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KENYA

"AMERICAN REFLECTIONS ON KENYA"

BY

T. WALTER WALLBANK (FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE

RESEARCH COUNCIL)

Previous

46503/23/35 E.A.

Subsequent

R. 297 23/6/77

Sir C. D. ... 23.6

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C. I.

"AMERICAN REFLECTIONS ON KENYA" BY T. WALTER WALLBANK.

PUBLICATIONS.
Nominal.

Sir J. Maffey.

I think Ministers will be interested to read this study of Kenya by an American student - one of very pleasant personality, by the way.

There is nothing very new in it, but it is refreshing to find a visitor to Kenya who sees it "in the round".

(Initialled) W.C.B.

23.3.37.

13/7
Lord Dufferin and the Secretary of State will no doubt like to see this. It is pleasant to read friendly comment such as Mr. Wallbank makes, even when it is critical. The article is in marked contrast to much that is written about Kenya. There may be a convenient opportunity for letting people know more of what the Kenya Government is doing for natives when we are preparing the statement which the Secretary of State has promised to publish for the information of Parliament when the Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Vote is taken next year.

deal
2-2-37

Lord Dufferin has seen

2/2/37

10/7 13-7 37

J.P. Bannister
10/7

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Sir C. Bottrley

You may like
to look at the
Pillings file

(Copied from
despatch section)

The telegram has
been registered
in the Personnel
Branch file which
I am showing to
Sir G. Trenchard
on Monday as
arranged

GG 19/6

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AMERICAN REFLECTIONS ON KENYA
BY
F. Walter Wellbank
Fellow of the American Social
Science Research Council

There is much to challenge and interest an American, especially a Californian, in Kenya. The diversity of its scenery, notably the phenomenon of the Rift Valley and the equally magnificent spectacle of Mount Kenya, the loveliness of many exotic flowers, and the prevalent eucalyptus, all have some counterpart in California and conjure up a mutual mental pattern that presents an interesting basis for comparative reflection. Then too, the American Westerner, product of that urge which impelled his ancestors from the Atlantic to the Pacific, finds here a comparable pioneer movement of the Anglo-Saxon seeking to develop new land and create a structure of civilization in what was only recently a primitive and barbarous ^{country} land. Much like our own western cities that haven't quite grown up, Nairobi, the colony's capital, is the physical embodiment of this process with all its unmelodiousness and many contradictions, exemplified on the one hand by ^aultr-modern buildings and on the other by ramshackles galvanized iron structures.

The population of Kenya is quite small, its total trade as yet comparatively diminutive, and its most influential and dominant racial community insufficient to populate a good sized town in Britain or the United States. But this should not cause

one to deprecate or underestimate the significance and complexity of its problems and the role it may be destined to play in British imperial affairs.

Kenya since the Abyssinian ^{conquest} affair has become a new frontier of Empire endowed with important strategic responsibilities; it is also the pivot upon which in large measure the inter-relationship of the three British East African territories and, more specifically, the question of Closer Union depend. Biologically and economically, it is the scene for a vital experiment in the successful habituation of a European stock in tropical African highlands. Further, it seems to me, Kenya is a microcosm of one of the world's most urgent problems, the assimilation of frictional points of difference where peoples of varying colours and levels of civilisation meet and so often clash.

Fundamentally, the challenge in Kenya is the future of its tri-racial population, European, Indian, and Native. Must one community advance at the expense of the others; will, perhaps, one be squeezed out by the other two; or will it be possible to develop an harmonious amalgam where each community is complementary to its fellows and all three can render their appropriate contribution to the well-being of the social whole?

The first question, therefore, that an American student of colonial problems raises is how successful has Britain been in her avowed policy of wardship for the Kenya Native? This in turn presents the following more particular queries. What type of native administration is being evolved, what opportunities are being offered

in training for some degree of political responsibility, and how does the system compare with Indirect Rule? What progress is being made in the "life giving" services of agriculture so that the native may till his soil more efficiently, of medicine that he may enjoy better health, and education that he may be prepared to adapt himself to his rapidly changing environment?

Students of colonial administration are familiar with the new common usage which divides native rule into two forms: Direct and Indirect. Britain of all colonial powers has eschewed the first, where natives are ruled by European officials in a European way with little or no attempt to utilize indigenous institutions, for the second in which every effort is made to work by and through forms which the natives themselves have developed and understood.

The success achieved in Nigeria and Tanganyika have ^{has} given Indirect Rule a far-flung fame, almost a vogue. It has become a magic formula, almost a catchword, in British political circles where its mere mention stultifies reference to any other form of colonial administration. In this regard, it is reminiscent of the role played by the phrase "unconstitutional" in my own United States. Despite the admirable features of Indirect Rule and its noteworthy successes there is a danger of its becoming a form of colonial doctrinaireism which would impose a ready made formula on all British colonial possessions in Africa regardless of their unique conditions and peculiar problems. This is highly undesirable and, it seems to me, foreign to the very philosophy of adaptation

upon which Indirect Rule is based.

Kenya's system of native administration has often been maligned because it is not "Indirect," but it is equally true to aver that it is not "Direct" and rather represents a compromise between these two forms which is developing pragmatically out of local needs and conditions.

The Native Tribunals, for example, have been developed to a large degree from the old pre-existing Kiama system and are firmly founded on native custom. Every year thousands of disputes, dealing in the main with land and bride price, are adjudicated by native elders according to the rule and law of their people. In the past five years, important modifications have been made in the Tribunals. A panel system whereby the judges alternate has been introduced, a valuable innovation has been the creation of an appellate court in every district, and many small courts have been merged into fewer and more efficient tribunals.

Commenting on the elements of this scheme, Sir Alan Pim has said "they take forms which appear to have very little connection with native custom," but I believe that it might be more fairly stated that they represent a necessary assimilation between the increasing need, on the one hand, for a system of justice approximating British practice but not ideas and, on the other, of African legal concepts.

On the executive side, the status of Headmen is the weak element in Kenya native administration. They have no

sanction in native law, although when these chiefs are chosen in open Barazas (tribal gatherings) every effort is made by Government to comply with the wishes of public opinion. This weakness is not so much anthropological as witness the members of a Local Native Council recently declaring that Kenya was lagging behind because the natives insisted in being ruled by members of their own clan, whereas it would be much better to have a native civil service where the Chiefs would be inter-changeable from district to district. The fault is not with the present system as such but that improvements are demanded within it. Salaries of chiefs are inadequate, these officials should be given more responsibility, especially in tax collection, and their general standard must be raised. Confronted by problems in soil erosion, in changing ideas of native land tenure and in bride price, chiefs require much more intelligence, tact, and general administrative ability than in the past. The logical answer to this would seem to be the creation of a training school for potential chiefs.

The most interesting and promising feature of native administration in Kenya is the Local Native Council, numbering twenty in all, each composed of some nine to twelve members nominated by Government and eight to eleven selected by the natives. This institution cannot be characterized as either Direct or Indirect, nevertheless, it is rapidly becoming an effective instrument for training the native in political

responsibility, in providing him with a constitutional channel for the expression of public opinion, and serving as a focal point for generating progressive and sound ideas of social welfare.

These Councils are given the authority to levy a cess, generally of from one to two shilling on the tax-payers of their respective districts, thus providing the funds for their annual "L.N.C. Budgets" which are devoted largely to medical, agricultural, and educational services. In 1936, the Council Budgets totalled £ 82,000 and this year the North Kavirondo Council alone has provided for an expenditure of £ 16,000.

One is deeply impressed by the wide range of ^{social} welfare projects that have been initiated and made possible by this unique system of local self-government. Primary schools, maternity wards, dressing stations, trading depots, hide-drying bandas, and Tribunals, have been built. Extensive grants are given yearly to the support of the Mission schools and scholarships are awarded to promising and needy students. Some of the Councils are employing European public works Supervisors and soil Re-conditioning Officers and practically all have native agricultural and produce inspectors who are rendering service in teaching their fellows how to farm and market more efficiently.

Professor L. P. Mair, in a recent study on native policy, has written of the Kenya Councils that their function "seems to be regarded as the raising of revenue for local purposes rather than the exercise of general administrative responsibility." This evaluation hardly seems to be in

accordance with the facts as it disregards entirely the function the Councils are exercising in passing legislation (i.e., Resolutions) which is exercising a widespread beneficial influence upon native society.

By means of these Resolutions, the Councils are co-operating with Government in endeavouring gradually to adapt and even abolish customs which the natives themselves recognize as inimical to their progress. Once the Resolutions are passed by a Council and approved by the Governor, they are proclaimed in Barasa, assume the sanction of law, and are enforceable by the Chiefs.

In this legislative capacity rules have been formulated making the female circumcision ceremony less severe, proscribing the exposure of the dead and substituting compulsory burial. Badly eroded areas have been excluded from cultivation to encourage soil recuperation, the inhumane branding of cattle has been prohibited, the marketing of native produce reorganized on efficient lines, bridge price modified from a cattle to a cash payment and the registration of marriages has been introduced.

These comments on native education will not be interpreted, I hope, either as an attack on Indirect Rule or unqualified approval of the Kenya system. An excellent foundation has been laid by the latter but in the next decade careful study must be made along the lines of improving the status of chiefs, creating local treasuries for the Councils, and working out a more scientific allocation of revenue

between the central Government and local native units than is at present afforded by the "case" system.

After witnessing Kenya's native administration in operation, it has seemed to me that, influenced by the two factors of European settlement and a rather nebulous indigenous native political fabric, it is developing along a path appropriate to its own peculiar needs. This compromise between Direct and Indirect rule offers, in the Native Councils, an expanding instrument for the aspirations of the educated native which, in spite of many excellent qualities, is not similarly found in the Indirect model.

So powerful, however, has been the vogue of Indirect administration, that Kenya officials have apparently felt compelled to give ~~lip~~ lip-service to its principles. Such a course has not warded off criticism when the disparity between espoused theory and actual practice has been exposed. The time should not be far off, if indeed it is not already here, when Kenya native administration can be openly defended on its own merits by those responsible for its operation, without trying to justify its existence in terms of any other model in the Colonial Empire.

Significant as native administration may be, it is not the most potent factor now influencing the progress of the African in Kenya. This is found rather in the remarkable developments now transforming native agriculture. Before 1931, the attitude of the Government was influenced by the belief that the quickest results and the best method of ensuring the economic progress of the colony was by concentrating on

European agriculture. Native reserves were regarded primarily as labour reservoirs for the settled areas. To be sure the African would share in the colony's prosperity but he was not conceived as an end in himself but as the accessory to the economic process.

The number of agricultural officers posted in the reserves before 1931 was most inadequate and did not fit into any definite or constructive scheme for the development of native agriculture. But the past six years have witnessed far-reaching developments which have radically altered this situation.

A provincial agricultural organization has been fabricated for the most important areas providing for a chief agricultural officer, several field assistants, and a seed farm as the centre for propaganda and instruction in each district. An aggressive campaign is being undertaken along four basic lines: guarding against famine by the introduction of drought resisting crops, protecting the fertility of the soil, attacking the problem of erosion, and pushing the production of cash crops. Each province is divided into zones, areas with similar soil and climatic conditions, and a definite long range policy is mapped out for each particular area.

Special attention has also been devoted to improving the machinery of produce disposal in the reserves. In the old days a herd of parasitic and often unscrupulous petty traders bought from the native at the hut and every cross-road. Under the new Marketing Ordinance, definite marketing

centres have been created, where licensed traders purchase native produce, and buying is prohibited elsewhere. The petty trader is giving way to the more reputable buyer who handles a large volume of business thus cutting costs and making it possible to offer higher prices to the native producer. At these markets every trader must prominently display the full schedule of his prices and rules are in force ensuring honest weights and measures.

In the past, the export value of native crops has been unnecessarily low owing to inferior quality. An inspection system has recently been introduced in the reserves regulating the quality of cotton, wattle, maize, potatoes, etc. A remarkable improvement is already apparent and native produce has no difficulty finding a place on the export market and commanding satisfactory prices.

A tour through the two most populous provinces of Kenya offers convincing testimony of the progress of native production. In Nyanza, the annual export value of hides and other animal products has reached £ 100,000 and the cotton crop for this year will be valued in the neighbourhood of £ 170,000. Comparable progress is to be seen in the Central Province where maize, beans, hides, and potatoes were exported in 1935 at a value of £ 103,000. In addition, wattle and cotton brought an additional £ 51,000 into the province.

The crux of British Native Trusteeship in Kenya is to raise the annual income of the African which is at present pitifully low. It is only through a general improvement

in agricultural methods that he will be able to build better houses, buy soap, cooking utensils, lamps, and adequate blankets for himself and his family. It also follows that with more money, the native can increase his contribution to the Local Native Council enabling it to expand its budget for the additional provision of schools and other welfare services. Logically this advance will be reflected in a comparable development in native administration, for the accumulation of larger Native Council funds must pave the way for a Council Native Treasury and the leaders essential for this increased devolution of local government into native hands should be forthcoming as educational facilities are increased. Thus administration, education, and health are all mutually inseparable and their development is fundamentally conditioned by the rate of progress in native plant and animal husbandry.

The scope of this article will permit only the briefest reference to native education and health which, together with administration and agriculture, constitute in large part Britain's responsibility as Trustee for the African in Kenya.

Of all aspects of native policy in this colony, I have found education the most difficult to appraise. In large measure its objectives and the most appropriate methods for their realization seem as yet to be matters of speculation and dispute. Many problems demanding the most careful study are now engaging the attention of the educational authorities. Of these the most important are: the future of the Kikuyu

Independent Schools, the grave shortage of trained African teachers, the almost complete neglect of girls' education, and, above all, how to ensure harmonious relations in education among the various Missions, between these bodies and Government, and between Government, Missions, and the Natives.

Notwithstanding a condition in education best referred to as "transitional," one can cite several noteworthy advances which have been realized in the past few years. The Director of Education is at present successfully introducing an agricultural bias into native education with the view of counteracting the former tendency to turn out a mass of half-educated clerks. Responsibility, in the educational sphere, is being devolved upon the African. Natives now sit upon District Education Boards, together with Missionary and Government representatives, to allocate the funds provided for educational purposes by the Local Native Councils, and Natives this year will have two representatives on the Colony's Central African Education Advisory Board. Plans are also under way to expand educational facilities for girls, a new primary and elementary syllabus has been prepared, and a system of African bursaries to Makerere College in Uganda has been put into operation.

In medical service British Trusteeship in Kenya perhaps burns the brightest. Of it Sir Alan Pim, in his well known Report has declared that "The Department is one with clear aims and a definite policy." Before 1920, the Missions alone tried to minister to the Africans' medical needs. There was not a single Government institution in the reserves worthy of being entitled a hospital and one medical officer endeavoured to cope with the health problems of nearly three million natives.

In 1920, however, a new medical director stressed the appalling situation in the reserves and since that time there has been a progressive advance in the quality and extent of services rendered to

the native.

The onset of depression in 1931 necessitated sweeping economies in the medical budget; but, despite this economic blizzard, new hospitals have been built and greater facilities for medical service have been made available for the Kenya African. There are now 22 hospitals in the reserves as compared with none in 1920, and the number of hospital admissions treated in 1935 ~~was 42,000 and dispensary cases 851,000 as compared with 25,000 and 153,000 respectively in 1925.~~ was 42,000 and dispensary cases 851,000 as compared with 25,000 and 153,000 respectively in 1925.

Commendable as this record must appear, the Medical Department is concerning itself with a more fundamental problem. Of all British African colonies, Kenya has been pre-eminent in its efforts to work out a scientific technique for investigating the mental and physical make-up of the African. This may result in a valuable contribution to the study of racial differences and throw light on what, if any, basic differentia exist between the African and the European.

The researches of Drs. Gordon and Vint, of the Kenya Medical Department, while not offering at the moment conclusive evidence, do open a valuable avenue for scientific research. Those now responsible for the progress and well-being of the Native in East Africa may, as a result, be able to visualize more clearly the social and political structure best suited to his genius to which his steps should be guided.

Medical activities among the African in Kenya are dominated by the view that work should not be confined to pills and liquid potions but of equivalent importance is the responsibility of raising the general standard of living of the people.

The driving force behind this objective is the Director, Dr. A.R. Patterson. I was greatly impressed by his ability to envisage the essential unity of the problem of native progress. Medical treatment, in its narrow sense, can only function defensively when the

people have insufficient food, are illiterate, drink polluted water, and live in unsanitary huts. Dr. Patterson, therefore, interests himself in better housing, village clean-up campaigns, compost pits, and propaganda to improve native land^s its use. A visit to Kiambu District, just outside Nairobi, is an eloquent object lesson of his work. Here one sees burnt brick houses, such a contrast to the former rat infested variety, carefully tilled fields, improved grain cribs, and paddocked enclosures for cattle.

This emphasis upon the health and sanitary approach, this conception that a medical department should "operate" in the life of a people, is having marked influence throughout East Africa. Certainly it is one of the most praiseworthy features of British Trusteeship that I witnessed in Kenya.

An attempt, thus far, has been made to offer some impressions of native policy, there yet remains the problem of the non-African races in the Colony. This not only concerns the European but also the Indian Community and raises such questions as: is European agriculture proving itself to be an economic proposition, what influence is the climatic factor likely to have upon the virility of a white race domiciled in tropical highlands, and what prospect is there of the growth of more harmonious relations between the Settler Community and the Colonial Office? One must also keep in mind the interests of the Indian and the part he is likely to play in Kenya's future economic and political developments.

Considering this last query, some competent observers believe that the future of the Indian is none too bright, and certainly unpredictable, when viewed economically. The Indian population increased 99 per cent in the decade 1921-31, but showed a decrease of 1 1/2 per cent in the five-year period, 1931-36. On the other hand,

the Europeans during this half-decade of depression increased $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The Indian occupies, in general, an intermediate position, in the economic scheme of things, between the European and African. The tendency, as now operating, is for the native to gravitate upward ousting the Indian Fundis (artisans) and, at the same time, for the newer generation of Kenya born Europeans to push downward competing with Indians for clerical and other subordinate positions formerly the exclusive preserve of the latter.

A large element in the Indian Community consists of petty traders who, in former days, enjoyed a complete monopoly in the reserves. But the progressive native is now building his own dukas (shops) and the new machinery of marketing, already described, is having the effect of putting the little trader out of the running by consolidating business in the hands of a few large and more efficiently managed Indian and European firms.

As an offset to these tendencies, the Indian has been making astonishing progress in retail and wholesale merchandizing in the towns. A surprising number of large new Indian stores attest to this development. An ~~expert~~ expert in marketing recently pointed out that, although British manufacturers naturally preferred leaving their interests with European firms, there was not a sufficient number in Kenya to satisfy the demand and that the appointment of Indian agents was the only solution.

The bulk of native cotton in Kenya is ginned by Indian concerns and a considerable amount of agricultural produce is similarly handled. One finds prediction difficult, but my view is that, although the Indian Fundi and petty trader will find the going increasingly difficult in the future, this will be more than counter-balanced by the expansion in commercial enterprise.

Indians being an integral part of Kenya's multi-racial population, it is most regrettable that fundamentally little improvement is discernable in the relations between them and the Europeans. The atmosphere is outwardly serene, but one senses that below the surface there is always potentially the danger of renewed political strife. Such a clash would certainly be precipitated by any move to increase the influence or representation of the European unofficials in the Legislative Council. Other disabilities, from the Indian view, such as exclusion from the land market in the highlands outside townships, no representation on the local defence force, and the onus of a communal roll, are deeply resented and could easily prove a source of controversy in the future.

It is unfortunate that there is not more contact, outside of necessary business relations, between the two races as some of the leaders of the Indian Community are cultured gentlemen. One must keep in mind that there are thousands of Indians in Kenya who know no other country, who have never seen the land of their fathers. The tendency to-day is for the surplus Indian capital in the colony to be invested there and not, as formerly, sent to Bombay or Calcutta. It is significant that H.H. the Aga Khan, during his recent visit to East Africa, urged his followers to think of Kenya as their home and to do their utmost to make it a happy and prosperous land for their sons and daughters.

A more encouraging aspect of the problem is the enthusiastic support rendered to education by the Indians. In the past, a low standard of living has repulsed the European aesthetically and this gulf has been widened by a rather too prevalent addiction on the part of the Indian trader to sharp practice in business. But the extension of educational opportunities for the young Indian generation should tend to remedy both these evils and be conducive to developing comparable standards, both in business and living habits, between the two races.

European settlement in Kenya, during its rather brief span of existence, has received a heavy barrage of criticism directed at what has been charged to be its ant-native tendencies, intolerant view towards the Indian, and its all too frequent ^{quarrels} ~~quarrels~~ with Government. In spite of this, I have found the Kenya settler to be no different from the average Englishman wherever he is found. He has, moreover, developed a sense of hospitality to a fault and has much more concern for the welfare of the native than is generally realized.

Much of the friction and controversy of the past has been due, not to the fact that the settler is a creature apart from his fellows in Britain, but that the peculiar circumstances of which he was a part induced and conditioned the course of events. Colonization was not planned in Kenya, it just happened with little regard to the train of problems which would follow in its wake. Land was parcelled out with only cursory investigation of native land rights, and the many other problems - such as settler dependence upon and consequent demand for African labour - which would inevitably arise from the impact of western influences on a primitive people, were only inadequately envisaged.

To this must be added the fact that, for the first time in the Colonial Empire, the Crown Colony system which had been specially designed for the government of backward races in the Empire was now extended to include, not only a primitive black population, but a well educated and politically conscious ~~people~~ British Community. No system of government can function smoothly when the most dominant element in the body politic is given the maximum chance for criticism and no opportunity for exercising responsibility; and where politics doesn't offer a career or livelihood and is, therefore, monopolized by men whose principal recommendation is that they have sufficient leisure and private means to dabble in government. The result has necessarily been that politics has assumed an unreal and irresponsible character; there has been a plethora of agitation and acrimony which has done no little to retard settlement and economic progress.

The recent income tax " compromise " and avoidance of yet another crisis in the colony's political history is an event of real significance. It marks the waning of the diehard influence and the rise to power of more moderate councils among settler public opinion. The next ten years will be a crucial period in white settlement. This, the European Community fully realizes and is determined to concentrate all its energies upon economic development.

In consequence, one hears few Europeans indulging in speculation about self-government or even an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council. At the same time, responsible opinion—both official and settler—believes that some change of a restricted nature is necessary in the government as it now stands. The Colonial Office is confronted with the challenge of working out a departure in pure Crown Colony government to accord with the unique conditions now obtaining in Kenya.

The Colonial Secretary has stated his intention of effecting a change in the Executive Council so that it " could be made more convenient in working and more useful as a means of association with unofficial opinion." The new Governor, Sir Robert ^{Burke-} Popham, will be given the task of introducing this change in the colony's constitution but just what definite form the modification will take has not been divulged.

Another important factor affecting the smooth functioning of Kenya's constitution is the relation of Government to local public opinion. The unofficial members in Legislative Council, who are too often in the position of a permanent opposition, have full opportunity of criticizing Government but the latter has been, in the past, largely inarticulate. The press situation is not healthy with only one dominant newspaper controlling public opinion and consistently espousing an exaggerated, pro-unofficial point of view.

Government has apparently not appreciated the importance of putting its views " across " to the unofficial community. Up to the present the only avenues utilized have been the debates in the Legislative Council and occasional public addresses by the Governor. It has been suggested that Government, from time to time, should utilize the wireless for outlining its policies and problems. One might even suggest that a " public relations " officer be created whose task it would be to see that the unofficial community had full and accurate knowledge of the facts upon which Government policy was based.

The question most widely discussed and one giving rise to serious thought in Kenya is the future of white ~~settlement~~ ^{settlement} which means more specifically the outlook for white agriculture. In common with farmers all over the world, the Kenya agriculturist has suffered from the catastrophic decline of basic commodity prices. But in Kenya the effects have been unusually severe.

Farming here was in the formative, pioneer stage. Holdings were too large, not sufficiently developed, and a one-crop extensive economy is particularly vulnerable to adverse economic forces. During the boom years, 1925-29, farm holdings were sold at fictitious prices and Government engaged in lavish expenditure on a public building program. Drought and locusts, during the depression, added to the confusion.

In the old days, pioneer areas were opened up rather gradually but, to compete with more mature agricultural regions, Kenya found it necessary to build up rapidly a modern system of production, especially in railway transportation. This has intensified the effect of the depression in that the cost for developing the requisite social and economic services, which will be enjoyed by posterity, has had to be shouldered, in the main, by one generation.

It has already been noted that the European population has increased 10 1/2 per cent in the past five years (it now numbers 18,270) and thus, in a sense, it is true to say that the farmer has won through the depression. But this result has been influenced by utilizing the Kenya Land Bank's one million pounds capital to keep the European on the land at any cost.

The majority of Europeans fully appreciate that if settlement is to progress, even survive, there must be a thorough rationalization of the agricultural structure. The idea has been too prevalent that Government by legislation can make farming profitable. This is not to say that there are not hard working, efficient farmers but amateur methods, which in the past have been such a feature in Kenya must end; prices of agricultural products are such - and give little indication of a basic alteration - as to make impossible the return of what is termed in Kenya the " Tuesday to Friday " or " Veranda " type of farming. It must be realized that in Kenya farming in temperate crops must compete on a world market with millions of peasant proprietors with low living standards who are quite ready, if necessary, to till their fields from dawn to dusk. Too much has been said, in the past, of Kenya's advantages in superior crop yields and in her cheapness of native labour. Without careful manuring, the tendency to soil exhaustion often quickly vitiates the first and it is now increasingly appreciated that " cheap " labour is often more apparent than real.

The future of white farming in Kenya hinges on whether it can be shifted from an extensive, often casual, system to a scientific, intensive economy with mixed farming as the role of the average agriculturist. The problem is how best to bring

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about the necessary rationalization. Government now has little unalienated land available to give newcomers who would be willing to practice mixed farming with say dairying as a basis. Large tracts of land can no longer be permitted to remain unused, the big holders must be made to disgorge, and the logical method is a tax on undeveloped land. The Europeans do not appear to realize the implications of large areas lying undeveloped in the highlands. With a definite trend to improvement in farming methods and increase of population in the reserves, the Imperial Government will, at some future date, no longer be able to justify the exclusion of people able to profit by its use.

Transition to scientific, intensive farming is one major factor affecting the future of the European in the Kenya highlands, the other is climatic. If farmers must send their children to England during their formative years, this places a heavy burden on their overhead costs. The trend, at present, because of financial stringency, is not to send children for their schooling out of the colony. If this become the general rule, there is as yet no conclusive data available as to what the ultimate result will be upon the virility of the European Community. Although one does hear much of the deleterious effects of high tropical altitudes upon European children, casual observation would seem to confirm the view that the children in Kenya appear little different physically from boys and girls in the British Isles.

Perhaps a more immediate and vital problem concerns the character of the young, native born Kenyan. The visitor is struck by the weight of testimony available concerning his narrow scope of interests, absence of drive, and lack of responsibility. This phenomenon may have some climatic basis,

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... quite as simple as they seem. The whole point is that the new comers, an immigrant with the majority...

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but naturally may be expected in any frontier region where traditions are largely undeveloped, where conventions have not crystallized, and where the existence of a cheap black proletariat tends to discourage the growth of self-reliance in the younger generation. Whatever be the cause, a heavy responsibility devolves upon parenthood in Kenya. Fathers and mothers must take unusual precautions to ensure that the home environment for their children is everything it should be.

In pondering over the problems which confront the European Community, some observers incline to the view that Kenya will become a second Uganda. The existing white population will decline leaving only a small residue to carry on the more important financial and technical activities with native peasant enterprise constituting the colony's broad economic base.

This is too simple, too clear cut a picture. Although any attempt to offer precise demographical data for the termination of say fifty years would be most rash, it can, I believe, be safely asserted that European settlement will suffer no diminution but, on the contrary, should see a progressive, if slow, augmentation of its strength. Whatever the eventual outcome, it will not be identical, or even approximately so, to Uganda.

Evidences of the necessary rationalization in white farming are becoming increasingly evident. In mining, the annual production of gold is valued at just under one million pounds and, although a strong speculative element still exists in this industry, it may prove to be an important factor in strengthening the economics of white settlement. It should also be stressed that Kenya, unlike Uganda, with its equable climate offers unrivaled opportunities for the increase of the retired type of settler.

It would be foolish to disregard the fact that there are points on which the interests of white and black still conflict in Kenya. But the number is much less than in the colony's early history and given wise council, forbearance, and determination to do justice on the part of those concerned there is no reason why the points still remaining at issue cannot be resolved. A modus vivendi between black and

white, which on the whole ensures justice for both parties, has been worked out. In many regards, the European and the African are becoming increasingly complementary and it can be said that much as the former is dependent upon the latter for manpower for his farms and plantations, the latter even to a greater degree will profit by the continuance of and contact with white settlement carefully guided on the right lines.