

THE EMPIRE REVIEW

"Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,
Survey our empire, and behold our home."—*Byron.*

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HOME RULE AND SOUTH AFRICA

LORD BEAUCHAMP'S VIEWS

LORD BEAUCHAMP, who as First Commissioner of Works may be presumed to speak with some authority, took the chair at Mr. Redmond's meeting at the City Liberal Club. And this is how he opened his speech :—

Since Home Rule was last fought out in the constituencies religious animosities have been much softened, a better feeling has sprung up among the contending parties in Ireland, and a brilliant example has been set by the granting of Self-Government to South Africa.

What Lord Beauchamp meant by saying that "religious animosities have been much softened," I am at a loss to understand. Certainly that is not the case in Ireland, and as regards this country, even so eminent a Free Churchman as Dr. Horton has told us plainly that if he and his fellow Nonconformists were in Ireland they would feel and speak as their Irish co-religionists do. This does not look much like the softening of religious animosities.

The statement that a better feeling has sprung up "among the contending parties in Ireland" is equally incorrect. There are now two Home Rule parties in Ireland where formerly one existed, and so bitter is the feeling displayed between the parties that the services of the Irish constabulary are often required to keep order at their meetings. Neither in 1886 nor in 1893 was the Home Rule party in Ireland so absolutely divided as at the present time, if not on the ethics of Home Rule, at any rate on the means by which it should be accomplished. Again, the antagonism of Ulster has in no way declined. The Ulster loyalists are pledged to oppose Home Rule tooth and nail, even going so far as openly to announce their intention, if necessity

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE *

(Continued)

Agriculture.

THE favourable reports received from the Imperial Institute on samples of wattle bark sent from the Protectorate have attracted increased attention to this industry. During the last fifteen months it is estimated that some 2,000 acres have been planted out, and the cultivation of further extensive areas for sowing next season is proceeding rapidly. Wattle-growing is likely to become a great factor in the agricultural industry. The number of cattle shows no increase on that of last year. This is due to outbreaks of gastro-enteritis, rinderpest, and East Coast fever; but notwithstanding the prevalence of disease the prices for cattle sold privately and at auction sales have been higher than in any previous year.

Sheep have developed in a marked manner; in fact, the increase—more especially in graded sheep—has surpassed all previous records. Great improvement has resulted from the up-grading of native sheep crossed with merinos. Numbers of mares have recently been imported from South Africa which should serve as good foundation stock, and it is hoped that the hardy Abyssinian mare will prove useful for building up the industry generally. Large numbers of mules have been introduced from Abyssinia, and as a result the prices charged for mules are considerably less than formerly. It is hoped before long to establish an export trade in bacon; pigs are doing extremely well, but the local demand for good bacon still exceeds the supply. Ostrich-farming has made a striking advance; the numbers and size of the birds have increased, and the quality of the feathers has been of a higher standard. Inquiries have been made by breeders from South Africa as to the possibility of obtaining birds from this Protectorate for stud purposes.

The output of cotton has been practically double that of last year, but the dry land cotton areas are limited, and any great export of cotton from them must not be expected. On the other

* See Report by Sir Percy Girouard for 1910-11.

hand there are very extensive tracts of land along the banks of the Tana and Juba Rivers which, with the expenditure of money on irrigation works, might well become most fertile and productive. Experiments are being carried out on both rivers with a view to ascertaining the most suitable seed. It is estimated that some 500,000 acres of land along the south bank of the Juba River could be irrigated, which, under cotton, should make an appreciable addition to the world's output.

With a rise in price during the past year the exports of copra have doubled in value. Large areas are being planted out with young cocoanut palms, and in a few years the number of bearing trees will be considerably increased. Next to copra the value of the rubber export for the past year is greater than that of any other agricultural or plantation export, and it must be remembered that as yet few of our plantations have reached the full tapping stage. The results obtained from consignments of Ceara rubber exported are very favourable. Several companies have been formed during the year, and there has been a large inflow of capital for further development. When the land titles on the coast are settled, it is anticipated that extensive areas will be put under this product. A number of sisal plantations are now reaching maturity, and decorticating operations will shortly commence. In one case, where 800 acres have been planted, the sisal on 200 acres is now ready for cutting. The export of sim-sim has much increased, and natives are being encouraged to plant this commodity more extensively. The maize crop in the coast districts has been more than double that of last year, and 800 tons were exported from Malindi alone.

An exhaustive series of experiments has been carried out on the Nairobi Farm with crops considered suitable for growth in the Protectorate, with the result that the satisfactory issues obtained from previous experiments have in many cases been confirmed, and it is now proved that certain introduced crops may be taken up as accessory or main branches of farming with good prospects of success. A cage has been erected on the farm, and experiments begun in the hybridising of wheat. It is hoped in time to produce a variety which will be resistant to rust.

The Mazeras station is responsible for the collection of much useful data in connection with tropical crops considered suitable for development on the coast belt. In addition to supervising the work of the station, the Plant Instructor has made a series of tours along the coast to advise on the cultivation and growth of promising products. It has been arranged for the Kibos station to be conducted mainly in the interests of the natives. Crops which are considered suitable for the Lake districts are extensively grown, and all available improved seed

is issued to the natives through the administrative officials of the Province. For three weeks in every month the Plant Instructor is occupied in travelling round the native districts and in giving instruction to the natives. This teaching is now beginning to bear fruit, and the chiefs are becoming more alive to the importance of better cultivation and the sowing of improved seed.

Stock Raising.

The Nairobi station has also been utilised as a farm for the breeding of pigs, and a large number of pure-bred sows and boars has been disposed of to settlers for the purpose of grading up their stock. The grading of the native cattle with the Red-Polled breed, and also of donkeys with the Catalonian jack, has been taken in hand with marked success, and the station is now considered a very important centre to visit, at which much valuable information can be acquired, not only by the settler who has already taken up land, but also by the new-comer or prospective settler. At present there are three Clydesdale mares on the farm, all in good health. There are also two pure-bred South Devon cows, one pure-bred Red Poll bull, and one Short-horn bull. In September all the cattle were inoculated against rinderpest; one succumbed from the effects of the inoculation. Four elands were procured and "broken" to work. They were found to be more tractable than might have been expected, and they are of better stamina than zebra, which were previously experimented with. The total number of live-stock on the farm is 502.

The annual sale of stock at Naivasha is an event which is always eagerly awaited by the stockbreeders of the Protectorate, and the sale held in November last was strikingly successful. Dairy-farmers were ready to pay high prices for cows with calves at foot, and pure-bred cattle were in strong demand. The competition for pure-bred sheep was very keen, and the fact that during the two days' sales over 200 merino rams changed hands is in itself sufficient indication of the growth of the wool industry in the Protectorate. Grade rams also were much sought after, and afforded an object-lesson as to what can be done in grading up the native ewes.

East Coast fever continues to prevail in the Nairobi-Kyambu district, but is practically quiescent in the Machakos district, where the mortality, even among calves, has dwindled down to a very small percentage; but, as the number of calves born on these large areas is not sufficient to maintain an equal infection throughout the pasture land, outbreaks of an epizootic character are to be expected from time to time. There seems every indication that the disease is gradually assuming an enzootic character

as regards the cattle in some of the known infected areas, and this can be largely accounted for by the restrictions placed on the movements of cattle within these areas. Experiments with this point in view have been carried out during the past two years, and the results have been most instructive and encouraging. The highly infected area at Kamiti has been used as a testing station to ascertain the resistance exhibited by cattle placed upon it; the infection being constantly kept up by introducing susceptible grade cattle which have, in the majority of cases, contracted the disease. The results of the experiments at the Kamiti testing station since July, 1910, are as follows :—

Animals Entered.	Deaths.	Remaining.	Released as immune.
789	126	124	539

The further investigations which have been made regarding this disease have enabled the veterinary officers to gain considerable information both as to the manner of its occurrence in various districts and the resistance exhibited by cattle bred in such districts. The difference in the mortality in various outbreaks has been so extraordinary, as to render the administration of measures by which to control it particularly difficult. Whereas in some outbreaks 80 to 90 per cent. have succumbed, in others the mortality has been extremely small. Some 700 head of immune oxen are now in use along the public roads, and the transport difficulty has been overcome. The endemic areas have been opened up for trading, and movement of cattle under permit has been facilitated.

Rinderpest has caused heavy mortality in some districts. The native reserves have suffered most, and this is due in great part to the large numbers of cattle held by the natives, consequent co-mingling, and the carrying of infection from kraal to kraal by offal or pieces of meat taken from diseased carcasses. During the last seven months of the year under review, 30,000 doses of serum were issued from the laboratory; its use has been most beneficial, and the natives of the Nyanza Province have supplied the department with cattle for serum purposes. In some districts, and particularly the Northern Masai Reserve, the disease has now disappeared.

Game.

During the past year the number of licences issued in the East Africa Protectorate has grown considerably, as will be seen by the following table :—

	1909-10	1910-11
Sportsman's Licence	117	124
Resident's Licence	140	191
Resident's 14 days' Licence	28	34
Landholder's Licence	83	105
Special Elephant Licence	28	116
Special Giraffe Licence	—	17
Employee's Licence	7	7
Employer's Licence	1	1

The increase of revenue from the same is nearly £2,000. The addition in the number of special licences is due to the fact that the new Game Ordinance, which came into force at the end of 1909, did not provide for the inclusion in a sportsman's licence of an elephant or giraffe licence, as heretofore.

There are two game reserves, one lying to the south of the Uganda Railway between Tsavo and Nairobi, and extends to the Southern Uaso Nyiro and the Anglo-German boundary; the other including the country to the north of the Northern Uaso Nyiro. The stock of game in the Southern Reserve is very satisfactory, and there has been little or no disease this year. An attempt will be made to acclimatise the wild water melon of the Kalahari Desert in this area. It is regarded as excellent food for game and cattle, and if grown successfully will do away with much of the trouble experienced in obtaining food and water for Masai cattle and the game during the droughts. A certain number of dams will also be made in suitable places in the Reserve. There is a splendid stock of ostriches in the Reserve at present, and if the hyenas, which are very numerous, are killed off with poison, the ostriches should increase rapidly, and stock the surrounding country, to the great advantage of ostrich farmers. Much of the Northern Game Reserve is arid, waterless country, forming a natural stronghold for species adapted to these conditions, but not a sanctuary for a large variety. Elephants are numerous, and so are rhinoceroses, and a number of greater kudu are reported.

The district around Sotik and the Loita Plains is the one most frequently visited by shooting parties. It is still well stocked; but no ranger has ever been available to look after it, and the information received is not always reliable. Wildebeest are breeding well this season on the Loita Plains. The Rift Valley District, though a settled area, is still holding a wonderful head of game. Eland and Neumann's hartebeest have increased considerably from the time that their protection in this district was made the subject of special legislation. There are more zebra in proportion in the Rift Valley than in any other part of the country. The Athi Plains District is mainly visited by sportsmen for lion hunting. In spite of this, and the fact that

the local settlers kill every lion they can, these animals appear to be as numerous as ever, and more troublesome. With the exception of wildebeest and rhinoceros, the usual game of the plains is still abundant in the district. The district embracing the River Tana and the Northern Uaso Nyiro is another valuable game country, and is being visited far more frequently by sportsmen owing to the greater facilities for transport to Fort Hall. As transport improves, this shooting ground will very much increase in value, as there is a large variety of game. The Uasin Gishu Plateau District was formerly a famous shooting ground, but the land south of the Nzoia River is now practically taken up by settlers, mostly Boers, some of whom are making an attempt to preserve the game on at least part of their land. North of the Nzoia River there is an extensive and valuable game country, which will be in charge of a ranger.

On the whole, the game prospects are most satisfactory. There has been much less disease, and the rains which fell early in 1911 will produce abundance of food and lead to a rapid increase in stock. Eland and buffalo are showing in larger numbers all over the country, and wildebeest are also becoming more numerous. Ostriches have increased considerably in the southern parts of the Protectorate. The rhinoceros is decreasing fast, as is inevitable with so slow a breeder. Regarding elephants, the herds of cows and young appear to be holding their own, but the larger bulls are getting scarce, and elephants with heavy tusks are now rather difficult to find.

RETURN OF GAME KILLED IN THE PROTECTORATE ON ALL LICENCES
DURING THE YEAR.

Elephant	46	Bongo	5
Rhinoceros	227	Palla	419
Hippopotamus	55	Wildebeest	183
Buffalo	141	Grant's Gazelle	445
Eland	84	Waller's Gazelle	57
Zebra (Grevy's)	67	Duiker	108
Zebra (Common)	646	Dik Dik	162
Oryx (Callotis)	12	Oribi	191
Oryx (Beisa)	236	Suni	1
Water Buck	310	Klipspringer	59
Giraffe	17	Ward's Reedbuck	247
Sable Antelope	7	Chamber's Reedbuck	44
Roan Antelope	29	Thompson's Gazelle	618
Greater Kudu	1	Peter's Gazelle	69
Lesser Kudu	49	Bushbuck	178
Topi	159	Colobi Monkeys	271
Coke's Hartebeest	643	Marabout	124
Neumann's Hartebeest	24	Egret	13
Jackson's Hartebeest	227	Steinbuck	5
Thomas' Kob	27	Paa	2