

TANGANYIKA

THE GREAT CHANGE-OVER

Interesting Picture of African Country

FROM GERMAN TO BRITISH

From the British officials governing the Tanganyika Territory, formerly known as German East Africa, comes to the British Parliament their first report, covering the period between the Armistice and the beginning of the present year, and it is a most informing and interesting account of the country and of what has been happening there.

From a low-lying coast, 500 miles in length, the Territory rises beyond a coastal plain ten miles wide in the north and forty miles wide to the southward, up to a central plateau between 3000 and 4000 feet high, and then sinks gradually to the westward down to the great lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyasa.

Lakes and Mountains

The general slope is from the north southward. Thus Victoria Lake is 3720 feet above sea-level, while Tanganyika is 2590 feet, and Nyasa sinks to 1607 feet.

Northward the central plateau climbs to mighty mountains on the borderland of the British Kenya Colony, with Kilimanjaro, 19,720 feet, the highest mountain in Africa, as their crowning summit. A neighbouring peak, Mount Meru, 14,955 feet, is higher than any of the Alps except Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa. To the south-west the plateau rises again to the Livingstone mountains, 9000 feet high.

There is only one active volcano in the Territory, and that is in the north, with a native name meaning God's Mountain.

From the central plateau flow many rivers, eastward to the sea or westward to the lakes, and some are navigable for small steamers about as far as the larger English rivers.

Thickly-Crowded States

The area under British rule is 365,000 square miles, or five times the size of England, and the population is about 4,000,000. Almost as many people, formerly under Germany, live in two thickly-peopled States that have been added to Belgian Congoland.

The chief towns are Tabora, in the middle of the Territory and the centre of its caravan routes; the seaports Tanga, on the northern part of the coast, and Dar-es-Salaam, or the Harbour of Peace, the capital, on the central part of the coast; with Mwanza on Lake Victoria, and Ujiji on Tanganyika.

Is this land—first discovered to Europe by Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese navigator, but long before wellknown to Persians and Arabs from across the Indian Ocean, and even to the Chinese—a desirable possession? Apparently the Germans thought so in 1885, when they seized it as their own after paying £200,000 to the Sultan of Zanzibar for any rights he might have there; but the present report does not give a very flattering impression.

Forests and Minerals

There are forests of substantial value covering 3000 square miles. Traces of many minerals are found, though not in workable quantities, except mica. The exports include sisal hemp, hides, coffee, copra, grain, cotton, ground nuts, skins, and beeswax, commodities that denote a good deal of industry; but the trade generally has fallen to half what it was before the war, and this half is perhaps somewhat delusive, for some of the goods exported have been stored, and are not the last year's produce.

The most striking feature of the report is the insight it affords into the ruin, stagnation, and confusion caused by the war in this promising German colony.

With methods of government and of procuring labour that British feeling would not allow—for they led to over 8000 yearly authorised floggings, mostly

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

The River Avon has been restocked with 200,000 young fish, taken from various reservoirs.

Roubles, worth more than three shillings each before the war, are now worth 10,000 a penny.

Famous War Hut Closed

The war hut at Victoria Station in London has been closed after sheltering a million soldiers and sailors.

New R.A.

Mr. Giles Gilbert Scott, the designer of Liverpool's new cathedral, has been elected a Royal Academician at the early age of 41.

Echo of the War

A bottle has just been found off the North Carolina coast containing a message written in grease by the engineer of a coal ship that was about to be torpedoed by a German submarine.

In some parts of England milk has been selling at the pre-war price of fourpence a quart.

The Mayor of Buffalo has refused permission to an English girl who wanted to walk across Niagara on a tight-rope.

Mosque in London

A reader informs us that a mosque has just been opened in a private house in Southfields.

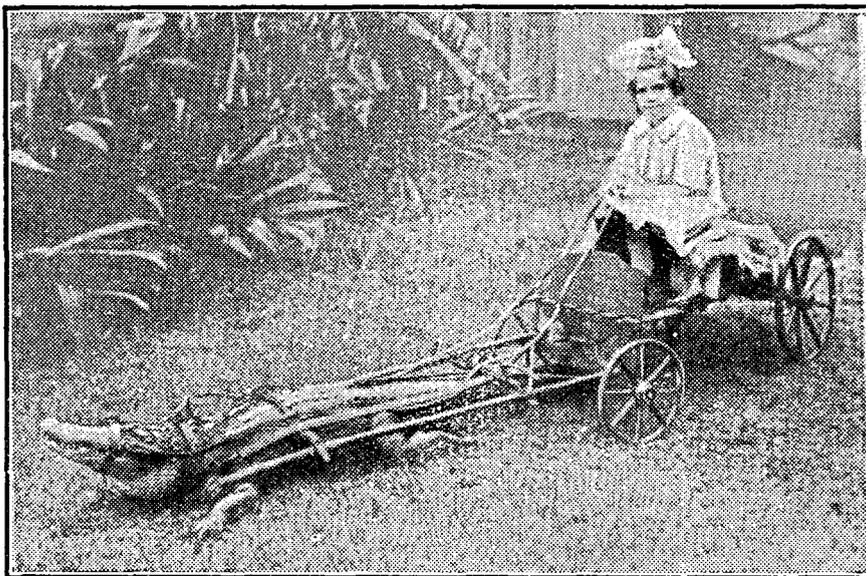
Wagons at a Guinea Each

At a sale by auction at Park Hill Camp, Oswestry, recently a number of general service wagons in excellent condition were sold for a guinea each.

New Miner's Lamp

A new miner's lamp has just been approved by the Secretary for Mines. It is worked by electricity, and fits on the miner's head, the accumulator being strapped to his body.

THE ALLIGATOR AS A DOMESTIC PET



A drive round the grounds with an alligator steed



Off for a ride on an alligator's back

In Florida, where the alligator is common in the rivers, the young are often caught and trained as domestic pets. These pictures show happy little American children at play with their pets in the gardens of their homes. The creatures appear to be quite docile and well trained

Continued from the previous column

of 25 lashes—the Germans established a system that pointed toward business prosperity. They studied the resources of the country carefully, and began to lay scientific foundations for the cultivation of suitable crops and for the preservation of health.

But the war disorganised everything. The two railways, one in the north from Tanga, and the other in the centre from Dar-es-Salaam, were greatly damaged by the blowing up of bridges; cultivation of corn, coffee, cotton, and rubber was neglected; the whole system of government crumbled away; lepers, numbering over 5000, were scattered over the country from isolation centres; chaos was complete.

The British had to grapple with this confusion as best they could. Temporarily they had, for instance, to continue the use of German money. They

were also obliged to employ native officials who had been in the German service and used German methods, for these were the only men who knew the country. Gradually this is being changed.

Now there are about 2200 Europeans in the Territory, 1,100 being British and 300 Greeks. Indians number 10,500, and Indian Portuguese about 1000. Some 300,000 of the 4,000,000 people are Mohammedans. The fact that everywhere the Swahili language—the mixture of Arabic and native tongues common on the East Coast of Africa—is understood is a great help.

The report dwells at some length on the enormous amount and great variety of animal life, including big game; and perhaps the strangest sentence in it is that newly-constructed sections of a road in the interior have suffered considerable damage from the vagaries of large herds of elephants.

BAD OLD CUSTOM TO GO

NOMORE SERVANTS TO BE BOUGHT IN HONG KONG

Triumph of British Rule in the Far East

GIRL SLAVES TO BE SET FREE

All kind-hearted people will welcome the promise made to the British Parliament by Mr. Churchill, the Colonial Secretary, that within a year all the little Chinese girls living in Hong Kong who have been bought to be servants shall be released.

Hong Kong is a British possession, governed by laws for which our country is responsible, though there are about 450,000 Chinese living there and only about 6000 Europeans.

British laws do not allow human beings of any age to be bought and sold. Chinese custom, however, does allow it, and in the past the Chinese custom has prevailed, and has led to there being tens of thousands of Chinese girls serving Chinese families as servants because they have been bought from their parents. It is now estimated that there are 50,000 such girls in Hong Kong.

Sealing a Bargain

How has this come about? The excuse for it is that it has not been called buying, but has been known by the more respectable word "adoption." So poor are many Chinese that they are willing to lessen the cost of their family by allowing people who are better off to "adopt" their daughters when the girls are quite young—say, five or six years—and seal the bargain with a sum of money that may be called a gift.

Now see what the effect of that will be on the life of the child. Very soon the child will be useful in the household into which she has been adopted. She will be expected to work for nothing till she is grown up, and so her so-called foster parents will get service at a far cheaper cost than they can hire it. Her parents will benefit by receiving money; her purchasers will benefit by getting cheap service. But the child will, in effect, be living the life of a slave while she remains a bought servant.

Servants Bought and Sold

Slave is a hard word, and the British people do not like to use it unless it is fully deserved; but the test whether the word applies in the case of a Chinese servant purchased into adoption is that she can be sold again to another household, and often is so sold, and in being sold may pass from a good home to a worse, or even a bad, home. Cases of cruelty have frequently occurred, and the poor girl has no defence against foster parents, who really are her owners.

Because it is the custom of the people of the country it has been allowed to drift on and on, though it was exposed, and an official inquiry ordered, forty years ago, by the Colonial Secretary.

Chinese Reformers

But now, owing to the activity of an English lady who found one of these adopted servants being cruelly used, the whole question has been raised afresh, and, happily, a number of enlightened Chinese have joined in the movement to make the custom illegal.

A deeply-rooted custom of this kind, affecting a large part of the population, cannot be set aside at once. It must be gradually changed. But the British Colonial Secretary has promised Parliament that the whole system shall be abolished within a year.

The change is necessary to uphold the good name of British rule. Two features have a cheering aspect. They are that the British Government acted firmly as soon as it knew the facts, and also a considerable section of Chinese opinion promptly took the side of freedom and fairness toward the girls.