

Bruce Grit's Column

THE CAMEROONS CAMPAIGN

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Special to The Monitor.

IMMEDIATELY to the south of the British proctorate of Nigeria lies the great German colony of Cameroon (Kamerun), the largest of all Germany's overseas possessions. Its area of about 300,000 square miles equals that of the German Empire and Great Britain combined. Its coast line, which runs almost due north and south, has several good harbors, the best being Duala on the Bay of Cameroons, opposite the island of Fernando Po. In the immediate neighborhood rises the Cameroons mountain, 13,700 feet high, which forms a magnificent and unique landmark on the west coast, with smoke and vapor constantly belching from its summit. The northern extremity of the colony is a tongue of land touching the southern shore of Lake Chad, the meeting point of the territories of Britain, France and Germany. Thence the boundary runs first south and then southwest, marching with Nigeria till it reaches the sea at the Cross river. The eastern boundary runs in a generally southern direction with French equatorial Africa as its eastern neighbor. On the south it is bounded by the French colony of Gabon (Cahoon) along an almost straight westerly line which reaches the sea a few miles north of Libreville. At the south-eastern end are two long antennae or fingers, of territory which intrude into Gabon, the western touching the river Congo at Bonga, and the other the river Ubangi (an important affluent of the Congo) at Zinga. These two strips of territory, together with an extension of the eastern boundary of Cameroon, had been extorted from France in 1911, at the time of the political incident known as the Agadir crisis, in return for Germany's recognition of the French protectorate in Morocco. The territory ceded was only a small portion of Germany's original demands, but its cession was a humiliation to France, as well as an impediment to the development of French Congo, by cutting the communication between the different parts of French Equatorial Africa except by river. To Germany their only value was to bring her in touch with the Congo, and to serve as a starting point for further extension of her territory across Central Africa towards German East Africa, for the formation of a great Central African Empire touching the Atlantic ocean on the west, the Indian ocean on the east. Placed thus astride Africa she would have dominated the continent, cutting off South Africa, and threatening the rear of the French and British possessions in West and Northwest Africa, as well as Egypt, while from the ports on the seaboard she would have been able to cut the sea routes between Europe and South America, the Capes and India.

On the Cameroons mountain the Germans had established a hill station, named Buea, on a healthy site of remarkable beauty, which was the administrative capital of the colony. From Duala a railway ran eastward to Edea, a distance of about 100 miles, with several large bridges. From Bonaberi, on the northern shore of Cameroons bay, another railway ran northward about 75 miles to Nkongso-amba. At various places in the interior, notably Yaunde about 30 miles northeast of Eade, at Agraundere at the northern edge of the central plateau; at Garua, near the Nigerian frontier, and at Mora, near Lake Chad, the Germans had made thirty strong fortified positions, well placed and garrisoned. They had also wireless stations with which they were able to maintain communication with the outer world after they had been driven from the coast.

One of the greatest obstacles the allies had to face was the nature of the country in which they had to operate. The British commander, General Dobell, thus describes it: "The country in the immediate vicinity of Duala is perhaps typical of the greater portion of the Cameroons in which my troops have operated, excepting beyond northern railroad where the country becomes open and, on account of its greater altitude, healthier, but all the coast line, and for some 150 miles inland, one meets the same monotonous impenetrable African forest, fringed on the coast line, by an area of mangrove swamp in varying depth."

An officer serving with the British forces thus describes the country in a letter, "This everlasting forest! You go marching along in single file, never knowing when you are going to be shot at. The enemy may be only a few yards away, but you cannot see them. There is an eternal twilight in these forests, the trees meeting overhead and interlaced by creepers. It is a fine sight to see the column on the march; it covers two or three miles of road, taking nearly an hour to pass a given spot, and it is a serious matter to defend

this long line. And the heat!" (Times "History of the War.")

The forest also contained denizens as formidable as the human enemies. "We were having a hot scrap with the Germans (writes another officer) when suddenly an angry elephant appeared between us, and darted first one way and then the other. Before you could cough, both sides had done a bunk. (Times "History.") Will bees were equally successful in scattering the combatants on more than one occasion."

According to the German official statistics the garrison consisted of about 200 Germans and 2,000 natives. But by calling up all the Germans of military age in the colony, including the crews of all the merchantmen which sought refuge in the harbors on the declaration of war, the number of Germans under arms was increased to fully 3,000, while the native troops were increased to about 20,000 by recalling to the colors all the old soldiers who had completed their service, but were still of military age. These troops were under the command of Colonel Zimmermann, who proved himself an able and resolute soldier. The native troops were divided into two classes, the Polizeiruppen (police force), armed with a carbine firing a soft nosed bullet, and the Schutzruppen (regular troops), who carried the regulation German army rifle with saw-backed sword bayonet. These troops were well trained, plentifully supplied with machine guns and well led.

(To Be Continued Next Week.)

JAMES HARVEY ANDERSON, D. D.

ONE of the best editors that the Star of Zion has had since the death of the late Dr. J. W. Smith, bishop of the Zion conference, is its present editor, Dr. James Harvey Anderson, a man of the people who came up from the ranks, and the managing editorship, and who writes and speaks the language of those who largely support the official organ of this great Methodist body. Dr. Anderson was born in the month of June, 1848, and is a well made self-made man. Originally a common laborer, he became a clergyman in the A. M. E. Zion church, was a soldier in the civil war, serving one year and one month and participated with his regiment in the battles of Petersburg, Va. Deep Bottom, Va., and Fort Fisher N. C. He held acceptably the following charges as pastor: Harlem, Hudson, Troy, Binghamton, and Rochester, N. Y.; Wilkesbarre, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Pa.; Baltimore, Md; New Bern, Edenton, N. C.; Petersburg, Va., and was presiding elder for five years of the Harrisburg district. Later he was elected statistician of A. M. E. Zion church and editor of A. M. E. Zion Year Book, serving in this capacity for twenty-four years. As a clergyman he ranks with the best in Zion connection who have successfully brought things to pass. He is a worker—a doer—and wherever he has been placed whether in a humble or exalted position he gave to the office the best that was in him and whenever he left that office it was always in a little better condition than it was when he took it over. As church statistician—the fact that he held this office for twenty-four years testifies to his efficiency and capacity as a careful painstaking officer. The compilation of the Year Book of a Negro Methodist church is a tax on the piety of any clergyman or layman who attempts it and it is more of a discipline than a pleasure because of its exacting requirements, entailing much research and labor—patience and time. It is the official record of a branch of Negro Methodism—and is practically the last word—as to numerical strength, financial standing, religious and spiritual development and general prosperity of the church. It is the history of the church reduced to figures for the use of the student of Negro church history, and the benefit of those who have made and are making church history. Dr. Anderson was elected editor of the Star of Zion at Louisville, Kentucky, general conference, May, 1916, and his election gave general satisfaction for the brethren knew that he was well qualified for the office, and that he would not disappoint them as its editor, that he would be impartial in the discharge of his duties, play no favorites, publish all the news that is fit to publish and make the Star a welcome visitor in the homes of its thousands of readers throughout the country. There are of course more scholastic writers than Dr. Anderson, but these kind of writers are not as popular with the plain people as those writers who think their thoughts and express them in understandable language. Dr. Anderson being one of the people is now in his proper element as editor of the Star, and in seeking re-election to this post, he aspires to round out a useful life in a position which he has honored and dignified by good work, conscientious and intel-

ligent service, which he has rendered faithfully to church and people, with an eye single to the best interests of Zion and the Negro race. He deserves re-election because of his long training as an editorial writer and news gatherer, having before becoming editor of the Star edited "the Voice of the People," at Pittsburg, Pa., and for two years the "Missionary Seer," during the absence of Bishop Small in Africa. I can personally testify to Dr. Anderson's special fitness for the editor of the Star. I have known him many years as clergyman, editor and friend and I know that he is well equipped for this work for his heart and his whole being is in it, and that men do best the things they like best to do. Editing a newspaper secular or religious is the thing James Harvey Anderson likes best, next to preaching. I therefore move that he be sentenced to edit the Star until he gets tired of the job.

BRUCE GRIT.

Echoes from the National Capital

By John W. Cromwell

AS a concrete illustration of democracy for the world, the plan tentatively agreed on around the council table in Paris affords the opportunity to test the sincerity of the slogan which has sounded ever since April, 1917, echoed and re-echoed until now the world sees quite the same old policy which for a generation has been considered all sufficient compensation for Africa. No settlement which repeats the policy that has prevailed for more than a generation will be more than a scrap of paper when armies have been demobilized and the men who composed them are occupied with the pursuits of peace. It may not be for a generation before the equilibrium of peace is found, but it is a mockery which ignored the natural inclinations and strivings of mankind. India, Japan, China, as well as Africa, must be remembered. Belgium and the Congo must not be forgotten. Germany's infamies do not weigh down the brutalities of the Congo. Neither should the service of the Senegalese be regarded as compensated in full by the award of the war cross. Great Britain must not forget the contributions which head men and chieftains in Africa made for the imperial cause. Internationalization of the German colonies does not say the final word towards democracy for the world in respect of the teeming millions who under the fostering influence of education are certain to demand a right to share in their own government or there will be troubles similar to those which have made Ireland and India sore spots in Great Britain's provincial administration the past fifty years. Internationalization of pre-war German colonies, however administered, should recognize the right of self-determination on the part of the thirteen millions of Southwest and Southeast Africa.

The "Church Advocate" of which Rev. George F. Bragg Jr. is editor, is doing invaluable service in behalf of the Colored Episcopalians of the country in gathering historical material and in persisting in the advocacy of the principal or policy of creating race bishops for the growth of that denomination among Colored people. Rev. H. Bragg has witnessed many advanced movements since he began his work in the ministry and the present writer who has watched his course for the past forty years believes that he may yet become a suffragan, if not a full-fledged bishop. It is not to be understood that Father Bragg has all these years been in the ministry. Prior to his ordination he was editor of a secular newspaper, the *Lancet*, at Petersburg, Va., which took a lively interest in the politics of the Old Dominion and the activities of Colored men in education as well. It was this training which has enabled him to render such service in the agitation needful to improve the religious conditions of his special constituency.

February affords unusual opportunities for the inculcation of lessons of patriotism on our youth. This week the name and the fame of Abraham Lincoln are familiar throughout the republic. Every citizen sees him in the proportions which history is giving him as the foremost American of the nineteenth century and the world. Frederick Douglass, whose career was scarcely less imposing than that of Lincoln, came on the scene and passed away also in February. Only in the briefest outline has his career been written. We are yet to see it portrayed as Samuel Johnson, Napoleon Bonaparte, Sir Walter Scott and George Washington's careers are given to the world by masters of literature, who have ransacked every nook and corner, left unexplored no source of information and neglected no influence by which they may have been impressed or that may have impressed the world.

Renewed interest in the study of the individual and the times in which Douglass lived may set on fire some genius or encourage some plodder that will give to mankind biographical studies comparable with the masterpieces of Boswell, Lockhardt and Sparks.

There was Richard Allen, who one hundred and sixty years ago nearly, an insignificant and humble slave lad was born to become the leader of protest against the religious discrimination and persecution of his times. Ultimately he was the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal church, the strongest religious body of the Negro race in the world, and with Absalom Jones, one of the two leaders of the first Colored church north of Mason and Dixon's line. Fifty years after his birth, also in February, there was born Daniel Alexander Payne, at Charleston, S. C., a youth destined to hold high the standard of Christian character and higher education. Lest we forget he was one of the three founders with James A. Shorter and John G. Mitchell of Wilberforce university, the first Negro college in America. Shorter was also born in February.

February has been most liberal in her gifts to the Negro.

Among the men of force and prestige in the ministry of the M. E. church was the late Rev. I. L. Thomas, D. D., for many years field secretary of that denomination. As such he was in close touch with all uplift movements. He passed to the beyond from his home in the capital city the last week in January. Services in memoriam were held at the Asbury M. E. church, Washington, D. C., of which he was for many years the successful pastor and at the Sharp St. Memorial in Baltimore. Interment was in the Auburn cemetery of that city.

CONGRESSMAN CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION

Representative Charles H. Dillon of South Dakota Makes Serious Charges in House of Representatives.

DRAFTEES VICTIMS OF GRAFT

South Dakotan Excoriates Reprehensible Practices Which He Alleges to Have Found in Vogue in Virginia.

Washington, D. C.—On Wednesday, February 13, Congressman Chas. H. Dillon of South Dakota, who has represented his district in the house for the past six years, presented facts and figures in a most fearless manner as a result of a recent investigation and visit made by him to the military camps in the vicinity of Newport News, Va.

Mr. Dillon stated that unjust and unlawful practice was discovered in the treatment of Colored draftees in connection with the so-called "desertions" not only in the camps around Newport News, but in other camps. Several alleged desertions were not charged against men who had actually entered the service, but because of delinquency in reporting. He gave definite cases showing the methods used against Colored drafted men and added:

"Why was there no investigation of this practice of bringing in these men as deserters when they had received no notice calling them into the military service? It was because certain influential men and their friends were making considerable money by bringing these men in and collecting \$50 for each.

"How was this done? It was done in this way. These Colored men get nothing through the mail in the form of a notice calling them into the military service. That was the method used by the local boards in giving notice, and since these cards giving notice were not returned to the local boards as undeliverable the draftees would be listed as deserters if they did not appear on the date set at the place specified in the notice.

"The notices were sent out by the local boards, but the postmaster did not deliver them as addressed, but held out certain ones and kept them until the draftee was one day delinquent. Then he would hand them to a marshal or policeman, who would go out and make arrests and collect \$50 for each one apprehended."

Mr. Dillon's address was replete with caustic criticism and eloquent appeal. He called attention to "jimmie" practices in the separation of Colored and white people on the government-owned cars of the street railway lines operated to military fields and camps in Virginia; to thousands of Colored soldiers being used as laborers on private, municipal and county work, repairing streets, ditches, etc., under the most distressing conditions—these soldiers often working in the mud almost to their knees, despite their complaints. He charged also that their complaints included the withholding of allotments and that they could not secure discharges.

Congressman Charles H. Dillon hails from South Dakota. He has very few Colored Americans among his

constituents and therefore cannot well be accused of trying to make political capital out of the demand he has made for an investigation of alleged reprehensible methods employed in the exploitation of Colored men in certain communities and camps in Virginia. He presents facts and figures before congress to support his charges.

Undoubtedly there have been gross abuses as Congressman Dillon alleges. The practice of haling Negroes to court on trumped up or trivial charges and assessing fines against them, which under the fee system, goes into the pockets of the petty magistrates and higher ups is common throughout the south. It is not to be supposed that people trained under this system of robbery would relinquish it even in war time.

This system is one of the crying evils to which Fred C. Williams of The Monitor staff called attention a few months ago in a thoughtful article published in our columns entitled "The Menace."

Congressman Dillon will have done the whole country a splendid service if his demand for an investigation shall result in the punishment of these harpies and correct this evil. We are glad to know that he has had the moral courage—a rare quality in public men—to present unpalatable facts to congress and it is to be hoped that congress always so considerate of the south will have the courage to bring the offenders to book.

GOVERNMENT PROVIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Washington, D. C., Feb. 22.—Announcement is made by Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, that this generous government of ours, in keeping with its time-honored policies and traditions of justice, proposes to make liberal provision for its soldiers, of whatever race, color or creed, who return from the battle front disabled or handicapped in any way to resume their places as workers in the civilian life of the world.

The Government, in making this announcement, points out to the wives, mothers and sisters of the disabled American soldier, regardless of race, their solemn duty in helping the men of their families to make up their minds on this important question. It is realized that the discouragement or encouragement of the women relatives may be the deciding thing in the man's life. The country appeals to each woman interested in a man to stand squarely back of him in his fight to make good and to become the useful citizen that his talents and opportunities permit him to be. They should help the men get into touch with the Federal Board for Vocational Education and insist, if necessary, that they accept the generous offer of the Government to fit him for a life of independence and self-helpfulness.

The work that has thus been undertaken by the Federal Board for Vocational Education is of the most far-reaching and fundamental benefit to the disabled soldiers of every type and class, and its necessity for general approval cannot be emphasized too forcibly nor too insistently by the Colored press, the clergy, secret societies and Colored women of the country, whose earnest co-operation the Government is now seeking in its effort to make its program of soldiers' rehabilitation a nation-wide success.

Mrs. Lena Roulette is taking the Melliorated system under Mrs. Ada Woodson and expects to finish in a few weeks.

Mrs. Anna Banks who has been very ill at home for the past ten days is improving. Mr. Ernest J. Banks, who underwent a minor operation, is rapidly improving at his home, 920 North 20th street.

Miss Emogene Majors is very ill at her home. Her aunt, Mrs. Anna Banks, has the care of her.

Mrs. Georgie Graves, accompanied Mrs. C. Cornell to Des Moines, Ia., where Mrs. Cornell was called by the death of her father, Mr. Richard Winsor.

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Mrs. S. A. Bragg has moved to 2013 Grace street. Phone W. 4983.

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BRITISH GUIANA ALERT AND WIDE AWAKE

(Continued From Page One.)

must insist on being given that classical training which will instill into our students a fear of retribution for wrongdoing, a love of virtue for its own sake, and a purity of conscience and steady practice of consciousness which give strength and lasting happiness that no possession of wealth can purchase or destroy. The Negro States of Liberia and Haiti during the World War did not hesitate to make their alliance with the allies who stood for Right against Might, and they certainly put to shame the Spanish-American Republics of Mexico and Venezuela with their races of half castes. It has always been a characteristic of the Negro to love justice and fair play; his gratefulness to benefactors has ever been able to stand the severest test, and his courage has never left him to falter and hesitate on which side to go when the ultimate issue still appeared doubtful. We have no doubt therefore that in the Peace Conference the delegates of the Negroes will be patiently heard and their utterances respected; we anticipate cordial support for them from the delegates of the United States of America and of France, and we believe that the British delegates, whatever may be the sentiments and the inclination of the delegates from the Dominions, will rise to the occasion and not emerge from this ordeal inferior to the French or the Americans. To strengthen the hands of Great Britain in dealing with her Dominions in matters affecting the Negro and his offspring in the World, we have, though very late, begun to take some action in this colony. Let all Negroes and their Colored offspring rise above petty jealousy and natural cowardice, and unite in laying before His Majesty the King their just claims to equal rights wherever they live; and let us in concert with our brethren from Liberia and Haiti, from the French world and the United States of America, seek to make the Peace Conference lay down for posterity in all the ages to come laws of equity and justice, of charity and true godliness for all men as creatures of God, irrespective of color, or race, or creed.

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RACE BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Our Boys and Girls
A weekly newspaper for our youth, \$1.00 per year; 50c for 6 months. 54 West 140th St., New York City.

The Negro in American History
By Prof. John W. Cromwell, \$1.40 and worth more. 1439 Swann St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Negro Soldier
By John E. Bruce "Grit". The glorious record of America's black heroes, 25 cents (no stamps.) 2709 Madison Ave., New York City.

The Children of the Sun
By George Wells Parker. Proves the African the Greatest Race in History. 25 cents (no stamps.) Hamitic League of the World, 933 North 27th St., Omaha, Neb.

The Crusader Magazine
The Greatest Negro Magazine of America. \$1.00 per year and cheap at that. 2299 Seventh Ave., New York City.

"The Fashion" will be that Cafe and Cabaret at 1314 North 24th street.—Adv.

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