flouting the authority of this Council, in that Government had decided not to implement all the recommendations of the Glancy report on the Registration of Persons Ordinance, 1947, after the Council had approved these recommendations by a large majority, has been defeated by 24 votes to 11 (all-European elected members). **DR. RAMAN**, an Indian member, did not vote, and **MR. NATHOO**, another Indian member, and **MR. STRATY**, an A.S. member, were absent.

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Nationalism and Communism

Mr. Geyser on Need for Continuity.

MR. R. HON. L. GEYSER, speaking after the address by Dr. A. L. Geyser which we reported last week, said that the elemental forces of change were everything to-day—the negative, material force of Communism, and the intuitive desire, aspirations to control their own destiny.

Whereas the peoples of Asia had had a long tradition of culture, literature, and government on a large scale, there was no such tradition in Africa, where government had been limited to the tribe, and where there had been nothing more than the most primitive economy and cultural life.

How was the second elemental force to be given play in Africa without becoming a source of destruction and ruin? One of the most important requisites was some continuity between the impact of western civilization and the realization of the hopes of the peoples of Africa. That realization might take a long time, but the passionate desire of backward communities had to be recognized.

Result of Emancipation

Where continuity had been broken, by war and by enemy occupation in recent years, the result of emancipation had been a very close association between nationalism and Communism. It was to be hoped that the future would prove there had been sufficient continuity in India, Pakistan, and Ceylon to avoid that association, and to ensure that those peoples could fulfil their national aspirations and yet maintain the continuity which would avoid deterioration and destruction.

Africa presented a far more difficult problem, because the clash between African traditions and western civilization was so much greater. This meant that the result of continuity was all the greater. Whether in some areas, where we were gaining too much time in the name of political expediency, and at the same time the risk of breaking up that continuity, had still to be seen.

Danger of One-Sided Development

THAT THE BALANCE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY in Africa has been affected by new world demands for raw materials is emphasized in a review of economic conditions submitted to the Economic and Social Council at Santiago de Chile. The effect on social life has been profound. The review gives warning that development may become one-sided unless more capital investment is devoted to the exploitation of local resources for internal needs. Fulfilment of the needs of Native populations depends not only on investment but also on administration and the comprehensive planning by Governments has made a contribution to this end. Present needs include expansion of the social services, education and technical training, a permanently established and highly paid labour force, further development of labour organizations, and more judicious use of local resources through improved techniques. Schemes which are unlikely to produce a direct financial return are being carried out by the British, French, and Belgian Governments, but it is assumed that agricultural, mining and industrial undertakings will continue under private ownership. Progress of the 20 years which had been made by all Governments concerned was slower than had been expected owing to difficulties now being overcome in obtaining equipment and skilled labour.

An amendment to increase the property qualification for African voters in Southern Rhodesia from £300 to £500, was accepted when the Southern Rhodesian Parliament resumed its discussions on the Electoral Amendment Bill. The House accepted an amendment by Mr. W. H. Eastwood (Labour) to reduce the income qualification from £240 to £200. The Prime Minister agreed that the more possession of riches did not make a man civilized; sometimes the contrary was the case. New electoral law was signed by remaining in force until the next general election.

S. Rhodesian Government Criticized

Differences in United Party

UNDER THE HEADLINE "A Government in Difficulty: Revolt in Rhodesia" the Salisbury correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* has written:

"There has been a rapid deterioration of the Government's position. It became obvious that the new petrol rationing scheme was breaking down badly. Mr. R. F. Halsted, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, who sponsored the scheme, and Mr. Davenport, Minister of Mines and Transport, were called to account for the failure of the railways to bring petrol from Beira. Finally, the Prime Minister intervened to admit that there had been a bad breakdown, but said all the Cabinet shared the responsibility equally. Meat prices, cement supplies and prices, Native labour shortage, etc., have been equally unfortunate for the Government."

The correspondent added that three or four, possibly more, members of the United Party had considered breaking away, and that angry scenes had occurred in the party caucus.

The abrupt closing of the session, leaving some important legislation in limbo, is generally assumed to have been to allow the members on the back benches of the United Party to cool off, but it is also generally agreed that while this may have been essential to save the Government from immediate defeat, some Cabinet changes are imperative if the party is not to break up.

Robust Faith in Ministers Lacking

The *Bulawayo Chronicle* wrote in a leading article:

"There is clearly lacking at the moment that robust faith in Ministers that there should be in a thoroughly integrated, one-purpose and successful party. This may be a phase, but it needs attention by those most concerned, since strength in government—which was what was sought when the United Party was given an unexpectedly large majority—is needed more rather than less to-day, and will be even more needed in the immediate future."

The failures which have brought the United Party into the forefront not so much of policy as failures to implement it, have not been successful. The Minister of Agriculture's statement on the meat position emphasized utter failure to implement a set policy.

The Prime Minister should talk to some of his Ministers with emphasis and forthrightness.

The Rhodesia Herald writes

"One way of restoring confidence would be complete frankness for errors realized and admitted are less likely to occur again. But we do not agree that the Government should tender its resignation and plunge the country into a general election at this time, when the earliest and most co-operative steps are needed for the country to meet the world crisis."

The public have behaved well from the start of this petrol affair. If the issue has been a salutary one to the Government, and there is evidence from now on of better efficiency and co-ordination, we believe the public would be content to go on without a major political upheaval at a time when all should be pulling in the same way.

African Housing Controversy

COMPLAINTS against a proposed African housing scheme in Bulawayo were voiced recently in the Southern Rhodesian Parliament. Mr. W. H. Eastwood (Labour) said that if present plans went through European housing in the Hyde Park area of the city would find itself between two lots of Native housing. The Chief Labour member, Mr. J. W. Keller, argued that European properties would appreciate and that resentment and friction would follow. Mr. St. Quintin (United Party) pointed out that various councils tried to develop a location, people were enthusiastic but that as soon as a site was selected there was an outcry from those who considered it too close to them. The Minister of Urban Affairs replied that people were becoming too squeamish and too prone to plead interference with European interests. Mr. Eastwood's objection was defeated by 47 votes to 30.

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Letter to the Editor

Finger-Printing in Kenya
In Reply to Our Leading Article

To the Editor of EAST AFRICA AND RHODESIA

SIR, Your leading article of February 8 seems to me to be not so well-informed and balanced, in argument as usual.

You give the impression that the resistance to universal finger-printing in Kenya was whipped up by a small group of agitators and almost subversive in character. The words "agitator" and "subversive" are, of course, open to various interpretations, but the general sense of your paragraph is that the opposition was the work of a few irresponsible hot-heads, and practically amounted to a defiance of the Government, law, and order.

The opposition to finger-printing was spontaneous and widespread, and the vast majority of the European population supported it. The opposition was expressed perfectly normal and constitutional way, by public meetings and letters to the Press and members of the Legislature. I am surprised that you suggest that there was anything subversive about it.

You may ask for justification of my statement that the vast majority of European opinion was opposed to finger-printing. First, there was the postal ballot which Mr. Vasey took of his constituents in Nairobi North, one of the largest constituencies in Kenya (by the number of electors) and, as it comprises the business portion of Nairobi, includes practically all the business and professional men and the most balanced and informed section of the electorate.

The postal ballot result was overwhelmingly against. Besides this, there were the well-attended meetings in Nairobi and the country constituencies, the letters to the Press, and general opinion as expressed in personal contacts everywhere.

An apparently unanimous voice of legislation roused such a storm of resentment because of the extraordinary magnitude and uselessness shown by the section of Government responsible for introducing the measure, and also by the opposition.

The reasons for universal finger-printing was briefly as follows:

Government considered for many adequate reasons that universal identification was desirable. For the large illiterate portion of the population finger-printing is the only effective method of identification. Considerable opposition to finger-printing was expressed by the African population; I think you would be justified in using the words "irresponsible" and "subversive" in connexion with the origin of the opposition.

Government wished to be able to say to the Africans: "The Europeans are all being finger-printed; there is no disgrace attached to it, and there is no reason why you should object to being finger-printed."

But when the case put to the European organizations by the commission of the *Ripande* which visited Kenya. Only a small section of the Europeans were interested, but those who did appear before the commission expressed their agreement in being finger-printed, as the course of political wisdom as you expressed.

If the case had been put to the European community when the finger-printing Bill was introduced, it would have been unpopular but would have been accepted, again, as the course of political wisdom.

Instead of this a booklet on finger-printing was circulated by Government. It was only one of the most stupid of propaganda devices. It sought to prove that universal finger-printing was the best administrative measure for civilization, on a par with the aeroplane and the radio-gramophone. It was incredibly stupid and full of contradictions.

On its own showing the only country in the world which had adopted universal finger-printing was Venezuela, and it made no attempt to explain why the measure had been found unnecessary in war-time Britain, the neighbouring territories of Tanganyika and Uganda, or anywhere else in the world with the possible exception of the Iron Curtain countries.

The natural result was that European opinion was antagonized to what was made to appear a senseless piece of bureaucratic interference. The antagonism was increased by the tactless speeches of the few non-official supporters of the measure, and in particular of Mr. Derek Brakine. Some of his speeches were on a par with Mr. Anselm Bevan's "vermin" speech, particularly when he called large meetings of his constituents a "bunch of nitwits" because they were opposed to finger-printing.

Government took the right course in appointing the Glancy Commission, in view of the overwhelming signs of opposition to finger-printing among the European population.

It is now felt, and probably with foundation, that finger-printing has been revived as a result of Mr. Duggdale's visit. Mr. Duggdale has made himself more unpopular than any politician who has visited East Africa in recent years, and the mere suspicion that he is responsible for the revival of finger-printing will intensify European opposition to this measure. I hope it will be successful.

Dar es Salaam, Yours faithfully,
Tanganyika Tribune, G. O. SORLEY

Sabi Valley Scheme

Criticism of people who were sceptical of the Sabi Valley irrigation and development scheme in Southern Rhodesia was made by Mr. H. Wright, M.P., at a recent meeting of the Eastern Districts Publicity Association. Within 25 years the population of the Colony would exceed 5m., he said, and food production was the most vital problem of this £30m. or £40m. was needed to develop the Sabi Valley. "The valley proper is an enormous plain of 50 to 60 miles, every inch of which is arable. The soils are rich, being the top soil of the high veld. The fact that 15% to 20% of the Colony's arable land is unused is an international crime. In the valley there are successful agricultural settlements which have been worked for many years: maize, barley, wheat and lucerne grow there, and the people—and the Government say—must first experiment for years to see if crops will grow. What is needed is drive, vision and the will to work. The valley could grow the bulk of the food which Southern Rhodesia needs."

THE TIMES
Review of the
British Colonies

Few of us need to be convinced of the importance of the British colonial territories, but the volume of questions of colonial development and administration upon current world problems.

The Times published last year three special Surveys of the British Colonies, each of which reached a large public both at home and abroad. It has now been decided to establish the Times Review of the British Colonies as a regular quarterly publication, which will appear on the first Tuesday in March, June, September, and December.

Each issue of the Review will contain the progress of events during the previous quarter, and will discuss the political, social, economic, administrative, cultural, and other aspects of colonial life. The first issue will be published in March.

Each issue of the Review will contain the position in Hongkong; British West Indies; post-war colonial agriculture; planning conditions in Malaya; development in western Uganda; secondary industries in Southern Rhodesia; African technical education and big game.

Illustrated. Price sixpence a copy from all newsagents.
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Preservation of Native Arts Problem of Inferiority Complex

PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS ARTS are the subject of a Unesco report which has been published by the organization's education clearing house.

The report states, *inter alia*:

"All experts mentioned in their statements the difficulties caused by an inferiority complex in very varied forms among both the producers of popular art and the rest of the population. Many societies regard the practice of their traditional popular arts as a stigma condemning them to the status of backward or barbarous peoples.

The consequences for the future fate of these arts are very serious. There is a tendency either to abandon them or to practise them in secret. Artists' expression then ceases to be a source of pleasure and becomes a cause of humiliation.

The experts were all agreed in condemning an artificial and externally inspired archaism; they consider this a stultic influence which may be interpreted as an unconfessed intention to prevent the evolution that a society may desire.

Changing Forms of Society

"It is essential to regard the popular arts as a vital and developing phenomenon, like any other cultural feature of our modern world. It was emphasized repeatedly that our attitude to popular art should not be that of the archaeologist concerned to preserve the past, but that of the sociologist recording the changing forms of a society and seeking to predict the future. This interest in the present should be matched by the desire to preserve the memory of forms of artistic expression which are disappearing.

Many forms of art that societies reject to-day may,

if they are saved in time, provide a source of inspiration for the very people who have cast them aside; when they once more feel the need to turn to their own past history.

The report contains a special article by Mr. J. Jadot on popular arts in the Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi.

Support for Central Assembly

CONTINUATION of the East Africa Central Assembly for a further four years has been unanimously approved by the Legislative Council of Tanganyika. Mr. E. R. E. Strridge, the Chief Secretary, said that its "formidable duties" could not be performed on the finances of the numerous organizations controlled without some central body vested with the necessary powers; he felt that the doubts and fears expressed at its inception had been dispelled. Mr. E. C. Phillips thought the assembly essential, but stressed the high proportion of High Commission expenditure which was borne by the British taxpayer. Canon Gibbons warned members that the assembly was still a potential tyrant; they would have to ensure that it did not become one.

Kenya Kongonis

MATCHES arranged for the English tour of the Kenya Kongonis Cricket Club for the coming season are as follows: August 7 v. St. Andrews C.C.; August 8 v. Lindfield; August 9 v. Rottingdean; August 10 v. Bognor; August 11 v. Ockley; August 12 v. Rogate; August 13 v. Barclays Bank at Horsham; August 14 v. Ditchling; August 15 v. Henfield; August 16 v. Littlehampton; August 17 v. Middleton Sports Club; August 18 v. West Chilington; and August 19 v. Incognita. Standing players should communicate with the manager Mr. K. E. Wight, 131 York Road, Woking, Surrey, not later than July 1.

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S. Rhodesia's Agricultural Future

Report by Sir Frank Engledow

A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT by Professor Sir Frank Engledow on the agricultural development of Southern Rhodesia has been submitted to the Government of the Colony.

Only a limited amount of land in Southern Rhodesia is arable, in the sense of being suited by soil and rainfall to regular arable cultivation. Sir Frank says it is consequently essential to farm this land "rightly" and to seek out all land of arable quality not yet brought into arable use. The more optimistic estimates of possible increase in arable acreage should, he feels, be received very cautiously, and considers an increase of 20% within the next five years as sufficiently ambitious.

Need to Ensure Stability

The report points out that the need to ensure stability in the national economy, and particularly in food supply, is recognized in modern States as a fundamental of policy, but that in Southern Rhodesia physical circumstances, and in particular an erratic rainfall amount and time-pattern of the rainfall, are inimical to this aim.

The productivity of large areas of veld coverage has been depressed by over-grazing, and the ensuing bush overgrowth, dominance of inferior herbage species, and soil erosion represent a dissipation of natural resources which is repairable only at considerable cost.

The paramountcy of available soil water for crops and grass and the agriculturally restrictive characteristics of the Colony's rainfall, raise the importance of irrigation possibilities, whether on a large or small scale, above appraisal by the tests of immediate economic return.

Pointing out that one of the severest consequences of a long dry winter is the check in growth of cattle, Sir Frank says that to tolerate this in the past may have been the cheapest way of producing beef and rearing trek oxen, but that, unless overcome in the future by pasture improvement, mixed-farming and the carrying of large fodder reserves, it will prevent live-stock production in the Colony from rising above its present low intensity.

The function of pasture should be to subserve arable, despite its vast acreage, veld pasture cannot be looked upon as the foundation of the agricultural economy, although improvement is essential.

Reducing Size of Farms

The altitude broadly comprehended by "high veld," it is pointed out, being occupied and worked closely in association with the arable, that millions of acres of pasturage can make more than their present slight contribution to agricultural output. To this end, a considerable cutting down in size of farms may prove desirable, with consequent possibilities of making more farms. Such a development would add considerably to the fresh capital required for agricultural improvements.

In the low veld, with the exception of parts specially favoured by rainfall and other circumstances, the situation is entirely different, and there arable must subserve pasture. Cash crops are unsuitable, leaf crops much safer than grain or seed crops, and the purpose of growing arable crops should be to increase the feeding of cattle and ensure them against the frequent droughty years. The crops should be kaffir corn or some small grain, not maize.

Tobacco growing is described as uniquely important to the Colony's agriculture and national economy, but success should be based upon fitting it into the national agriculture, and not letting it become an isolated section.

Canon and Dr. Gibbons

HEATHEM DISPUTES were held to Canon Gibbons and his wife, Dr. Mary Gibbons, at the Governor of Tanganyika at the closing session of the Legislative Council. Canon Gibbons, he said, had arrived in the Territory in 1924, and in the following year had left the United States for Minaki, where he had built a mission station. The duties of which he had directed ever since. Dr. Mary Gibbons had come earlier, in 1921, but had left to study medicine, returning to the Territory in 1937 and to Minaki two years later. Both husband and wife will shortly retire.

£17,240,430 has been appropriated for Government expenditure in Northern Rhodesia this year.

Union Leaders Reject Award

Sudan Strike Announcement

MINISTERS CHRYSLER, HANKS AND THE SUDAN, LTD., have issued the following statement in regard to a dispute between the management and the union of their staff:

"A dispute existed between the company and the union as to cost-of-living allowance. Having tried by discussion and then by conciliation through the Labour Council to settle the difference, and having failed, it was agreed by the company and the union that the matter should go to arbitration. An arbitrator was suggested by the labour committee and accepted by both parties to the dispute. Both parties undertook to accept the award of the arbitrator.

"When the award was announced, the committee of the union, in spite of their promise to abide by the award, immediately wrote to the management refusing to accept the award and declaring a three-days' strike unless the company gave in to the union's demands. The failure of the committee to honour its undertaking to abide by the award caused a great number of the staff to join the trade union. Sudanese and other nationalities, to some extent, also joined the union.

"The company's earnest wish is to work in harmony with its staff and to hope the members of the staff as far as is reasonable, and by action of the kind contemplated by the union can only destroy the company's confidence in the leaders who have their word in behalf of the union, and then failed to honour it."

Belgian Congo Export Duties

BY FREQUENT REVISIONS the Belgian Congo Government adapts to changing conditions the rate of export duty on products shipped abroad, thus maintaining flexibility. AS far back as 1885 King Leopold decided to "impose" export duties. Last year, such duties accounted for nearly one-third of the total revenue of the Colony. A 6% duty is now levied on pyrethrum; in 1948, when it was difficult to find a market for this product, the duty was abolished. Cotton pays 15% but cotton fabrics may be exported tax free.



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NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

African members of the Methodist Church in Southern Rhodesia now number 12,305.

The five-day strike threatened by the Sudan Railway Workers' Union was reduced to one day.

A Government hostel to accommodate 60 European officials and their wives is to be built near Dar es Salaam.

Rhodesia University College, Grahamstown, which so many Rhodesians have attended, will become Rhodes University on March 16.

All Government cars in Northern Rhodesia are to be fitted with governors limiting speed to 45 m.p.h. In the case of lorries the maximum will be 25 m.p.h.

On the recommendation of the town planning committee, Nairobi City Council has drawn the attention of the Chief Secretary to alleged lack of liaison between Government departments.

Civil servants in Uganda have been granted a temporary allowance of 5% of substantive emoluments only, with a maximum rate of £150 a year, retro-spectively from January 1 last.

Two members of the Rhodesia town management board, Southern Rhodesia, recently resigned *en bloc* because an application for a general dealer's licence which they had refused was granted by the Governor-in-Council.

The secretary of the Wild Life Protection Society of Southern Rhodesia has protested to the Colony's Minister of Agriculture against "the intrusion of foreign hunters for the purpose of hunting what little game still remains."

Central African Bishops Meet

The Bishops of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland at a recent six-day conference at Likwenu Mission, Nyasaland, made a preliminary draft of a constitution for the proposed new Province of Central Africa. They will meet again in Lusaka in June.

That Arabic should replace Urdu as the national language of Pakistan has been suggested by the Aga Khan, on the ground that Arabic would link the country with the Arab countries to the west and that Urdu developed during the period of Moslem decadence.

Recent donations to the Rhodesia University Foundation Fund include £1,000 from the Union-Castle Steamship Co. Ltd., and £500 from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Messrs. Kaufmann Sons and Co. Ltd., of Bulawayo, have promised £500 at the rate of £100 every six months.

The Medical Association of Southern Rhodesia has expressed the opinion that panel practice or practice by contract on a per capita basis, should be discouraged, and that, as far as possible, the Association should encourage medical aid societies which continue to pay doctors on the basis of services rendered.

A new advisory and information service to help campaigns against illiteracy and low standards of living in all parts of the world, and to provide an advisory service, documentation, and field counsellors, has been created by Unesco. No East or Central African territory is so far on the list of countries in which the new service has arranged to operate.

At a general meeting of the Fauna Preservation Society held in London last week, the Marquess of Willington was elected president. An instructional film on the African elephant taken in Kenya by Sir Geoffrey de Havilland was shown, followed by a talk by Captain C. Ross Pitman, who is shortly retiring from the post of game warden, Uganda.

The new Bristol 715 air-liners, which have been ordered by B.O.A.C. for its African route, will be powered by an arrow-turbine engines, have a maximum range of 5,600 miles, and carry from 50 to 92 passengers for 2,700 miles at cruising speeds of between 330 and 375 m.p.h. The prototype is expected to start trials in about a year.

N Rhodesia's Future

The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mrs. P. Gordon Walker, said in Durban a few days ago that it was difficult to say when Northern Rhodesia would attain Commonwealth status because its population was very small; Commonwealth status would become a farce unless a country achieving it had a population adequate to support, for instance, a certain amount of defence expenditure.

No person from the Union may enter Rhodesia with the express intention of finding employment, says a joint statement issued by the South African Department of the Interior, the Automobile Association, and the Directorate of Imports and Exports. Visitors who must obtain passports from the South African authorities, require to verify the officials at the frontier that they are permanently elsewhere and intend to return. It is an offence for a Union visitor to Rhodesia to take up employment in the Colony without the permission of the Immigration Department.

Cost-of-Living Allowance

A MAJORITY REPORT by the select committee appointed to make recommendations on cost-of-living allowances for civil servants in Kenya has proposed for Europeans 20% allowance on the first £200, 16% on the next £250, and 5% on the balance. Asians 20% on the first £210, 16% on the next £200, and 5% on the balance; Africans 20% on the first £75, 10% on the next £35, and 5% on the balance. A minority report suggested different rates of allowance for single and married men, men with one child and with two children. The Committee consisted of Messrs. C. H. Hartman (chairman), E. Mathu, W. Radley, L. Preston, A. Pritam, S. M. Shetty, and C. G. Usaka.

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Uganda Electricity Board Report

No Preferences for Individual Industries

THE UGANDA ELECTRICITY BOARD has been prompt in publishing its report for 1950, at the end of which year it employed 96 Europeans, 70 Asians, and 711 Africans, while the Owen Falls Construction Co., Ltd. the contractors for the civil engineering works at the new dam and power station, employed 170 Europeans, 34 Asian artisans, and 1,650 Africans.

On December 31 last there was an outstanding loan debt of £3,759,494; interests and expenses totalling £70,477 had been capitalised, together with head office expenses of £93,154.

There were commitments totalling £om. of which £3,620,000 were in respect of civil engineering works at the Owen Falls, £1,350,000 for four 21,000-h.p. turbines and four 15,000 kW. alternators, £630,000 for diesel engines, switchgear, transformers and other plant, £900,000 for intake gates and associated equipment, and £100,000 for housing.

New electricity tariffs operated from July 1, and the revenue account shows a trading surplus of £9,980, compared with loss of £5,104 in the previous year.

The units generated and sold increased by more than 50%. In Kampala the total generating capacity is 4,510 kW., and the highest sustained maximum demand was 3,100 kW., compared with 2,560 kW. in the previous year. In Jinja the highest sustained maximum demand was 1,060 kW., almost double that of 1949.

There have been so many rumours that preferential rates for power from the new hydro-electric station were to be granted to one prospective new enterprise that the following statement is worth noting.

"The board are actively engaged on the preparation of tariffs which will apply to all classes of consumers after the commissioning of the hydro-electric station. The board appreciate the need to quote tariffs to prospective industries, and hope that early in 1951 they will be in a position to negotiate tariffs for large power consumers."

Demand for Groundnut Inquiry

(Continued from page 695)

bility of one-eighth of that area and that in less than two years.

"Apart from the general necessity from the point of view of public opinion, I urge an impartial inquiry because the new document has all the vagueness of all the previous documents. It has all the same contradictions."

"It says that the corporation regard the scheme as being capable on the scale which they propose of making what may become a significant contribution towards the hitherto unsolved problem of converting unoccupied but potentially productive areas of Colonial Africa into food-producing regions. This begs the whole question. How does one say that they are 'potentially productive'? The evidence which has been secured in trying to clear this land in the last four years does not go very far towards proving that."

"I understood the Minister to say that unless the scheme was carried on it would not be possible for the corporation to get back some of the money they have lent to the railways. I do not understand that. If the corporation comes to an end there will surely be some legal heirs somewhere, presumably the Government themselves."

"He also said that there would be something like £4m. for breaches of contract. I hope that will be explained, because on such a very much reduced scale it seems to me that we do not want to have the vast contracts which were envisaged when we were going to cultivate eight or 10 times the amount of land which we are now going to cultivate. I hope we can have some clear description of what all that is about."

"It seems extraordinarily hard to believe that it would be as cheap to go on for seven years, with all the paraphernalia, even if nothing happened at the end of it, as it would be to close down."

Compensation Proposals Inequitable

"It is intended to transfer the corporation to Africa. Then why have we to expect that in three years we should still have such a very large staff in London? At present it consists of 170; in three years it is supposed to be 70."

"We are distressed to find the proposals for compensation here because I gather that the terms which are being offered are in the nature of six months' salary, or four months plus leave whichever is the greater. The late chairman got no compensation on so humble a scale as that. He got rather more than 18 months' salary on leaving. Sir Leslie Plummer like to have some clear explanation why Sir Leslie Plummer should do so much better than the more humble people employed as positos."

"We are entirely in favour of the finest type of Colonial development. We have to take the line of debate from the start that this groundnut scheme would set up in being a Colonial development scheme. That is what we always wanted the Colonial Office to have."

"We agree with the need for continuity of the corporation's operations. We do not intend to try to get the Corporation broken up but they may be in a position to give the guarantee of water an impartial inquiry. I should like to see an agreement on the best way of dealing with the situation. There would be a difference of case altogether; but with this firm evidence of the Government, and particularly in view of the past record on this whole problem, we could not be held responsible for such a scheme."

"On the side of the House we slowly get our own. We asked for the departure of the Ministers of Food, and he went. We asked for the departure of the chairman of the corporation and he went. We asked for the removal of the whole problem from the care of the Ministry of Food to the Colonial Office, and that has happened."

"We should now have a real proper inquiry. I see what is the best that can be done for the future. I can imagine why the Government should have chosen the first day of April as being the appropriate day for the resignation of the present Government, but the rejection of it is the most disgraceful day to commemorate. It is a day and a tangled story of what is probably one of the greatest blunders that has taken place since the days of the South Sea Bubble."

"The messengers and three members of the crew of the African Airways Corporation plane had signed an affidavit declaring that they saw a flying saucer hovering over Kilimanjaro, which is more than 19,000 ft. high. Pictures and cine-gram pictures were taken. The height of the object when first seen was about 30,000 ft.; it is said to have risen and to about 40,000 ft. remained still for nearly a minute, and then descended at a terrific speed."

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Of Commercial Concern

Complaints have reached us from East Africa that Japanese manufacturers of a number of articles, including textiles, other clothing, and cameras in particular, are pirating patents or registered designs and offering the substitute articles for sale at prices far below those ruling for the genuine product, from which the imitations are often indistinguishable by the general public. Trickery of this kind was frequent before the war. All the blame is not attributed to the Japanese manufacturers, for some unscrupulous importers in East Africa are known to have asked them to make certain cloth without disclosing that the designs had already been registered by British or other houses.

The First Rhodesian Permanent Building Society, of Lusaka, has recommended dividends for the year ended December 30, 1950 (the society's first year), of £3 10s. per cent. on subscription and investment shares, and of £4 per cent. on the preference shares. During the year 156 applications for loans were received, to a total value of £519,494; only £137,000 was actually paid to borrowers, since stage payments are being made as building work proceeds. The Northern Rhodesian Government has taken up £50,000 worth of shares, with a promise to take up a further £300,000 when required.

The new railway in the Southern Province of Tanganyika Territory from Mkwaya to Nachingwea will be opened to day for the carriage of goods and passengers. A rate of 1s. 3d. cents per 100 lb. per mile will be charged for all Overseas Food Corporation traffic and for goods imported by the public. Exports and locally produced goods will be rated at 1.12s. per 100 lb. per mile.

International Cotton Congress

Twenty-six countries were represented at the 1950 international cotton congress which was opened by King Farouk in Cairo on Saturday. No delegates were sent by the Eastern European countries. Subjects discussed included the degeneration of varieties, development of new strains, and propaganda to counter the wide publicity given to artificial fibres.

The Commonwealth section of the 1951 British Industries Fair to be held at Earl's Court, London, from April 30 to May 11, will be larger than usual and more than 20 countries will be represented, including Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia.

Basic prices of food crops in Tanganyika for 1951 have been increased as follows: maize, per 200 lb. unbagged 25s.; white millet, per 200 lb. unbagged 25s.; grade 1 wheat, per 200 lb., bagged, 43/10s.; mixed beans, per kilo 55 cents of a shilling.

Dorman Ltd. is the new style of the Nairobi business previously known as Dorman and Heddon-Smith, Ltd. The new directors are Mr. J. K. Ryan, J.B. and Mr. F. E. Charles, F.S.M.A.

New season's tobacco crop in the Fort Jameson area of Northern Rhodesia is expected to total between 5m. and 6m. lb. and the western area may produce about 5m. lb. The territory's 1950 output was 7m. lb.

Large diesel lorries fitted with refrigerators, for the transport of fish from the coast to Nairobi and other country produce to the coast, are being built in Kenya by Charter Cold Conveyances Ltd.

East African cons are expected to be among those available at the opening of the London Tea Market on April 2, for which final arrangements will shortly be completed.

Nyasa Forests (Uganda) Rubber Co., Ltd. announce that the reconstruction scheme has been unanimously approved, and will now be submitted to the court for approval.

In the first 10 months of 1950 South Africa's exports to Southern Rhodesia were valued at £2,907,329. Imports from the Colony totalled £3,625,190.

Maize Price Increased

A new maize price of 32s. 6d. per bag, an increase of 2s. 4d., has been announced by the Northern Rhodesian Government.

The Nyasaland Timber and Trading Co., Ltd. is in voluntary liquidation, with Mr. D. Turquand-Young as liquidator.

Leading importers of cement in Mombasa have declared themselves in favour of the reimposition of controls.

As the Tanganyika Land Bank showed a loss in 1950, the rate of interest on long-term loans has been increased to 5%.

An increase of 3.86s. per bag in the price of the 1950 crop of maize in Kenya has been gazetted.

The National Building Board of Southern Rhodesia plans to import cement at a rate of 8,000 tons monthly.

Industrial Loans Board

THE INDUSTRIAL LOANS BOARD established in Northern Rhodesia consists of the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr. G. C. Davies, M.L.C., Mr. H. J. Millar, M.L.C., Mr. H. St. Leger Grenfell, Mr. A. R. Kemp, and Mr. F. S. Owen. Two members will retire annually by rotation, but will be eligible for re-appointment. The board, which has initially authorized £250,000, will assist industry (excluding farming) with capital for varying purposes of development, including financing of fixed assets, installation of new or labour-saving plant and equipment, and provision of working capital, but only where other means of assistance are not available on reasonable terms. Interest charged will not normally be below prevailing rates. A representative may, where necessary, be appointed to the board of any business assisted.

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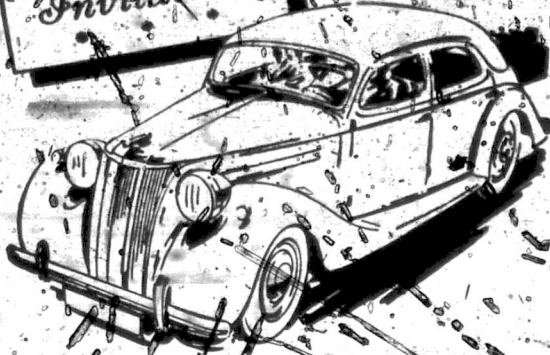
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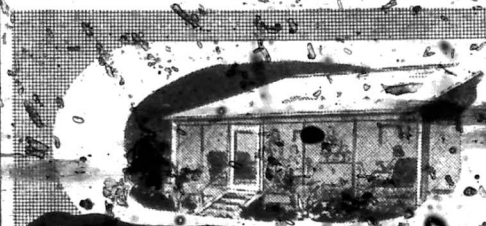
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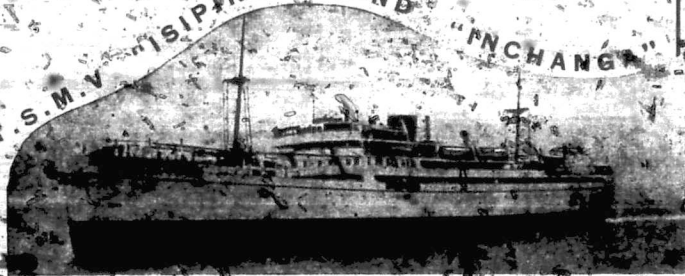
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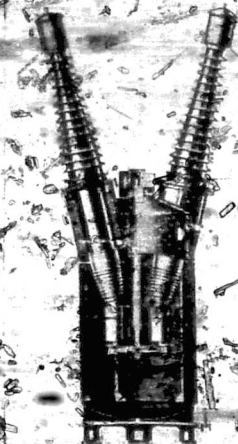
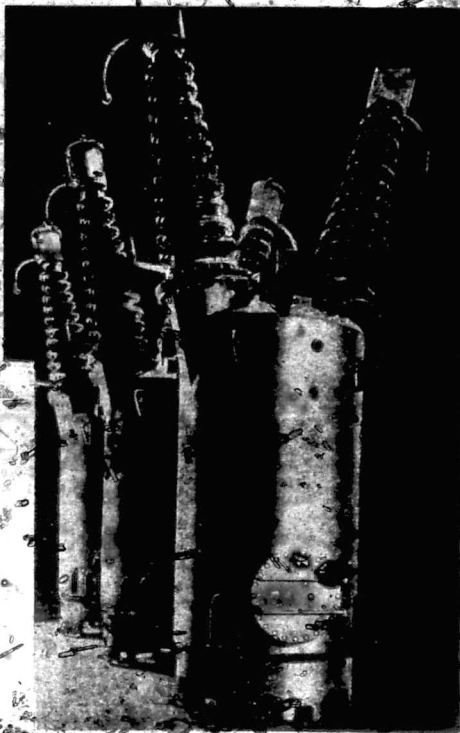
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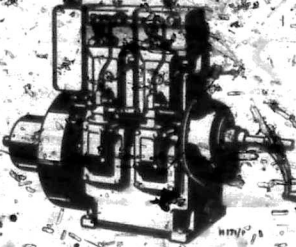
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