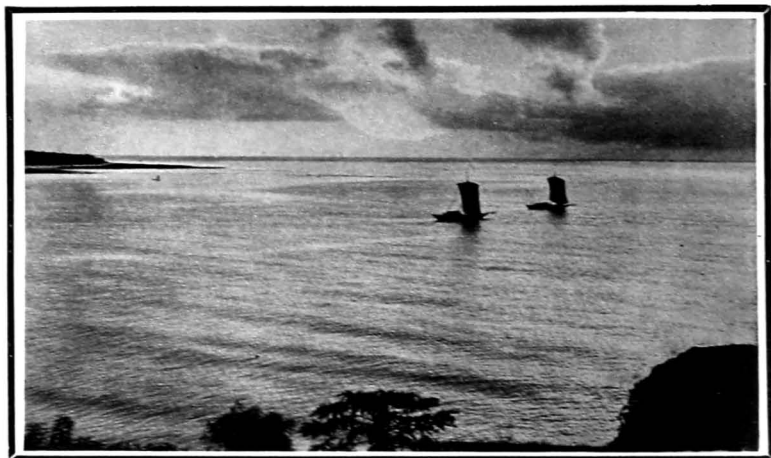


KENYA FROM WITHIN



"AS IN THE DAYS OF PTOLEMY"

KENYA FROM WITHIN

A SHORT POLITICAL HISTORY

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WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, AND EIGHTEEN
MAPS AND DIAGRAMS

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DEDICATED

TO ALL THOSE,

IN KENYA AND ELSEWHERE,

WHO WILL READ THESE PAGES

JOYFULLY ;

BEGGING THEM, AT THE SAME TIME,

TO REMEMBER THESE WORDS OF

LECKY, THE HISTORIAN :—

" It still remains true that there is a large body of public opinion in England which carries into all politics a sound moral sense and which places a just and righteous policy higher than any mere party interest. It is on the power and pressure of this opinion that the high character of English Government must ultimately depend."

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THIS book deals with the political history, from the earliest times down to February 1927, of the tropical African Dependency which is now called the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya. The record is, of course, condensed, but an effort has been made to give, with no more detail than is necessary, an account of those political developments of which British people ought to be aware.

The writer, during his twenty-three years in the service of the British Government, kept a diary, written day by day—except for a few gaps denoting illness or misadventure. Also he systematically retained newspaper files or cuttings, and personal letters. Of these last, he has had recent access to more than a thousand, written from different localities in East Africa, by many pens and from different points of view, but providing, in the mass, a valuable background to remembered facts of Kenya's history.

It is only to be expected that this book suffers, in places, from faults inherent in accounts of heated political happenings written by one who played parts, varying from inconspicuous to prominent, in some of them, and who took a lively interest in them all. Still, the author has tried to be accurate, and he will welcome correction by any who may discover inaccuracy at any point. As regards living people who are named, he has confined his comments to *the public actions of public men*.

The diagrams and maps have been drawn by the author specially for this book, with the result that there is no single Kenya place-name mentioned in the text that is not to be found in one or more of the maps. A directory of place-names is given on page 465, followed by a glossary of the few words of African origin which appear in the book.

The photographs in the book were also taken by the author, with the exception of two ("The Másai School at Nárok"—Plate IV), which are included by the courtesy of Captain C. S. Břereton, who kindly gave the author permission, by cable, to use two prints which he had given him long before.

The reader's attention is nowhere interrupted by the practice

of giving a portion of the story in the text and the remainder in footnotes. These comprise, in this book, nothing but references, and need only be referred to by those who want authority for statements made (where official documents are concerned), or the source of additional information, in books and newspapers. A list of abbreviations used in these footnotes is given on page 12. At the end of the book there are two indexes—one of general subjects (page 469) and the other of the names of persons (page 483).

The author wishes to record his indebtedness for assistance courteously rendered by the Librarian staffs of the libraries at the Colonial Office, the India Office, the British Museum Reading Room (North Library), and the Royal Geographical Society. He is under an obligation to numbers of friends who have been good enough to read portions of his manuscript, and to comment frankly upon them. Their advice as to deletion, modification or addition of matter was almost invariably followed. In the tedious work of proof-reading, the assistance of Max Plowman, Esq., and Miss Ross, B.A., was invaluable, as also was that of the author's wife, Isabel Ross. Dr. Norman Leys, an old friend of the author's in East Africa, kindly sent him a copy of his book *Kenya* at the time of its publication in 1924, but the author deferred reading that interesting work until his own manuscript was completed.

If, in addition to the credit which is in places given, in the following pages, to the Government of Kenya, instances are also found of criticism of its acts or artifices, the reader is asked to accept the statement that nothing contained in this book is as pointed as comment which the author made at times, in speech or writing, to that same Government when he was its servant in Africa.

* * * * *

People in Britain, reading this book, are reminded that the Government officials, whose actions and attitudes are described, are *their* servants. The British public, through their representatives in Parliament, have entire responsibility for the policies pursued in Kenya—policies which affect the happiness and welfare of millions of African men, women, and children. Opinions differ as to how happiness may be ensured to these simple folk. One view is that of a Government Commission

in Kenya in 1927—that under existing conditions in that Colony the advantage to the native lies in employment for wages outside the Native Reserves; and that, “in order to avoid unsatisfactory social results,” there should be “encouragement to whole families to leave the Reserves and to live permanently in alienated areas” belonging to Europeans—where there should be “properly safeguarded juvenile employment” (*The Times*, May 18, 1927).

It should not be beyond the wit of Britain, with centuries of colonizing effort behind her, to ensure the emergence of happy families of Africans in Kenya. It is with that end in view that Britain's servants are there. This book will give some idea of the problems with which they are faced.

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used in the footnotes in this book :—

O.G.—*The Official Gazette*, of the East Africa Protectorate up to 1920 and thereafter of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya.

E.A.S.—*The East African Standard*.

L.E.A.—*The Leader of East Africa*.

Cd. or Cmd.—Command Papers—presented to Parliament.

DIRECTORY

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GLOSSARY

Of Words of African Origin appearing in the Text.

- Askári.—Armed trooper (Police or Military).
- Batili.—A dhow with a long projecting prow and a sharp stern.
- Bóma.—A rampart or boundary-fence : also the space enclosed by such.
Since the early Government outposts in East Africa were roughly fortified, the word has also come to mean a Government station.
- Bwána.—Master : used also in a way corresponding to our " Mr. "
- Getháka.—An allotment of land to one Kikuyu family.
- Habári.—News.
- Kiberíti (*lit.* sulphur).—Matches.
- Kibóko (*lit.* hippopotamus).—A tapering whip of hide.
- Kibúyu.—The dried shell of a pumpkin, used as a bottle.
- Kipándi.—The identification certificate which has to be carried by male natives of Kenya.
- Kongóni.—" Coke's Hartebeest "—a very common antelope, of heavy build.
- Laióni.—A young man of the Másai tribe, not yet admitted to the warrior class.
- Manyátta.—A Másai village.
- Morán.—Warrior(s) of the Másai tribe.
- Safári.—A journey, voyage.
- Shám̄ba.—A word of wide application, covering *cultivated land* from the smallest native allotment to a large farm or plantation.
- Sháuri.—A consultation : business.
- Shénzi (strictly *mshenzi*).—A barbarian, savage.
- Témbo.—Palm wine, a native intoxicating drink.
- Táhu.—Ceremonial uncleanness, pollution (among the Kikuyu tribe).

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