# Something About the Country England is Developing in Central Africa

WAIKIKUYU IN FULL DRESS.

BUSINESS STREET IN NAIROBI, CAPITAL OF BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

MASAI GIRLS—NATIVES OF NEWEST ENGLAND.

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NAIROBI, British East Africa.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—I have just had a long talk with Mr. Frederick J. Jackson, the acting governor and commander-in-chief of this big territory which John Bull owns in the heart of Africa. Mr. Jackson came out here to hunt big game about twenty-five years ago, and he has been on the ground from that time to this. He has long been employed by the British government in the administration of Uganda and of the protectorate of East Africa, and he is now lieutenant governor, and in the absence of Colonel Sadie, the acting governor of the country.

Before I go farther, let me give you some idea of this wonderful territory which the British are opening up in the heart of the black continent. It is the newest England, a land which has only had a life of about twelve years as a colonial possession, and which, six years ago, was as inaccessible as most parts of the valley of the Congo.

Today the Uganda railroad crosses it from one side to the other, wagon roads have been cut through the various provinces, and a new empire, which is to be largely inhabited by white men, seems to be at its beginning.

### Prairie a Mile High.

The East Africa protectorate is for the most part prairie. It is a great plateau as high as Denver, which extends in one sweep for 300 miles across the country and which rises almost straight up 200 or 300 miles back from the Indian ocean. On the north the plateau drops down to the deserts of Abyssinia and Somaliland; on the west it slopes gently to Victoria Nyanza, and on the south, maintaining its height, it is lost in German East Africa. Right through the middle of the plateau is a mighty ditch known as the Great Rift valley, which contains five or six big lakes, and about it and on its edges rise the volcanoes of Kilimanjaro, Mount Elgon and Mount Kenia.

This country all together is bigger than New England added to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. It has a population of 4,000,000 natives, most of whom ten yeas ago were warring with one another. Some of the tribes made their living by preying upon their neighbors. Slavery was everywhere common, and one of the great slave routes to the coast was not far from the line where the Uganda railway now runs.

Tooday all these evils have been done away with. The warlike tribes have been conquered, and they are turning their attention to stock raising and farming. Slavery has been practically abolished and peace prevails everywhere. The whole country is now kept in good order by only about 1,800 police and less than 2,000 English and East Indian soldiers. A great part of it along the line of the railroad has been divided up into ranches and farms. Small towns are springing up here and there, and in time most of the plateau will be settled.

### A White Man's Country.

There is no doubt but that white men can live here. The children I see are rosy with health, and the farmers claim that, with care, they are as well as they were when back home in England. There are some Europeans here who have had their homes on the highlands for over twelve years, and they report that the climate is healthy and invigorating. They are able to work out of doors from 6 until 10 o'clock in the morning, and from 3 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon, and during a part of the year all the day through. As a rule, however, the sun is hot at midday and one should not go out without his head is well protected. The heat here is dry. The nights are usually cool and a blanket is needed. At any altitude above eight thousand feet ice may be found in the early morning, and this notwithstanding we are almost on the equator. Nearer the coast the land drops and the climate is tropical. For two hundred miles back from the Indian ocean there are practically no white settlers, except at Mombasa, and it is only on this high plateau that they are as yet attempting to live.

But let me continue my description in the words of the man who governs the country. My conversation took place in a long, blue, iron-roofed building known as the commissioner's office, situated on the hill above Nairobi. I had asked as to British East Africa's future. Mr. Jackson replied:

"It is all problematical. We have an enormous territory and millions of people. We have not yet prospected the territory, nor have we dealt long enough with the natives to know what we can do with the people. We have really no idea as yet as to just what our resources are, and as to the labor we can secure to exploit them."

"How many inhabitants have you?"

"We do not know. We can get some idea from the taxes, for most of the provinces have to pay so much per hut. In other places the natives have been hardly subdued, and of no province have we accurate census. The number has been estimated at from two to four millions, but I believe it is nearer five millions, and possibly more."

"Give me some idea of the character of these natives, your excellency," said I.

"They are of many tribes, each having its own character and customs. Among them are the Masai, a pastoral people who deal altogether with cattle. The Masai are noted for their warlike propensities, and in the past their children were trained up to be warriors. Then there are the Wakikuyu, who have agricultural tendencies. They have small farms and are industrious. They live all about here, and you will go through their country on your way to Lake Victoria. In addition there are theNandi and many other natives who are both farmers and stock rearers.

Altogether these people are in a low state of civilization. Indeed, it is almost impossible to conceive how far down on the scale of the world's progress they are. They have practically no wants. A strip of cotton cloth suffices for the clothing of a man and he can earn enough for his food in a very short time. Before we can do much with these we must make them have wants and give them the desire for accumulation. We must begin right at the bottom, and it will be a long time before we can turn them into consumers of foreign goods or into a valuable laboring class. Indeed, our natives are much worse in these respects than those of Uganda. There, the people cover their bodies with clothes of one kind or another. They are intelligent and many of them will work to get money."

### East Africa for White Men.

"How about your white settlers? Will this country ever be inhabited by Caucasians?"

"That again, is difficult to say," replied the conservative governor. "We have a few European settlers already, but whether we can make this colony a second South Africa remains to be seen. I have lived here for over twenty years, and I am not sure as to how far any white man can do hard manual labor in this latitude. It is true we are more than a mile above the sea, but nevertheless we are on the equator, and the equator is not fitted for the white man. The only Europeans who will succeed here will be those who bring some money with them, and who will use the native labor in their work. I don't think any settler should come to East Africa without he has as much as $3,000, reckoning the amount of your money. He should have enough to buy his land, stock it, build his house, and then have something to go on. He should not start out with a very small tract. Much of the grazing lands are now being divided up into tracts of 5,000 acres, and we are selling tracts of 1,000 acres at 66 cents per acre. If a man takes the first thousand and pays for it, the other 4,000 are held for him subject to certain improvements and developments upon the first thousand. After these are completed, he may buy the remaining tract at the price per acre of the first thousand acres."

### Big Land Owners.

"I understand much of your land is being taken up in large holdings."

"That is so to a certain extent," replied Mr. Jackson, "but we are now discouraging such allotments, and would rather have the land apportioned in tracts of from 640 acres to about 5,000 acres each. If the land is for grazing, the larger area is desirable. If it is for grain farming or dairying, it is better that it should be small. As to our large landholders, the British East Africa company owns about five hundred square miles. Lord Delamere has about one hundred thousand acres and Lord Hindlip a little less. There are a number of settlers who have twenty thousand acres or more."

"How about your ranching possibilities? I understand that your stock growers expect to found a great meat industry here which will crowd our Chicago packers out of the markets of England."

"I do not think there is room for alarm about that matter as yet," replied the official. "This country is just in the making, and we know practically nothing about it. We realize that we have some of the richest grasses in the world—grasses which have supported vast herds of game, and upon which cattle, sheep, goats and hogs will thrive. But we do not know whether we can conquer the diseases and insect pests which attack all the animals we have so far imported. We seem to have every disease that cows, horses or sheep are subject to in other parts of the world, and I venture we have some peculiarly our own. We have ticks by the millions and flies by the myriads. So far our experiments with cattle are turning out well, and we know that we can produce excellent beef and good butter. We hope to find our first market for our meats and dairy products in South Africa, and later on to ship such things to Europe. The creating of an industry of that kind, however, is one of gradual development. We shall have to arrange as to transportation, and that means cold-storage cars and cold-storage ships. We have not gone far enough as yet to be able to predict what we can do."

### Fiber Plants and Minerals.

"What other possibilities have you?" I asked.

"I think we may eventually be able to raise coffee, and we are already exploiting certain fibers which grow well between here and the coast. The plant which produces the Sansivera fiber is indigenous to this country, and it is being exploited by Americans who are working not far from the station of Vio, about 100 miles inland from the Indian ocean. I have no doubt we can raise sisal hemp, and know that we can grow ramie without cultivation.

"As to minerals, a great deal of prospecting has already been done, but the results have not been satisfactory. We know that we have gold, silver and copper, but the deposits so far discovered have not been valuable enough to pay for their mining. This whole country is volcanic. We lie here in a basin surrounded by volcanoes. We have Mount Kenia on the north, Kilimanjaro on the south and Mount Elgon away off to the northwest. The eruptions of these mountains have been comparatively recent, and some believe that they have buried the precious metals so deep down in the earth that we shall never get at them."

"How about your timber?"

"We have fine forests, containing both hard and soft woods, and among them a great deal of cedar such as is used for making cigar boxes and lead pencils. The most of such wood, however, is inland and at a long distance from streams upon which it could be floated down to the sea. At present, our timber resources are practically inaccessible by railroad. This is especially the case with the forests of the Kenia province, which contains fine woods."

### $50,000 for Hunting License.

"How about your game? Is this country to continue to be the chief game preserve of the world?"

"That question I am not able to answer. We charge, you know, for the right to shoot here, and we took in about £10,000 for such licenses last year. That is about $50,000 of your money, but the game is so numerous that the animals killed have made no visible diminution in the supply.

"I doubt whether there is a place on earth where there are so many kinds of game as in British East Africa," the commissioner continued. "We have vast herds of antelopes, gnu and other wild animals. We have so many zebras that they have become a serious troubte to the farmers and stockmen. They move about in herds of hundreds and sometimes of thousands. They are easily frightened, and, if they become panic stricken, will go off on the gallop, rushing against the wire fences about the farms and breaking them down. They will run right into barbed wire with such force as to tear it from the staples and crack off the posts. At present we have great game preserves where no shooting can be done. This is the case along the railroad, and the animals seem to know it and make that one of their chief grazing grounds."

"How about lions?"

"We have plenty of them," was the reply, "but the hunters look upon lion shooting as the best of sport and many of the savage beasts are killed every year. The same is true of the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus which are found in many parts of East Africa."

### Land of Coffee.

Speaking of the possibilities of British East Africa, it may be one of the coffee lands of the future. Several plantations have been set out not far from here and they are doing well. There is one coffee estate within five miles of Nairobi, which belongs to the Catholic Mission of the Holy Ghost. I rode out on horseback yesterday over the prairie to have a look at it. The way to the estate is through fenced fields, which are spotted here and there with the galvanized iron cottages of English settlers. As I rode on I saw many humped cattle grazing in the pastures. The grass is everywhere tall and thick, and the red soil, although not much cultivated as yet, seems rich.

Arriving at the plantation, I was met by Father Tom Burke and walked with him through his coffee plantations. It covers altogether something like fifteen acres, and has now more than 8,000 trees in full bearing. The yield is good and the plantation is now supplying not only the town of Nairobi with all the coffee it needs, but it is shipping several tons every year to Europe. Father Burke tells me that the coffee trees begin to bear at a year and a half, and that they are in full bearing within about four years. The ripening season is long and the berries have to be picked many times. I saw blossoms and green and ripe berries on the same tree. In one place the natives were picking, at another they were hoeing the plants, and in a third place they were pulping the berries in a pulper turned by hand. The trees seem thrifty. Father Burke says that the young plants grow easily, and that where the birds carry the berries away and drop the seeds the plants will sprout up of themselves. There is a coffee plantation nearby of 30,000 trees, and I am told that there is a fair prospect of a considerable coffee industry springing up.

### Men Work for Nickel a Day.

While on the plantation I saw many half naked negroes at work in the fields. They were Wakikuyus, and were really fine looking fellows. They were clearing new ground, chopping down the weeds with mattocks and digging up the soil and turning it over. The sweat stood in beads upon their brows and bare backs and it also ran down their bare legs. I asked the father as to their wages and was told that they each received four rupees a month. A rupee is 33 cents, and this means jut about 33 cents a week or less than 5 cents for a day of ten hours. I suggested to the reverend father that the pay was small, but he said that the natives could not earn more than that sum and that even at those wages it was difficult to keep them at work.

I hear this same statement made everywhere. The English people here think that the native Africans are well enough paid at the rate of half a cent per hour or a rupee per month. If you protest they will say that that sum is sufficient to supply all the wants of a black man and ask why he should be paid more. Think of it, ye American toilers who belong to our labor unions. Think of 5 cents a day for carrying bricks or stone, for chopping up ground under the eyes of a taskmaster, or for trotting along through the grass, hour after hour, with a load of 60 pounds on your head! Think of it, and you may get an idea how the English white man here is carrying the black man's burden! Indeed, as the Japanese say, it is to laugh!

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

# How Great Newspapers Prevent Spread of Panic

HOW does the public know things? In the first place it doesn't; that is, it has to be taught or shown. And it has to be show over and over again. The very knowledge which it has it is prone to cast to the winds when most needed. How then is the fabric built up and maintained? writes George C. Lawrence in Appleton's Magazine for February. A part of his article is here reproduced with one of the illustrations.

The greatest, the overshadowing, means of forming public opinion, the mightiest factor in contributing to that store of common knowledge on which business and social life is based, is the newspaper. "What," is the cry, "do I rely on the penny sheet, the chronicler of murder and sudden death, for the knowledge that I have?" So far as the greater part of it is concerned, yes, unequivocally yes. "I see by the papers," is the great American password. Of all that we know of current events the world over by far the largest part is obtained from the maligned newspapers. Stop to think, you who hold the obvious obvious. How many among the millions in this country know by any other means, for example, that Theodore Roosevelt is president? Not one in 10,000. Run yourself fairly and honestly into the gaping corner and then admit that you know it because you read it in the papers. How many in the country, except by this means, know that there actually was an earthquake in San Francisco or a war between Russia and Japan, or any one of the million happenings going to make up the sum of daily life on this old earth, which, except for the chronicings of the daily press, might never have happened so far as a large part of the public is concerned?

Blink the fact as one will, the press, peddler of truths at a penny a thousand, is the major factor, not alone in public knowledge, but, as a result, in the advance of civilization itself.

There are, unfortunately, always harbingers of disaster. Prophets of this cause are not entirely without honor in their own communities, for a certain respectful attention attaches to him who predicts hard times, backing his argument with reason however fallacious. So naturally there have not lacked, as there will never lack, croakers who prophesied hard times for almost any reason under the sun. While the prophets of evil raised their voices the country was never in so prosperous a condition. Suddenly, toward the end of October, disaster became imminent in spite of all the signs of prosperity. Financial institutions tottered, the money center of the country became demoralized almost in a night. An infection to stimulate this condition seized thousands. Banks were besieged. The panic spread throughout the country. The financial centers of the world were involved. Ruin stared millions in the face. Yet one month after this the whole situation was referred to as "the late financial flurry."

There was no real basis for the panic, and yet the public seemed to demand panic. How then was the terrifying situation ameliorated and the country saved from a financial wreck of tremendous proportions? Not by a knowledge of the conditions, for the public had that and threw it to the winds. A simple declaration of fear on the part of a score of depositors was enough to start a run on any bank. Institutions were toppling on every hand, not because of unsoundness, but because of the inability of any bank to liquidate all its liabilities on a moment's notice. And yet where millions talked of ruin, and fought madly for deposits in October and November, the same millions in December spoke lightly of the late financial flurry. How was this salvation worked? Simply by the iteration and reiterations of the true conditions, in the light of which a panic was unwarranted. And by whom was the truth hammered home? By the American press. There was no other agency to do it. There is no other agency so powerful in disseminating the truth. At the first crash the newspapers realized that conditions did not warrant a panic, and almost before it had begun they were pointing out this basic truth. On the cars, in offices, or on the street, the omnipresent American expression "I see by the papers" quickly became one not of depression but of hope. Why? Because the optimism of true conditions was emphasized by the press. Many and many a depositor who had no first-hand knowledge of the situation turned to his daily paper and was comforted. Many and many a family, removed from the financial centers, obtained all its information from and based its action on the information purveyed by the press. Just so fast as any one was made to understand the true situation, of which paic was the last logical outcome, just so fast as the obvious which the public had forgotten in stand the true situation, of which panic was the danger of panic eliminated.

The public, not conditions, were sick, and for the public the press prescribed simply allopathic slugs of truth. And behold the public was cured. Day after day the press fought to bring home a realization of the truth, and in the end truth conquered. It fought against enormous odds, against the susceptibility of the mob, against the tendency of the masses made up of individuals cognizant of truth to forget it and practice error, and most of all it fought against the vague rumor flying from mouth to mouth which did more than anything else to perpetuate danger.

From coast to coast, from Canada to Mexico, the newspapers, during the financial stress, were engaged in making the truth known, in making obvious the obvious. How did they do it? They hammered. They followed Goethe's saying. In Providence, for example, where the influence of the New York situation reacted as strongly as anywhere, the leading paper, at the end of the week of greatest disturbance, published the following advice:

"Keep away from the banks. The only danger threatening the banking institutions of Rhode Island is the needless alarm of anxious depositors. It is the opinion of the Providence Journal that every depositor in a Rhode Island bank or trust company should refrain from excited withdrawal of his money at a time when the chief trouble of these institutions is in obtaining cash. Keep away from the banks yourself and advise foolish or ignorant persons who do not understand the situation to do the same."

Side by side with this advice appeared the headlines: "Day of Stress, Foolish Panic. Public Confidence Increases as Facts Overcome Rumor."

Throughout the country the method was the same. In St. Louis, for example, the St. Louis Republic confined itself to editorial advice and placed its news stories away from the first page, simply to avoid undue excitement. In Boston the papers preached the truth from the housetops to the benefit of the community. At the end of the most difficult week the Globe advised its readers that money previously withdrawn was being redeposited. A vital factor, but without press how many would have known it, or how far would it have operated to relieve the situation? In the same city the Boston Herald on December 2, in a story entitled "Work Again for Thousands," gave a detailed list of the various New England factories and manufacturing interests again in operation, which could not but assist tremendously in the restoration of public confidence.

In New York the situation was set forth day after day in its true light, and as the situation did not warrant the panic common sense won. The Journal, in simple words of truthful advice, made obvious the obvious. Under the heading, "A Word to the Thoughtless," it summed up the situation, hammered home the truth, in the following language:

"To the wise no word is necessary. Men of knowledge understand full well that the country was never more prosperous, and that a panic in the midst of such unexampled industrial and commercial activity as this nation has recently enjoyed and still enjoys is grotesque absurdity.

"The reasoning of those persons who are now participating in runs upon perfectly solvent banking institutions is on a par with that of those citizens who think they need have no concern about the conduct of government because they merely pay rent.

"The informed man knows that those who pay rent are as much taxpayers as those who own the houses in which they live. Their concern with government is equally as great as that of the property owner.

"Likewise the man who draws money from a perfectly solvent bank in such a time as this, instead of protecting himself, may be promoting his own undoing.

"Credit is the life blood of business. If banks fail, business will totter. If busi-

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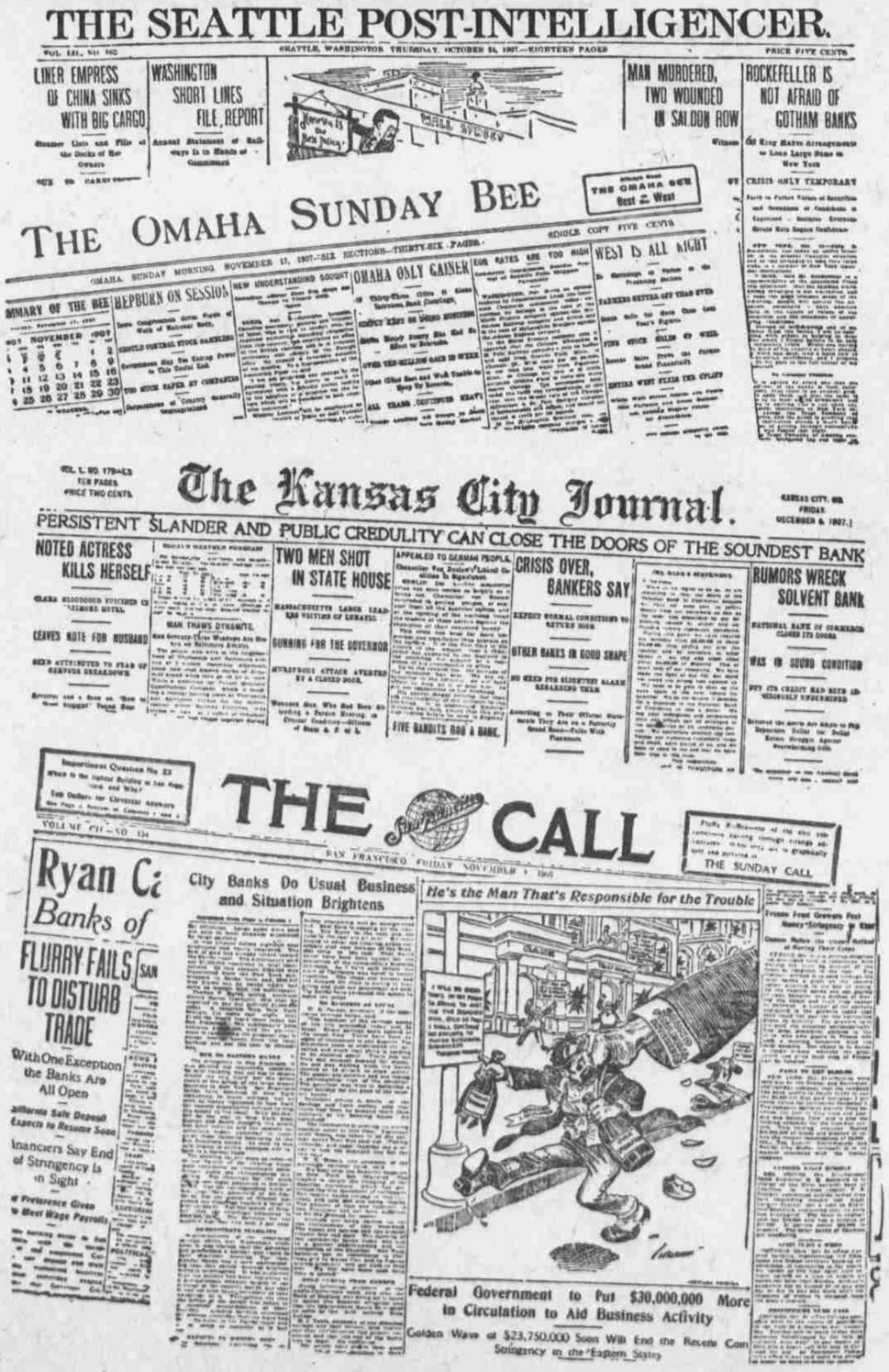


SOME TYPICAL WESTERN NEWSPAPER COMMENT—"A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTLY SHOULDERED, MAKES THE PRESS THE GREATEST PALLIATIVE OF PANICS."