

BRITISH EAST AFRICA
PAST, PRESENT
& FUTURE

Lord Hindlip, F. R. G. S., F. Z. S.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

BRITISH
EAST AFRICA

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

By LORD HINDLIP

F.R.G.S., F.Z.S



LONDON
T. FISHER UNWIN
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1905

[All rights reserved.]

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION

TO

SIR CHARLES ELIOT, K.C.M.G.

LATE HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER FOR
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

AS A SLIGHT TOKEN OF REGARD IN RECOGNITION OF
HIS SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY, AND AS A
PROTEST AGAINST THE TREATMENT
HE RECEIVED.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

THE MASAI QUESTION AND SIR CHARLES ELIOT'S RESIGNATION

Sir Charles Eliot's resignation—The Masai—Their origin—Occupation—Marriage customs—Dress and habits—What led to Sir C. Eliot's resignation—The East African Syndicate—Application for concessions—Messrs Bowker, Chamberlain and Flemmer—Their application refused—Messrs Jackson and Bagge—Sir Charles and the Masai locations

PAGES

1-9

CHAPTER II

THE MASAI QUESTION AND SIR CHARLES ELIOT'S RESIGNATION—*continued*

Correspondence between Mr Jackson and Sir Charles Eliot—Solution of the Masai problem

10-22

ix

CHAPTER III

THE UGANDA RAILWAY

	PAGES
The railway and its critics—Its financial history—The railway cat—The Protectorate dog—Construction of the line—The Indian invasion—Indian commercial morality—Trade on the railway—The labour question—Temporary work—Probable railway extension—New lines—The difficulties of construction—Upkeep	23-30

CHAPTER IV

ADMINISTRATION

The High Commissioner and his staff—Provinces—Continual change of local officials—Is it necessary?—Health of stations—A sanatorium required—Absence of survey—The Veterinary Department—Indefinite boundaries—Difficulties for settlers—Financial system—Sanitation—Nairobi—Kisumu—The most unhealthy town—Grass huts—Unfit for human habitation—Unnecessary sacrifice of life.	31-42
---	-------

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION—*continued*

The Foreign Office and antiquated methods—Fixing responsibility—More instances of negligence—	
---	--

CONTENTS

xi

The forces of the Protectorate—Massing the police force—The Nandi—Fighting the Nandi—Ridiculous operations—Government raid—Native police and white settlers—The Abyssinian question—The northern boundary—Its occupation and protection—Fear of the Abyssinians—The Boer Settlement—A possible menace—Government farms—Expensive luxuries—Zebras crossing with horses

PAGES

43-54

CHAPTER VI

ADMINISTRATION—*continued*

The settler's grievance—Necessity for a legislative council—The amalgamation of East Africa and Uganda—Sir Harry Johnston's scheme—The Indian Penal Code—Indian traders and white settlers—Speculation in town sites—Indian currency—Unsuitability of the Ceylon currency—Steamship services—German competition

55-64

CHAPTER VII

HUT TAX AND LABOUR SUPPLY

The value of the Pax Britannica—Tribal raids—The tribes and the payment of taxes—The hut tax—Payment in kind discountenanced—The value of a cash demand—A tax on wives—Difficulties of tax collection—Native collectors and their methods—An iniquitous system—The suppression of Indian

	PAGES
stores—Freebooters and Government control— Labour supply—Unsuitability of rice food— Extravagant sportsmen—Rich casuals—Labour commission	65-77

CHAPTER VIII

SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTRY

East Africa as a white man's country—No attempt to procure immigrants—Hampering settlers—Invent- ing restrictions—A private estate of the Foreign Office—A dog-in-the-manger policy—The grant of Zionists—A history of settlers' difficulties— The change to the Colonial Office—A final warning	78-96
--	-------

CHAPTER IX

LAND AND PROSPECTS OF SETTLERS

The Protectorate and its boundaries—Zones— Temperatures—A tropical and rich strip—The water question—Government boring experiments — A white man's country—Nairobi—Lord Delamere's estate—Lord Hindlip's station—The third zone	97-106
--	--------

CONTENTS

xiii

CHAPTER X

SUGGESTIONS FOR SETTLERS

	PAGES
Minimum capital for intending settlers—Ploughs— Oxen—Stock different districts will carry— Medicine—Stock to import—Fencing—Housing —Native languages	107-118

CHAPTER XI

A SETTLER'S VIEWS OF GAME PRESERVATION

Licences—Anomalies—Casual sportsmen—Fencing vegetations for preservation of game—Game reserves—Some suggestions	119-132
APPENDIX	133
INDEX	139

To teach you your business I offer no claim,
But the man who looks on sees a deal of the game.

—WHYTE MELVILLE.

APPENDIX

FROM the latest information derived from British East Africa, it appears that I was rather premature in giving Sir Donald Stewart and the Colonial Office credit for wishing to more or less adopt Sir Charles Eliot's policy. Certainly the Masai are being moved on to Laikipia, and settler's representatives were appointed to sit on the Land Commission. But the all-important question, or perhaps demand for, of some form of council has apparently met with objections from East Africa, and also the demand for a white mounted police has encountered opposition presumably emanating from the same source. Colonists will, no doubt be interested to learn where the opposition really comes from, but I am led by circumstances to believe that it does not come from home.

The military forces consisting entirely of Africans have unfortunately been increased instead of decreased, and greater expense must now have been incurred; while efficiency seems to have been sacrificed to display, and the formation of a force capable of striking a swift and effective blow at a threatened spot, seems to have been entirely

neglected. I cannot help imagining that the Colonial Office have (temporarily, I hope) sanctioned this policy against their own judgment. •

It is with great regret that I hear that three race meetings are to be held annually in Nairobi instead of two. If there are sufficient white men and horses to justify six days' racing a year, there can be no valid objection to a white mounted police. More attention to the needs and demands of settlers, and less to gymkhana and mummery, seems to be required.

The crying necessity for a white police can be pointed out in startling colours by the following case which is quoted not *verbatim* from the local paper, the *East African Standard*:

"A settler named Graham, whose wife was approaching her confinement, was annoyed, and Mrs Graham apparently frightened, by a number of natives creating a disturbance near his house, which was an isolated one. As they refused to desist, or leave, Graham is said to have fired off a shot gun in their direction, for the purpose of frightening them, and to have accidentally slightly wounded one of their number. For this he was arrested and tried, presumably without jury, by a Sub-Commissioner, who sentenced him to six months imprisonment, and a fine of six hundred rupees. On being sentenced Graham was handcuffed to a black policeman, and marched to Nairobi, a distance of sixty miles, while his wife was left without any protection."

Such an action on the part of an official is absolutely indefensible; it can only be characterised as an outrage, and sufficient to cause an outbreak of the feeling existing between the official and unofficial communities. It is certainly to be hoped that the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose attention has been directed to the matter, will take steps to prevent a recurrence of such a dangerous and unwarrantable action.

The settlers, in a memorandum, have formulated their wishes and demands; among them the repeal of the Indian Penal Code is made a *sine qua non*. The *Times* report (1st August) of an appeal to the Privy Council by a settler named Wehner against a sentence of death commuted to Penal Servitude for Life by the Commissioner, is worth noticing.

“The grounds on which it was denied to appeal” were these:

- i. “The Petitioner was tried before five Juries instead of nine.”
- ii. “The Judge purported to sit as a Session’s Judge under two orders in Council, which it was contended had both been repealed.
- iii. “The native witnesses were not sworn, but only warned to speak the truth.
- iv. “The Judge, it was contended, did not give any explanation of the law to the Jury in his summing up.
- v. “The Jury were sworn after two witnesses had been examined.”

The Lord Chancellor said the more serious point was that there was no verdict of guilty; that what the Jury said did not amount to a verdict of guilty.

“The Lord Chancellor, having again pointed out the importance of the point that there was no verdict of guilty, said their Lordships would humbly advise His Majesty to grant special leave to appeal.” “It was not a question of a new trial being ordered, because in their Lordships’ view there had been no trial.” Such is the law in British East Africa! The Colonists also ask for either a subsidised line of British ships or a Government vessel to convey produce to Delagoa Bay and Durban; also for inclusion in the Customs Union of South Africa: these seem moderate and not unnatural demands.

The table given below shows the increase of trade in May and June 1905 over the same months of 1904, in rupees:—

Imports—May 1904	Imports—May 1905	Increase
585,505	817,101	231,596
Exports—May 1904	Exports—May 1905	Increase
194,940	311,296	116,356
Imports—June 1904	Imports—June 1905	Increase
584,898	767,916	183,018
Exports—June 1904	Exports—June 1905	Increase
141,804	230,586	88,782

Figures from *Official Gazette*.

I cannot quite concur with the settler’s request

that transfers of land should be absolutely free, because at present the Commissioner has power to deposit an individual without showing cause. As I do not think this right, I think there should be a clause by which a proved undesirable could be prevented from obtaining land, and I think this can be met by the sanction of the Commissioner being required and cause shown in case of refusal.

• The land regulations proposed by the Commissioner have not yet been made public in England, but I have heard of one which savours more of the old *régime* of obstruction than of Colonial Office methods. The law is this: Land in the Railway Zone will only be leased for thirty-five years, and 50 per cent. is to be planted with wattle for the use of the railway. At the termination of a thirty-five years' lease the tenant has the option of renewing his lease, paying according to the value of the land in thirty-five years' time. This sounds extraordinary. If some kind of Agricultural Holdings Act were in force in the country it would be more or less all right, but to expect a man to work for thirty-five years and then be mulcted according to his industriousness is puerile. But I cannot honestly say that I should be very much astonished at any curious local regulation made in British East Africa.

Latest cables state that an expedition has been sent to the Nandi country, and that it is hoped to deal finally with these natives. This will show

the value of last year's Official Report, and the result of the injudicious intervention of a gentleman in 1900.

I have just heard that a survey of my land was finished the end of August, but no plan or map has yet been delivered.

INDEX

A

ABYSSINIAN QUESTION, 50, 51;
 boundary, 98
Africa, 24, 50
Ainsworth, Mr, 74, 75
American engines, 27
Angora goats, 113
Argentine, the, 112, 114
Athi plain, 100
Atkinson, Dr, 104
Australia, 88, 108, 111, 113, 114,
 115
Austrian Lloyd, 63

B

BAGGE, Mr, 9, 13, 14
Bank of India, 102
Baringo, Lake, 103, 130
Bashi Bazouks, 15
Berkshire pigs, 113
Boers, 127
Boma, a, 47
Boran pony, 50
Borana, the, 60
Boundary Commission, 124
Bowker, Mr, 7, 8
British Central Africa, 63; Con-
 stitution, 44; Empire, 23;
 Protectorate, 128
Burnham, Major, 6

C

CANADA, 20, 60
Ceylon, 63, 104

Chamberlain, Mr, 7, 8, 18
Clutterbuck, Mr, 34, 35
Cockatoos, 94
Colonial Office, 19, 21, 22, 31,
 33, 57, 59, 79, 91, 123, 133,
 134; Secretary, 21, 36
Colonists' Association, 75, 92, 105
Congo Free State, 63
Cotton, Major Powell, 69
Currie, Mr, 75
Customs Union of South Africa,
 136

D

DARK Continent, 79
Delagoa Bay, 64, 136
Delamere, Lord, 103, 104, 120
Denmark, 114
Director of Agriculture, 75
Durban, 136

E

EAST AFRICA, 6, 9; a white
 man's country, 17; 14, 18, 21,
 23, 25; opening up, 29; 30;
 Sanatorium, 33; capital, 38;
 P.M.O. for, 40; report on, 46,
 48; punitive expedition in, 48;
 northern boundary, 50; re-
 trenchment in, 52; important
 question in, 56, 57; 58; law
 in, 61; 63, 64, 74; reports
 from, 78; 79; sheep-farming,
 189

East Africa—*continued.*

- 88; 90, 91, 94, 108, 109; pigs, 113; 114, 115, 118, 121, 124, 125; British, 51, 123, 133, 136; German, 51, 58, 63, 64
- East African Protectorate, 24, 28, 30; administration, 31, 60; Survey Department, and Land Office, 33; veterinary department, 33; sanitary arrangements, 37; water supply, 37; officials, 41, 45; police arrangements, 46; Boer settlement in, 51; labour for, 71; 78, 91; boundaries: 97; 101, 104, 107, 111, 119; Standard, 134
- East African Syndicate, 6, 7, 8, 16, 18, 29, 101, 103, 127
- Eliot, Sir Charles, 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17; false position, 18; high ideas, 21, 22; urgent appeal, 33; 46, 48, 59, 62, 69, 75, 90; report of, 125; policy, 133
- Elmentcita, 103
- El Moran, 2
- England, 114
- "English Panama, the," 24
- European immigration, 9; immigrants, 16; settlement, 37; portion of the township, 39; population, 49; vegetables, 99
- Evatt, Colonel, 16

F

- FLEMMER, Mr, 7, 8, 18
- Foreign Office, 7, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30, 44, 57, 79, 80, 90, 120
- Forest Office, 84
- Fort Hall, 29, 102
- Fort Ternan, 47, 105, 106
- France, 79
- French, the, 131; Congo, 66
- Friesland bull, 111

G

- GERMAN frontier, 129
- Germany, 79
- Goanese, 27, 32
- Government, 8, 10; slaughter of a Government caravan, 14, 16; guarantee of interest from, 24; 28, 30, 36, 40, 44; punitive expeditions, 48, 49; 54; revenue of, 61; employees, 70; 72, 75, 76, 79, 85, 86, 88, 89, 92, 93, 94, 100, 101, 102, 103; reports, 108, 121, 123, 130
- Gracey, Colonel, 28
- Graham, 134
- Guaso Nyiro, 106

H

- HAMPSHIRE rams, 111
- Hereford bull, 111
- Hindustani, 26
- Holland, 111, 114
- Hut tax, 66, 70, 71

I

- I.B.E.A. Co., 25, 28
- India, 26, 104
- Indian affairs in Canada, 20; "Invasion," 26; 27, 72; coolies, 28; speculators, 36; bazaar, 37, 39; railway employees, 38; penal code, 60, 135; currency, 62; stores, 71; Ocean, 98; bazaars, 101; settlement, 106; potentates, 120
- Indians, 3, 62, 92
- Italian Benadir, 98

J

- JACKSON, Mr, 9, 10, 11, 13, 74, 75, 87—
- Juba, 51; land, 129; 130

K

KAPITI, 100
 Kavirondo, 70, 76, 106
 Kenia, 106
 Kibos, 100
 Kikuyu, 76, 102, 103, 116, 117
 Kilimanjaro, 29, 51
 Kilindini, 37, 53
 King's African Rifles, 46
 Kismayu, 50
 Kisumu, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 59,
 62, 69, 76
 Kiu, 29, 99, 101, 127
 Knobkerrie, 3
 Kraals, 3

L

LABOUR bureaux, 76, 77
 Laikipia, 17, 19, 103, 133
 Laionis, 2, 6, 19, 20
 Lake Magardi, 6, 29, 127
 Lake Rudolph, 50, 51
 Lamu River, 99
 Land Commission, 57, 75, 133
 Lansdowne, Lord, 8, 9
 Likipia, 130
 Londiani, 29, 104, 105
 Lucerne, 112
 Lumbwa, 104

M

MAKINDU, 99
 Mann, Dr, 40
 Masai, the, 1; origin, 2; adorn-
 ment, 4, 5; land, 6; grazing
 grounds, 7, 8; 10, 11; flocks,
 12; numbers, 13; 15, 16, 17,
 18, 19, 20; reserves, 35, 46,
 51; Question, 88; 101, 103,
 109, 115, 116; land reserve,
 127; 129, 130, 133
 Matama flour, 54
 Mau, 112
 Merino, 111, 112, 113
 Meru, 3, 4, 14
 Mohoroni, 47, 106

Mombasa, 15, 37, 38, 98, 99, 113,
 125
 Morans, 3, 4, 14, 20
Morning Post, 40, 56

N

NAIROBI, 5, 29, 38, 62, 100, 101,
 102, 103, 113, 130
 Naivasha, 11, 12, 16, 17, 53;
 Gilgil, 103, 134
 Nakuru, 103, 104
 Nandi, 17, 47, 48, 105
 New Zealand, 111
 Nile, 58, 59
Nineteenth Century, 90
 Njoro, 104
 Nzoia, 105

O

OFFICIAL GAZETTE, 60

P

PAX BRITANNICA, 65
 Percival, Mr, 122, 124, 129
 Polled Angus, 111
 Port Florence, 39
 Portuguese East Africa, 64

R

RAVINE, 29
 "Royal Game," 121

S

SAFARI, 15
 Samburu, 99
 Sheen, Mr, 104
 Sikh soldiers, 47
 "Sime," 4
 Smith, Colonel, 8
 Somalis, 2, 50, 51, 74
 Sothik, 104
 Soudanese, 50
 South Africa, 53, 68, 73, 100, 103,
 104, 110, 111, 112, 113, 116,
 124

Spanish railway, 27
 Stewart, Sir Donald, 18, 19, 31,
 49, 57, 70, 75, 90, 92, 133.
 Sudan territories, 59
 Suez Canal, 58
 Sugota, 129, 130
 Suk, 109
 Swahili, 3, 69, 76, 116

T

TANA River, 99
 Thames, 44
Times, 135
 Treasury, the, 37, 93
 Tsé-Tsé, 53
 Tunstall, Mr, 104
 Turkhana, 51

U

UASHIN Gishu Plateau, 89, 105
 Uganda, 10, 11, 15, 24, 25, 33,
 56, 58, 59, 76, 94, 98, 113;
 railway, 23, 39, 63, 75, 122;
 railway committee, 41
 Ugowe Bay, 39
 United States, 114

V

VANDELEUR, Colonel, 16
 Victoria Nyanza, 6, 26, 76, 98
 Voi, 29

W

WAKAMBA, 76
 Wandrobo, 127, 130
 Wason, 94
 Wehner, 135
 West Africa, 13
 West Coast authorities, 37

Y

YOUNGHUSBAND, Sir F., 22
 Yuba River, 98

Z

ZANZIBAR, 38
 Zebra, 52, 53, 54, 103, 110, 120
 Zionists, 80, 89, 105

PRINTED AT THE EDINBURGH PRESS,
9 AND 11 YOUNG STREET