

OUR NEWEST COLONY.

# Our Newest Colony

being an account of British East Africa and its possibilities as a new land for settlement.

A land where the out-crowded and heavily burdened tax-payer of the older civilization may seek a more simple and yet brighter life.

BY

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**PRINTER'S NOTE.**

**This book has been printed, bound and published within British East Africa and the majority of the Photo-Lithographic illustration blocks have also been locally reproduced.**

TO  
**SIR PERCY GIROUARD,**  
K.C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E.  
(Governor of British East Africa.)

**AS A TRIBUTE AND APPRECIATION**  
of His Excellency's unceasing efforts to bring prosper  
to the doors of the Colonists of our newest ' Colony.

May 1910.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

**I**N publishing "Our Newest Colony" I hope to lessen my labours in replying to the very great number of enquiries for information which I have been receiving from all parts of the world during the past few years.

British East Africa, which I have—  
theoretically if not practically—wrongly  
termed a "Colony" has attracted a great  
deal of attention among intending Colonists,  
hence the numerous enquiries received.

I believe and hope the following chapters  
will give all that general information which  
any Reader, who is seeking a new Home,  
is desirous of obtaining before making a  
definite decision.

There have been many distinguished visitors  
to "Our Newest Colony" during the past few  
years and in this Introductory Note I propose  
to quote from the speeches made by some of  
the most distinguished among them—speeches  
made during one or another period of their  
visits.

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The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who visited British East Africa un-officially, when on his famous journey to South Africa after the Anglo-Boer war, said :

“ I have learnt at school, and have always  
“ thought that a tropical climate was associated  
“ with a heavy hot atmosphere, where it was  
“ very difficult for Europeans to even breathe,  
“ but my visit here has dispelled that illusion.  
“ When we reached the high level up-country  
“ it was very difficult to realise that we were  
“ not on the Sussex Downs in the height of a  
“ perfect summer.

“ The beautiful plains we saw, studded  
“ here and there with coppices, were very  
“ typical of the finest parklands of the  
“ old country. It was a perfect climate.  
“ We were very much struck by the bonny  
“ English children we saw, who had been born  
“ in this country, and I strongly recommend  
“ Sir Charles\* to gather a few of them together  
“ and take them home and exhibit them, as it  
“ would be the greatest and best advertisement  
“ for this grand country.

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\* Sir Charles Eliot, Commissioner of British East Africa  
1900-1904.

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“ Then the game we saw is simply beyond  
“ description. The enormous herds on the  
“ plains are far too great to enumerate.  
“ This country is a grand one in every way  
“ and the possibilities of cultivation, are  
“ unlimited. We have seen and enjoyed  
“ splendid English fruit and vegetables  
“ grown here, and, seeing you have the  
“ Railway, all that is necessary is a popula-  
“ tion and traffic to ensure your future. This  
“ country I have no hesitation in saying will  
“ one day be one of the greatest and best  
“ Colonies of the British Empire.”

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, K. G.,  
when replying to Settlers' Addresses said :

“ The Settlers of this country I think have  
“ a great future before them, but the beginning  
“ is always the most difficult. I am greatly  
“ taken with this country, which will, I think,  
“ certainly go ahead, with good administration.

“ In my all too short but interesting journey  
“ in this country to Lake Victoria Nyanza,  
“ I have become convinced of the great  
“ possibilities of the Protectorate and truly  
“ realize that this country has become an  
“ emporium of trade between Nations and that

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“there is a great future in front of you all.”

The Right Hon. Winston Churchill, P. C., who has written an account of his visit in the “Strand” Magazine, spoke well of what he saw : to quote his words :

“When I think of the very small portion of  
“the territories which I have already been  
“able to visit; when I reflect upon the  
“magnificent country which stretches from  
“here northwards towards the great mountain  
“of Kenia; and when I think of the rich red  
“soil; of the abundant streams of running  
“water; of the coolness of the air; of the  
“fertility and verdure and beauty of the scene  
“which is exhibited to the eye of the traveller;  
“I am bound to say that there are not only  
“regions in this country which can be  
“compared with South Africa or with India,  
“but which challenge comparison with the  
“fairest regions of Europe, and with the most  
“prosperous and beautiful tracts on the whole  
“surface of the globe.

“I believe in this great region of East  
“Africa and Uganda—because united they  
“must for all time inevitably be; if not  
“administratively for the present.



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“ I believe that there is room for all, and I do  
“ not think that for a hundred years to come  
“ any question or difficulty of finding sufficient  
“ room upon the surface of the East Africa  
“ and Uganda Protectorates for those who  
“ wish honestly to live there and develop the  
“ natural resources, is likely to arise.

“ We must not expect that Nature will will-  
“ ingly surrender the profligacy of chaos for the  
“ trammels of civilization. The work may be  
“ slow, and it will be painful, and although we  
“ may accelerate it—and we mean to accele-  
“ rate it by every means in our power—it  
“ would be a great mistake if we were rashly  
“ to attempt to crowd by artificial means in  
“ this country either a European or an Asiatic  
“ population for which at present the country  
“ is not ready.

“ The East Africa Protectorate has been  
“ thrown open to British settlement, and  
“ the settlers who are here, who come  
“ under the law of the land, must ever be a  
“ dear and precious charge upon the responsi-  
“ bility of the administration of the country.  
“ It is the earnest desire of His Majesty’s  
“ Government, I say it without hesitation, to  
“ help and support the settlers who are in this

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“country grappling with the great difficulties  
“which always are opposed to those who have  
“to make the beginnings and starts in a new  
“country. We must remember that the  
“country is still in the pioneer stage. People  
“who come here must expect to rough it.  
“They cannot expect to have the luxuries of  
“Downing Street and the comforts of White-  
“hall.

“They must accept the proposition as  
“it is ; which is, that they have on hand, both  
“officials and unofficials, the making of a  
“great thing, and they must live in any shed  
“or shanty—shamba is I believe the local  
“term—which they may come across whilst  
“they are engaged in that elevating work :—”

Mr. Cathcart Wason, M. P., himself at one time a successful Colonist, takes a great interest in “Our Newest Colony.” He said at Nairobi during the present year :

“Perhaps some of you here may think that  
“the progress of East Africa has not been  
“sufficiently rapid, but to me, visiting after  
“five years, but a moment of your history, the  
“progress is wonderful, and it would be  
“difficult to describe what has been done and

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“ what certainly will be done, without incur-  
“ ring the reproach of being a dreamer of  
“ dreams, and a dweller in fairy land, and  
“ historian of fairy tales. It seems indisput-  
“ able that in a few short years your export of  
“ sound Merino Wool will be considerable,  
“ that wheat growing is a sure success, and  
“ in addition to those great essentials you  
“ have luxuriant coffee, potatoes, maize, beans,  
“ fibre, rubber, ostriches and products too  
“ numerous to mention :—”

Col. Theodore Roosevelt, ex-President of the United States and expert Backwoodsman, was enchanted with the country. Speaking to a gathering of Colonists he expressed the opinion which is set forth on the cover of this book. He also said :

“ Not only have I had a thoroughly good  
“ time but I have been immensely interested  
“ in this country and its possibilities as an abode  
“ for white men. I think few people outside  
“ of Africa realize that there is here in Africa  
“ under the Equator a real whiteman’s country.  
“ Before I came, people told me that white  
“ children would not do well here ; but I have  
“ visited the home of settler after settler,  
“ especially of those from South Africa, both

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“ British and Dutch, where I saw large families  
“ of children of every age who had never been  
“ out of the country and were as sturdy as  
“ anyone could wish to see them.

“ At Kijabe, among the missionaries, I saw  
“ children and young men and women who  
“ had grown up in Africa, not having left it  
“ for a decade, and who yet were as healthy as  
“ possible. The problem here, (Highlands)  
“ is wholly different from what it is in the  
“ coast regions or in the far interior, where  
“ the country must always be essentially a  
“ black or brown or yellow man’s country,  
“ where the chief part played by the white  
“ man must primarily be one of supervision  
“ in the especial interest of the backward  
“ race.

“ Here, where we are now, the greatest  
“ need is to help white settlement. Of  
“ course, the settlers must be of the right  
“ type. They must be of tough fibre they  
“ must achieve and conquer. The frontier is  
“ no place for weak and shiftless people, and  
“ the submerged tenth offers exactly the type  
“ of persons who cannot prosper in a new  
“ country. But the same kind of man who  
“ did well when he went to the Far West, to

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“ the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains,  
“ thirty years ago, can do well here. From  
“ sugar and cotton to wheat and wool, apples  
“ and strawberries, you grow almost everything,  
“ and I believe that one of the feats which in  
“ the future will be especially held to the  
“ credit of the white race during the last  
“ decade, is the building of the Uganda  
“ Railway. You have thereby made a perma-  
“ nent highway between fertile mid-Africa  
“ with its genuinely tropical character, and  
“ the ocean.

“ I believe this country has a great agricul-  
“ tural and industrial future; and meanwhile,  
“ it occupies a unique position as the most  
“ attractive playground in the world, at least  
“ to people who possess the tastes of most of  
“ us here present. Your task is difficult of  
“ course, but the task of building up a new  
“ country is always difficult, and you are  
“ entitled to the heartiest support and  
“ encouragement.

“ Most certainly there are excellent open-  
“ ings for the capitalist here. Ample indu-  
“ cement should be offered him to come,  
“ you cannot expect him to come unless;  
“ but you must not be horrified if he makes

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“money. Steer clear of the corruptionist and  
“do not promise too much. Do not make  
“things out better than they are. Treat the  
“Capitalist well for it is in your own interest  
“—decency pays. Men of means can do  
“invaluable work here; there can be no more  
“useful citizen than a settler of means, as for  
“example Lord Delamere,\* who pioneers the  
“way for the small farmers who cannot  
“themselves make the experiments he makes,  
“by which they will profit—”

“The founder of a good bank, the man  
“who starts an electric or mining or  
“manufacturing plant, is a public benefactor,  
“and his reward should be ample. Yet  
“I hope you will always keep in mind  
“that a real white man’s country can only be  
“built up by making the opportunities favour-  
“able for the actual home makers, the actual  
“settlers, the multitude of men who do not  
“expect to make great fortunes but who do  
“expect, as the reward of hard work, to build  
“comfortable homes for themselves and their  
“families and to see their children grow up  
“fit and able to inherit the land after them.

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\* The Right Hon’ble Lord Delamere owns and farms large estates in the Njoro District.

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“ It is the home-maker, the actual settler,  
“ not the speculator, who should be encouraged.  
“ The prime need is for settlers who will make  
“ this country their permanent home and  
“ think of it as such; and it is on every  
“ account desirable that the largest possible  
“ proportion of these men should live on farms  
“ which they themselves own, and make their  
“ living from the soil :—”

With the words of these responsible and able men before me, surely I am justified in publishing this book, the object of which is to encourage our present Colonists and to guide those contemplating settling amongst us.

Mombasa,  
British East Africa.

THE AUTHOR.