

Ethiopian Realities

Polson Newman

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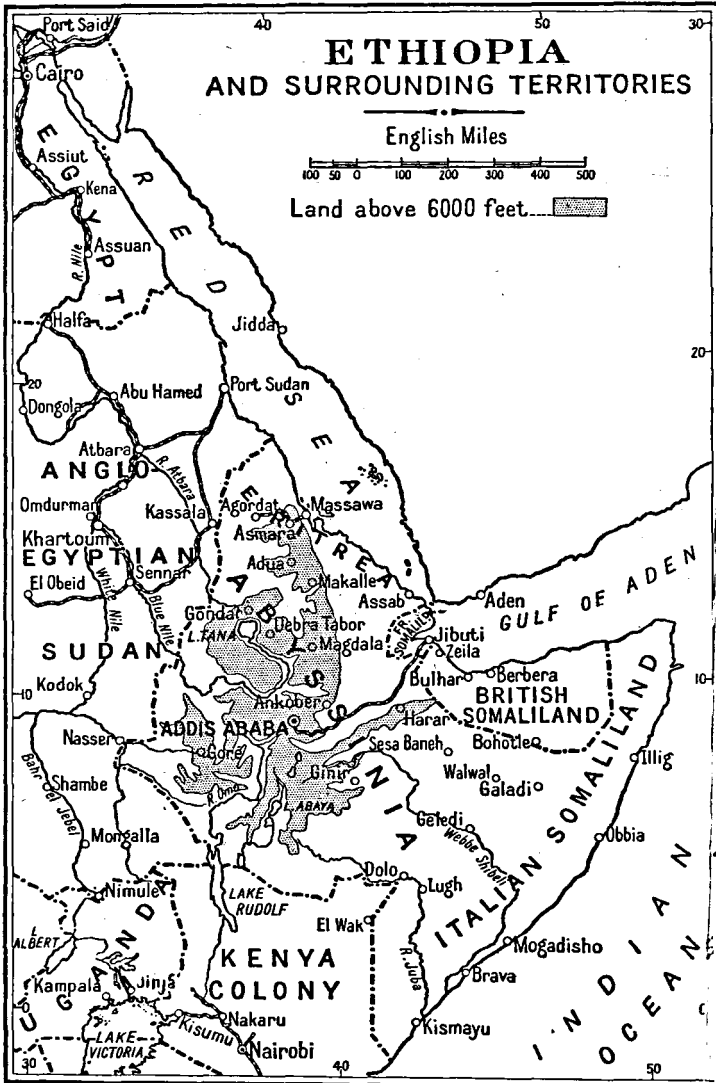
ETHIOPIAN REALITIES

By the same Author

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ETHIOPIAN REALITIES

Major Polson Newman



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P R E F A C E

WHEN, in October 1935, I returned to England from a journey in Ethiopia, British and French Somalilands, and Italy, I had no intention of writing a book. When, however, I had discussed the Italo-Ethiopian question with representatives of British public opinion up and down the country, and had heard some of the questions which people were asking, I was astonished to find the extent to which the British attitude was one-sided owing to a deep ignorance of essential facts. It seemed to me that the situation urgently called for someone to undertake the work of dispelling the general misconceptions of conditions prevailing in Ethiopia past and present, and of presenting to the general public the true facts of the conflict between that country and Italy. As I was perhaps in the unique position of having returned to England after studying conditions on the spot immediately prior to hostilities, I felt that the opportunity of writing on the subject was one which I could not allow to pass.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to outline the background of the present conflict by giving a short account of what may be termed "Modern Ethiopia"—the period from Theodore II to the present time. To this I have added what I believe to be the truth about conditions in Ethiopia to-day, together with the main factors in the clash between Ethiopia and Italy.

ETHIOPIAN REALITIES

Although the term "Abyssinia," meaning "confusion" with reference to a mixture of races, is perhaps more appropriate, I prefer to use the term "Ethiopia" as being the official designation of the country.

For valuable help given in a task demanding rapidity as well as accuracy I am deeply grateful to my wife.

E. W. POLSON NEWMAN

WOODSTOCK.

December 1935

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