

EDITORIAL NOTES

THIS great territory, covering an area of 291,000 square miles (more than three times the size of Great Britain) and containing a population of about 1,000,000 Africans and 3,500 Europeans, lies between the Zambezi and the Congo State, and is bounded on the west by Portuguese West Africa and on the east by the Nyasaland Protectorate. For about thirty years now it has been under the rule of the British South Africa Company. In the north-eastern districts, treaties had been made with the natives so long ago as 1889 by Sir H. H. Johnston and Sir Alfred Sharpe, but it was not till 1893, when the former was H.M. Commissioner and Consul-General in British Central Africa, that Sir Harry sent three officials to Tanganyika and Mweru to prepare for some form of government. In those days the Imperial representative in the British Central Africa Protectorate acted also as administrator of the adjacent territories belonging to the B.S.A. Chartered Company, which for three years (1891-3) contributed £10,000 a year, and from 1893 to 1895 £17,000 a year, towards the cost of governing the Protectorate. Mr. Robert Codrington was appointed Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia in 1900, and from that date the extension of the Company's rule in the east made rapid progress. In the west, Lewanika, paramount chief of the Barotse, placed his country under the Company's protection in 1890, and Mr. Robert Coryndon (now Sir Robert, Governor of Kenya) became the first Administrator. The two provinces were united in 1911 under the name Northern Rhodesia. Now a further step in the evolution of this territory has been taken, for on April 1, 1924, the Company's rule ceases and Northern Rhodesia becomes a Crown Colony.

And so the Chartered Company, while retaining many interests in Rhodesia, brings to an end its administrative functions. Its record in the northern province is one of which it may be justifiably proud. It found the country torn from end to end by inter-tribal warfare and the happy

hunting-ground of slave-traders—to say nothing of marauders like the Matebele and Angoni. It leaves the country in peace. It has bestowed great material advantages upon Northern Rhodesia, and under its beneficent administration the natives have had a fair chance to develop. It has been most fortunate in the fine body of Britons that it has attracted to its service: men of statesmanlike qualities, with the interests of the native population at heart. It is largely through their pluck, their tact and skill in handling the people, that this country passes under the direct rule of the Crown without war having been waged against the natives.

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THE British peoples have in the last hundred years wrought great changes for the better in Africa. They have abolished slavery for the negro and have induced other great nations of white people to do the same. They have taken the leading part in placing the interior of Africa on the map; have produced that remarkable work *The Flora of Tropical Africa*, and added enormously to our knowledge of African peoples and their history, African languages, and African zoology. But in one direction they will have incurred the severe blame of civilised posterity: their reckless, sometimes brutal extermination of the more interesting African mammals. Their latest victim is the white or square-lipped rhinoceros. This truly remarkable and harmless monster a hundred years ago swarmed in Southern Africa between the Orange River and Zululand, the course of the Zambezi and Southern Angola. Livingstone met with it on the Upper Zambezi close to the Congo watershed. Speke and Grant obtained specimens of its horns in the west of Uganda. But in Trans-Zambezi Africa Boer and mainly British sportsmen steadily shot it down (though it was of little or no use for any purpose), until at the beginning of the twentieth century its numbers were reduced in all South Africa to a herd of about twenty which found refuge in North Zululand.

In Equatorial East Africa the white rhinoceros was thought to be extinct; but about 1907 or 1908 it was re-discovered, north of Uganda in the southern part of the Bahr-el-ghazal

Province. Here, close to the Nile, near Lado, Colonel Roosevelt was permitted to shoot two or three specimens for American museums.

In 1919 a British official in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan computed its numbers at quite 3,000. Up to that period it was placed under strict protection by the Sudan authorities. Two or three years later this protection was removed or not enforced, and Dr. Cuthbert Christy now estimates the extent of its "killing-out" so highly that he declares there are scarcely one hundred of these beasts left alive. A Government Game Warden in South Africa accuses the Natal Government of similar negligence or indifference, and declares that the white rhinoceroses in the Zululand preserve have been reduced by British game-killers from twenty to a doubtful twelve. One man alone killed four. What angers the American naturalists especially is the silence of the British press while the white rhinoceros is being done to death.

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CONSIDERABLE attention has been drawn of late to the Sahara. Captain Angus Buchanan lectured in London in January and showed some fine pictures taken on his remarkable journey across the desert. He started from Kano, in Nigeria, in March, 1922, and reached Algeria in June, 1923. During the fifteen months he covered 3,500 miles of almost unbroken monotony. "It is," he says, "almost a case of nothing but sand, broken very rarely indeed by ranges of hills, some of considerable height." He found it impossible to exaggerate the sense of pleasure he experienced in coming upon oases at rare intervals. In his opinion the sand of the Sahara is extending rather than receding, and is destroying ever more and more what scanty plant-life there is. He sees no immediate, practical use for the country through which he passed. Only one of the thirty-six camels used by the party made the full journey, and it died two hours distant from the Algerian rail-head. One of the Arab servants pronounced its funeral oration: "It is Kismet; he has all this time carried the big white man, and it is not fit that the Nomad should ride him after that; so he has died."