EAST AFRICA

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN EUROPE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF THOSE LIVING, TRADING, HOLDING PROPERTY OR OTHERWISE INTERESTED IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Vol. 8, No 388. Registered at the G.P.O., as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1932 Annual Subscription, 30/- post free. Sixpence.

LORD MOYNE'S MISSION TO KENYA

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

KAKAMEGA'S VALUE TO KENYA.

THE news from Kenya's new gold-field at Kakamega grows better and better, and though the romance of the discovery inevitably colours some of the reports published in Home papers, no doubt remains of the importance of the find. Too long has it been almost axiomatic that no mineral wealth was to be found in Kenya; and too long have good men and true in that Colony, caught in the maelstrom of a fall in world prices against which they were powerless to fight, felt that failure to continue with their present occupation must inevitably mean leaving a country they have learnt to love. Thus even to the most sceptical mind there is something providential in this finding of gold in Kakamega, at a time of the deepest depression, in a district in which until recently the presence of the metal would have been derided as impossible, and, as a crowning blessing, when the value of gold is unprecedentedly high. For a change, and a wonderful one, the Kenya cereal farmer turned miner—and the prospectors are recruited chiefly from maize growers whose operations have been frustrated by locusts and poor world prices—is not handling a depreciated product, but one which is worth 50% above its normal level. Indeed, now that the metal is at £6 an ounce, tens of thousands of people in this country are rushing to realise their gold reserves; gold coin, gold plate, gold trinkets, gold teeth even, are being flung at the feet of the bullion brokers, who pay prices which rejoice the hearts of the sellers.

If we are inclined to discount some of the published stories of farmers winning scores of ounces of gold in an afternoon's work, of amateurs earning thousands of pounds within a couple of days of reaching the field, of "stringers" carrying many ounces to the town, of the great main reef having already been located, and of an area of two or three hundred square miles being proved auriferous on a paying basis, there is clearly some sound foundation for optimism. It is too early to say what this Kakamega discovery presages, but, whatever the ultimate outcome, its present value to Kenya is to be reckoned not so much in ounces of gold as in the retention of the white population in the country, and in the alleviation of the heavy burden of financial depression and unemployment. If fortunes are not being made, the veriest amateur who will work appears to be assured of returns sufficient to leave a small margin after payment of all his expenses—and producers of few commodities are so fortunately situated in these trying times. Kakamega has done a great deal towards solving Kenya's incipient unemployment problem.

It is a pleasant picture we get of activities on the gold-field. Following the tradition happily established on the Lupa, the miners are a law-abiding crowd, who have no use for the gun-man business which characterised American mining camps of the early days. Work is concentrated on the streams tributary to the Yala River, and drilling machinery for driving shafts into the "stringers" has still to be introduced. No wealthy syndicate has yet descended on the field to dehumanise it. Gold-mining on the Kakamega is described as still "a gentleman's pursuit." One man on the spot tells us that a solitary European police officer has no difficulty in preserving law and order in the camps, though he is occupied night and day with the affairs of the seven hundred white men who, with their attendant Native labourers, constitute the population of the field.

And as an element of humour is inseparable from any enterprise in which Britons are engaged, the Kakamega Native is himself supplying it. As a worker he has the reputation of being the most hopeless of Kenya Africans; good fellow he is, a cheerful soul, and good-hearted, but absolutely work-shy. And behold! right in his midst comes this sudden and unsolicited invasion of whites eager to engage the Kakamega at good wages to dig! It is a pretty problem. Shall the white miner employ a whole platoon of local Kakamega to do his digging, or shall he apply for permission to import a couple of other tribesmen who would gladly do the work of the whole platoon and more?

MATTERS OF MOMENT.

LORD MOYNE STARTS UPON HIS MISSION.

Lord Moyne left London yesterday by air for East Africa to conduct the inquiry into various aspects of Kenya's finances which the Secretary of State for the Colonies has invited him to examine, and we are glad to be able to announce that during his visit to Nairobi he proposes to stay at an hotel in order to be easily accessible to the various interests who may wish to be heard. From the Kenya capital the Financial Commissioner will visit some of the Native Reserves, and he also intends to go to Uganda and Tanganyika, probably spending a few days in each before returning to Kenya to re-examine the facts and figures which will meantime have been collected on the lines suggested by him; indeed, the Kenya Government has been asked to prepare data to await his arrival, so that his task may be expedited. Though, as we suggested at the time of his appointment, Lord Moyne considers that six or seven weeks in East Africa should suffice for his purpose, we have his authority to state that he will remain as long as circumstances may require. He has no intention of attending the Governors' Conference, or even of being in Dar es Salaam at the time of that important meeting.

THE NATURE OF HIS INQUIRY.

The most difficult subject to be examined is that of the incidence of taxation and of the benefit derived from public expenditure as between the various communities. It is no great secret that the Kenya Government, under the instructions of the Colonial Office, has for some time been engaged on the compilation of statistics designed to throw more light on some of the important questions of public policy which were raised before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Closer Union, and the figures which can be presented for Lord Moyne's examination will therefore be of much more instructive character than anything which existed a year or even a few months ago. Of course, in many particulars exact figures cannot possibly be obtained and nothing beyond approximation is to be expected except at the cost of very heavy and unjustifiable expenditure, and in some matters not even then. That being so, the Financial Commissioner's task will be to ascertain and report to what extent existing figures consist of facts or estimates; to assess the value which may be placed upon mere estimates; and to procure facts or estimates which may not have been prepared but which may seem to him desirable.

DISARMING UNFAIR CRITICS.

If, as we hope will be the case, Lord Moyne can arrive at clear conclusions in these matters, he will have rendered a great service to Kenya in particular and to East Africa in general, for nothing has conduced more definitely to the maintenance in recent years of acid criticisms of the Kenya Government and European settlers in the Colony than the complexion placed by political partisans in Great Britain on figures to which they have given the constructions which best suited their own arguments. If such figures, when examined by a new and impartial mind, can be given their true value and placed in their proper perspective, subjects which have been approached with heated and usually barren argument may be raised to a high plane.

ATTITUDE OF THE SETTLERS.

We do not believe that any responsible settlers desire a policy which swings the scale against Native interests, or which secures a disproportionate expenditure of public moneys in any one race. They are convinced in their own minds, as their leader, Lord Francis Scott, emphasised before the Joint Parliamentary Committee last summer, that it is the European community, if any, which pays more in taxation than it receives in services, but which, in the absence of definitely established facts, is nevertheless unable to reply authoritatively and finally to the accusations levied against it. If it can be shown that adjustment in taxation or in services are required, the settlers will certainly not be a stumbling-block, provided only that they are once convinced that the examination of the financial problems involved have been impartially and ably conducted.

COMMISSIONER OF OPEN MIND.

We are persuaded of Lord Moyne's keen anxiety to accomplish his task with unequivocal justice, and we are glad that he is being accompanied by Major Fosbroke Hobbes, a most able economic research worker of considerable experience in this country. Though Lord Moyne visited Kenya many years ago for a big-game shoot, he never spoke on East African political subjects during his twenty-three years in the House of Commons. He brings to his mission an open mind, financial experience, agricultural sympathies, and a realisation of the delicacy of the problems at issue.

KENYA'S DEMAND FOR AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

Though his financial investigations will be made mainly from the inter-racial standpoint, the Financial Commissioner is empowered to consider certain aspects of the general financial and economic situation of Kenya, and it is quite possible that his report may contain suggestions for further inquiry and action by the local Government, which has for months resisted the demand of the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for the appointment of an Economic Committee with wide terms of reference. At first the Government argued that such a Committee was rendered unnecessary by the retrenchment already undertaken and by the draft Budget then under preparation; latterly it has contended that the Select Committee on the Estimates has met the needs of the case. It is clear, however, that the European community grows increasingly dissatisfied, and that it regards the establishment of some such investigatory body as an economic necessity of the highest importance. Recent public meetings in Nairobi, Nakuru, and Eldoret have voiced public anxiety; but much more significant in our view is the rising stream of letters which we are receiving from sound and experienced settlers and business men, many of whom take little part in local politics, but practically all of whom are as seriously concerned as they could be.

KICKING AT A FEATHER BED.

Public opinion believes that the Elected Members are being kept at least as long by the Government that the official view of the finances of the country is still far too optimistic and Micawber-like that official procrastination is more definite, and perhaps deliberate, than it has been for years; that there have been several recent inexplicable instances of intentional official discourtesy to settler leaders; and—to use the expressive phrase of one settler, whom no one could accuse of lack of desire to co-operate with the Administration—that in talking to the Government to-day settler leaders are merely kicking at a feather bed. Nothing would be gained at this stage by detailed exploration of the regrettable *impasse* which has been reached, but it seems necessary to state that such an obstruction is holding up the European community, which, worried by the economic difficulties of the time, is most anxious to find a fair basis of co-operation with the Government.

FACTS WHICH OFFICIALDOM MAY OVERLOOK.

We are quite prepared to concede that their personal anxieties lead some of our friends to express themselves rather more forcefully than they would otherwise do, but the volume, character, and origin of the representations which have reached us in the last few weeks are such as to persuade us that difficult farming and business conditions are not the sole explanation of the present distressful situation, as has been suggested from the official side. Even if the Government is convinced that it has taken every financial precaution possible in the circumstances, it might remember that the settler regards most officials as birds of passage who spend only a relatively few years in the country, and who are therefore less intimately concerned with its general financial and economic structure than are the settlers and business men who intend Kenya to be the permanent home of themselves and their children. That fact should not be overlooked when considering the popular demand for an Economic Committee. Tanganyika Territory and Uganda set up such committees many months ago, and Nyasaland is now demanding that the same be followed. In the case of Kenya particularly such a Committee might produce not merely a valuable report, but also happier relations between Government and the Elected Members. Against those two prospective gains what possible drawbacks are to be set? We have heard none suggested beyond the fact that the inquiry would necessitate several Departmental heads spending a certain period away from their offices. That may be regrettable, but not nearly as serious as a prolongation of the present strained relations. We do not suggest that the Economic Committee should be restricted in membership to Legislative Councillors; on the contrary, we should like to see a small body consisting of one or two Elected Members, one representative of the Associated Chambers, one banker, say three senior financial officials, and possibly also a representative of the Railways.

A POOR BOOK LIST OF EAST AFRICA.

The National Book Council has just issued an East African Book List compiled by the East African Branch of the Overseas League, to which, we regret to say, it is not very creditable. It is badly and incomprehensibly sectionalised: for instance, Burton's "First Footsteps in East Africa" is called "History," while Stanley's two masterpieces are in "Travel, Sport and Natural History," the cartoons in "Life and Politics," as merely to illustrate such strange omissions as Dr. Lees's two productions and the Phelps Stokes Commission's "Education in East Africa"; and there is no section devoted to agriculture, the principal occupation of the territories. Nor is the list well balanced: it does not contain one book by Livingstone, and only one of the late Abel Chapman, none by Mr. Denis Lyell, and omits such outstanding volumes as Coudenhove's "My African Neighbours" and Pienaar's "Adventures of a Lion Family." Among works of reference the Ormsby-Gore and Hilton-Young Reports are included, though that of the Joint Committee on Closer Union is omitted. Of the records of missionary endeavour Dan Crawford's incomparable "Back to the Long Grass," Mr. Hetherwick's books on Nyasaland, and other obvious Attles are forgotten, while of the Rev. E. W. Smith's fine studies "The Golden Stool" and "Aggrey of Africa" have to give way to one of definitely lesser interest. These constructive criticisms, made within five minutes of receipt of the list, are obviously not intended to be exhaustive, but suffice to show the unsatisfactory character of the production.

E.A. BRANCH OF OVERSEAS LEAGUE SHOULD DO BETTER.

The East African Branch of the Overseas League claims to exist largely for the purpose of securing sound publicity for the territories, but we cannot congratulate it on this first effort, and only regret that the National Book Council should have been led to issue a list which is far less helpful to the reading public than it might so easily have been made with a little additional trouble. The Branch, which should have a high standard in these matters, appears content with a very mediocre one, which cannot be attributed to haste, for we know that the list has been under preparation for months and that useful suggestions were tendered by non-members. It is a pity that they were not properly adopted.

LOCUST CONTROL: LONDON v. KENYA.

Last week we criticised the Elected Members of the Kenya Legislative Council for what we regarded as a parochial attitude towards money spent on locust work. Now it is announced that the French Committee for Locust Research, consisting of entomologists and heads of plant protection services in all the French African Colonies, has agreed to recognise the Imperial Institute of Entomology, London, as the international centre for the collection of data on the appearance and movements of locust swarms. The Italians had already taken this step; and these decisions emphasise in the most irrefutable fashion the international character of the locust problem and the necessity for a single central control of the measures now being taken to solve it. That the British Institute should be accepted as the international centre is a well-deserved compliment to British entomologists. Information on the movements of locusts is now being received from sixteen Empire and twenty-five foreign countries by the Imperial Institute of Entomology and analysed there in order to trace the origin of locust swarms, the routes of their invasions, and the probable causes of the outbreaks. In the light of these facts, the Kenya Elected Members will surely change their attitude. We sincerely hope so.

PEERS DEBATE LORD MOYNE'S MISSION

GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH HIS SELECTION

To Perform a Difficult Task.

In the House of Lords last week Lord Lugard called attention to the magnitude of the task which Lord Moyne had undertaken at the invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and asked whether his inquiries were to be limited to Kenya, and whether he was expected to carry out his mission without any other assistance than he might obtain from local officials. This, said Lord Lugard, was the fourth Commission which had been sent to East Africa within the last seven or eight years, and its task was not, like that of its immediate predecessors, to make recommendations as to some scheme for constitutional or for economic development, but after a careful inquiry to ascertain facts upon which the Secretary of State would probably base his future action. It seemed to him (the speaker) open to question whether any one man, however competent, could establish the facts as far as possible beyond dispute and achieve finality within any reasonable time unless he had some expert assistance.

The terms of reference, said his Lordship, fell under four heads:

(*a*) Inquiry into the contribution made to taxation, both direct and indirect, by the different racial communities.

(*b*) Inquiry into railway freights and import duties, with a view to discovering the extent to which each community benefits or suffers from them.

(*c*) The amount of money expended in the interests of each community, in particular, on Natives and non-Natives.

(*d*) The degree and manner in which financial responsibility should be conferred on the Native Councils.

Lord Lugard's Views.

With regard to (*a*) the Hilton Young Commission, which included such financial experts as Sir Edward Hilton Young, Sir George Schuster and Sir Reginald Mant, had been unable to arrive at any conclusion within a reasonable time.

(*b*) would involve visits to Uganda and Tanganyika to inquire into the effect on the people of Uganda of the protective tariffs which are imposed in Kenya, the comparative encouragement and financial assistance given both to Native and non-Native exports from Kenya and Uganda, and generally the effect on the purchasing power of Natives of a system of very high import duties combined with very low freights for bulky produce.

(*c*) could not be arrived at by adding up the Votes in the general Budget, but must include the expenditure from loan funds on which interest is paid and the proportionate time devoted to the interests of each community by the costly technical services such as agriculture, veterinary, education, and so on, and a multiplicity of other matters which must involve the hearing of a great deal of evidence.

As to (*d*), the degree of financial responsibility conferred must necessarily depend on the comparative degree of advancement attained by each Council, on the intelligence and integrity of the chiefs and elders who compose it, upon the degree of initiative which is allowed to the chiefs, or the control and supervision which is exercised by the British, and particularly on the extent to which the Natives Councils would be called upon to relieve the General Government funds of an expenditure hitherto borne by the general revenue. It was a complex question, and at the moment there was no Chief Native Commissioner in Kenya, just when his aid would be essential.

In the light of these arguments, Lord Lugard asked if Lord Moyne should be given the assistance of a technical from the Treasury, and perhaps also of one or more accountants.

Lord Olivier "descants" and is rebuked.

Lord Olivier "descanted" (his own word) on Jamaica and the grievances of the Negroes there to taxation, on the excessive burden of direct taxation levied upon the people of East Africa, and on the little or no return these people get for their direct taxation.

Viscount Milner thought that there was very little analogy between the conditions existing in Jamaica and those in the part of East Africa. In Jamaica the Negro population had for 150 to 150 years grown up under civilized conditions and now lived, not under a communal system, but in towns, under municipal authorities; in East Africa the Natives lived under tribal or communal system in kraals, and would be content to remain in their primitive conditions unless stimulated to attempt better things. The only way to tax these people was to put a hut or poll tax on them; it taxation was not levied in that way government would be impossible. He hoped Lord Moyne would not be led astray by what Lord Olivier had said about the West Indies, but would go out to Kenya, looking at the problem from the point of view of the Natives as they are there and of the conditions which exist there.

The Earl of Onslow drew attention to the long of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report, which was practically unanimous that the solution of the problem of government in East Africa should be allowed to develop naturally, and stabilised the danger of matters being hastened and steps taken which might be injudicious and premature. No radical change was recommended by that Committee, and no great alteration was proposed in the administrative system. He thought there was no necessity to associate other Commissioners with Lord Moyne.

Lord Lugard interposed that he had asked for technical assistance, not additional Commissioners.

The Earl of Onslow was sure Lord Moyne would be provided with the necessary technical assistance he required.

Earl Stanhope added that the Secretary of State had already asked the Governor of Kenya to appoint an officer to make arrangements prior to Lord Moyne's arrival so that the various interests should be ready and their views drawn up to set before him as soon as he arrived in the Colony.

Lord Moyne's Reply.

Lord Moyne claimed that his only quality was an entirely open mind; he had no particular views about the very questions on East Africa. The experts on the Hilton Young Commission were unable to answer those questions owing to lack of time to go into them; they had far wider issues to consider. He thought that his inquiries were bound to be based on the material which had been collected by the various officers of the Government. He hoped to get at facts, not to find out other people's opinions. He did not propose to confine himself to Kenya, though he hoped to get his facts chiefly there; he intended by means of an aeroplane to visit Tanganyika and Uganda and get the opinions of those in touch with the Natives. He did not think that by taking out auditors he could really get any fresh material.

Earl Buxton paid towards tribute to the Kenya settlers. "Matters are moving fast in Africa," he declared, "in regard to the relative position of the Natives and the settlers. And I would like to say this, because I have in past times sometimes commented on the attitude of the settlers in Kenya and elsewhere towards the Natives; in my view now the attitude of the settlers towards the Natives is the best possible attitude which they could adopt, and all the feeling of friction and perhaps superiority, I think, died away. . . . I believe that the relations between the whites and the Natives in Kenya now are very good indeed. . . . I think we may say also that, as regards the Kenya settlers, they have in evidence before the Joint Committee and in other ways shown that they are entitled to great consideration, and to much greater freedom of representation than they have at present. They themselves are not pressing it for the moment, but I think the action they have taken has justified their demand for greater representation in the future."

THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF AFRICA

THE NATIVE PUT FIRST ON THE LIST.

Mr. F. H. Melland's Lecture.

"THE exploitation of the natural resources of British Africa is bound up with three things, the Native population, the capital, energy and scientific knowledge of the white races, and transport," said Mr. F. H. Melland last week in his lecture, at the School of Oriental Studies, on "The Resources of Africa."

He put the Natives first, for with Cecil Rhodes, he considered the Native Africa's greatest asset.

"Whether it be as a Native producer, as collector of wild resources, as employee on a farm, on plantation, as labourer on a mine, everything in Africa depends in greater or less degree on the Native's co-operation and work. If the Native of Africa were to down tools, which is unthinkable, because they have acquired a taste for the material profits of labour but in this case to do so, every white man and woman would have to walk to the coast to their ships. . . . They would have to shut up shop.

"The Native is, therefore, not only a natural resource, an asset, he is an economic problem. His wants, lofty as it does the basis of the economic development of the country, must not be underplayed. Like other people, he is not going to work if it is not worth while, but unlike other people, if he ceases to work to help market the resources of his continent, he will not starve; he will lose only the trimmings of life, not the necessities. The recent catastrophic drop in the prices of raw materials is not endangering the African Native's existence, but it is endangering the production of the land, and thereby the economic value of the Native as a consumer. In this way it endangers the whole fabric of Africa; transport, education, medical services, everything. They all depend on revenue, and revenue depends, ultimately, on production."

As an instance of the effect of the drop in prices, Mr. Melland stated that the fall of even one cent, the one-hundredth part of a shilling—means a loss of £50,000 to the Native cotton growers of Uganda. What, then, is the extent of the disaster when the fall is reckoned in pence? Many European planters are now getting less than the cost of production for their crops and others are working for nothing at all in the way of profits.

Relations between White and Black.

"But," continued the lecturer, "if the Native is indispensable to the white man, so is the white man indispensable to the Native, the latter is to make any progress. Broadly speaking, he has never made anything of his great continent throughout the ages, and he himself, while left alone, has progressed less than almost any other people, despite the wonderful richness of the continent.

"The white man's capital, his brain, his initiative, his driving power, his organisation are needed; and perhaps above all his knowledge of science, especially that of social anthropology, by the aid of which alone we can attempt to control the vast forces we have let loose in Africa, to solve the problems which our presence and the productive restlessness of our race have created, for we can neither educate, develop nor guide the Native without studying his antecedents and getting up shrewdly into his mentality, his outlook, his reasoning, which is so different from ours."

And so Mr. Melland came to the subject of traffic. The slave caravan trade had disappeared, even head porters were nearly extinct; rivers presented many difficulties in the shape of rapids and waterfalls; he saw a limit to the use of motor cars and trucks, noting the discovery of oil in Africa, or the development of power alcohol, as a good prospect for gas engine.

Of Railways.

There is a tendency, especially in these days of economic depression, to consider too much whether a railway is to pay. There must, of course, be an economic reason for spending millions of pounds on railway construction, but it should be viewed as part of the territory concerned, and not by itself. The question should not be "Will the railway pay?" but, "Will it pay the country to build the railway?" Many departments such as education, defence, printing do not pay in themselves, but they do pay the country. If we are to do the best with the natural resources of Africa we must view railway construction from that point of view."

Survey of African Waterfalls Proposed.

But Mr. Melland had a constructive proposal to make. Hydro-electric power:—

"The very formation of Africa," he said, "which normally militates against navigable waterways, gives us waterfalls, great cataracts, sheer drops of from 100 to 500 feet in height, and rapids down which rivers tumble for miles, feet and more, down which pipe lines could easily be laid. The Owengushi Dam, forty miles from Broken Hill, about twice the size of Windermere, was made and a pipe line 2,500 feet down the escarpment put on to serve Broken Hill mine. . . . Two years ago, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, I urged that a survey of African waterfalls should be made. It would have a real bearing on all railway proposals, for if railways were within limits, near enough to such falls, electrification would be cheap, and as the interior of Africa has not yet been found to be rich in coal this would be of great value. In North Natal the line has been successfully electrified for a long time.

"The possibilities are immense. Not only at such big falls as the Victoria Falls, where a hydro-electric scheme is being considered, it will be at the 'Silent Pool' and will not interfere with the beauty of the scene, but at countless smaller falls* throughout the country power can be generated, and the rivers of a large part of Africa are far more suited for this purpose than those in many parts of the globe. In the dry season their flow of water does not diminish too much, and in full flood the river at the foot of the fall does not rise to such a level as to reduce too much the drop of the fall. So once again the rivers form themselves into a great natural resource, doubly valuable in this case because of the scarcity of coal and of the non-existence, so far as we yet know, of oil."

With an excellent series of lantern slides, Mr. Melland drove home his points, showing a fine series of famous waterfalls from the Victoria to the Kalambo—the second highest in the world.

Africa's Other Resources.

Space does not permit more than a brief reference to the other resources of Africa dealt with in detail by the lecturer—minerals, timber, of which thousands of species are known in Africa, fibres, the new grasses discovered by Dr. Pole-Evans in Bechuanaland, some highly drought-resistant and some very rich in phosphorus, the immense possibilities of a fish industry, the soil—"in parts of exceptional richness"—and, of course, the semi-natural products, maize, coffee, cotton, sisal, cacao, palm oil, groundnuts, tea, tobacco, fruit, cloves, copra, meat and wool.

It may fairly be said that Mr. Melland's lecture was the "neatiest" (if one may be forgiven the expression) which has been so far delivered in this series at the School of Oriental Studies, and the lecturer—who gracefully acknowledged his indebtedness to *East Africa* for much of his information—was warmly applauded and congratulated on his recovery from his recent serious accident and subsequent illness.

* The Ahuri Institute is already equipped with all the high head and power it requires by a hydro-electric plant on the tiny Sagi River. *Ed. "E.A."*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE ZEBRA'S PROTECTIVE COLOURING.

Colonel Stoneham's Theory Criticised.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

SIR,—Colonel Stoneham's theory that the zebra has only comparatively recently become a plain dweller," and that he abandoned the "woodlands and savannah" where his colouring was effective because the size of his herds gave him all the protection he needed, is a very ingenious and original contribution to a puzzling problem.

In its favour may be mentioned the extinct quagga, which was striped only on the neck and shoulders, and may be quoted as indicating at least the beginning of the loss of the characteristic markings which one would expect if those markings were no longer protective: for Nature eliminates useless organs or features. The bongo may be instanced as a true forest animal which displays striped markings which are obsolescent in the open country eland.

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As to seeing game in heavy bush, all hunters know that the matter mainly rests on knowing what to look for; this is almost as important as having good eyesight.

I consider the abundance of zebras is due to the fact that within the last twenty years or so they have been well protected by the authorities, imposed game laws, and not on account of their protective colouring. Helpful they undoubtedly are. Any colour in coloration helps them to give protection, so long as certain circumstances may arise. Moreover, as a matter of fact, which I know from experience, elephants and rhinos, which may not be seen, are often just as visible when one sees a zebra, as are the mammalia—chiefly leopards.

Colonel Stoneham remarks that lions kill elephant calves, but that is certainly exceptional, although they do do so. The young of elephants are never far from their dams, and I doubt whether a lion, or a troop of these animals, would tackle a calf under such circumstances.

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CLAIMS OF THE SISAL INDUSTRY

Every M.P. Reminded of the Facts.

The last piece announcement is [illegible] and [illegible] Major Walsh [illegible] attention to the Imperial Institute [illegible] that British East Africa [illegible] grower Manila hemp for the manufacture of the [illegible] cordage of all kinds [illegible] interest in political and [illegible] unquestionably provoked [illegible] to the claims of those rope makers who [illegible] the Government that the free [illegible] of Manila hemp was indispensable to the conduct of their industry.

They had forgotten that three representative rope-makers signed the Imperial Institute report declaring that "although there has been a prejudice against the use of sisal for marine cordage, the trials have shown that this was based on a misapprehension." Major Walsh has forcibly reminded them—and also the politicians—for a copy of the issue of *East Africa* was sent to every M.P. That, as a result, many of them have been impressed with the good case of East African sisal growers is already clear.

To Remove Hemp from the Free List.

An amendment to remove hemp from the schedule of the Import Duties Bill may have been moved in the House of Commons before this issue is published. Among the M.P.s understood to favour its removal are Mr. Amery, Sir Henry Page-Croft, the Earl of Dalkeith, Admiral Taylor, Sir John Sandeman Allen, Mr. H. G. Williams, Mr. Peter MacDonald, Major A. McLean, Sir A. Knox, Captain A. J. Todd, Mr. H. V. Raikes, and Mr. S. Hall Caine.

A specially convened meeting of the Executive Council of the Joint East African Board last week resolved that:—

"The Joint East African Board, being deeply concerned in the general and industrial welfare of the East African territories, respectfully urges H.M. Government that instead of placing hemp on the Free List of the Import Duties Bill, and so closing the door to investigation of the relative value to industry in this country of British sisal and foreign hemp, they should leave the question to be investigated impartially by the Tariff Commission about to be set up. In submitting this representation the Board emphasises the importance of the East African sisal industry in relation to the finances of the dependencies."

The East African Section of the London Chamber of Commerce endorsed the resolution the same day.

Meantime, a correspondence in the columns of *The Times* has focused attention on the claim of East Africans that hemp ought to be removed from the free list of the Import Duties Bill pending proper inquiry. Sir Edward Grigg wrote the first letter. Sir John Davidson promptly supported the plea, and Major Walsh followed with the following suggestion:—

"The Tanganyika sisal industry in the present tariff controversy calls for special attention. Apart from the merits of the high-grade sisal produced in Tanganyika, where it is a key industry, there is a further and deeper political significance. It must not be suggested that Great Britain in her fiscal preferences to her colonies is prepared to exclude and thus economically to strangle a Mandated Territory, whose main industry is the production of sisal hemp. The position can be met by deleting hemp from the free list of the Imports Tariff Bill until such time as the whole question has been more carefully considered by the Tariff Advisory Committee."

The Rope-Makers' Case.

A correspondent who signed himself "H. A. M." put the rope makers' case thus:—

"Everyone with knowledge of the facts must sympathise with the position of the producers, due to the unremunerative price obtainable for sisal in common with meticulous alternative materials, but the interests of British rope makers must be considered. East African sisal can be substituted for Manila hemp for some purposes, including some of the substitutes requirements of shipping.

"Tests carried out by the Imperial Institute showed that sisal could be used for all purposes in the future, if the manufacturers [illegible] the British consumer. That, at present, it cannot replace Manila for marine requirements such as cables, boat falls, travel lines, etc.

"British manufacturers have a highly competitive market in rope. They would not care to be dependent on foreign raw material, but it is clear that most of their raw material, but it is clear that most of their raw material, touching at foreign ports, would be their competitors rather than British producers. Evidence, therefore, that Manila hemp is covered by the tariffs seen view, stated in the House last night by Sir Robert Horne, that "if neither the Home Country nor the Empire produces a raw material or essential commodity, then the needs of the British manufacturer, then, and only then, that commodity should be exempt from duty."

At least three well-known East Africans in London have replied, but none of the letters has appeared at the time this issue closes for press.

COTTON EXPERIMENTS IN EAST AFRICA.

The E.C.C.C. Report for 1930-31.

Dr. F. C. Willis, F.R.S., who writes the preface to the Reports of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation's experiment stations for 1930-31 (E.C.C.C., Millbank House, S.W.1), is an optimist, for he sees advantage in the present depression and hope for the future.

"There are distinct indications that when the present period of depression is at last over, the world situation may show changes in the existing position with regard to the production of cotton. If, in the hope, it be then a question of expansion in new directions, those countries will have the greatest advantage that have most carefully prepared themselves for the future during the present resting period." This period gives the further advantage to workers that they are less liable to interruption by the continual day-to-day queries that are inseparable from a season of expansion, so that they can get along better with their more strictly scientific work."

Particular interest attaches to the behaviour in other areas of the jassid resistant Uganda strain bred by Mr. P. R. Barnett at Barberton. In the Sudan, selections of Uganda promising results, due to its high ginning outturn, especially in Mongalla and the Nuba Mountains. In Uganda, on the contrary, the most outstanding result was the failure of U.4 to repeat its supremacy of last season; however, a strain, B.34, was found to show complete resistance to "angular spot." "Leafcurl" and "blackarm" are practically the limiting factors in cotton cultivation in the Sudan. A useful hint is given re stainers (*Dysdercus*): it was found in South Africa that these insects could be destroyed wholesale on small seed heaps by spraying with an emulsion of common soap, repeated at intervals.

Ratooning is once more coming into prominence as a factor in economical production forced by low prices. In Nyasaland ridge terracing is firmly established and the reclaiming of eroded drains is making good progress. "Grass stops "run off" and pigeon peas as cover-crops control surface water in the rains, and, by their root system, open up the soil in a remarkable manner for late ploughing."

Some of the climatic troubles which affected the experiments were protracted drought in Southern Rhodesia; a violent storm with over five inches of rain just after planting in Northern Rhodesia, with another just after replanting; excessive rain at first in Nyasaland and none for six months afterwards; and abnormally high rainfall in the Sudan. Only about two or three of the stations had really good climatic conditions. "But," quotes Dr. Willis, "this is normal enough."

It is hoped that the opening of a breeding centre in Rhodesia will result in a rapid improvement of the crop, which appears to have been undergoing rather steady deterioration in recent years.

Some Statements Worth Noting.

"[illegible] years have kept from the days of Abraham Lincoln to the days of Henry Ford." *The Rev. J. M. Chapman, speaking in London.*

"[illegible] one played a most delightful place. It is rumoured that everybody there is so honest that nightmares are looked upon." *Miss M. L. Belden, in Cape to Cairo by Lake.*

"[illegible] Day's more rough on Captain [illegible] Gurse's campaign Nanyuki, just south of the Equator, was covered with a quarter of an inch of ice." *The Nanyuki correspondent of the Nairobi Standard.*

"The Report of the Joint Select Committee on Closer Union in East Africa is the most important and, I think, the most satisfactory document which has appeared regarding African matters for a long time." *Lord Olivier, speaking in the House of Lords.*

"We have the assurance of the leaders of British opinion in Kenya—men like the head of the recent delegation, Lord Francis Scott, on whose words and goodwill we can place the utmost reliance—that it is their earnest wish to give the Natives a square deal." *Lord Lugard, speaking in the House of Lords.*

"The African Native is a child-like people, and will follow us blindly. But one white man will bring a Bibley and another a gin bottle; one will teach him to use the plough, and another to use a machine gun. How are they to know which was good and which was evil?" *The Rev. R. G. M. Calderwood, M.C., speaking in Dundee.*

"A Native Veterinary Research laboratory in Kenya is second in importance in the African Continent to the laboratories at Onderstepoort. I foresee that it will attract workers in tropical diseases from all parts of the world." *Mr. H. Walker, Chief Veterinary Research Officer in Kenya, addressing the Nairobi Rotary Club.*

"A person wishing to buy luxuries can shop far more cheaply in Kampala than in Nairobi, and more than one Kenya resident purchased his Christmas presents in Kampala. On the other hand, some Uganda residents buy their groceries direct from Mombasa, and they can be landed in Kampala anything from 30% cheaper than the local price, even with a 10% cash discount." *The Kampala correspondent of the Mombasa Times.*

"The *mahari* (lobola, bride-price, or 'pride insurance') is not a purchase price, but a species of guarantee, it is compensation for the loss to the wife's family of a potential child-bearer. It is quite untrue to say that the woman is bought; she is in no sense either a slave or a chattel, and any man who tried to treat his wife as either would soon hear about it from her family, and even sooner from his [illegible]." *The Rev. E. le Artillier, in "African Marriage and Life Long."*

"Around the African Coast, the African has never been in close touch with civilisation until the last few years. What could be more untrue? Romans, Portuguese, Arabs, British, Dutch, Egyptians and innumerable other civilisations have been in contact with the East Coast of Africa for centuries, and with [illegible] almost none. The only known fact [illegible] that he has [illegible]." *[illegible] Journal.*

"EAST AFRICA'S"

WHO'S WHO

No. 7—Commander Arthur Fulding Marsh

Copyright East Africa.

Commander A. F. ("Nunky") Marsh, who for years was known to thousands of East Africans as skipper of the "Clement Hill," and other vessels of the Kenya and Uganda Railway Marine on Victoria Nyanza, is as popular an official as ever walked the deck of a Central African lake steamer. He is a typical sailor, full of breezy good humour and comradeship, and possessing in marked degree the seaman's capacity for making friends.

In the early nineties he was serving in some of the crack sailing ships, and then he travelled the globe in steamers. In 1905 he discovered Kenya, but after a year at a timber camp he heard the call of the K.U.R. Marine, and shipped from Kisumu. At the outbreak of the East African Campaign he commanded the first shipload of troops from Uganda to Kisumu and on to Kendu for the operations at Kisii. He was present when the British troops sacked Bulemba in those days, but he denies that he stole the cuckoo clock, the gender and key of the Arms, the cows branded with the cast-iron [illegible] the only [illegible] the K.U.R. rather the armistice, he commissioned the "Nyanza" and later resumed his command of the "Clement Hill."

Returning from [illegible] he lives on a remote [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] tax [illegible] collection [illegible] to be [illegible] the [illegible]

PERSONALIA.

Lady Graham recently lectured in Ripon on life in Kenya.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Birchal are shortly leaving for East Africa.

Mr. E. M. Johnson has been appointed Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar.

Mr. H. C. Burtt has been re-elected President of the Thomson's Falls Club.

Mr. W. M. Nicoll has been elected a member of the Nakuru Municipal Board.

Captain A. R. L. Neame, of the Tanganyika Police, has arrived home from Dar es Salaam.

Major A. Russell recently won the Mulholland, Longland and Dass Cups of the Usa Rifle Club.

The Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, First Commissioner of Works, had an audience of the King last week.

Mr. J. H. Tennent, F.R.C.S., and Mr. C. Findlay have been nominated to be members of the Nakuru Municipal Board.

The Earl of Athlone, who recently visited East Africa, has been installed Chancellor of the University of London.

Old boys of the Prince of Wales's School at Kabete, Kenya, have formed a Rugby team called the "Old Cambrians."

Among those at home from Nyasaland are Mr. H. K. Wallace, Mrs. E. A. Robertson, Miss M. Murdoch, and Mr. A. G. McKee.

Mr. G. R. Ryan recently caught a record trout in the Narok River, near Rumuruti. It weighed 5 lb. 6 oz., and was two feet long.

Mr. F. J. Bagshawe, M.B.E., Provincial Commissioner, in Tanganyika, arrived home from Kigoma last week, having travelled *via* the Cape.

The Prince of Wales has promised to open the new London headquarters of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine on Thursday, March 17.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Walker, of Quetta, has just concluded a holiday visit to Gilgit, where he stayed with Mr. H. S. Turner, of Pembroke House.

Mr. B. L. Fox, who served as a motor ambulance driver in East Africa during the Campaign, has been appointed secretary to the Thirsk Agricultural Society.

Captain Sir Francis L'Estrange Joseph, C.B.E., who visited the Rhodesias last year, has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Stafford.

The Rev. W. A. Phillips, who was a missionary in East Africa for twenty-five years before he retired in 1926, addressed the Dorking Rotary Club last week.

Mr. F. P. Hughes, who for some time past has been the wireless operator in Mombasa, has been appointed a wireless telegraphy superintendent in Tanganyika.

Sir William Campbell Cuthbert has recently adopted the surname of Mitchell Cotts, and will henceforth be known as Sir William Campbell Mitchell Cotts.

Mr. R. V. Barclay, who for the last seven years has been tobacco planting in the Abercorn District of Northern Rhodesia, is now on his way home during Easter week.

Mr. H. A. H. Robb, of Kimuntejia, and Miss Hilda Keeling, daughter of the late Mr. H. Keeling and Mrs. Keeling, of Chinnyuth, were recently married in Nakuru.

Sir Herbert Baker, A.R.A., who was the architect responsible for the Government schools at Kabete, Nakuru, Makerere and Kitale, has been elected a Royal Academician.

Mr. W. J. Coates, who visited East Africa twenty years ago in company with Mr. Cherry Kearton, recently gave a lantern lecture in Mill Hill on animal life in the territories.

Mr. W. G. Taylor, of the Tanganyika Criminal Investigation Department, has retired from the service, owing to ill-health. He had served in Tanganyika since 1920.

Mrs. Margaret Dawney, daughter of the late Mr. R. B. Foder, has presented to the Abington Museum, Northampton, many of the heads of animals shot in East Africa by her father.

Sir August Cayzer, Bt., a director of Messrs. Cayzer, Irvine and Company, Ltd., managing owners of the Clan line of steamers, recently paid a brief visit to Port Sudan.

With the intention of surveying a new air route to Central Africa, Captain Coste, the famous Frenchman, has left Paris for Africa *via* Tunis, Cairo, Khartoum, and Lake Chad.

Mr. Cobb, Parish Vice-Consul in Beira, who has been appointed to Antwerp, is being succeeded by Mr. J. Boyle, who had previously served in Mexico and Angola.

Lord Newton, Lady Newton, the Hon. Piers Legh, and the Marquis of Ely were visiting the Victoria Falls during last week, accompanied by the Hon. Hilda Legh.

The Rev. H. U. Weeks and Miss M. V. Stocks were recently married in Chi Gwe, Southern Rhodesia. The bridegroom is a Dutch Church chaplain in the Copper Belt of Northern Rhodesia.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, sent a wreath of tulips and irises on the anniversary of the death of Dr. Arthur D. Milne, C.M.G., whose passing was reported in last week's issue of *East Africa*.

We regret to learn of the death in the Nakuru War Memorial Hospital of Mr. W. R. Rylands, of N'Gata Engineering Works, near Nakuru. He had a previous sojourn in Kenya for some years near Rongai.

The Rev. David Russell, who since his return to this country eighteen months ago from Portuguese East Africa has been in charge of All Saints' Church, Streatham, is shortly leaving for South Africa.

Mr. R. H. M. Oliphant has been elected Chairman for 1932 of the Mwanza Council of Commerce. There were formerly separate European and Indian Chambers, but a year ago they were amalgamated under the above title.

Mr. A. W. M. S. Griffin has been elected President of the Fort Jameson Cricket Club, with the following Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. E. Finch, J. T. Bruce, J. N. Phipps, W. J. Henderson, and the Hon. H. L. Goodhart.

Mr. Augustine Courtauld, who was a member of the Arctic Air Route expedition last year, and who was buried in his hut for six weeks before being relieved, was in Khartoum during mail week, accompanied by his wife.

Dr. A. D. Williams was elected President, and Captain J. Cleland Vice-President, at the annual meeting of the Rugby Union of Kenya, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of which are Messrs. D. J. Sobey and L. J. Worledge respectively.

The following elections to the Nanyuki Township Committee have been announced: Mr. J. H. Bancroft, Major C. F. Ryrie, Mr. F. S. Rathbone, Mr. H. D. Lawrence, General F. Wheatley, and Major C. Younghusband.

Engagements took place in N.W. Barnet last week between Mr. Rowland Boswell and Miss Gwenyth M. Bates, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Cox, Mr. Cox is a director of Messrs. Campbell Bros. and Carter Tod, who have business connexions in East Africa.

Lord Stanley of Alderley, who recently succeeded to the title on the death of his father, the able Chairman of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament on East Africa, and Lady Audrey Chetwynd-Talbot are to be married at Southwark Cathedral on March 3.

Mr. C. Burberry Seale has been elected President of the South Nyasa Planters' Association, the committee of which is composed of Messrs. Beatley, Broadhurst, Skie, Foogood, and Wenham. Mr. L. Seale is the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.

Mrs. Eleanor Rixon, who recently journeyed in the Finnish four-masted sailing ship "Herzogin Cecilie" from Helsingfors to Portuguese East Africa, has returned to Woodstock, New York. She was the only passenger on the trip, which took nine weeks.

The Rev. J. C. Dunham, chaplain of Northern Tanganyika, and well known in the Moshi and Arusha districts, is looking forward to a holiday in Ireland towards the end of this year. He is a keen mountaineer, and has on two occasions climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

In the finals of the recent Nairobi and District Foursomes Golf Competition, Muthaiga beat the Railway Golf Club by seven games to six. The finalists were Mr. R. D. England and Mr. H. E. Eagleton (Muthaiga) and Mr. W. G. Lindeman and Mr. R. N. Aborest (Railway).

This week's air mail for East Africa carries Lord Moyne and Major Fosbrooke-Holbes from London to Nairobi. Passengers who arrived by air from East Africa on Tuesday included Mrs. Livingston and Mrs. Howell, from Kisumu to London, and Mrs. Charlier from Juba to Paris.

The Rev. J. E. M. Hannington, who served as a missionary in Uganda from 1903 to 1918, for the last two years as Chaplain to the Bishop of Uganda, is now vicar of St. James's Church, Halifax, which is just celebrating its centenary. Mr. Hannington is a son of the martyred Bishop Hannington.

Captain Neil Stuart, of the Kenya Police Department, who is now on leave, was stationed in Mombasa during his last tour. He has been succeeded by Captain R. B. Rainsford, who has spent the past twenty-two years in Kenya, and who served during the East African Campaign with the 5th King's African Rifles.

PERSONALIA (*continued*)

Mr. C. B. Williams, who held the appointment of Entomologist to the Amani Institute, Tanganyika, before proceeding to Edinburgh as Lecturer in Agriculture and Forest Zoology, has been appointed Chief Entomologist to the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, vacant by the transfer of Dr. A. D. Imms to Cambridge.

Recent appointments from the Kenya and Uganda Railway include Mr. T. Neilson, Divisional Superintendent in Uganda; Mr. W. A. Andrews, Works Manager; Mr. H. A. Swan, Chief Marine Engineer; Mr. A. B. Cameron, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. E. Jarrett, Revenue Accountant; Mr. W. E. Woods, Chief Engineer, Marine.

Mr. H. F. Bargman has been elected President for 1932 of the Nairobi Chamber of Commerce, with Mr. H. B. Hamilton as Vice-President. The Committee is composed of Captain C. Anderson, Mr. F. G. Aronson, Major Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. R. D. England, Mr. R. E. Mayer, Mr. W. C. Mitchell, Colonel W. R. Tucker, and Mr. T. A. Wood. Mr. J. Graham Dawson was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

Sir Hector Duff, K.B.E., C.M.G., has written a book entitled "African Small Chop," dealing mainly with his life in Nyasaland, in which he served for twenty-three years. During the early part of the East African Campaign he served with the Nyasaland Field Force, later becoming Chief Political Officer with General Sir Edward Norther's forces. He retired in 1920.

Raymond de Trafford and Miss Mae Silverthorne, of Chicago, formerly the Countess Frederic de Janze, were married in Neuilly on Monday and will probably reside permanently in France. The couple met in the "Happy Valley" Kenya, some years ago. In 1927 Miss Silverthorne was found guilty of shooting Mr. de Trafford at the Gare du Nord, Paris. She shot herself at the same time.

Mr. F. W. Evans, C.M.G., whose appointment as Colonial Secretary of Mauritius is announced, served in Zanzibar in 1915, and was later seconded to the King's African Rifles for service during the East African Campaign. He again served in Zanzibar after the Armistice, and was then promoted to Uganda, where he spent three years. In 1925 he went to Mauritius, and two years later was appointed Colonial Secretary of British Honduras. In 1929 he was promoted Colonial Secretary of Bermuda.

Mr. P. Wyndham, M.B.E., C.B.E., the Kericho tea planter, has been elected Chairman of the Kenya Tea Growers' Association. In addition to his interests in Kenya, Mr. Wyndham has an estate off the Moshi-Arusha road in Northern Tanganyika, and is a member of the Tanganyika Legislative Council. Before becoming a settler in East Africa he had spent thirty-five years in the Indian Civil Service.

The following have been appointed members of the Machakos Road Board for 1932: Major C. A. Hill, D.S.O., Major L. de V. Joyce, M.C., Mr. E. F. Button, Mr. J. F. Manley, Mr. R. V. Halstead, Mr. J. L. Blowers, Major Sir Robert Shaw, M.C., Captain W. J. Hopkins, Commander G. P. Sherston, Captain A. Smith, Captain W. H. N. Webber, M.C., Mr. O. C. Johannsen, Mr. R. Judge, and Mr. D. D. Puri.

The engagement is announced between Mr. H. E. Buxton, son of the late Mr. E. G. Buxton, and Mrs. Buxton, of Catton Hall, Norwich, and Miss Anne H. C. Bowring, only daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel H. Bowring and Mrs. H. C. Swinburne Ward, of Njoro. Mr. Buxton's family were among the pioneer white settlers in Kenya, while Miss Bowring is a niece of Sir Charles Bowring, who spent so many years in the Colony.

A grant of probate in respect of the settled land left by the late Lord Delamere (valued at £129,750) has been issued to the Earl of Enniskillen and a London solicitor, trustees under a will dated 1887. By a will of the English estate only, dated November 11, 1930, Lord Delamere appointed from his father's settled estate an annuity of £1,000 in favour of his wife, and left his household and personal effects forming part of his English state to his son, the Hon. Thomas Pitt Hamilton Chomondeley, and all other of his property in trust to pay the death duties on the Vale Royal settled estates.

At the moment of closing for press we learn of a slight improvement in the condition of Mr. G. L. Maitland Warne, the Uganda District Officer, who crashed last Saturday while flying at Hanworth aerodrome. He is suffering from severe injuries to his head, chest, and back, and is now in Hounslow Hospital. During this leave he took flying lessons at Hanworth, and Saturday's flight would have qualified him for his "A" licence; he had been in the air for ten minutes, and was about to land when the machine stalled into the ground. Mr. Warne accompanied Sir Alan Cobham on his aerial tour of the Central African Lakes last year and flew back with him to Cairo. He was booked to return to Uganda by Imperial Airways machine this week.

VIEWS OF LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Uganda and Imperial Airways' Plans.

At last week's meeting of the East African Section of the London Chamber of Commerce a long letter was read from the Uganda Chamber protesting against the reported intention of Imperial Airways to divert from the Southern Sudan to Kisumu when land machines are substituted for the present seaplanes. In the year, Kampala would then be served by a shuttle service from Kisumu.

Sir Humphrey Leggett, the Chairman, reported that he had discussed the matter with Imperial Airways, who stated that even under the new proposals, which will save a full day in reaching Kisumu and Nairobi, Kampala will still receive its mail more quickly than it does to-day. Imperial Airways have thoroughly reconnoitred the direct route southwards from the Sudan *via* Kampala to Mbeya, and found it largely uninhabited forest country, much of it waterless, in which a forced landing would be dangerous and probably far from road communication. He did not think it was a matter on which the London Chamber could express an opinion, but he personally did not think Nairobi should be deprived of the advantage of a saving of twenty-four hours in air mail transmission in order that a stop should be made at Kampala. The letter was not further discussed.

East African Office in London.

Since the future of H.M. Eastern African Dependencies' Trade and Information Office in London is to be discussed at the forthcoming Governors' Conference in Dar-es-Salaam, Sir Humphrey suggested that the London Chamber should express its views on the subject. A sub-committee of the Kenya Legislative Council had recommended a separate Kenya Office in London. The present Office had done valuable work, some £60,000 had been spent on it, and that money would be largely wasted if continuity were not assured.

He viewed with dismay the idea of each territory having its own office. Take an article like tea, at present produced by Nyasaland, Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda; if any matter affecting the interests of East African tea arose, and had to be handled by four separate offices, he could not conceive that the work would be done to the best advantage. The same thing would apply to coffee, sisal, and other commodities. In the commercial sense, the interests of all producers in East Africa would undoubtedly suffer. If the Section thought fit, it might express those views to the Colonial Office for transmission to the Governors' Conference. It would not be dictating too much to any territory to say that, from the commercial standpoint, the representation of the group of East African territories in commercial matters ought to be dealt with in a single office. It would be to the interests of all to use a united machine and speak with a united voice.

Other Views.

Though Lord Cranworth entirely agreed with Sir Humphrey Leggett's views, he doubted whether the Section would be wise to make any such recommendation. The Kenya sub-committee had suggested a separate Kenya Office in London before the Department of Overseas Trade had definitely decided to separate from the present organisation, and that separation would now probably make an immense difference to Kenya opinion. Though he considered it quite vital to have one Office, he thought that any pressure from London should be avoided, with which view Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. Hausburg agreed. Major Walsh said that his company had found the London Office very helpful.

NEW N. RHODESIAN MASONIC LODGE.

Consecration in Livingstone.

The Northern Rhodesia Lodge, No. 3377, E.C., has been consecrated in Livingstone. W. Bro. W. D. Copley, P.A.G.D. of C., District Grand Master of Rhodesia, being the consecrating officer. He was assisted by W. Bro. Major C. Duly as S.W., W. Bro. E. Rettie as J.W., W. Bro. E. E. Briers as Chaplain, W. Bro. C. Spencer as D.C., W. Bro. R. H. Orr as S.D., W. Bro. G. H. Roberts as J.D., and W. Bro. J. Picken as I.G. The following officers were installed and invested: Bro. Athole V. Davis as first Master, Bro. T. W. Brown as S.W., Bro. H. Hilliard as J.W., W. Bro. E. F. Hoare, P.M., P.D.G.D., Natal, as acting I.P.M., Bro. A. Milne as Chaplain, Bro. T. Hunter as Treasurer, Bro. D. W. Stewart as Secretary, Bro. A. Selly as A.D.C., Bro. R. Wallum as S.D., Bro. J. Dougall as J.D., Bro. W. Westers I.G., Bros. A. Cunningham, F. L. Martin, and A. J. Johnson as Stewards, and Bro. W. McDonald as Tyler.

EAST AFRICAN COFFEE STATISTICS.

The following statistics of East African coffee imports into and exports from Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during 1931 have been issued by H.M. Eastern African Dependencies' Trade and Information Office in London:—

Kenya.—Total imports amounted to 228,930 cwt. (£1,183,971), while exports totalled 155,867 cwt. (£604,086). For 1930 the comparative figures were 256,304 cwt. (£1,120,040) and 168,308 cwt. (£489,772).

Uganda.—Imports amounted to 22,747 cwt. (£56,705), while exports totalled 5,702 cwt. (£17,760). The comparative figures for 1930 were 13,919 cwt. (£69,305) and 10,257 cwt. (£30,185).

Tanganyika.—Imports totalled 51,276 cwt. (£261,782), and exports 22,880 cwt. (£91,788). The corresponding figures for 1930 were 59,877 cwt. (£350,304), and 12,803 cwt. (£58,566).

EAST AFRICA'S "BOOKSHELF."

ANIMALS IN THE LONDON ZOO.

Interesting Observations of Mr. E. C. Boulenger.

THERE is a double fascination about such books as E. G. Boulenger's "Animal Ways" (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d.), in that they are written by competent and careful observers whose experience is with animals in confinement, and that the data they set out can be contrasted with facts obtained by other naturalists in the field who have the opportunity of seeing wild life in its natural habitat. Mr. Boulenger has been on the staff of the Zoological Society of London since 1918, and is the son of Mr. G. A. Boulenger, also a famous zoologist, so his statements may be accepted as thoroughly accurate and founded on long experience. Some of these statements are quoted here, in the hope that they will give some idea of the attractions of Mr. Boulenger's delightful and instructive book, and also evoke comment from East African sportsmen.

"A retriever bitch once succeeded so well with a lion cub that soon the public beheld the extraordinary spectacle of a comparatively small dog caged with a full-sized king of the forest. Like some old nurse, the retriever proved a martinet and protests were presently raised by the public against the bullying to which the lion was subjected. The huge cat dared not feed until its nurse had literally enjoyed the 'lion's share,' yet when these two were separated the retriever's health and spirits left her, nor did they return until she was provided with another lion cub to bring up according to her conception of correct lion culture."

"Crocodiles have an uncomfortable method of settling their differences. The stronger gets underneath its adversary, jerking him into the air."

"That snakes may have much more discrimination in the matter of their food than is generally believed, is illustrated by the following:—

"Some years ago a big python was only persuaded to break an eighteen months' fast with a goose. A start once made, it was hoped that the monster might consent to live henceforth on less expensive fare, but though the authorities' persuasive powers were stretched to the utmost, the reptile resolutely refused to eat anything but geese, refusing pigeons and fowls—and on geese it had to be fed, to the delight of the Society's caterers."

The antipathy of Zoo lion to "people of colour" is noted:—

"Should a stranger of colour appear in the lion house—even at the rear of a six-deep crowd at feeding-time—a sudden restlessness becomes at once evident amongst all the animals within range."

and Mr. Boulenger declares that the "profound truth" that a lion will attack a black man in preference to a white is "due not to a preference for his flesh, but entirely to a sense of irritation."

An interesting observation is that the famous leaf-insects, some of which are African, lay eggs which are "almost indistinguishable from the seeds of the plants on which they feed."

An illustration of the conflict of authority already referred to may be given:—

"Crocodiles," says Mr. Boulenger, "grow very quickly during the first few years of their life, after which they grow slowly and continuously throughout life"—which conflicts with Captain C. R. S. Pitman's opinion that:—

"Crocodiles grow exceptionally slowly; it has been estimated that in their earlier years the rate of growth does not exceed an inch in length per annum."

Africa is noted for its "spitting cobra" and keepers of the Regent's Park reptile house wear motor-goggles when cleaning out the compartment which houses the ringhals, but the snake is a poor second to certain horned lizards of the United States and Mexico, which squirt jets of blood "thin as rays from the corners of their eyes to a distance of several feet."

Of the age of the elephant the author writes:—

"Whereas the largest land mammal may quite possibly be capable of living for twenty years, its average duration is not more than thirty or forty—a very short span, considering that the creature is not mature until it is twenty-five."

As to what may be called the "ethics" of a zoo, Mr. Boulenger's opinion is:—

"The contention that it is cruel to keep wild animals in a zoo has not infrequently been expressed, but those who venture thus to fail to appreciate the many advantages of living in luxurious captivity. With conditions that now exist in the Regent's Park menagerie, the animals can be said to live a life *de luxe*, free from anxiety or effort in seeking the supply of their daily needs."

A. L.

"BLACK FRONTIERS."

Mr. Sam Kemp went to South Africa in 1880, and in "Black Frontiers" (Murray, 8s. 6d.) he relates his many adventures in those hectic days. A tough customer himself, he does not fail to appreciate the many advantages of living in luxurious captivity. With conditions that now exist in the Regent's Park menagerie, the animals can be said to live a life *de luxe*, free from anxiety or effort in seeking the supply of their daily needs."

A. L.

THE WHITE HUNTER.

Mr. C. T. Stoneham takes as his hero in "The White Hunter" (Hutchinson, 7s. 6d.) a hopelessly hen-pecked, backboneless London clerk, bored with his home, his work and existence in general, and transports him—by means of a forged cheque and a tramp steamer—to a sawmill in a timber concession above "Kipkai," in Kenya Colony, run by an old hunter. The transformation of the weak clerk into a virile hunter under the influence of the old man, his pretty daughter, and the East African environment is told with skill, and the local colour is well brought out. It's a good story, with an unexpectedly happy ending.

PASS[illegible] EAST AFRICA.

THE s.s. "Ussukuma," which arrived at Southampton on February 17, brought the following passengers from East Africa to:—

Hamburg.

Mr. A. Albrecht
Mr. R. Dimech
Mr. A. Jacob
Mr. Rudolf Pape
Mr. Massow v. Prince

Rotterdam.

Mr. J. Compaan
Mr. & Mrs. A. Evrard
Mr. P. Oosterchrist
Mrs. Maria de Wulf

Southampton.

Mr. W. Groom
Mr. E. Marton Isaac
Mr. H. Thomas
Mr. T. Thompson
Mr. James K. Watson
Mr. F. Winckler

PASSENGERS FOR EAST AFRICA.

THE s.s. "D[illegible] Castle," which left England for South and East [illegible] on February 18, carries the following passenger[illegible]:—

Beira.

Dr. & Mrs. R. Calleja
Miss Calleja
Mrs. E. Davidson
Mr. D. N. Ferguson
Mr. J. F. Hutchinson
Mr. F. Lucas
Mrs. J. S. Meikle
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. M. Munro
Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Steel
Miss R. E. Valentine

Zanzibar.

Mr. N. Jiwanjee

Mombasa.

Mrs. Chamberlain
Miss J. K. Edwards
Mrs. P. G. Pollard
Mr. A. M. Pollard

EAST AFRICAN MAILS.

MAILS for Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Zanzibar close at the G.P.O., London, at 6 p.m. on:—

Feb. 25 per s.s. "Rawalpindi."
Mar. 3 " s.s. "Comorin."

Mails for Nyasaland, the Rhodesias, and Portuguese East Africa close at the G.P.O., London, at 11.30 a.m. every Friday.

Inward mails are expected on February 29 by the s.s. "General Voyron."

Air mails are due to reach England each Sunday. Outward air mails leave London early each Wednesday.

NEWS OF OUR ADVERTISERS.

MESSRS. Francis Theakston, Ltd., have issued a new catalogue of light railway material, track, rolling stock, locomotives, etc., manufactured by them for estates, mines, lumber camps and factories.

Caterpillar Tractors, Ltd., report a net profit of £[illegible] for 1931, during which they added the "Caterpillar" Diesel tractor and three new petrol tractors to their range. The number of employees in their factories increased 40%, partly because of increased production and partly on account of the temporary adoption of a four-day week.

EAST AFRICAN STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

BRITISH-INDIA.

"Matiana" arrived Mombasa homewards, February 17.
"Malda" arrived Marseilles outwards, February 20.
"Mantola" left Dar es Salaam outwards, February 18.
"Kenya" left Bombay for Durban, February 24.
"Karanja" left Durban for Bombay, February 22.
"Karagola" left Mombasa for Bombay, February 17.
"Khandalla" left Mozambique for Durban, February 24.

CITRA LINE.

"Giuseppe Mazzini" left Aden outwards, February 18.
"Caffaro" left Dante outwards, February 13.
"Francesco Crispi" arrived Genoa, February 20.

CLAN-ELDERMAN-HARRISON.

"City of Guildford" left Dar es Salaam outwards, February 20.
"Sinaloa" passed Gibraltar for East Africa, February 16.

HOLLAND-AFRICA.

"Nieuwkerk" left Hamburg for South and East Africa, February 17.
"Heemskerk" left East London for Beira, February 18.
"Rondfontein" left Marseilles homewards, February 16.
"Riettontein" left East London for South African ports, February 13.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

"Explorateur Grandidier" left Zanzibar homewards, February 21.
"General Voyron" left Port Said homewards, February 21.
"General Duchesne" left Tamatave outwards, February 21.

UNION-CASTLE.

"Dunbar Castle" arrived London, February 18.
"Dunluce Castle" left London for Beira, February 18.
"Durham Castle" left Port Said homewards, February 18.
"Llandovery Castle" arrived Mombasa for Natal, February 21.
"Llangibby Castle" left St. Helena homewards, February 21.
"Llanstephan Castle" arrived Lourenço Marques for Beira, February 20.

SUCCESS OF SHEEP FEEDING TRIALS.

SHEEP farmers in East Africa, who are already familiar with the experiments in progress in Kenya on the effect of various pastures on the health of sheep, will be interested to hear of the success of similar trials at Garrochoran, Argyllshire:—

"The feeding to sheep of the chemical substances found to be deficient in winter in the natural pastures had increased the fertility of the ewes by about 15% and had decreased the mortality rate by over 25%. In addition, the increase in the market value of the cast ewes and male lambs from the experimental lots which received the supplementary feeding as compared with that of those in the control lots which did not, was sufficient to defray the cost of the whole of the material used in these experiments.

"These experiments had been carried out with 500 sheep, and a further test with 800 sheep, with funds supplied from a private source, is to be carried out.

"If this test confirms the experiment already carried out," states the report of the sub-committee appointed by the Committee of Civil Research, "the Garrochoran farm will have succeeded in obtaining at a very small cost a scientific result of considerable and immediate economic importance for the whole of the black-faced sheep industry in Scotland. It is also of considerable importance to wide areas in various parts of the Empire where the natural pastures are deficient in minerals."

In view of the great scientific value of the work, the sub-committee considers that grants should be made to the Naivasha station in Kenya for a further period of three years, as well as to various British stations.

Printed and Published by East Africa, Ltd., 91, Great Tichfield Street, London, W.1.

EAST AFRICA

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN EUROPE DEVOTED [illegible] TO THE INTERESTS OF [illegible] LIVING, TRADING, HOLDING PROPERTY OR OTHERWISE INTERESTED IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Vol. 8, No. 389. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1932. Annual Subscription, 30/- post free. Sixpence.

"EAST AFRICA'S" HOTEL REGISTER.

The undermentioned Hotels welcome East African Visitors and have undertaken to endeavour to make them comfortable and satisfied.

*Cornwall—HOTEL TREVANION, Looe. Facing sea. H. and c. water in bedrooms. 6 to 4½ gns.

[illegible]—[illegible]ARENCE HOTEL. Inclusive charge 18/- per day.

[illegible]—NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL, First Ave. Overlooking sea. Lift. Fr. 3½ gns. 'Phone: Hove 2807.

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North Wales—THE CRAIG-Y-DON, Llandudno. Promenade. Temperance. Accommodation 200. Recreation room; billiards; lounge; electric lift. Terms moderate. Kenya coffee if required.

Surrey—SELSDON PARK HOTEL, Sanderstead.

Torquay—HOWDEN COURT PRIVATE HOTEL.

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CROYDON, Surrey—Elgin Court Hotel. Luxurious resid., ex. food. Golf, Billiards, Tennis, Dancing. Cars meet steamers, trains. 1581 Addiscombe.

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*LAURIESTON HALL, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead. Ex. comf. 15 mins. West End. 3 gns. inclusive.

PORTMAN, Portman St.—Marble Arch, W.1. Room & Breakfast from 8/6. Pension from 3½ gns.

SOUTH KENSINGTON, 28, Bolton Gardens. First-class Family Hotel. From 3 gns.

WHITENESS, Queen's Gardens, Lancaster Gate, W.2. Rm. & Brkfst. from 8/6. Pension from 3 gns.

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Arusha—NEW ARUSHA HOTEL.

UGANDA.

Port Portal—MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON HOTEL.

Tororo—TORORO HOTEL.

East Africa is to be seen week by week at the Hotels marked with an asterisk.

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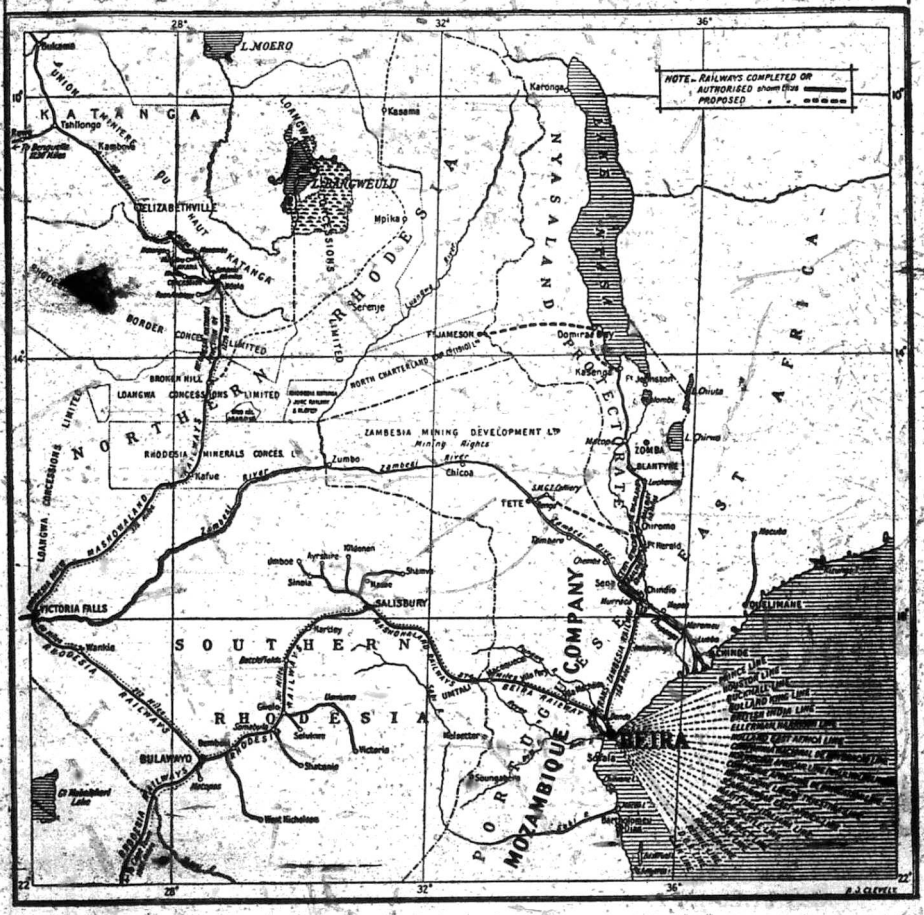

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It is also the outlet for the Mozambique Company's Territories, the Katanga, and the Zambesia Valley.

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£18,500,000 a year.

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FOUNDED AND EDITED BY F. S. JOELSON.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

TANGANYIKA'S LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

UNDER Matters of Moment in our issue of February 11 we drew attention to the information, received by us from reliable sources, that Native labour on more than a few non-British sisal estates in Tanganyika Territory had not been paid for two, three, or more months, adding that when the Labour Department was at full strength such a state of affairs would have been promptly known to the Tanganyika Government, which would have been able without delay to put an end to practices unfair both to the Native employees concerned and to competing sisal estates which discharge their obligations with promptitude. Unfortunately, for reasons which we have never understood, the Tanganyika Labour Department has been so reduced in staff as to be practically emasculated. The abuse above-mentioned is one of the early results.

Cecil Rhodes called the Native "Africa's greatest asset," and practically all students of African affairs will to-day endorse his dictum. In his recent lectures Mr. Melland has placed the Native first of the three primary factors which make for progress and prosperity in Africa, pointing out that on the understanding of the Native, on his fair and wise handling, and on his encouragement depends the vast structure of civilisation which we are building in the continent. A small but exceedingly active band of self-appointed critics at Home spends an immense amount of time and some talent in scrutinising every detail of the treatment of the Native in East Africa, with the hope of finding cause for condemnation. Such being the case, we had thought that the Department of Native Labour would have been one of the last to suffer retrenchment. Its problems are of the very first importance, and are among the most complicated, delicate and technical which are presented to the official mind. The more they are studied the deeper they become.

There are the Natives themselves, of an infinite variety in race, language, habits, customs and traditions; different in the food they not only need but can live on, for their idiosyncrasy to new and unaccustomed rations is often amazing; varying in their susceptibility to change of climate and resistance to disease; peculiar in their liking and capacity for work, whether on plantation, road, railway or as house boys. There is the extremely difficult question of immigrants from adjoining territories, illustrated by the influx of half-starved refugees from Ruanda-Urundi which followed the famine in that Belgian mandated territory and threw tremendous responsibility and a huge burden of new work on the Labour Officers of Tanganyika. There are the questions of labour camps on labour routes, of medical inspection and the ingenious methods of substitution after inspection practised by the Natives. There is the trick some Natives have of changing their names, altering their tribe even, by which they seek to impose on the harassed Labour Officer or the less experienced estate manager. And there is the matter of the shady recruiter, whom the Tanganyika Department has tackled with such assiduity and success.

The solution of these intricate problems must be the work of years and can be achieved only by the systematic and careful recording of facts, the filing of figures, and the keen analysis of the data thus obtained. Under the guidance of a Commissioner of wide sympathies and understanding, the Tanganyika Department had made great progress in this study; it was able to control the direction, the character, the influx of Native labour, to watch over it on its way to work and on its return home, to explain and recommend labour contracts (those safeguards of the unsophisticated Native), to keep a tight grip on recruiters, and to advise European estate managers. Its activities were the Government's best safeguard against uninformed but raucous criticisms from Home, and against local abuses by undesirable employers— for in no community can all undesirables be eliminated. We fear that the Tanganyika Government may yet have cause to regret its action in so drastically curtailing the beneficial activities of a Department which will assuredly need to be reconstituted in the not distant future.

MATTERS OF MOMENT.

THE EMPIRE'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

The most significant feature of this year's British Industries [illegible] of the exhibitors. [illegible] with whom we have [illegible] and we always make a point [illegible] those whom we know to have East African interests and those whose products ought to sell in the territories reports far better results than at any previous Fair, all attributing the great improvement to the "Buy British" movement. There can be no doubt that that campaign had succeeded splendidly, and that the new economic *régime* which began on Tuesday with the adoption of Protection and Imperial Preference as the basis of British trade policy will have further immense results in stimulating trade within the Empire family. The Fair offers convincing proof that not even the dark storm clouds of the present world depression can obscure the rising sun of inter-Empire trade. By the time of the Ottawa Conference it should be well above the horizon, shedding its health-giving rays on [illegible]ucers of primary and manufactured products [illegible]ghout the Mother Country, the Dominions and the Dependencies.

* * * *

CABINET MINISTERS AND EAST AFRICA.

An interesting coincidence which we have not seen or heard mentioned is that the four Ministers who have been chiefly concerned in the House of Commons and the Cabinet in the change from Free Trade to Protection all have East African interests: Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, visited Kenya two years ago and was immensely impressed by what he saw; Mr. Walter Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, as a former Deputy Chairman of the Union-Castle Line was in the closest touch with the commercial life of the territories; Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is obviously determined to see that East African claims receive full consideration; and Major Walter Eliot, the able Financial Secretary to the Treasury, paid a brief but valuable visit to the territories not long ago. Three other Cabinet Ministers, Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, and Sir Edward Hilton Young, can also be counted upon to see justice done in East African affairs—which does not mean, as *The Manchester Guardian* has broadly hinted, that other considerations must be ignored in order that East Africa may receive what she asks. That suggestion is an insult to the Ministers who know the territories, and an injustice to East Africans.—They ask only for a just decision on the merits of their case.

* * * *

GOOD WORK BY MAJOR WALSH AND SIR H. LEGGETT.

There can be no doubt that the reversal of the Government's intentions in the matter of hemp imports was due to the belated but firm conviction of the Cabinet that Empire-grown sisal ought to be given a preference of 10% in the Home market over Manila hemp and competing sisal from Portuguese East Africa, Java, and Mexico. Until the very last moment there were grave doubts whether the appeals of East African producers would succeed, and until a few days before the committee stage of the Import Duties Bill was taken their representations seemed doomed to failure. That they eventually succeeded is, we believe, to be attributed to the Cabinet's first-hand knowledge of East Africa and to its consequent recognition of the vital part which sisal growing plays in the economy of the Dependencies, particularly Tanganyika and Kenya, whose Government, railway, commercial and Native finances are inextricably interwoven with the fortunes of the industry. On another page Lord Cranworth, President of the East African Sisal Growers' Association, expresses the thanks of the industry to those who have fought its stiffest fight, and carried on to victory. He gives a special meed of praise to Major Walsh, who has certainly been most resourceful in planning, indefatigable in action, and persuasive in advocacy, qualities to which Sir Humphrey Leggett has also given full play; only those few people who, like ourselves, have been in the closest touch with the negotiations know the extent of the debt which the territories owe to these two men. If we may record a fact of personal interest it is that an experienced man in the Parliamentary Lobby said last week that the most potent single force was the two-page advertisement inserted in *East Africa* by Major Walsh and circulated to every M.P. to draw attention to the definite declaration of the Imperial Institute that East African sisal can substitute Manila hemp for all purposes.

* * * *

THE CASE FOR OTTAWA.

However hopeless the case looked—and it looked so bad that we were repeatedly asked why they were wasting their time hammering at a locked door—Major Walsh and Sir Humphrey Leggett refused to admit defeat while even the slenderest chance of victory remained; indeed, under the stimulus of impending failure they worked more and more effectively and tirelessly. Others, as Lord Cranworth says—and his name must not be omitted—played their parts, but the historian of the past three weeks could not withhold an expression of particular appreciation of the services of the two producers we have named, and who, when we congratulated them on the success of their efforts, both promptly turned the conversation to the need for the preparation of a good case for the Ottawa Conference, so that the Imperial Government might have every possible fact at its disposal for the effort which will certainly be made to persuade Canada to grant a fiscal preference to Empire-grown sisal. They have been fighting for the industry, not merely for their own hand. Ottawa is another star of promise, for Canada's annual consumption of sisal is at present some 35,000 tons, mainly of Mexican origin, and if British East Africa can secure a preference sufficient to offset the advantages enjoyed by Mexico on geographical grounds, the gain to the territories would be enormous. The precedent set by Great Britain will, we trust, be followed by the Dominions.

* * * *

PROMPT ACTION DESIRABLE.

Are settler and commercial bodies in East and Central Africa considering sufficiently closely the implications of the Ottawa Conference and making representations to their local Governments? We have no news that such a course is being followed, except by the sisal growers, but we trust that other industries are not under-estimating the importance of the occasion. The Southern Rhodesian Government has appointed a Committee to collect information and collate the views of producers and business men on matters likely to be affected by the Imperial Conference at Ottawa, and though the views of the non-self-governing

Colonies can obviously not be represented by a large number of individual delegates, but must be centralised through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, he naturally relies on the separate Dependencies to bring to his attention their special [illegible] This Empire Conference will be one of momentous in Empire annals, and [illegible] should promptly examine its possible effects [illegible] formulate its views.

TANGANYIKA'S ECONOMY OF 28% IN ONE YEAR.

Two years ago Tanganyika Territory boasted surplus balances of rather more than one million sterling, which had been reduced to £580,000 within a year, and, according to a very frank financial statement made to the Legislative Council by the Chief Secretary, and reported to us by air mail, had shrunk to £122,000 at the end of 1931. The loss of more than 80% of its surplus balances within two years must be a bad shock to any Administration, and the Tanganyika Government is no doubt congratulating itself that in order to bring itself into line with the other East African territories, it had already decided to [illegible] henceforth for the calendar year, and not from [illegible] to March, a change which, as it happens, enables it to present a balanced budget for the nine months, whereas estimates for the twelve months would have shown a further deficit. The estimated expenditure for the full twelve months of 1932-3 totals £1,732,501, or a reduction of no less than £413,411, a good deal more than half being accounted for by complete interruption of the programme of public works extraordinary. Mr. Jardine added in his speech that the economies actually effected are considerably in excess of the apparent figure of reduced expenses, for certain votes, such as those for pensions, gratuities, and interest on the public debt, had had to be increased. He put the year's real economy at more than £530,000, or 28%—no mean achievement. It was, he claimed, a clean and honest budget, one which Sir Stewart Symes, the Governor, described the other day as an effort to "avoid the Scylla of undue expectancy as carefully as the Charybdis of a defeatist spirit."

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THE GOVERNOR ON THE OUTLOOK.

His Excellency's first budget speech gives the impression of a business-like directness. That he has firm faith in the soundness of the country's foundations is as evident as his conviction that salvation is to be sought only in harder work. No worse service could be rendered to the African population, he declared, than to allow the peasant cultivator to slip back into the state of economic atrophy from which he was about to emerge as the result of his own efforts; the Kilimanjaro Native Planters' Association would be put on a more stable and satisfactory basis; a small advisory board would be set up to assist the Government in examination and supervision of questions concerned with economic development. Plans had been prepared for experimental stations for coffee and sisal in the north, for tobacco in the south, and for the visit of a tea expert, but there might now be difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds. With a plea for public spirited acceptance of the non-Native poll tax, recognised by Government to be an unpopular measure, the Governor coupled a tribute to "the fine temper in which present sacrifices and hardships are being supported by Native labourers, by non-Native farmers and sisal planters, by merchants and traders, and by officials—indeed, by everybody." As long as the public feels that due economy is being practised in official quarters, and that the danger of increasing the burden of taxation is fully realised, it will, we are convinced, respond readily to any lead.

N. RHODESIA OBJECTS TO A CANBERRA.

Opposition is undoubtedly growing to the plan of the Northern Rhodesian Government to create a new administrative capital at Lusaka, which may eventually involve an expenditure of between one and two million pounds sterling. Presiding at a recent public meeting in Livingstone, Councillor C. S. Knight, the Mayor, said that "pure unadulterated cussedness" on the part of the Northern Rhodesian Government was the only reason which caused it to adhere to the intentions announced before the depression had so seriously affected the mining companies; Mr. F. H. Lowe, an Elected Member of the Legislative Council, said he would vote against any expenditure on the plan; Mr. Kennedy Harris, another Elected Member, telegraphed that it was "iniquitous folly and maniacal squandering of public money," while Mr. L. E. Moore, a third Elected Member, attributed persistence to a Governor who "was a little tyrant, actuated by an element of personal animosity." Protests are being addressed to members of the House of Commons.

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The British Industries Fair.

[illegible] REPORTS FROM LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM.

[illegible]ms who want more East African Trade.

[illegible] Special Correspondents.

Olympia.

Great Britain's industrial qualities are excellently displayed at the eighteenth British Industries Fair, an energetic, enterprising, and imaginative trading enterprise of real promise in a time of depression. This year's Fair is an encouraging indication that British manufacturers are far from despondent. That there are over eight miles of stands at the Olympia section and 2,325 exhibitors in the whole Fair should silence the pessimists.

As always at Olympia, the main exhibit is that of the Empire Marketing Board, whose display is the biggest of its kind since Wembley, conveying a sense of wide open spaces, of sunny skies still unflecked by the clouds of depression. Fourteen overseas [illegible] Empire are here represented, East Africa's stand being in charge of Major Corbet Ward, a Kenyan of many years' residence.

To see the rate at which samples of East African coffee, tea and cigarettes are sold would gladden the heart of any East African settler, for from these purchasers of little samples regular users are developed. Often a buyer asks questions about life and conditions in the territories. He may be a potential settler; she may be the mother of a son attracted by the thought of life in Eastern Africa. I heard one visitor, evidently a planter on leave from India, inquire where Nyasaland and Kenya obtained their tea seed; another discussed the market for sisal bags; a third referred appreciatively to the delicious flavour of Arusha coffee. Major Corbet Ward reported more than twice as many inquirers as at any previous Fair.

The Attractive East African Stand.

On the stand is a new diorama of Mombasa Island as seen from the mainland, with a model of the latest Union-Castle liner steaming in company with a two-funnelled British India vessel; another diorama shows a Zanzibar clove plantation. Samples of East African produce are attractively arranged, one corner containing an exhibit of sisal, from the raw product to rope, twine, and bags.

In another section of the Empire Marketing Board display I found two exhibits rather intriguing to the East African. The first was the *sebalabala*, a comparatively rare animal from Bechuanaland, about the size of a cat and with the markings of a leopard; the skin is used for the making of coats and karosses. The second proved the efforts being made by Mauritius planters to compete in the tinned pineapple trade; they have chosen "Dodo Pineapple" as their brand name, after the dodo bird, now extinct, which used to inhabit the island forests. On the propaganda stand of Empire tea growers were some little chests of Kenya and Nyasaland tea.

The general sections gave me an impression of keenness. Visitors and standholders were in close consultation, as though mutually anxious to make the most of their opportunities. The stream of trade buyers flowed along with becoming slowness, being arrested ever and anon by some pleasing obstacle in the shape of a manufactured article—among them not a few attractive, colourful novelties which would send the African into ecstasies of delight.

The Standard of Salesmanship.

But, to be frank, many overseas visitors must have been disappointed at the standard of salesmanship displayed at not a few stands. At one, at which I inquired about a white ant-proof article, I received the off-hand suggestion to "see the sales manager, but he's just gone out for a cup of tea." My reply that I did not wish to trouble the sales manager in any event until I had seen the article was received with veiled discourtesy. Grudgingly I was given particulars of a seemingly excellent line for the tropics, but the so-called salesman evidently had neither the time nor the wish to show it properly. He must cause his employers much loss of trade.

Seldom was I able to see the export manager. Many were "at the works"; others were expected "one day during the Fair, but we don't know when"; and of those at Olympia a surprising number had "just gone out for a cup of tea." The tea sales must be enormous!

"Oh! yes, we have an agent for Africa," was the reply at several stands. The first company to give the answer had entrusted its sales for the whole continent to a well-known house in Cape Town, and others had sole agents in Johannesburg, Cairo, and London. And they wonder why business is not bright!

A definite need for better representation at the British Industries Fair exists. Every manufacturer seeking export trade should send to his stand men with real Empire knowledge and with a sense of modern salesmanship. Those which do send their export manager, with a good No. 2 to relieve him, reap excellent results in almost all cases. The pity is that such elementary precautions are not general.

But to resume my tour of Olympia in search of articles of particular interest to East Africans.

Crocodile Skins from East Africa.

At a stand exhibiting alligator skins I inquired whether the firm obtained any crocodile skins from East Africa, to be told that they had not proved satisfactory for the manufacture of ladies' handbags. Can that be true? I understood that East African croc. skins were marketable. Remembering recent correspondence in *East Africa*, I turned the subject to the age of alligators, and was told that at eight years of age they are only five feet in length. A casual mention of American alligator farms brought a denial of their existence!

Halting at a model of double-fly tents, I learnt that the manufacturers had until last year only made marquees for show purposes at Home. Last year, however, they received so many inquiries at the Fair for small tents that they decided to produce a range. In the first three days of this year's Fair they had received inquiries from several tropical visitors, including one from the Belgian Congo and another from Mauritius. They were congratulating themselves on their enterprise.

I came across a special tropical piano made by a London house. The joints in the woodwork had been cemented with a special preparation to withstand heat; the fact that it is tested in a steam chamber indicates that it will stand up to the worst spot in East Africa at its worst! All parts of the piano have been treated with damp- and insect-resisting varnish. Such an instrument should have a good market in Africa.

Gramophone lovers would assuredly welcome records which play for eighteen minutes at a time. Here they are, made by a firm which is turning out thousands of unbreakable, pliable records, which are shortly to be placed on the East African market.

A vital necessity to the East African on *safari* is a reliable first-aid outfit. One exhibitor turns them out at prices ranging from 1s. 3d. to £25! One

handy little outfit fits into the waistcoat pocket. The manufacturers are not represented in East Africa, and any inquiries from firms in the territories not handling a competitive line will be gladly forwarded.

Another line which should find a good demand in the [illegible] "Decit"—a preparation which prevents [illegible] from steaming glass. To motorists driving [illegible] the rainy season it must be a boon. The manufacturers [illegible] consider the appointment of at least one agent [illegible]

A little [illegible] how aspirin tablets are manufactured in Great Britain from coal hewn in British coal mines attracted me at the stand of Messrs. Howards, of quinine fame. One of their directors, Colonel Howard, recently visited East Africa and returned by the Nile route, so that his company is fully alive to the possibilities of developing East African trade.

One of the most important stands in the chemical section is that of Messrs. May & Baker, Ltd., the manufacturing chemists, who celebrate their centenary two years hence. A number of their products are valuable agents in the treatment of tropical diseases, and the firm is, quite naturally, finding an increasingly good market in our field.

In the foods section Virol exhibit their well-known products, which are obtainable in all parts of East Africa, and round the Anzora stand was a group of people gathered, interested in this hair fixative, which is now available from all chemists in the territories.

Personal Attention to East African Customers.

Among Brit[illegible] exhibitors who, year in and year out, concentrate on African business are Messrs. Gaymer, the well-known Attleborough cyder makers, whose export manager, Mr. A. F. Harrison, speaks as one who knows his overseas customers and finds nothing too much trouble for them. Their cyder is now available at Imperial Airways stations on the African route—a wise move in view of the claim that cyder should be as good a cure for air-sickness as for sea-sickness.

Mr. Gaymer was himself present to receive Oversea and Home visitors, and made it evident that he gives personal attention to East African accounts.

The Art Metal Company, which has a good display of steel office furniture, is represented in East Africa by Messrs. Dalgety & Company. Many of their lines are turned out so attractively that at first sight they appear to be made of well polished wood.

Sports equipment displayed at Messrs. Spalding's stand was of the usual high standard, among their exhibits being a complete range of golf clubs and balls, together with first-class examples of their tennis gear.

"We have a consignment about to be shipped to Mombasa," I was told by a firm manufacturing a machine to tension and seal hoops round bales and cases. The machine operates rapidly and efficiently, and can hoop and seal a bale in twenty seconds.

An excellent and comprehensive range of pencils manufactured from East African cedar is to be seen at Messrs. F. Chambers & Co's stand, where I learned that their 100% Empire pencils are making good progress in this country and abroad. Mr. W. H. Coultate, their sales manager, told me that this year's Fair has yielded more than twice as much business as any previous Fair.

British Celanese stage an alluring range of their fabrics, the exquisite colours of which present a most attractive display, while on the Lux stand practical demonstrations are given of the washing and ironing of the daintiest materials.

Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) has an attractive stand in South African Dutch style, and visitors were constantly to be seen sitting comfortably on the *stoep*, chatting with Mr. Boxsius and the other friendly officials in charge. The conduct of banking business proved a real boon to many exhibitors.

Birmingham Section of the Fair.

Rich in African Promise and Performance.

Birmingham.

I HAVE looked at the Birmingham Section of the Fair through East and Central African spectacles, and I have observed a spirit of optimism among exhibitors surpassing anything discernible for several years at the same Fair.

One of the most hopeful signs is the number of firms displaying their goods for the first time. I found many such.

"This is our first time at the Fair, and we had 150 trade callers in the first three days;" said Messrs. John Bedford & Sons, of Sheffield, who are now negotiating for a Nairobi agent for their edge tools, files and shovels. "At least 50% of the tools bought in Kenya Colony are American and a further 30% of other foreign origin," they added, "but that is being gradually altered, and we have already started doing business. Whatever the difficulties of competition, we want to break into East and Central Africa in a natural way, and on the merits of our goods."

"We had a buyer from East Africa here this morning," was the encouraging first-day report of Messrs. Cornelius Whitehouse & Sons, Ltd., of Cannock, also exploiting the Fair for the first time. Augers, shears, adzes and mattocks are made expressly for African needs by this Midland company, which produces more slashers than any other firm in the world. Trade once wholly an American perquisite is being captured by them.

Departure from the gold standard has reacted beneficially on many British concerns with African connexions. Messrs. John Yates & Co., Ltd., plantation tool specialists, reported in that sense and also told me that they now have their own traveller pushing their goods in East and Central Africa, in replacement of a former resident agent.

Brand new export machinery is always interesting. A field fence machine, just invented and perfected, is being shown for the first time, and may shortly be seen in Africa. Its purpose is the rapid production of farm, railway or park fencing. "The capacity is twenty-five tons of fencing in ten hours," said Mr. Arthur Blashill, the inventor. The cost of production of field fencing in his huge new machine is scarcely more per ton weight than the cost of converting wire into ordinary barbed wire, while the efficiency and safety of woven field fencing is vastly greater.

Agents Wanted.

The Coventry Eagle Cycle & Motor Co., Ltd., have come to the Fair expressly to offer the tropics and Colonies generally a special overseas model light-weight motor-cycle. I asked if these sturdy 16 and 19 guinea machines would stand up to tropical conditions and whether their finish would resist tarnish and deterioration, drawing the answer: "They are made for the market. And we are concentrating on service after sale in the form of full ranges of spare parts and replacements from the resident African agents. We have come to the Fair to open up big East African business, and we are keen to appoint agents."

Those world-famous scale makers, W. & T. Avery, Ltd., are naturally pleased to have supplied the whole of the equipment needed by the Tanganyika authorities under the new Weights and Measures Ordinance. They are exhibiting a "wheel weigher," which, though only 50 lb. itself, will weigh the heaviest lorries on the road. "We are expecting big orders for this line, and in that I include Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika Territory, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia," said the export manager.

"The change in the value of the pound is already helping us," is the verdict of Messrs. W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., of Bedford, for whom Messrs. John Birch, London, handle African export, which they are anxious to develop. Their oil engines are in use on many plantations in Kenya and Tanganyika. For their oil and steam engines and pumps the makers use the slogan "The Rolls-Royce of the Industry."

There is an enormous range of tools, machinery and plant for East and Central African markets; for instance, wire and wire netting; hoes, matchets and axes, spraying plant, coffee grinding machines, belting, motor rollers, and every requirement for road making. In fact, I do not believe that there is a single article of machinery, from the most humble domestic need to the largest industrial requirements, of which East Africa is a possible buyer, that cannot be met out of the aggregation of special and standard lines assembled in the thirteen acres of Fair space at Castle Bromwich.

This year the road materials, surface dressings, concrete mixers and excavators have been assembled outdoors for the first time; certain heavy goods are always best viewed by the buyer and ultimate user under working conditions, and it was undoubtedly a wise move to inaugurate the "Quarry to Road" section outside the Fair buildings. In the two weeks of the Exhibition, a complete road is being constructed, from first process to last, on the "see how it is done and buy" principle. The total of firms contributing to this remarkable omnibus exhibit is too large for me to name individual enterprise.

Some Further Exhibits.

The latest developments in paints and varnishes are well exemplified by the stand of Messrs. Pinchin, Johnson & Company, who are interested in the East African market through their subsidiary concern, the Torbay Paint Company. A preservative paint which renders timber immune from white ants is exhibited by the Atlas Preservative Company, which intends shortly to make an [illegible] for East African trade.

Among the heavy machinery exhibits is that of Messrs. Robert Hudson, Ltd., the largest manufacturers of light railway equipment in the world, whose equipment is so [illegible] in East and South Africa. Messrs. Marshall, Sons & Company, of Gainsborough, show a portable asphalt plant, a portable steam engine, and a range of road rollers; they manufacture such a wide and comprehensive range of products that only a small portion can be shown at the Fair, but further details will gladly be sent on application to them at Britannia Ironworks, Gainsboro'. Motor Rail, Ltd., of Simplex Works, Bedford, show their Diesel locomotives, the running cost of which is very economical. Another concern with a special East African appeal is Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth & Company, manufacturers of the Middleton cotton gin, which doubles the outnut and halves the labour of the ginner.

The Raleigh Cycle Company, of Nottingham, which has sent scores of thousands of its machines to East Africa, shows a new three-wheel light delivery van, fitted with an engine of 5·08 h.p. and costing 75 guineas. The Enfield Cycle Company, of Redditch, has a comprehensive exhibit of motor-cycles, cycles, and lawn mowers. Messrs. Herbert Terry & Sons, Ltd., of Redditch, well known in the cycle world for their excellent cycle saddle springs, have a good range of products on show, including a capital seat for use on ploughs.

For coffee planters the woven wire on the stand of Messrs. G. A. Harvey & Company struck me as particularly useful. Another product of this firm is a range of steel office furniture, which, being white ant proof, makes a strong appeal to business men in the tropics. Coffee planters would also find the spraying machines at the stand of Messrs. Martineau and Smith interesting. Their products are available in East Africa through their resident agents, the Kenya Agency, of Nairobi.

At the administrative office of the Birmingham Section I was informed that the following East African buyers have indicated their intention of sending representatives: Messrs. Smith, Mackenzie & Co., Mombasa; The African Marine & General Engineering Co., Ltd., Mombasa; The Old East African Trading Co., Nairobi; Mr. T. A. Bartlett, Blantyre, Nyasaland; Mr. W. R. Punter, Dar es Salaam; and Messrs. O. Martins (Marques), Lourenço Marques. Many others are, of course, expected.

CHARGE OF PROFITEERING IN P. E. A.

Views of London Exporters.

Our contemporary *The Beira News* recently made the following rather surprising editorial charge:—

"The British manufacturer is not always content to charge the original sterling price for his goods. We have seen invoices in which the sterling figure has been converted into dollars at par and then reconverted into sterling at the dollar exchange quotation ruling at the time the invoice was made out, with the result that the original price was increased by nearly 25%."

Sir Humphrey Leggett, whose attention was drawn by *East Africa* to the above paragraph, considers that a mistake has unquestionably been made. He said:—

"The Customs authorities require the importers from sterling countries to prepare a revised invoice by writing up the c.i.f. cost to what it would have been had the sterling country not gone off gold. The local *ad valorem* Customs values are thus assessed on the gold par. The procedure is a means of imposing an anti-dumping penalty upon sterling countries—not that sterling prices are truly dumping prices, but in South Africa it is argued that the internal price level in the United Kingdom has not changed since this country went off gold, and that the U.K. sterling price for export ought therefore to be written up to correspond with the gold premium. Though Beira is, of course, not in the Union of South Africa, it doubtless follows the Customs rules of South Africa, as is, I think, laid down in the Mozambique Convention. Needless to say, the British exporter does not raise his price to his customer. To do so would merely drive the trade away."

Mr. W. H. Hooker replied:—

"I have not come across any instances of the kind upon which the editorial charge has been based. I am inclined to think it has been made with only a scant knowledge of the facts. Possibly invoices for Continental goods were produced bearing the name of English suppliers, not necessarily manufacturers. Many classes of goods, *e.g.*, wire netting, gas, steam and water pipes and fittings, belting, etc., are quoted on a standard price list in sterling, and as payment for such is now invariably made in dollars, the procedure detailed in the article is quite correct. The charge made, however, is certainly wrong."

Mr. H. J. Scales, a partner of Messrs. McDonald Scales and Co., wrote:—

"I cannot imagine a British manufacturer adopting the practice referred to in the cutting. Probably some essential facts have been distorted. The practice mentioned is, of course, now necessary by merchants such as ourselves in the case of foreign shipments.

"As a matter of interest, I am enclosing a specimen invoice, which, you will observe, is charged in sterling, but payable at parity of U.S.A. dollars 4.86 to the £. In this particular case we had to pay the equivalent of $52.25, which at $3.44 cost us £15 3s. 10d. The advantage to the Continental manufacturer is, of course, that their old sterling selling prices can remain unaltered irrespective of the fluctuation in the exchange, but naturally, the merchant has to charge his customer exactly what it costs him. I cannot see that this course can possibly be necessary for goods made and sold in this country on a sterling basis."

Cases of Special Arrangements.

Mr. L. K. Carter, a director of Messrs. Campbell Bros., Carter and Co., Ltd., wrote:—

"No importer would dream of accepting a draft for goods shipped, which draft showed that the British manufacturer was receiving more than he was entitled to under the contract. A manufacturer on this side only expects to receive payment in British sterling; any accident of the exchange being in his favour does not affect the position in any way.

"There have, however, been one or two cases in which special arrangements have been made, especially in connexion with foreign goods, and I can only assume that the Beira newspaper has got hold of an invoice made out by a British firm for foreign goods for which there was such a special arrangement.

"I have known one or two cases of foreign manufacturers booking orders in Africa in British sterling before September 21, who cabled to their representatives pointing out the very serious loss which they were incurring owing to the departure of Great Britain from the gold standard, and asking their agents to endeavour to arrange with the buyers that they, the manufacturers, had the benefit of the exchange in order to recoup them for the loss in converting marks or francs or dollars (or whatever the currency was) into sterling. The British invoice would then show the original sterling price as agreed, and the dollar conversion as mentioned in the newspaper would then give the foreign manufacturer the equivalent of what he expected when his agent booked the order, before September 21, and at the same time the man in South Africa would be paying no more than he expected to at that date.

"This is the only possible explanation I can conceive. I do not believe for one moment that a British manufacturer has ever received or expected to receive the benefit of the exchange. It would be very interesting to ask your contemporary to produce its evidence."

NEWSPAPER GEOGRAPHY.

We have been sent a wrapper addressed by one of the leading illustrated British weekly papers to "Man Summit, Kenya, South Africa." Since the periodical in question claims a by no means negligible circulation in British Africa, we are not surprised that the subscriber is incensed. What adds insult to the injury is that the company has written to tell him about a special Trans-African Number. That, he says, interests him far less than having his own copy correctly addressed. He wants us to teach the journal some elementary African geography before encouraging it to instruct the public in matters African.

EMPIRE PREFERENCE FOR SISAL.

OTHER SISALS AND MANILA NOW PAY 10% DUTY.

The Debate in the House of Commons.

[illegible] been removed from the Schedule of the Import Duties Bill—which means that Empire-grown sisals will continue to enter the Mother [illegible] while such competing articles as Manila hemp and sisal from Portuguese East Africa, Mexico and Java will be subject to a Customs duty of 10%. For that much needed measure of assistance British East African growers will be deeply grateful.

To Dr. W. H. McLean fell the honour of moving in the House of Commons to omit hemp from the Schedule of the Bill. Unless the East African Colonies were helped in this way, they might have to call upon the Imperial Treasury for assistance, he said. Moreover, a secure market for sisal in this country would make a very great difference to the lives of thousands of Natives. He quoted the report of the Imperial Institute on "Empire Fibres for Marine Cordage," and declared that East Africa was able to supply all Great Britain's requirements.

Captain H. Dixon (Belfast East) opposed the amendment on behalf of Belfast, which has the largest rope works in the British Isles, and declared that Belfast rope-makers could use only Manila for many purposes. He [illegible] Mr. Amery, as a member of the Alpine Club, would hesitate to risk his life on a sisal rope.

Sir Henry Page Croft (Bournemouth) believed that sisal would in time replace large quantities of Manila. It had not yet been given a full trial by British industries. The German Navy used sisal rope under active service conditions, and, he believed, the Swedish Navy did so now. An enormous amount of capital had been expended in establishing the sisal industry in Kenya, Tanganyika and Nyasaland, where something like £1,000,000 a year was paid in wages alone by the estates. The industry was at the moment just in the balance. Many plantations had already closed, and there was grave danger of the industry going out of cultivation unless the House did something to encourage it.

Tribute to Kenya Colonists.

Kenya's principal crops were coffee, maize and sisal; nothing in this Import Duties Bill was done for coffee; the maize duty, which would have given enormous assistance to the people of Kenya, had been wiped out chiefly on the representations of Ulster. Some of the finest colonists in the world were engaged in the production of sisal, and he honestly believed that they were faced with ruin. This small advantage of a 10% revenue tax should be given to the sisal growers of the Empire.

Miss F. Horsburgh (Dundee) opposed the amendment until further experiments had been made with sisal for ropes. Sisal was being used more and more in Great Britain, which imported twice as much last year as it did the year before. It was used for twine and binder twine. They had a factory in Scotland, working with sisal, that was now running double shifts. She did not think the time had yet come when sisal could be substituted for Manila.

Sir John Sandeman Allen (West Derby) supported the amendment. The sympathy of the House for the farmers of Northern Ireland had put maize on the free list; Northern Ireland might now think with sympathy of the sisal growers of Kenya, Tanganyika and Nyasaland. He doubted how far it was a question of tests; he thought it rather a matter of prejudice, of people liking to stick to what they were accustomed to, and not wanting to change if they could help it. The more sisal was examined, the better it came out of the tests. The rope manufacturers of this country were very amply protected. With the Ottawa Conference in view, we should give the Dominions a lead in this matter, so that they would realise the importance of supporting British sisal development.

Vice-Admiral E. A. Taylor (Paddington, South) stressed the vast importance of the sisal industry to British East Africa; the annual production, now 65,000 tons, could be increased immediately to 80,000 tons. Great Britain's total imports of hemp for making rope and twine were 75,710 tons, so that, from the point of view of production alone, British East Africa could supply all the raw material required. He quoted effectively from the report of the Imperial Institute, and said that full trials left not a shadow of doubt that sisal had proved its case, and that it was capable of taking the place of Manila in the manufacture of the best possible rope. East Africa bought from Great Britain £250,000 worth of machinery and raw materials for the sisal industry every year, and paid £200,000 a year in freights to the shipping companies. If it did not get this concession—the 10% tariff—many estates in East Africa would have to close down.

Mr. Amery's Support.

Mr. L. S. Amery (Sparkbrook) accepted without hesitation the challenge to take his chances on the mountain side on a sisal rope. Some of the arguments advanced were based upon the conservatism of the user and manufacturer in Great Britain; that conservatism should be modified by the action of the House. It was significant that since 1920 the proportion of sisal used in British rope-making had gone up from 0% to 20%; quite apart from laboratory and official tests, the intrinsic qualities of sisal were evidently enabling it to gain ground against the conservatism of both manufacturers and users.

More than one speaker, he continued, had emphasised the fact that the German Navy had used sisal in the Great War. Nobody who knew anything about the equipment of that navy would suggest that anything inferior would have been used by it. No doubt some resistance had to be overcome before the introduction of sisal into the German Navy; but it was overcome in order to encourage their great colony in East Africa. Was the British Government not prepared to do as much for a territory under British Mandate and British protection?

Again, one of our first duties should be to encourage the Dominions, who were now becoming very important markets in these matters, to take Colonial produce rather than foreign; how could we with any decency approach Canada to ask her to give a preference to East African sisal if we ourselves were not prepared to help? Soft Italian hemp did not compete with Manila, and the retention in the schedule would not prejudice the position of East African growers. It was Manila hemp that they desired to be dutiable in order to give their very promising industry a fair chance.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Edgbaston; Chancellor of the Exchequer) remarked that Miss Horsburgh suggested that they should wait a little longer and see whether presently it would not be possible to make a change without involving hardship on any users. But could the Colonies wait? (An hon. member: "No!") The plantations in Tanganyika, Kenya and other East African Colonies were just on the edge of the precipice. He doubted whether they could afford to wait even for six months on the possible chance of an alteration, which might mean that they would abandon the industry as it stood to-day—in which case it was very doubtful if it would be revived again. Seeing the present parlous and crippled condition of the industry in Africa, it was better to put them on the safe side than to leave them possibly to perish before anything was done. The debate had persuaded him that he could not do better than accept the amendment.

Earl Winterton (Horsham and Worthing) remarked that if the manufacturers of this country expected that those interested in Africa were going to purchase goods from them, they must meet them in a very different spirit than did some of their representatives that afternoon. They must learn to adjust their methods to make use of Empire products. He made a strong appeal, as one who took an interest in Africa, to hon. members who represented constituencies whose industries used African products to show greater willingness to use those products than they had done in the past. Because they happened to have purchased their requirements from foreign countries for the last hundred years was no reason why they should continue to do so in the future.

By 317 votes to 71 the Committee decided to delete hemp from the Free List of the Bill.

"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S" ANGRY COMMENTS.

The Manchester Guardian commented editorially on the debate in the following fashion:—

"Yesterday's debate on the free list was in the most approved tradition of tariff discussions, and if anyone wants an idea of the kind of squabbling and haggling that is to make up a great part of British politics in the future, he cannot do better than study the speeches on sisal. British rope-makers, who have a not unimportant export trade, use in the main Manila hemp, because no other fibre has been proved to have quite the same qualities or to meet with quite the same acceptance. The Government respected their case and that of other users of hemp, and agreed that it should be on the free list. But the British manufacturers who use hemp, although ably supported by the members for Belfast and Dundee, are not as powerful as the Kenya planters, who sell one particular sort of hemp fibre.

"A Belfast or Dundee business is small beer by the side of interests which at a whisper can enlist on their side proconsuls and ex-Ministers and which can make it appear that the fate of a Colony is at stake if Kenya is not given

an advantage over the Philippines and Italy. Mr. Chamberlain, although he came down on the side which shouted loudest, went back on his earlier decision with some show of reluctance. He fully conceded that all hemp is not sisal and that Empire sisal does not meet all wants, but he gave way because the Kenya planters insist that they must be helped at once. Otherwise they threaten to appeal to the Exchequer for grants or loans. So Mr. Chamberlain ingloriously capitulated, and Mr. Amery was able to rejoice in a great blow struck for the [illegible]ity of the Empire. Some might prefer to describe it as a rather barefaced piece of blackmail."

[illegible] that description is a travesty of the debate [illegible] anyone who follows the *Guardian's* [illegible] and reads the discussion as reported in "Hansard." To say that "the Kenya planters threaten to appeal to the Exchequer for grants or loans" is a deliberate misrepresentation of what was actually said; the question of possible recourse to the Imperial Treasury was made by only two speakers—the mover of the amendment and the Chancellor, neither of whom even suggested that Kenya planters had mentioned such an appeal, much less used "threats."

Our contemporary's obsession with Kenya is patent all through its article: Dr. McLean stated that sisal is produced "in all our East African Colonies"; Sir Henry Page Croft mentioned "Kenya, Tanganyika and Nyasaland" as sisal-growing countries; Admiral Taylor pointed out that with [illegible]ya in 1931 produced 15,000 tons of sisal, Tanganyika's production of the fibre was no less than 50,000 tons, so that Tanganyika was far more interested in the proposed tariff than Kenya; the Chancellor spoke of "Tanganyika, Kenya and other African Colonies," rightly putting Tanganyika first.

And for a pacifist organ *The Manchester Guardian's* language is decidedly bellicose. "Blackmail" is an ugly word, connoting what His Majesty's Judges describe as a crime worse than murder, but the Chancellor's acceptance of the amendment is nevertheless called submission to "a rather barefaced piece of blackmail." Our readers can put their own construction on such ill-tempered exaggerations.

THANKS EXPRESSED BY SISAL GROWERS TO THE GOVERNOR.

Immediately following the removal of hemp from the Free List, a special meeting of sisal producers and importers was hurriedly convened at the London Chamber of Commerce, when it was resolved to address to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the President of the Board of Trade a letter embodying the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of producers and importers of East African sisal desires to express to His Majesty's Government its keen appreciation of the practical measures they have taken in connexion with the Import Duties Bill to assist this Empire industry at a time of pressing need. The members of the industry can assure His Majesty's Government that this appreciation will be reflected in the gratitude which the East African territories will themselves feel on learning of the Government's decision, and that every effort will be made, on the part of those affected by the preferential provisions of the Bill, to increase to the fullest possible extent the development and efficiency of the industry from an Imperial standpoint."

A telegram to *The Times* from Nairobi states:—

"The sisal industry is relieved by the decision to omit hemp from the free list, and is most grateful to the Imperial Government and the sisal interests in London. It is realised that the measure of benefit is dependent on the willingness of British rope-makers to support the Empire product. Meanwhile, the industry here will carry on with new heart.

"A likely result of the generous treatment of East African sisal will be the strengthening of the growing movement for voluntary preference for British goods here. The opinion is widely held that the Congo Basin Treaties should be discussed at the Ottawa Conference with a view to enabling East Africa outside the mandated area to enter more closely into the field of Imperial preference."

KENYA CONVENTION MEETS NEXT WEEK.

Text of Most Important Resolutions.

The following resolutions appear on the agenda for the session of the Convention of Associations of Kenya which is to be held in Nairobi on Tuesday next, March 8, and the following days, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Kenneth Archer.

Mr. C. Kenneth Archer.

CLOSER UNION.—"That this Convention, while agreeing with the main conclusions of the Report on Closer Union in East Africa, to the effect that the time is not ripe for political or constitutional union, wishes to record the following observations on certain opinions and recommendations expressed or made in the Report.

"(i) *White Settlement.*—Whilst the statement that white settlement is in its experimental stage is unexceptional since the practical economic results can only be said to date from some years after the close of the War, this Convention fundamentally disagrees from the corollaries drawn from that statement. Those economic results, as shown by the volume of the Colony's exports and trade (which indicate an increase from £276,480 in 1911 to £3,422,571 in 1930, an increase of 12½ times approx. in 20 years), justify the belief that the experiment is successful. This belief has actuated successive Governments in the Colony in the introduction and establishment of permanent improvements, which have resulted in raising the loan commitments of the Colony and the Kenya and Uganda Railway and Harbours to the very high figure of £13,500,000, or, with the addition of advances already approved or urgently required and contingent liabilities, to the figure of £26,946,053 *(vide* paras. 60-74 of Dispatch from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 11-9-30). Since the great bulk of the Colony's exports depends on European enterprise, the interest and sinking fund on these loans are being almost entirely met by the European population.

Value of European Enterprise.

"That population consists at present of some 17,000 persons, of whom not more than 3,000 are directly responsible for the body of the Colony's exports. It is evident that in view of the heavy fall in commodity values these commitments cannot be met nor the due development of the Colony maintained unless production is increased and assisted by every means possible. The economic history of this experiment shows that the biggest factor in stimulating production, by which alone the Colony's trade can be increased, is European enterprise. It is therefore emphatically maintained that every reasonable means should be adopted to increase and foster European enterprise, and, to this end, that an intensive campaign be immediately set on foot to promote further settlement.

"(ii) *Native Land Question.*—In view of the fact that prior to the final demarcation of the Native Land Trust Bill a full inquiry was held into the needs both present and future of the Native races, and the areas of the Reserves were fixed as a result of the information thus gained, it is submitted that no sufficient grounds exists for the Committee's recommendations that alienation of Crown Land should be suspended until the ultimate needs of the Natives in any circumstances which may arise in the remote future are previously determined. The effect of such a policy would be to postpone the natural development of great areas of land for an indefinite period at a time when the urgent need of the Colony is to develop its reserves to the utmost capacity. The adoption of this recommendation would constitute in effect a breach of faith with the white unofficial community.

"The passage of the Native Land Trust Ordinance, after its provisions had been agreed by all sections in the Colony, was suspended at the request of the Hilton Young Commission in order that they might make recommendations in the matter. These recommendations were made

and incorporated in the final Ordinance, which has therefore been understood to have settled the Native land question. If this matter is to be again re-opened there appears to be no prospect of finality, and this policy of indecision must inevitably engender a sense of insecurity in the minds of the white unofficial community for the future of white settlement in the Colony.

"(iii) *Communal Compulsory Labour.*—Though the practice of compulsory labour for communal purposes in the Native Reserves is no longer in accord with the [illegible]ents recorded by the International Convention on [illegible]bour, it is believed that such a system of labour, [illegible]rtly administered, is of considerable advantage to the [illegible]tives themselves, and that its proposed abolition is [illegible] to be looked on with favour by the Native [illegible]

"This Convention therefore urges that, before any step is taken for its prohibition, Native opinion should be consulted on the subject, which in no way concerns the white unofficial community seeing that communal labour is never used for any purpose connected with European industry."—(Moved by the Convention Executive.)

Joint Standing Committee.—"That this Convention expresses its regret that the Joint Committee in its Report on Closer Union in East Africa has not recommended the formation of a Standing Committee of the three Legislative Councils as an advisory and consultative body, as recommended by the Kenya settler delegates."—(Executive of Convention.)

Machinery to Increase White Settlement.

White Settlement.—"That this Convention is of opinion that, pending further development by the Government of any publicity programme, it is expedient to set up forthwith the machinery for a Closer Settlement Scheme, [illegible]al to the Colony as a whole, through the agency of [illegible]al Associations, and that the following Committee [illegible]ub-Committees, which should be Committees of the Executive of Convention, be appointed without delay, *viz.*:—

A Closer Settlement Committee, with

A Publicity Sub-Committee, whose terms of reference shall be: Liaison with Government scheme, local publicity, brochures, etc.;

A Land Sub-Committee, whose terms of reference shall be: Collation of data regarding sales, etc.; liaison with land agents; arrangements for hospitality; local information bureaux;

A Finance Sub-Committee, whose terms of reference shall be: Raising of Finance and allocation of finance;

A Women's Sub-Committee, whose terms of reference shall be: Women's representation in districts; preparation of pamphlets on health, housekeeping, gardening, social amenities, medical and educational facilities; liaison with Women's emigration societies."—(Njoro Settlers' Association.)

Board of Agriculture.—"That this Convention registers its protest at Government's failure to permit the Board of Agriculture to resume its duties upon the Chairman's return to the Colony in November last, at a time when many problems affecting agriculture were in peculiar need of intensive investigation. Further, it trusts that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will ensure that the Board is so reconstructed as to preserve its original characteristics, as emphasised by Lord Passfield in the proceedings before the Joint Committee on Closer Union. Finally, this Committee places on record its strong disapproval of Government's treatment of Mr. Harper, the Chairman of the Board, to whose unremitting labour much of the success of the Board was due."—(Convention Executive.)

Agricultural Finance.—"That this Convention deplores the delay of Government in appointing a Committee to inquire into long term credits to assist the farming community in these critical times, and believes that Government has failed to realise the extreme urgency of the situation."—(Trans Nzoia Farmers' Association.)

Taxation of Doctors Opposed.

Taxation of Doctors.—"That this Convention protests strongly against the imposition of a tax on doctors, especially having regard to the paucity of medical practitioners in the outlying districts of the Colony; and it considers that Government should do all in its power to encourage them to settle and practise, instead of doing what appears to be the direct opposite.

"It further takes this opportunity of objecting to any form of further taxation, submitting that the present incidence of taxation is much too high as it is and that Government must reduce its expenditure to meet the present economic and financial situation."—(Laikipia Farmers' Association.)

Cost of Administration.—"That this Convention is of opinion that the cost of the Administration Department is too high for the Colony to bear, and considers *inter alia* that the offices of both Provincial and District Commissioner in white areas should be dispensed with and their work carried out by local authorities, the judicial side being undertaken by Justices of the Peace, with a travelling Magistrate for the civil and more important criminal cases. It points out in this connection that where Local Government exists, although Government originally promised a reduction of expenditure in those districts that adopted it, yet in actual fact the Administration staff have remained unchanged or have been increased."—(Laikipia Farmers' Association.)

Cuts in Official Salaries.—"That this Convention considers that the cuts in Service salaries so far accepted are totally inadequate to meet present circumstances, and is of opinion that the whole Civil Service be asked to accept further cuts in salaries immediately, proportionate to the economic situation."—(Thomson's Falls District Association.)

Government and Elected Members.—"That this Convention views with considerable apprehension the bureaucratic attitude of the Government of this Colony and its apparent disregard of the Elected Representatives of the Public. This attitude is regarded as being a definite attempt on the part of Government to curtail the recognised principle of the people's right to share in the government of this Colony, and the Elected Members are hereby asked to oppose any departure from this principle with every means at their disposal."—(Thika District Association.)

Repeal of the Congo Basin Treaties.

Congo Basin Treaties.—"That in the opinion of this Convention the time is now opportune again to press for the abrogation of the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye 1919 and subsequent treaties."—(Songhor Farmers' Association.)

Imperial Preference on Coffee.—"That this Convention requests Government to make urgent representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the grant of a generous measure of Imperial Preference on coffee imported from Kenya."—(Kiambu Association.)

Veterinary Services.—"That this Convention is of the opinion that Government would effect great economies, without loss of efficiency, by the abolition of field veterinary officers, qualified Veterinary Surgeons being only necessary at headquarters and at the laboratory. It is further of the opinion that part of the savings so effected should be utilised to increase the laboratory staff."—(Laikipia Farmers' Association.)

Water Boring.—"That this Convention is of opinion that the present scale of charges for water boring is too high and will make the cost of boring prohibitive throughout the greater part of the country."—(Ulu Settlers Association.)

Dogs.—"That, in view of the fact that the smaller game and game birds have been practically exterminated in some districts by Native poachers, this Convention urges upon every landowner the necessity of forbidding the keeping of dogs by Natives in his employ, and to use every effort to prevent Natives hunting small mammals or birds on land in his occupation."—(Naivasha Farmers' Association.)

"That this Convention urges upon Government the desirability of curtailing the numbers of dogs in the Colony, both to ensure their humane treatment and to reduce the risk of an outbreak of rabies; and suggests that this can best be achieved by an annual tax of 2s. on every dog over six months of age, whether in Native or non-Native ownership."—(Ruiru Farmers' Association.)

Locusts.—"That this Convention requests Government to cease forthwith further expenditure on the locust campaign."—(Mount Kenya Association.)

Stock.—"That this Convention supports Motion No. 17 passed at the last Stockowners Conference, *viz.*:—'That this Conference is of opinion that amending legislation should be introduced whereby local authorities may be empowered to prohibit squatter-owned stock from being kept in the area under their jurisdiction,' amended by the substitution of the words 'Native-owned' in place of 'squatter-owned'; and it asks Government to take the necessary steps without delay."—(Laikipia Farmers' Association.)

"EAST AFRICA'S" BOOKSHELF.

CAPE TO COWLEY *viâ* CAIRO.

"Bohunkus's" Epic Journey.

Cape Town, dep. April 1, 1930: Oxford, arr. October 1, 1930—six months through Africa from south to north, in a four-seater touring car which had already done 25,000 miles before starting on [illegible] journey, driven by two Englishwomen—[illegible]one. Such is the record of "Bohunkus," the car, [illegible] Miss M. [illegible] Belcher, who relates the adventure, [illegible] C. Budgell—the "picannin missus," with, as far as Nairobi, Miss J. M. O. Day.

The tale is told with modesty, humour and transparent honesty by Miss Belcher in "Cape to Cowley *viâ* Cairo" (Methuen, 8s. 6d.); and never since Mark Tapley took "Jolly" for his watchword when on his travels did two of his countrywomen more thoroughly adopt and live up to his slogan. Well may Sir John Foster Fraser write enthusiastically in his Introduction: "The particular attraction here is the good-natured, devil-may-care, cheerio spirit which carried the travellers on their sandy, blistering, mishap-strewn way, facing their troubles with a smile and regarding the whole ride as something in the nature of a joke."

As a matter of fact, it was undertaken as a holiday jaunt because one of the ladies "hated the sea." [illegible] reason they decided to return to Oxford by [illegible]d from Cape Town *viâ* Salisbury, Livingstone, Abercorn, Arusha, Longido, Nairobi, Soroti, Khartoum, Cairo, Paris, Calais, and London, a journey accomplished without accident to limb, danger to life, or serious damage to the venerable but indomitable car.

* * * *

A merry heart goes a long way in making friends, and everywhere the ladies found willing help:—

"Near Umvuma we had an amusing encounter with a Native. We were camped under a large tree, and while Budge (Miss Budgell) and I were busy erecting a tent and seeing to the car, Day was wrestling with a fire that firmly refused to burn. Down on her hands and knees, she was vigorously blowing the embers, when suddenly out of the darkness of the night stepped a Native who, gently thrusting an astonished Guider on one side, proceeded more in sorrow than in anger to demonstrate how a fire should be lighted. Gathering a few specially selected twigs, he quickly had a blaze, and at last, satisfied that the fire was well and truly alight, he flung his blanket about him, grinned broadly, and strolled off into the bush."

They found that Africa can be deceptive:—

"On the outskirts of Livingstone there is a most encouraging notice-board which says, 'Great North Road to Zimba.' Full of hope we started out, but quickly found that the painter of the board had omitted to mention the fact that five miles out the road ceased to exist."

Iringa bazaar Miss Belcher thought very like Zanzibar. Dodoma, "although a railhead" (strange slip that!),

The Great North Road!

Dinka Women with Babies.

"was not much more that a huddle of tin shanties on a barren plain, while the *boma* looked like an old-fashioned fort. The accommodation here was probably the world's worst outside Australia. . . . The only garage in Dodoma fitted a new gasket to our exhaust. The owner refused to accept payment, because, as he mournfully explained, 'nobody ever paid.' He was giving up in a week and seeking pastures new where cash was preferred to credit."

The party's only arms were two revolvers and a Mauser pistol; they did not fire a single shot in self-defence during the whole 8,000 mile journey—which was just as well, for none of them appears to have been a practised shot, and one was admittedly "far more effective with a petrol-tin than a firearm." Their tent was a "car-tent," and they slept on the ground. Once a pair of lions prowled round the car at night, awaking Miss Day "with a sniffing sound." In the morning the spoor was filled with salt and photographed, so that there might be some record of the visitors. The motorists seem to have got a lot of fun out of their hooter, the sound of which, they discovered, resembled so closely the cry of the young wildebeeste that they frequently got anxious replies from agitated mothers. And how it made impala jump!

* * * *

The authoress chuckles over some of the yarns old-timers worked off on new chums: one was that a kaross was "a large, flat animal liable to attack people at sight;" another that the hyrax, being so closely allied to the elephant and rhino, had amassed the cunning and ferocity of both and always charged on sight. Yet she seems to have accepted gratefully the information that "Native hunters, when they came up with a herd of elephant, first selected their beast by tying a knot in his tail and then set to work to kill him."

When the Nile was reached, the Dinka women provided a novelty:—

"Tall Dinka women in long dark blue robes came down to the water's edge. On their heads they carried reed baskets, and we were much amused to find that each basket contained a baby. When a child cried, the mother turned her head from side to side and the motion soothed the child. Reed-matting was fastened across the top, so that the baby was securely tied in. When the mother opened the lid the baby emerged. The story of Moses in the bulrushes took on a new significance."

Miss Belcher's book is delightful, so fresh, so lively, so free from anything even approaching a "stunt." Throughout, every incident rings true, as the spirit shown by the travellers was true to the best traditions of the race to which they were proud to belong. Good reading, every word of it. And not the least valuable part is the last chapter—"Tips to Tenderfeet"—in which the authoress gives useful hints to those who would follow in "Bohunkus's" trail.

A. L.

THE SOCIOLOGY OF ISLAM.

Its Spread in Africa.

MUHAMMADANISM touches East Africa at so many points that none can ignore its presence, its influence and its spread, while thoughtful men will try to understand its tenets, its spirit and its numerous phases. To these Professor R. Levy's book, "The Sociology of Islam" (Williams and Norgate, 21s.), [illegible] appeal, for it is written by a sympathetic student of Islam with an intimate knowledge of his subject, and, while technical in tone, is never beyond [illegible] understanding of the ordinary reader. The introduction, for example, which tells of the rise and spread of Islam, is excellent reading. It closes thus:—

"The predisposing causes for the advance of Islam in Africa are not different in the main from those which affected its dissemination elsewhere. The inhabitants, whose culture ranked low in the scale of civilisation, were easily led to respect the cultural, political and military supremacy of the Moslems who came amongst them, and hence to adopt their social and religious institutions. Thus, for example, in Africa as in Java, the Hajji returned from pilgrimage to Mecca comes to be regarded with exceptional respect, and excites emulation. Soldiers and traders, intermarrying with the Native population, convert their wives and children to Islam, which finds the readier acceptance also among the men of the Native tribes by recognising polygamy as necessary, both to satisfy sexual demands and the system of family life that [illegible] arisen from them.

[illegible] is still further in the favour of Islam that it does [illegible] endeavour to alienate the convert from his tribal relationships, and it preserves—even as we have seen, enhances—his social status. Amongst other advantages it may sometimes secure him immunity from slavery. Ultimately, by providing him with a way of life which, though not by any means easy, is yet simple and clearly defined, Islam frees him from the numerous vague terrors inseparable from a primitive state of culture, and induces in him a feeling of confidence and self-respect leading in its turn to that unquestioning pride in his faith which is characteristic of the professing Moslem."

The chapter on the prevalence of slavery in Islam is valuable for its clear statement of facts free from bias or sentimentality; that on the status of women will disabuse many readers of preconceived and erroneous notions. The status of the child, as explained by the author, will assist administrative officers who have to deal with Muhammadan folk.

Every chapter is followed by a full bibliography, and four excellent maps illustrate the geographical position of Islam in A.D. 750, 1050, 1650 and 1930 respectively. The book is published for Herbert Spencer's Trustees in continuance of his Descriptive Sociology, and is to be followed by a second volume dealing more particularly with Moslem government, and the ethics, philosophy and sciences which have found favour in Islam. The two, when completed by Professor Levy, will form a very valuable addition to our knowledge of a fascinating and most important subject.

A. L.

NEGRO TYPES.

A noteworthy addition to Messrs. G. Routledge and Sons' "Seen by the Camera" series is "Negro Types" (2s. 6d.) which, among 64 photographs of African Natives, includes one of a woman from Lake Chad wearing a double *pelele*. The distortion of the lips appears really incredible; the lower lip is distended by a circular disc of wood four inches in diameter!

While all the pictures are good, the introduction is less satisfactory. The anonymous author ventures on thin ice with *Bwana Ndogo* and *Mshenzi-Uleia*, translating the latter phrase as "European Nigger," which is hardly just. He concludes: "The white man began by teaching the Natives that they needed all sorts of things they had hitherto done without, then the Natives were obliged to place not only their lands but their own labour at the service of the whites in order to satisfy the newly acquired needs. The result will be a gradual transformation of the old Native culture into a travesty of European civilisation." That statement is a "travesty" of the past, present, and, let us hope, the future relations of white and black.

THE AFRICAN PLATEAU LAKES.

Will They be Dammed?

EGYPTIAN hydrologists take the greatest interest in the great lakes of the Central African Plateau, for these great bodies of water, in spite of heavy loss by evaporation, serve to equalise the flow of the White Nile, which in April, when the river is at its lowest in Egypt, contributes 82% of the water supply. Without these lakes—Victoria, Albert, Edward and Kioga—this low stage supply would in some years be very small. Dr. H. E. Hurst, Director-General of the Physical Department of the Egyptian Government, has already undertaken two expeditions to the Plateau to study local conditions, rainfall, and the hydrology of the area. In a third volume, "The Nile Basin" (Government Press, Cairo, P.T. 50—10s. 6d.), he and his colleague, Dr. P. Phillips, sum up all that is known of the White Nile, its topography and meteorology. One statement in their highly technical work appears to contain a most intriguing suggestion:—

"It is only by regulating these (lakes) and converting them into vast reservoirs that the necessary equalisation of supply can take place. Ultimately it will be necessary to provide sufficient storage for the supply of low years to be augmented from the accumulated water stored in previous high years."

Does this mean that in the future dams and barrages comparable to the immense constructions on the Nile will be erected at vital points on the Lakes?

The book is a magnificent piece of work, illustrated by no fewer than 110 plates, of which seven are maps in colour; many are photographs taken from the air. The rainfall and vegetation maps should be of value to residents on the Plateau; the book itself will give the layman some real idea of the meaning of hydrology as applied to the greatest of African rivers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

LORD CRANWORTH EXPRESSES THANKS

On Behalf of East African Sisal Growers.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

Sir,—May I beg the indulgence of your columns to express on behalf of the sisal industry its gratitude to all those whose efforts have been successful, even at the eleventh hour, in getting hemp off the Free Schedule of the Imports Duties Bill?

Those to whom such thanks are due include *East Africa*, the influence it has continuously exerted; all those Members of Parliament who so ably supported the Amendment, and not least the Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir John Sandeman Allen and the Joint East African Board; Major Dale, of the East African Office; and Sir Humphrey Leggett and Mr. Hausburg and the East African Section of the London Chamber of Commerce.

Most especially would I express the appreciation of the industry for the unceasing efforts of the East African Producers' Association, and notably of Major Walsh, who have left no stone unturned and no avenue unexplored in determination to get a reversal of the first decision.

May I add a word of warning against undue optimism as to the immediate effect? The substitution of British sisal for foreign hemp in appreciable quantities must of necessity take time, and further efforts to widen our market must be made at the Ottawa Conference. We shall look then with confidence for still more help from those who have laboured so ungrudgingly during the crisis which is just past.

Yours faithfully,

Grundisburgh Hall, Suffolk. CRANWORTH, *President, The East African Sisal Growers' Association.*

[Editorial comments on the sisal industry will be found under Matters of Moment.—*Ed. "E.A."*]

HEMP DUTIES OF THE XVIIITH CENTURY.

An Interesting Parallel Recalled.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

Sir,—May I take this opportunity of thanking *East Africa* for the ready assistance given in the attempt to obtain some recognition for the East African sisal industry?

And in doing so may I recall that this controversy is really a much older one than is generally acknowledged? Over two hundred years ago hemp was a burning question in connexion with the (then) American Colonies. In Oct., 1721, the King's Speech drafted by Sir Robert Walpole contained the following:—

"Our plantations in America naturally abound for most of the proper materials for the necessary and essential part of our trade and maritime strength; and if by due encouragement we could be furnished from thence with those naval stores which we are now obliged to purchase, and bring from foreign countries, it would not only greatly contribute to the riches, influence and power of this nation, but by employing our own Colonies in this useful and advantageous service, divert them from setting up and carrying on manufactures which greatly interfere with those of Great Britain."

The same year, following this King's Speech, the duties on hemp and timber coming to Great Britain from the American Colonies were removed.

Yours faithfully,

London, E.C.3. CONRAD L. WALSH.

THAT EAST AFRICAN PIONEER ROLL.

Wives must be Included.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

Sir,—I think your suggestion to compile a Pioneer Roll a most excellent one, which should prove of very considerable value to all who are interested in the opening up of Africa generally.

The term "pioneer," as I understand it, means those who prepare the way and those that help. There are various vocations involved in such work—administrators, doctors, engineers, farmers and planters, and others, and, in many cases, those women who accompanied their husbands and helped to make the task smoother. Please do not ignore the wives when the list is made.

Yours faithfully,

Somerset West, South Africa. JOHN AINSWORTH.

[We certainly wish to include the names of European women who were in any of the territories prior to the beginning of 1906 and still survive. The compilation of the Pioneer Roll is involving much correspondence, but we invite all our readers to help us by sending the full names and last known addresses of people who should, they think, be included. Where possible, the date of first arrival in East Africa should also be stated.—*Ed. "E.A."*]

THE CHARACTER OF LIONS.

A Warning to Young Sportsmen.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

Sir,—In his interesting book, "A Game Warden among His Charges," Capt. C. R. S. Pitman makes the sweeping statement that the lion is an "arrant coward," or words to that effect. Nothing could be further from the truth, as many people have had cause to find out, so I think it might be helpful to young sportsmen to impress on them that they should treat any lion they attempt to shoot with full respect, and be most careful with the first shot, as it is always the most important one with dangerous game.

Well-known hunters, such as Selous, Stigand, Pease, Percival and Stevenson-Hamilton, have all written fully on the habits and characters of lions, and they have shown how dangerous a quarry he can be, especially after he has been wounded, so it is absurd to stigmatise them as "arrant cowards." Lions differ in temperament the same as human beings, and it never follows if one behaves in what we may call a cowardly fashion that the next one seen will do the same.

In the rainy season in tropical Africa, when they often find difficulty in catching their natural prey, they kill quite a number of Natives, and the way they break into huts shows that they are most fearless and bold. The same remark applies to a wounded beast, for there are many accounts available in the books of the authors I have mentioned of a lion fighting to the death. For instance, Sir Alfred Pease in his fine volume "The Book of the Lion," mentions an animal that fought on after receiving thirteen bad wounds from powerful modern rifles.

Therefore, I again warn young men to be very careful when they are dealing with one of the pluckiest and most dangerous animals in Africa, for any rashness and contempt they display will likely be replaced by their getting a bad fright—if not something much more painful and lasting!

Yours faithfully,

Moffat, N.B. DENIS D. LYELL.

[Perhaps Mr. Lyell refers to the statement of Captain Pitman: "I have seen some degrading exhibitions of cowardice by lions surrounded by spearmen."—*Ed. "E.A."*]

MAJOR GROGAN'S STORY OF HIS LIFE.

"East Africa's" Policy when Publishing Books.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

SIR,—I thoroughly endorse your suggestion that Major Ewart Grogan should write a book, but I should like to see it in the form of the story of his own life in Africa, told, as he would tell it, in strong, intensely human chapters. This would pro- [illegible] inspiration for those who have to carry on and hold what men like Grogan won and held for us. To-day many of our African pioneers are passing [illegible] world knowing of their trials and achievements, and I feel that it is a duty they owe to their race to tell their own stories in their own way.

After all, it is the completion of the circle: they went out, did what they did and gained their experience. They should now pass it on for the benefit of those who will follow after.

I first remember meeting Major Grogan coming back from England in the old "Kinfauns Castle" in '02. What he told me then inspired me to look northwards, and I have no doubt many young men would be inspired by his next book as I was inspired by his conversation and by his first book, "From the Cape to Cairo."

Yours faithfully,

London, S.W.1. A. J. SIGGINS.

[*East Africa* has repeatedly urged many of the East and [illegible] African pioneers to put down their reminiscences on paper, and to the usual excuse that they cannot write has always replied that it will help with the necessary editing of any book which is otherwise acceptable. That offer stands—though, of course, it is entirely unnecessary in the case of Major Grogan. We believe that scores of East Africans could write first-class books, and we are always ready to consider the publication of such volumes, being convinced that a succession of such books would be a valuable means of publicity for the territories. Some publishers will sponsor the most ridiculously exaggerated stories of East Africa; this journal will publish nothing which falls below the standard it has deliberately set itself. Frivolous sensationalism, exaggerated general charges based on isolated incidents, and politically biased pseudo-histories interest us not at all. Such matter excepted, we are always willing to consider sympathetically the publication of manuscripts on any East African subject.—*Ed. "E.A."*]

THE WHITE FATHERS IN TABORA.

Mrs. Chambers Corrected.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

SIR,—I notice from your issue of December 24 that Mrs. Chambers is reported as having said in her address in London: "Tabora has four mosques but no Christian church." In order to correct an error, and in fairness to a great and world-famous missionary body, may I be allowed to point out that Tabora has been for many years a large missionary centre of the White Fathers; in fact, I think I am correct in stating that the White Fathers were the missionary "pioneers" in the area now known as the Tabora Province.

Tabora is the headquarters of the Tabora Vicariate, under Bishop Michaud. There is a large church there, and also a large and flourishing training college run by the mission. As the White Fathers first established a mission station at Tabora prior to the arrival of the Germans in the area, and acquired the first mission plots from the Arab owners during the Arab *régime*—Tabora was a very important place at that time—it is safe to assume that there has been at least one Christian church in Tabora for the past forty years.

Yours faithfully,

Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika Territory. "FAIRPLAY."

POOR SALESMANSHIP AT THE B. I. F.

Exhibitors Who Neglect Opportunities.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

SIR,—I have just spent three full days at the Olympia section of the British Industries Fair and they have fully convinced me that the British manufacturer can make every single one of those articles which many of us imagine can only be made abroad. As a Fair, it is a magnificent revelation to a visitor from overseas, who must confess the range of goods to be overwhelming.

But why should the vast majority of the stalls be left in the charge of mere office boys, with a junior clerk sometimes flitting in the background? At six successive stands which I visited I found no executive at all. The old "take it or leave it" attitude is still too prevalent. Surely British manufacturers realise by now that it is entirely out of place. I cannot understand any concern spending good money on a stand unless it is determined to use progressive salesmanship on the stall to dispose of its goods.

Yours faithfully,

London, W.1. H. L. J.

CONTROLLING LOCUSTS BY SOUND.

Experience from India.

To the Editor of "East Africa."

SIR,—In your number of December 31, 1931, a correspondent raises the question of stimulating locusts to fly by means of sound waves of a particular note. In India, when locusts attack one's garden, it is common practice for the *malis* (gardeners) to beat tins to prevent these insects from alighting. I have the liveliest recollection of the success of this expedient in Hyderabad, in 1927, though possibly the swarm, judged by African standards, was not a particularly large one.

But the principle is probably sound, and to-day might be utilised by broadcasting a note of a suitable wave-length over a threatened area.

Yours faithfully,

Club of Central India, Mhow. H. E. ROOME.

[Locusts are undoubtedly very susceptible to vibrations of the air, while visual stimuli are of secondary importance. "The whole problem," says Dr. B. P. Ovarov, "presents an almost unexplored field for most interesting observations," and it is to be hoped that the entomological experts are devoting some time to this phase of the work. When the precise "note" which compels locusts to fly, or to keep on flying, has been discovered, broadcasting may prove useful in distributing it. We put no limit to the development of broadcasting; we may yet see loud-speakers, installed on *shambas* during a locust invasion, shrieking out the standard note and locusts "finding no rest for the sole of their foot."—*Ed. "E.A."*]

POINTS FROM LETTERS.

"The Kenya Government is definitely showing more interest in Native affairs."—*From a Kenya subscriber.*

"In its search for economy the Tanganyika Government is afforded great scope by the obvious possibility of amalgamating various Departments. For instance, Mines, Lands and Surveys could be re-amalgamated instead of continuing their existence as three separate entities; similarly, the Treasury and Audit might become one."—*From a Tanganyika settler.*

"Congratulations on your leading article of January 7 on 'Anachronisms which Must Go.' To show how overstaffed Tanganyika has been, a pamphlet recently issued by the officer who is in charge of agriculture and of the locust campaign in the northern area says: 'Some twenty-four officers of all Departments are operating full time in the field.' Yet in spite of this the work of all Departments goes on in exactly the old way!"—*From a correspondent in Northern Tanganyika.*

THE REALITY OF AFRICAN WITCHCRAFT.

Mr. Melland would Alter the Law.

Two Natives quarrel in a village in Northern Rhodesia, and one threatens, with histrionic action, that his enemy shall quickly die. That night the threatened man is killed and eaten by a lion, although the village does not lie in a lion district. The villagers arrest the dead man's enemy, take him to the *boma*, and demand his punishment. To them [illegible] absolute proof of the accused's magic. The man himself admits that he may be guilty; he went to sleep that night, he says, and, in the form of a [illegible] killed his enemy. What can the District Officer do? The law says there is no such thing as witchcraft in Africa.

Another village in Northern Rhodesia has for weeks suffered from an epidemic of cerebrospinal meningitis; the headman, a newcomer, is between two stools—the village demands that search shall be made for the witch whose black magic has caused the epidemic; he himself knows that the finding of the witch means the killing of the sorcerer, and that implies his own trial, condemnation and hanging at the hands of the British authorities. He yields to the clamour of the villagers; the witch, an old man, is discovered by the usual Native procedure, speared and burned. The headman is arrested by the police and taken off to the capital for judgment. And the sickness stops: no further cases occur after the [illegible] of the witch.

[illegible] the Governor arrives for a great *indaba* of Natives, and asks that any grievances shall be declared in his presence. At once goes up a cry against witchcraft. H.E. raises his hand: "Stop," he says through his interpreter. "There is no such thing as witchcraft. I will hear nothing on such an impossibility. Tell me your real grievances." The whole congregation of Natives is silent; outside witchcraft they have nothing to tell, nothing is worth telling.

Witchcraft as Great a Curse as Slavery.

With such graphic examples, taken from his own long experience as an administrative officer in Central Africa, did Mr. F. H. Melland, in his lecture on "The Belief in Witchcraft" at the School of Oriental Studies last week, plead for an entire alteration in the official attitude to witchcraft:—

"Livingstone and Gordon roused England to grapple with slavery," said Mr. Melland in his peroration. "We want someone to rouse England now to grapple with this reality of witchcraft. It is as great a curse to Africa as slavery ever was; it is, in fact, another form of slavery. It is a slavery of the mind which follows the Native from early youth to old age, which binds him and terrifies him. We must eradicate this belief which haunts the Native, and it cannot be eradicated by our point-blank and utterly inexplicable denial of its existence.

"We must admit the reality, show our sympathy, and set to work to conquer it by the religion of Christ who cast out devils, by medical help, and by education. But the first step is to have the courage to recant, to withdraw our unsuitable and inequitable laws, and substitute for them sane and helpful proclamations based on a knowledge of social anthropology and primitive mentality.

"Until we do this we handicap ourselves, we make almost impossible the task which we have set ourselves of helping in the evolution of these subject races; we fail as trustees. It is only pride, the fetish of our laws for which we claim infallibility, that keeps us tied to the present system; pride in what we call 'British Justice,' for which the Natives, in this instance, have a different name; pride and the fact that as a race we have not yet grasped the importance of this matter, have not even grasped what a reality, what a terrible reality, this belief in witchcraft is."

Many interesting points were touched upon by the lecturer: the vast antiquity of the belief in witchcraft; its universality—"This universal creed," as Sir James Frazer had called it, "which might appeal with far more reason than the Catholic Church to the proud motto, *'Quod semper, quod ubique, quod ab omnibus'* as the sure and certain motto of its own infallibility": its persistence in Western Europe, even in England to-day (the last witch was legally executed in Western Europe in 1782); the curious fact that Natives, convicted of witchcraft by their own people, never deny their guilt (the nearest Mr. Melland had known was an old woman who said, as she went to her death: Am I really a witch?"); and the remarkable similarity throughout the world of the beliefs connected with it, in contrast with religions, which differ not only in different countries but in the same country in different ages.

And in East Africa, to judge by the latest report of the Secretary for Native Affairs in Kenya, side by side with the growth of new ideas among Natives, of political associations, of a craving for European education, there has been an intensified belief in witchcraft and an increase in power of the witch-doctor.

A discussion followed. A Nyasaland educationist confirmed the statement that the new generation of Natives was taking an increased interest in witchcraft, and Mr. Melland pointed out the danger of these young men, with their trained minds, becoming practitioners of the cult.

Another criticised the lecturer's cure—"the religion of Christ, medical help, and education"—remarking that in the West Indies Africans had been for over a hundred years under the influence of all these three factors, and yet there was no part of the world where witchcraft was a greater curse than in the West Indies; Africans there lived under perpetual terror of it. Mr. Melland replied that it was not merely the presence of churches which was needed, but a direct attack by the Christian Church on witchcraft.

Some Statements Worth Noting.

"Obviously, the Sudan is not part of the British Empire."—*Sir P. Harris, M.P., in the House of Commons.*

"Since my arrival in Kenya the only publication without bias about the country is Mr. H. O. Weller's 'Kenya without Prejudice,' published by that enterprising concern *East Africa*."—*Major Denys Jones, in an address to the Nairobi*

"The subscription to the local Chamber of Commerce comes under the category of insurance, and, like insurance, should appear on the expenditure side of every properly run commercial concern."—*Mr. A. C. Tannahill, retiring President of the Nairobi Chamber of Commerce.*

"There is a lingering idea that a missionary is a white-haired man in a tall hat and a long black coat, seated in state under a palm tree. I have never possessed a tall hat or a black coat. I have preached in shorts and in my shirt-sleeves, and have been the best-dressed man in the congregation."—*Dr. Donald Fraser, speaking in London.*

"Both in Rhodesia and Kenya the novelist has much to answer for. The average settler in both countries is a hard-working person, and has far too much common sense to do the quarter of the things attributed to him. He has his job to do, and gets on with it and pays not the slightest attention to the part that popular fancy would have him play."—*Miss M. L. Belcher, in "Cape to Cowley via Cairo."*

"We must endeavour, slowly but surely, to improve the conditions under which our Natives live. It is a matter which cannot be rushed, and nothing annoys one more than the utterance of that smug and hideous *cliché* 'bonification,' which means, if it means anything at all, abolishing poverty by making everybody rich."—*Mr. W. K. Connell, F.R.C.S., in "The Kenya and East African Medical Journal."*

"It is now a year since I returned to England from Kenya, and during that time I have been increasingly impressed by two things—the growing interest of people here at home in the problems of African government, and the difficulty of spreading any adequate idea both of what our administrations are actually doing and of what their practical difficulties are."—*Sir Edward Grigg, in "The Journal of the African Society."*

"Eldoret would appear to be doing well out of the Kakamega gold rush, as, although Kisumu is some miles nearer, the Highland town has its attractions, besides being the permanent residence of a large proportion of the diggers. The week-end is availed of by many to find a little recreation in the town and load up with stores before returning on Monday morning."—*From a correspondent of the Nairobi "Standard."*

"On the crop of 200,000 bales of cotton which may be expected this year, and at an average price of ten cents, the actual amount in cash which will be paid to Native cotton growers in Uganda is no less than £1,330,000, and every rise or fall of a cent per pound therefore means a difference in circulation of £133,000. This figure does not include wages paid by the ginners, transport, miscellaneous expenses, etc., involving a further large sum. With all this extra money suddenly put into circulation, the bazaars immediately liven up and the wheels of trade commence to revolve."—*"The Uganda Herald" in a leading article.*

"EAST AFRICA'S"

WHO'S WHO

91.—Sir Harold Baxter Kittermaster, K.B.E., C.M.G., O.B.E.

East Africans hope that Sir Harold Kittermaster, the present Governor of British Honduras, will not be long absent from East Africa, in which he has spent twenty-three years, almost all of it in the control of tribes which have had little contact with civilisation, and amongst whom he has ruled with marked success. He has a keen insight into Native mentality, a sense of humour which has often stood him in good stead, is always approachable and friendly, and has physical qualities which must often have turned the scales in his favour. He is the tallest and heaviest man who ever rowed in the Oxford Boat, and is one of the tallest men who ever served in East Africa.

Mr. Kittermaster first reached East Africa in 1908, was given charge of the Northern Frontier District in 1915, received the African General Service Medal and clasp for his services in Jubaland in 1917, became Senior Assistant Secretary of Kenya three years later, and in 1921 was promoted Secretary to the Administration of Somaliland, of which he became Governor in 1926. In that year he was awarded the C.M.G., the K.B.E. following two years later. During his term of office of five years he did everything possible to develop communications and to explore the mineral, agricultural and trade possibilities of the country. He is a keen big-game shot and golfer, and a man of whom his many East African friends always speak with affection.

PERSONALIA.

Lord Delamere has returned to London from Ireland.

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Sir Joseph Byrne recently spent a week's holiday in Nyeri.

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Mr. L. E. Laurence has been elected a member of the Nyanza District Council, Kenya.

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A. E. Weatherhead has been re-elected President of the Mbale Sports Club, Uganda.

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Mr. J. McCrae has been nominated to represent the Lake Ward on the Naivasha District Council.

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Mr. R. S. Campbell has again been elected President of the Mombasa Chamber of Commerce.

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Captain Fiddian Green has presented a cup to the Aero Club of East Africa to be competed for annually.

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Mr. J. H. Maxwell, Principal of the Government Indian School in Nairobi, is shortly expected home on leave.

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The Crown Prince of Ethiopia reached Addis Ababa on Thursday of last week on his return from a European tour.

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Mr. J. B. Dopwell, who was formerly in charge of the Government Experimental station at Mazeras, Kenya, has died there from pneumonia.

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Field-Marshal Viscount Plumer, who was operated on in London last week, first saw active service in the Eastern Sudan forty-eight years ago.

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Colonel G. A. Swinton Home has been elected Chairman and Colonel A. D. Stitt Secretary of the newly-formed Kakamega Miners' Association.

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Captain G. Waters, of the Uganda Police, is expected to arrive home during the latter part of April. He is shortly retiring from the service.

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Mr. W. F. Jenkins, partner of Messrs. Smith, McKenzie & Company, and a well-known business man in Mombasa, is on his way back to Kenya.

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General de Bono, Italian Minister for the Colonies, is on his way to Eritrea, in order to study the economic and productive possibilities of the Colony.

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Mr. W. R. Montgomery, the Kenya Provincial Commissioner, has assumed charge of the Nyanza Province. During his last tour he was stationed in Mombasa.

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Mr. Robert W. M. Arbuthnot, a director of Messrs. Arbuthnot, Latham and Co., has been appointed a director of the London Assurance Company.

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Uganda's inaugural St. David's Day dinner was held in Kampala on Tuesday. Its arrangement was due primarily to the energy and initiative of Dr. Goronwy ap Griffith.

Sir Edward Grigg is to address the Union Anglo-Belge in Brussels to-morrow on "The Common Task of Civilised Powers with African Possessions."

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Mr. Warren Wright, the well-known Mombasa advocate, who was in the Uganda Administrative Service many years ago, has been re-visiting that Protectorate.

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Mr. J. MacCall, manager in Nyasaland of the London and Blantyre Supply Company, has arrived home on leave. He recently recovered from a serious illness.

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Mr. H. W. D. Frudd, who spent ten years in Mombasa as representative of the Union-Castle Line, has been given charge of the company's Johannesburg branch.

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Mr. N. M. Halse has been appointed manager of the Blantyre branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa. He has been in charge of their branch in Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia.

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Mr. Geoffrey Walsh, C.B.E., has been elected this year's President of the Mombasa branch of the Royal Society of St. George, with Mr. E. J. Waddington as Vice-President.

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His many friends in Uganda will be relieved to learn that Mr. G. Maitland Warne, who crashed while flying near Hanworth, is now out of danger. He is still in Hounslow Hospital.

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At Investitures held by the King last week Mr. Stephen Tallents received the insignia of K.C.M.G., and Dr. Henry Wellcome and Major Evelyn Wrench had knighthoods conferred upon them.

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Mr. A. L. Edwards, who was present at Tuesday's meeting of the East African Branch of the Overseas League, practised in Eldoret as a solicitor for seven years and is now in practice in London.

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Mr. W. M. Bruce, who was in business in Zanzibar before the War, and who served during the East African Campaign, lectured last week in Fraserburgh on "The Island of Cloves."

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Mr. P. W. Perryman and Mr. G. F. Clay have been invited to accept the Presidency and Vice-Presidency respectively of the Entebbe Sports Club, the Hon. Secretary of which is Mr. D. O. Swane.

Dr. Frank Theodore Woods, Bishop of Winchester, who died last Saturday, collaborated with the late Bishop Weston of Zanzibar in writing "Lambeth and Reunion," published in 1920.

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Mr. Duncan Renaldo, who played the part of the hero in the "Trader Horn" film, was slightly injured in the motor accident in Arizona last week in which Mr. Otto Matiesen, a Danish actor, was killed.

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[illegible] H. Storey, of the East African Agricultural Research station at Amani, was in Nyasaland during the [illegible] week. He has recently visited the [illegible]ing areas of Northern Rhodesia.

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We regret to learn of the death in Lilongwe, Nyasaland, of Mrs. Tom Stuart, who had lived in the Protectorate for the past twenty-five years. Mrs. Stuart died following an emergency operation for appendicitis.

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The Rev. E. P. Ellis, Minister of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation, has been appointed a member of the School Committee of the Prince of Wales's School at Kabete and the Girl's Secondary School in Nairobi.

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[illegible]tain L. I. N. Lloyd-Blood, M.C., who has just [illegible] promoted from Assistant Attorney-General in Nyasaland to Solicitor-General in Palestine, served in Kenya from 1920 to 1924, in which year he was transferred to Nyasaland.

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Among those expected home from Kenya shortly are the Rev. J. Brennan, Rev. G. B. Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. D. Joffe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lydekker, Mr. E. Morison, Mrs. C. Sear, Mr. and Mrs. M. Villiers-Stuart, and Mr. Cecil Valentine.

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Lord Passfield and Lord Stanley of Alderley voted in the House of Lords on Monday against the Import Duties Bill, and Lord Buxton, declaring himself still a free trader, refused to vote for it, but did not think it worth while to vote against it.

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Among those shortly expected to arrive home from Nyasaland are Captain and Mrs. de Meza, Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Cheston, Misses Hogarth and Owens, the Rev. R. M. MacLean, and Messrs. Williams, Buckle, and Ford.

Mr. A. Carnie King has been re-elected Chairman for 1932 of the Cholo Settlers' Association, of which Mr. H. M. Nourse is Vice-Chairman. The Committee is composed of Messrs. Paterson, Peterkins and Burgess, the Hon. Secretary being Mr. J. E. R. Emtage.

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The Rev. W. F. P. Ellis and Mr. A. G. Higgens, of the U.M.C.A. in Northern Rhodesia, have arrived home. Mr. H. Stoneley, of the Nyasaland Diocese, and Miss B. Pugh, of Masasi, are due to return to their respective stations in the middle of this month.

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Passengers who left by this week's Imperial Airways machine for East Africa included Mr. and Mrs. Rysell, who are booked from Paris to Juba, and Mr. Compton, from London to Kisumu. Among those who reached Croydon by air from East Africa on Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Fison and Mr. Swan.

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Major Robert Sinclair, of the Plymouth Division, Royal Marines, who is retiring after thirty years' service, was for a time Fleet R.M. Officer on the East Indies Station in H.M.S. "Effingham," and was among the officers present at the coronation of the Emperor of Ethiopia in November, 1930, when he received the Star of Ethiopia.

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In response to a wish expressed by many listeners throughout Kenya, Mr. George A. Tyson has resumed his Monday evening wireless broadcast from Nairobi on "Market Reports and Review." Mr. Tyson is well known in Nairobi and London as a business man, particularly in connexion with land agency and estate supervision in Kenya and as a shipper of produce.

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Mr. T. Campbell Black has been awarded the Mansfield Robinson gold trophy for the most meritorious flight in East Africa during 1931 for his record-breaking flight from Nairobi to Entebbe, Kisumu, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam and back to Nairobi. This is the third year in succession in which Mr. Black has won the Cup, which now becomes his property.

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Dr. H. H. Mann, the well-known tea expert, is leaving England early in April for Tanganyika to investigate the development of the industry there. After his visit to the tea areas in the Southern Highlands of the Mandated Territory he intends visiting Nyasaland to advise on questions of tea production. He is expected back in this country about the middle of September.

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The Archbishop of Canterbury has appointed the Rev. Cyril Edgar Stuart, M.A., who for the past year has been chaplain to the European residents in Kampala, to be Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Uganda. After his ordination in this country in 1920 Mr. Stuart was curate of St. Mary's Church, Hornsey Rise, and later a lecturer at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. In 1925 he was appointed assistant master at Government College, Achimota, which post he held until he joined the Church Missionary Society last year and left for Uganda. Since his arrival in the Protectorate he has toured the Uganda diocese with Bishop Willis, and he has also visited Ruanda and the Mount Elgon districts. At Makerere College he has recently been training for ordination seven English-speaking Africans who had previously attended Budo College. It will be recalled that some years ago Bishop Gresford Jones was Assistant Bishop in Uganda.

PERSONALIA (*continued*).

Mr. C. B. Barton has been re-elected President of the South African Society of Kenya, whose Committee consists of Messrs. H. J. May, W. Hops, A. E. Seals, G. Wedderburn, R. R. Fiddian-Green, and A. Dunstan Adams. Mr. L. C. Brooks and Mr. J. Foulds were elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Society, which was formed last year, is to hold its annual dinner on Union Day, May 30.

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The Rev. J. Len Matthews, a Primitive Methodist minister, is on his way to take up missionary work in Rhodesia. He was trained at Hartley College, Manchester, Kigsmead College, Birmingham, and Livingstone College, London. He hopes to be stationed in the mining districts, in which, he said in his farewell address at Mount Tabor Church, "there is no family life and to-day most of the people are without hope and without any religion." It is not nearly so bad as that.

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General A. S. Cooper, C.M.G., who first entered the Uganda Service in 1896, has taken up an appointment with a firm of builders engaged in developing a housing estate in North-West London. After spending twelve years in Uganda, he was on the West Coast until the outbreak of War, during which he was appointed Director of Inland Waterways and Docks. For the past twelve years he has been representative in Lima of the Peruvian Corporation, of which he still remains a director.

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The Aero Club of East Africa has elected the following officers for 1923: *President*, Major C. A. Hooper; *Vice-Presidents*, Mrs. F. K. Wilson and Sir Pyers Mostyn; *Honorary Secretary*, Mr. L. D. Galton-Fenzi; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. E. H. Fletcher; *Committee*, Mr. F. C. Bridle, Captain W. G. Evans, Captain J. C. Green, Mr. T. Campbell Black, Mr. R. R. Fiddian Green, Captain H. Dunkerley, Flight-Lieutenant D. S. E. Vines, Mr. J. G. Aronson, Mr. V. J. Wheeler, and Mr. George Blowers.

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At St. Charles' Church, Weybridge, on Saturday, Miss Raymonde Oury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Libert Oury, was married to Mr. Paul Stables, who recently returned to London from Tanganyika Territory. Amongst those present at the church and afterwards at Finnart House, Weybridge, were many East African friends of Mr. Oury, the genial director of so many companies operating in Nyasaland and Portuguese East Africa. The bride and bridegroom are spending their honeymoon in the South of France.

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The following East Africans have been elected Fellows of the Royal Empire Society: *Mombasa*: Messrs. E. G. Bale, W. M. Buchanan, John Campbell, R. T. Foster, M.C., Donald S. Fraser, George T. Hankinson, ~~John~~ A. King, John Macintyre, Robert McKenzie, W. G. D. H. Nicol, John D. Ritchie, James Salmond, Ernest E. Stacey, David Thomson, and T. McDowall Williamson; *Nairobi*: Miss Doris Bowman, Messrs. J. P. Purnell-Edwards, R. D. F. Ryland, and E. C. Wilson-Jones; *Beira*: Messrs. Sydney Ashby, Thomas J. Golding, William Kershaw, John Leckie, N. D. MacCuaig, Ernest C. Richards, William W. Ritchie, Reginald Shipley-Gilbert, Charles O. Thompson, and Lewis P. Wilson; *Bombo (Uganda)*: Captain L. L. Lane; *Livingstone*: Mr. I. O. Ward.

Mr. H. W. Tilman and Mr. E. C. Skipton have just succeeded in climbing Mount Margherita (nearly 17,000 feet), the highest of the Ruwenzori mountain range. At the summit they found the records of the first climb made by the Duke of Abruzzi in 1906, and also those of Mr. Humphrey, who reached the summit fifteen years ago.

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Mr. T. G. Benson has been elected Chairman of the Committee of the Nairobi group of Toc H, whose other officers are: *Padre*, Rev. G. B. Carlisle; *Pilot*, Major G. C. Millet; *Scribe*, Dr. H. C. Trowell; *Jobmaster*, Mr. F. Evans, *Treasurer*, Mr. E. E. Twitchin; *Correspondence Secretary*, Mr. H. R. Burnham; and *Secretary*, Mr. J. B. Gould.

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Miss Dorothy Eileen Leechman, S.R.N., elder daughter of Mr. Alleyne Leechman, M.A., lately Director of the Agricultural Research Station, Amani, Tanganyika Territory, and Mrs. Leechman, was married last Saturday at the Cathedral, Singapore, to Mr. Eric Stockdale Pickering, of the Municipal Commissioner's Service, Singapore, younger son of Captain W. A. Pickering, R.N. (retd.), and Mrs. Pickering, of Bedford. The bride was given away by H.E. the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi, the reception was held at Government House, and the honeymoon is being spent at King's House, Fraser's Hill, kindly lent by Sir Cecil and Lady Clementi, whose eldest daughter, Miss Dione Clementi, was chief bridesmaid. Sir Cecil and Mr. Leechman were both educated at St. Paul's School, London, and at Oxford University, and were colleagues in the Colonial Civil Service in British Guiana.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE IN TANGANYIKA.

Sir Donald Cameron assumed office as Governor of Tanganyika Territory in April, 1925. How expenditure increased thereafter is recalled by the Treasurer's annual report for 1930-31. The total increase in ordinary expenditure over the five years was £600,000, made up thus:—

	Ordinary Expenditure.	Increase on Previous Year
	£	£
1925-26	1,226,000	—
1926-27	1,430,000	204,000
1927-28	1,520,000	90,000
1928-29	1,656,000	136,000
1929-30	1,788,000	132,000
1930-31	1,835,000	47,000

[illegible] recurrent expenditure was increasing more rapidly than revenue prior to 1930-31, a fact to which attention was drawn in the Report for 1929-30, when it was pointed out that during the preceding three years recurrent expenditure had increased by 25% and revenue by only 18%.

U.K. TRADE WITH EAST AFRICA.

Some interesting tables showing the percentages of trade between the East African Dependencies and the United Kingdom are included in a memorandum issued by the Charterhouse Investment Trust. Taking the yearly average aggregate of imports and exports (including bullion and specie) for the five-year period 1910-1914 and the year 1929 the following percentages of trade with the U.K. are shown:—

	1910-1914		1929	
	Imports %	Exports %	Imports %	Exports %
Kenya and Uganda	27	37	31	28
Tanganyika ...	—	—	38	14
Nyasaland	71	74	35	87
Northern Rhodesia	51	45	42	49
Zanzibar	15	9	19	7
Somaliland ...	1	—	—	—
Sudan	27	17	31	76

ARMY MOTOR CONVOY IN THE SUDAN.

The War Office announces that a further report has been received dealing with the progress of the British Army motor convoy which is making an experimental tour in Egypt and the Sudan.

After consultation with the local authorities at El Obeid, the officer commanding the convoy decided to alter the route from that place in order to provide a more difficult and interesting test than that originally planned. The route selected was through Dilling, Nyima Jebels, Wali Jebels, Balol, Dar El-Kebir, and Kadugli to Malakal, on the White Nile. This route includes the crossing of the Nuba Mountains.

The convoy left El Obeid on February 10 and arrived at Malakal on February 23. No mechanical defects of any sort developed, and there was no overheating of the engines of the vehicles in spite of an atmospheric temperature of 109°. The passage of the Nuba Mountains proved a very severe test, but was successfully accomplished.

TO IMPROVE THE AFRICAN AIR ROUTE.

The Beit Railway Trustees have agreed to set aside £50,000 for the improvement of the air service along the Cape to Cairo route, the grant to be spread over two years and to come into operation in 1933. Better aerodromes, emergency landing places, meteorological stations and more wireless communications are the objects of the Trustees in making the grant, and in the opinion of experts no better means of raising the standard of air communications in Africa could have been chosen.

In consequence of the high prices realised for coffee grown from imported Blue Mountain seed, Usa (Tanganyika) coffee planters are procuring further supplies of the seed from Jamaica.

BEIRA RAILWAY RESULTS.

The report of the Beira Railway Company for the twelve months to September 30 last states that the net earnings of the Beira-Umtali section amounted to £214,672, compared with £304,021 for the previous twelve months. There was a loss on the year's working of £25,277, but the balance brought forward amounted to £47,143, and there is thus a credit balance of £21,836 to be carried forward to next year's accounts. The report states that the Roan Antelope Copper [illegible] are now exporting substantial quantities of copper [illegible] and that similar traffic is very shortly expected [illegible] the Rhokana Corporation, though on account of the restriction scheme the copper traffic for the present year will not reach the volume anticipated.

RHODESIAN RAILWAYS PROPOSE INCREASED RATES.

For the first time since the passing of the Railway Act the railway companies have applied to the Commission for a general increase in rates and fares. This is due to the fact that the revenue for the year is estimated at £2,586,500, compared with £3,535,983 for the previous year. Even with increased rates it is estimated that only £367,900 will be available to meet the loan provision of £1,085,100. No provision has been made for a dividend, as there is no prospect of any dividend being earned.

The conference between the Governments and the companies last year failed to agree about changes in the Act, and it is therefore not known whether any use will be made of the Reserve Fund now standing at nearly £2,000,000, which, it was hoped, would be used as a rates stabilisation fund.—*Times* telegram from Bulawayo.

NYASALAND LOAN SUCCESS.

The first public loan offered by Nyasaland in London has met with immediate success, the issue being very heavily oversubscribed though the lists were open for only five minutes. The amount of the issue was £2,000,000 in 4½% stock, both principal and interest being guarantee by the Imperial Treasury. The proceeds of the issue are to be spent on the construction of the Zambezi Bridge and the connected undertakings for the improvement of communications in Nyasaland.

"East Africa" is published every Thursday in time to catch the outgoing East African mail.

"EAST AFRICA'S" INFORMATION BUREAU.

"East Africa's" Information Bureau exists for the free service of subscribers and advertisers desiring the Editor's aid on any matter. One of its principal objects is to contribute to the development of British trade throughout East and Central Africa, and any information which readers are willing to give for that purpose will be cordially welcomed.

Two Italian aviators recently flew from Rome to Tabora in forty-eight flying hours.

[illegible] and Anderson have removed their Mombasa offices to premises in Station Road.

Tanganyika and Kenya exported 4,815 tons and 2,101 tons of sisal respectively during December.

Cloves exported from Zanzibar during 1931 totalled 693,562 frasilas. (One frasila equals 35 lb.)

From Tanganyika it is reported that the disbandment of the band of the 6th King's African Rifles is being considered.

Messrs. Dalgety & Co., Ltd., ask us to state that they have a representative in Tanga, but have not yet a branch in that town.

Mr. I. P. Cavadia, of Namwala, Northern Rhodesia, has transferred his business, the Namwala Trading Company, to Mr. L. M. Long.

It is anticipated that the Gezira cotton crop will be a good one this year, and that the average yield will be not less than 3½ kantars per feddan.

Mr. G. J. Petitpierre now represents the Dar es Salaam Chamber of Commerce on the Sisal Producers' and Importers' Sub-Section of the London Chamber.

Electrical machinery for the Maragua hydraulic electric power scheme, Kenya, is being constructed at the British Thomson-Houston Company's works at Rugby.

Minerals exported from Tanganyika during December included: *Diamonds*, 288·60 carats (£691); *gold*, 666 ounces (£3,499); *salt*, 288 tons (£1,482); *tin*, 10 tons (£1,062); *mica* (£458).

As exclusively foreshadowed by *East Africa*, the Tanganyika Government has now announced its decision to combine the administration of the Tabora and Kigoma Provinces. The headquarters of the new Province will be Tabora.

The Kikuyu District Settlers' Association, which has just been dissolved, was established eight years ago by the amalgamation of the Dagoretti, Limuru, and Kiambu Associations. Efforts are being made to reorganise the Kiambu and Limuru Associations.

Four R.A.F. aeroplanes of No. 8 Squadron, which is stationed at Aden, recently made the first flight of its kind between Aden and Cairo. The flight was made *via* Perim, Massowah, and Port Sudan to Suez, returning *viâ* Luxor, Aswan, Atbara, Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Massowah.

Congratulations to the Township Store, Nanyuki, on its public announcement that it will stock only (1) Kenya produce; (2) British exports; (3) Empire goods, and also on its explanation that "The Old Country has invested quite a lot of money in this Colony, and it is up to us to help British trade in return." That is the spirit which requires to be made much more evident throughout the Empire—and in the Mother Country more so than in the Overseas Dependencies.

The Sudan Government and the Sudan Plantations Syndicate have officially denied reports in the Native Press of Cairo that negotiations are proceeding by the Government to acquire the whole of the shares of the Syndicate, together with the Gezira cotton estates, for the sum of £15,000,000, payable in Government cotton stocks.

A firm of representatives in Brussels, operating in the Belgian Congo, desires to obtain the agency of manufacturers in this country of cotton ginning and decorticating machinery. Manufacturers interested should communicate with the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1, quoting reference No. 349.

A suggestion that the names of all people leaving East African ports should be published in order that merchants could collect debts owing to them was defeated at the recent session of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of Eastern Africa, when it was pointed out that it devolved on merchants themselves not to give such indiscriminate credit.

The Mswahe Estate, Korogwe, has been purchased by Messrs. Bird & Co. (Africa), Ltd., whose declared policy is always to consider any attractive propositions placed before it and never to dispose of any of its plantations. The estate is of 5,000 acres, of which 1,250 acres are under sisal. It is situated on the Pangani River and has excellent water power.

Owing to unfavourable meteorological conditions the R.A.F. non-stop flight from England to the Cape will not now start until November. From the end of February until November the weather over French and Portuguese West Africa cannot be relied upon, and the Air Ministry prefers the attempt to be made in the best conditions without incurring unnecessary risks.

EAST AFRICAN PRODUCE REPORTS.

Coffee.

There was fair competition for good to fine qualities at last week's auctions with prices about steady. There was a slow demand for lower descriptions with easier prices.

Kenya:—

"A" sizes	88s. 0d. to 138s. 0d.
"B" "	76s. 0d. to 121s. 0d.
"C" "	55s. 0d. to 107s. 6d.
Peaberry	85s. 0d. to 137s. 0d.
London graded :—	
Second size	70s. 6d.
Third size	63s. 0d.
Pale and ungraded	46s. 6d. to 75s. 0d.
[illegible]	
Robusta	51s. 0d.
"C" sizes	69s. 6d. to 72s. 0d.

Tanganyika:—

"A" sizes	90s. 0d. to 100s. 0d.
"B" "	66s. 0d. to 75s. 0d.
"C" "	55s. 0d. to 65s. 0d.
Peaberry	80s. 0d. to 85s. 0d.

Kilimanjaro:—

London cleaned :—	
Second size	76s. 0d.
Third size	46s. 0d.
Peaberry	103s. 0d.

Moshi:—

London cleaned :—	
First size	82s. 0d.
Second size	60s. 0d.
Third size	46s. 0d.
Peaberry	80s. 0d.

[illegible]*para*:—

London cleaned :—	
First size	92s. 6d.
Second size	67s. 0d.
Third size	40s. 0d.
Peaberry	80s. 0d.

Belgian Congo:—

London graded :—	
First size greenish	94s. 6d.
Second size	80s. 6d.
Third size	55s. 0d.

London stocks of East African coffees on February 24 totalled 53,098 bags, compared with 68,038 bags on the corresponding date of last year.

Other Produce.

Castor Seed.—Quiet, with East Africans slightly better at £13 5s. per ton. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were £11 10s. and £14 10s.)

Cloves.—Steady, with Zanzibars quoted at 8½d. per lb. spot, and March-April 7¾d. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were 1s. and 9¾d.)

Copra.—East African fair sun-dried is higher at £17 7s. 6d. per ton. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were £14 12s. 6d. and £19 17s. 6d.)

Cotton.—Moderate business has been done in East Africa at from 5·6d. to 7·4d. per lb. according to quality. (The comparative quotation last year was 6¼d.)

Groundnuts.—Steadier, with East African around £18 5s. per ton. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were £11 5s. and £16.)

Hides and Skins.—Quiet, with heavy unbathed Mombasas quoted 5½d. per lb.

Maize.—Little white maize is on offer, but nominal prices are rather dearer, with East African No. 2 in bags quoted at 21s. 6d. to 22s. per 480 lb. (The comparative quotation last year was 19s.)

Simsim.—East African white and/or yellow is quoted £18 2s. 6d. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were £18 2s. 6d.)

Sisal.—Better and steady, with No. 1 f.a.q. for March-May shipment quoted at £15 15s. per ton. (The comparative quotations in 1931 and 1930 were £16 5s. and £34 10s.). Manila hemp dropped 10s. to £19 10s. when it became known that it was to be removed from the Free List of the Import Duties Bill.

The current monthly review of Messrs. Wigglesworth and Co. states: "There is no doubt that African sisal is attracting far more attention nowadays, and with prices several pounds below its intrinsic value when compared with other hard fibres, it is not surprising that the increased production is finding its way into consumption for all classes of cordage and twines. It is noteworthy that the larger output from Africa during 1931 has been absorbed, despite the long abstention in buying on the part of the larger binder twine users in the United States.

"Generally speaking, conditions have shown improvement, due to some extent to the seasonal movement. The market has responded to these periods of buying, prices showing a tendency to advance sharply while the demand lasted. A greater measure of control appears to be manifesting itself, so that it is no longer the experience to have uncontrolled shipments of unsold sisal pressing on the market near at hand in excess of actual trade needs."

Tea.—287 packages of Nyasaland tea realised 6·92d. per lb. last week. (The comparative quotations last year was 7¼d.)

IN PRAISE OF EAST AFRICAN OLIVE WOOD.

From a brochure published by the Empire Marketing Board we learn that only one East African wood is suitable in all respects for ornamental turning; that is the African blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*, G. and P.). Its one drawback is the occurrence of wormholes, the presence of which cannot be foretold until the billet is turned. Two varieties of olive—*Olea chrysophylla*, Lam. and *O. Hochstetteri*, Baker—proved fairly satisfactory for plain turning but less so for eccentric work. The investigation was undertaken by Mr. A. L. Hetherington as a labour of love to prove that the Empire could supply all the good turning woods the trade might require. Over seventy species were tested, and the illustrations of the really beautiful articles—boxes, cups, dishes, chalices, trays and so on—made by the author prove both his contention and the degree of manual skill he brought to bear on his work.

Forty members were present at the first meeting of the Kiambu Rifle Club, Kenya.

PASSENGERS FOR EAST AFRICA.

The s.s. "Llandaff Castle," which left London on February 25 for East Africa, carries the following passengers for:—

Marseilles to Port Sudan.

Mr. R. O. Dick

Mombasa.

Miss M. H. Burdett
Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Butler
Master M. D. Butler
Rev. & Mrs. R. Calderwood
Miss M. Calderwood
[illegible] Calderwood
[illegible]
Mr. [illegible] Davies
[illegible] Davies
[illegible]
Mr. [illegible] Frost
Mr. R. R. Head
Mr. S. T. R. Hemsted
Mrs. E. N. Hewitt
Miss P. M. C. Hewitt
Mr. C. A. King
Miss E. Matheson
Mrs. J. K. Ramsden
Master T. Ramsden
Mrs. E. M. Ross
Mr. H. E. Taylor
Mr. H. Travis
Mrs. S. L. Troup
Capt. & Mrs. E. Walker

Marseilles to Mombasa.

Mr. & Mrs. J. McD. Elliot
Master A. M. S. Elliot
Miss V. E. Elliot
Mr. & Mrs. A. O. Jenkins

[illegible] Mombasa.

Mr. P. [illegible]son

Port Sudan to Mombasa.

Mr. B. R. Goodfellow
Col. G. P. Pollitt

Tanga.

Mr. A. Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Williams

Zanzibar.

Dr. D. P. Turner

Marseilles to Zanzibar.

Mr. L. E. Skinner

Dar es Salaam.

Mr. R. F. Benton
Mrs. A. Bolsom
Miss M. E. R. Dickson
Mr. & Mrs. S. Gardner
Mr. T. S. Jervis
Mr. & Mrs. R. Muir
Miss G. M. Ridley

Marseilles to Dar es Salaam.

Mr. J. C. Dykmans
Mr. A. M. D. Howes

Genoa to Port Amelia.

Mr. G. J. Hansing

Beira.

Mr. P. M. F. Carnegie
Mrs. M. E. Day
Miss Day
Mrs. Medley
Miss B. N. Noel

Marseilles to Beira.

Mr. P. E. C. Pendock
Miss F. M. Rothwell-Jackson

Marseilles to Lourenço Marques.

Mr. L. T. S. Hawkins

PASSENGERS FROM EAST AFRICA.

The s.s. "Ubena" which will arrive at Southampton on March 7, brings homeward passengers from the following East African ports:—

Beira.

Rev. L. Archer-Shepherd
Mr. & Mrs. K. Barnes
Mrs. F. Broad
Miss K. Dicks
Mr. & Mrs. R. Dyer
Mr. H. Forshaw
Mrs. M. Harrisiadis
Mr. J. Jackson
Mrs. A. Janner-Jezler
Mrs. G. Jenkins
Mr. F. Johnson
Mrs. K. Jones
Mr. W. Ottiger
Mr. J. Postlethwaite
Mr. W. Reid
Mrs. R. Robinson
Miss B. Shepherd
Mr. G. Strutt
The Rev. T. Taggart
Mr. P. Vafeas
Miss S. Vafeas—
Mrs. E. Vandeleur
Mrs. M. Verghis
Mr. M. Wilson

Dar es Salaam.

Mr. F. Andrews
Mr. H. Jeens
Mr. H. Jensen
Mrs. H. Knutsen
Mrs. M. Martin
Mrs. E. Sanders
Mr. H. Sanders
Mr. R. Staub
Mrs. T. Stobart
Mr. & Mrs. Vandenberghen
Brother G. Vermeersch

Zanzibar.

Mrs. A. Semple
Mr. & Mrs. G. Steven

Mombasa.

Mr. G. Bateman
Miss E. Biddlecombe
Mr. J. Biddlecombe
Mr. & Mrs. T. Birch
Miss D. Bowman
Mrs. H. Bowman
The Rev. J. Brennan
Capt. C. Brereton
Mr. R. Bromley
Mr. D. Cain
Mr. G. Carlisle
Miss B. Dibble
Prof. Dr. A. Dubois
The Rev. A. Fink
Mr. N. Fourir
Mrs. K. Hopley
Miss E. Hopley
Mrs. G. Gouldsmith
Miss I. Jarrett
Mr. & Mrs. D. Joffe
Mr. H. Langnese
Mr. & Mrs. J. Lydekker
Miss F. McLachlan
Mr. C. Marshall
Mr. E. Morison
Mrs. O. Neumann
Mr. D. Notley
Mr. & Mrs. A. Peters
Mr. & Mrs. W. Price
Mr. & Mrs. H. Robertson
Mrs. A. Rolland
Mr. C. Sear
Miss C. Thompson
Mr. Cecil Valentine
Mr. & Mrs M. Villiers-Stuart
Mrs. G. Walker
Mr. A. Williamson
Miss C. Wilson
The Rev. John Wall

EAST AFRICAN STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

BRITISH-INDIA.

"Matiana" passed Perim homewards, February 27.
"Malda" left Suez outwards, February 27.
"Mantola" left Beira outwards, February 24.
"Kenya" left Seychelles for Durban, March 1.
"Karagola" arrived Bombay, February 27.
"Khandalla" arrived Durban, March 2.
"Karanja" left Dar es Salaam for Bombay, March 1.

CLAN-ELLERMAN-HARRISON.

"Sinaloa" left Algiers outwards, February 24.
"Auditor" left Birkenhead outwards, February 28.

HOLLAND-AFRICA.

"Nieuwkerk" left Rotterdam for Beira, February 23.
"Heemskerk" left Lourenço Marques for Beira, February 23.
"Nijkerk" arrived Zanzibar homewards, February 22.
"Rietfontein" arrived Cape Town homewards, February 21.
"Klipfontein" left Port Said outwards, February 22.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

"Explorateur Grandidier" left Mombasa homewards, February 22.
"General Voyron" arrived Marseilles, February 27.
"Leconte de Lisle" arrived Zanzibar outwards, February 23.
"General Duchesne" arrived Réunion outwards, February 23.
"Jean Laborde" arrived Tamatave homewards, February 22.

UNION-CASTLE.

"Dunluce Castle" left Las Palmas for Beira, February 23.
"Durham Castle" left Gibraltar for London, February 27.
"Gloucester Castle" left Cape Town for London, February 23.
"Guildford Castle" arrived Cape Town for Beira, February 20.
"Llandaff Castle" left London for East Africa, February 25.
"Llandovery Castle" left Dar es Salaam outwards, February 26.
"Llanstephan Castle" left Beira for East Africa, February 26.

EAST AFRICAN MAILS.

Mails for Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Zanzibar close at the G.P.O., London, at 6 p.m. on:—

Mar. 3 per s.s. "Comorin."
" 16 " s.s. "General Voyron."
" 17 " s.s. "Kaiser-i-Hind."

Mails for Nyasaland, the Rhodesias, and Portuguese East Africa close at the G.P.O., London, at 11.30 a.m. every Friday.

Inward mails are expected on March 5 by the s.s. "Viceroy of India," and on March 14 by the s.s. "Explorateur Grandidier."

Air mails are due to reach England each Sunday. Outward air mails leave London early each Wednesday.

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