

EAST AFR. PROT

30747

30747

REC'D
JUL 15

Ottawa, P. C.

1915

3 July

Last previous Paper.

see 307

10744/09

Boer settlement in East

Takes exception to statements in the subject made in Lord Cranworth's book "A Colony in the Making", and urges that the book be removed from list of books of reference recommended by Imperial War Advertising Bureau. Requested return.

Library

Have you a copy of Lord Cranworth's book "A Colony in the Making"?

Mr. Mackenzie

Hewich

12301-800.

See how 31240-240

The Secretary of the

Mr. G. Fildes

The passage is certainly not a very exact one but the above sentence is necessary to make a point about the passage in relation to his opinion.

We might reply that the above opinions expressed by Lord Cranworth are his own and that the S. of S. takes

Next subsequent Paper.

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31240

that the S. of S. assumes that the
book is recommended by the Uganda
Railway authorities and by means
of any opinions which it expresses
in regard to the general information
as to British East Africa which it
contains.

and we can inform Messrs. Bruce
Chalmers (see 31240) of the gift
of the copy which we have sent

Mr Gordon, the
letter may be
personal.

Ex 9/7/15

This will serve? We do not want, as
Mr Gordon appears to expect, to be the
focus of a dispute between Mr. B. Chalmers
and (same with

Wed. 9.7.16

H. J. R.

9/7/15

(Mr. B. Chalmers wants an interview.)

I presume that Mr. (same with)
book is only one among several which
are recommended

Mr 10/7/15

No need for an interview
Mr. Chalmers can see me

Ex 12.7.15

12.7.15

AS. 12.13.7

Am 14.7.15

book is recommended by the Uganda
Railway authorities not by reason
of any opinions which it expresses
but because of the general information
as to British East Africa which it
contains.

And we can inform Messrs. Bruce
Chalmers (see 31240) of the gift
of the copy which we have sent

? Mr. Gordon; the
letter may be
personal.

Eqm 9/7/15
This will serve? We do not want, as
Mr. Gordon appears to think exact, to be the
focus of a dispute between Mr. Orlepp &
L^d (Camworth)

Wed. 9.7.15

H. J. R.

9/7/15
(Mr. Orlepp wants an interview.)
I presume that Lord Camworth
both as an ally and as a usual friend
are recommended

Mr 10/7/15

No need for an interview
Mr. Orlepp can see me
12.7.15

AS. n. 13.7.

AS. n. 14.7.15

53 London Road

Reading

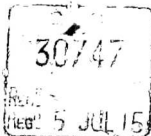
21 July 1915

3

The Rt Hon^{ble} A. B. Law

Gunning Street

London



Sir

a few weeks ago I had occasion to take round
 a Uganda Railway office a Belgian gentleman who is thick
 of settling in a British Colony, and found that the work
 most strongly recommended for information on B. E. Africa
 Lord Bramwith's "A Colony in the Making", a most estimable
 book in many respects, but in my opinion unfit as
 a reference on account of its unjust and unwarranted
 attack on the Boer population of the Protectorate
 of whom have settled on the Transvaal Plateau.
 Now as I consider the constantly increasing Boer section
 of a Community as very important and desirable one, I
 strongly deprecate the poisoning of the minds of future
 English - especially English - with the deplorable lies hatched
 up to doing so much harm in South Africa. To counter
 this destructive agency must therefore be my excuse
 submitting the enclosed papers for your perusal.
 I trust will result in the removal of said
 from the books of reference recommended for in-
 formation on B. E. A by the U. R. London & other Agency.
 I sent a copy of these papers to Lord Bramwith
 whose statements I publicly challenge in the E. A.
 in which the book first appeared.

If it is not troubling you too much on your valuable
 time, I would be much obliged if you could
 grant me a personal interview on the subject of
 action in B. E. A and other matters.

I have the honour, Sir

to remain

Your obedient servant

A. C. Orlepp

"In 1906 there was an influx of Boers, of whom it would not be too much to say that they lost their country for their country's good."

"They arrived pretty well destitute. Probably 60,000 would have covered the wealth of the whole 300 or 400. They applied for farms. Now the land regulations say, and rightly so, that any applicant should be possessed of £400 before he be allotted a farm. This regulation would have cut out some 95 per cent. of these applicants; and I venture to say that, had they been Englishmen, they would have been refused. An innate sense of chivalry - and, might I add, a policy of laissez-faire! - caused their applications to be accepted and they were one and all granted farms."

"Even so, it might not have been a serious matter had they been scattered throughout the country. But alas! they were all gathered in one block, in the newly opened Basia Gishu Plains. This plateau forms in some ways the keystone of the whole Transvaal. This is due not so much to its fertility and climate, though both are excellent, but to the fact that it is by far the largest tract of country at present opened which is not subdivided either naturally or artificially; for here we have at least two million acres of splendid land undivided by native forest or game reserves. Well, the great bulk of this splendid country was placed in the hands of a crowd of

An uncharitable surmise not founded on fact.

These people - about 40 to 50 families in all - were camped for months close to the farm near Bulhoek, where I was residing at the time, and where I was in constant touch with them, especially with Mr. J. Van Rensburg, their leader, whom I knew personally before. This man alone, a large landed proprietor in the Transvaal, possessed property to the value of at least £10,000, and although some of the men he brought with him were unable to prove being in possession of property to the value of the prescribed £400, entitling an applicant to the allotment of a farm, I can state emphatically that there was not a single case of destitution among them; and they were all granted farms on their shewing to the satisfaction of the Land Officer that the collective value of the property owned by these intending settlers amounted to over £25,000, and on the wealthier ones guaranteeing that the farms granted to their less fortunate brethren would receive the necessary amount of improvement entitling each holder to a lease."

Lord Chamberlain does not seem to be aware that the Basia Gishu was a bonanza for settlement, ever since the Jews declined Mr. Chamberlain's offer of it to them as a Zionist settlement; English settlers, up to the arrival of the Boer trek, having fought shy of it on account of its distance and inaccessibility from the Railway. The Boers, hearing of this splendid tract of open country from their fellow-countrymen - the three brothers Van Breda, who had been settled up there since 1905 - promptly applied for farms there, cut their way through thick forest and over mountains to reach it, with their huge wagons and long teams, and thoroughly pioneered the

indigent Dutch, with two natural results. First, all development has been practically at a standstill, not one-tenth of the prescribed minimum of development having been done. As a proof of this statement is the fact that in 1911 there were less than 1,000 acres under cultivation throughout the whole plateau, a very large proportion of this being on two farms. The bulk of the inhabitants have supported themselves by the unrelenting slaughter of the once numerous game."

"The second ill-effect is the formation in our midst of a solid mass of utterly disloyal colonists, speaking their own language and having their own Church and who now have the insolence to demand a Dutch education at Government expense. Next to our Indian Scouts they form the most difficult problem in the Protectorate. Apart from this one dark spot the future of colonisation looks bright."

country before English settlers followed in their wake. Few people seem to realize and appreciate at their full value the terrible hardships the poor settlers had to endure during this first year of pioneering work, before they were able to start development on their farms - in some cases, the applicants had to wait 18 months before they could start work on their holdings due to slowness of the Survey (becoming by rapid allotment). That the Dutch did not immediately start cultivation on a large scale is quite true - they are mainly pastoralists and their farms were selected on the bare and open portion of the plateau with a view to pastoral pursuits. Even so the terrain selected by them lent itself to cultivation on a large scale - which it does not - it would be utterly wasted and useless beyond measure to cultivate on a large scale on account of the still very much too unfavourable soils. - on this subject I can speak from bitter experience! - the preservation of which is studied too much by the authorities to the detriment of the settlers. As to the stagnation of development and the accusation that not one-tenth of the prescribed minimum of improvements were done within the prescribed period, I can give this an unqualified denial, stigmatising it as an utterly false and misleading statement, which I am prepared to prove. On the contrary, ~~that the Dutch settlers made substantial improvement and assessment, on a great scale, during the Protectorate~~ ~~very far in excess of~~ ~~what was intended by the Land Office, and as far as I know, not~~ ~~a single holding was forfeited on this account.~~

The splendid courage of the young Boer heroism, and many other manly men of the Boer fight to the call to arms against the Germans is sufficient refutation of this infamous slander. ^{French} The Canadians also speak their own language and have their own Church; but as the British Empire prides itself on its liberty in this connection no more need be said about it. The statement, however,

On page 187 of 'A Colony in the Making' Lord Cranworth, in speaking of the 'type of settler required,' and giving advice to a young man of 21, who has just left the University, to go to some practical farming for 12 months before starting farming himself, says:-

"These twelve months should teach much; in addition to actual farming and agricultural knowledge, there is the learning of Swahili, the universal medium of conversation with the natives, there is the management and breaking of oxen, the right method of handling native labour; and, finally, our friend will learn, if ever he is to do so, his own strength as opposed to that of the tropical sun."

On page 188, Lord Cranworth says:-

"We want the capitalist, we want *Ac., Ac.*, most of all perhaps we want the man with a small capital, who will bring out his wife and make a home."

that the Beers insouciantly demanded a Dutch education. *Ac., Ac.*, in nice untruce, they merely respectfully solicited the privilege. So far the Dutch population have given no grounds whatever: on the other hand they have proved themselves sober, clean-living and most law-abiding. I live on their "best spot" and find it very bright indeed. The sharpest of the "most difficult problem" in Lord Cranworth's mind will no doubt disappear in time.

Except a knowledge of Swahili, which the average Beer, through his knowing one or more South African native dialects, picks up in three months, while some Englishmen never acquire the proper pronunciation - the Beer settlers arrive on their farms well equipped with all these qualities, without the proposed 12 months' apprenticeship. On this account practically all the oxen broken in for new and inexperienced settlers have been done by Beers, and about 75% of all the improvements, including the building of houses, sheds and kraals and the breaking up (with plough and oxen) of land for future cultivation, has been done by Beers, besides which innumerable raw natives have been trained by them to handle and break in oxen, drive their produce to the nearest station in their huge wagons, drawn by long teams of oxen, and to plough with oxen. That they have directly and indirectly contributed much to the development of the Usin Gishu is shown by the fact that the majority of the English settlers on the plateau - not to speak of the rest of the country - have adopted their methods of handling natives, oxen, ploughing and farming generally.

In this connection we have the Beer's greatest claim to being considered a most desirable settler: for unlike the average settler of other nationalities, every Beer landholder is a married man, and such of his sons who is not married, but marriageable, is either

engaged to his neighbour's daughter or is courting her. The Usain
settlement, where there are more mothers, wives and maids to
the square mile than any other part of the Protectorate outside
Khartoum, bears out this statement. Besides which, amongst the
Beers to keep a black woman is an unforgivable sin, and any one of
them found guilty of this offence is entirely ostracised by the
community; divorces and illegitimacy are also practically non-
existent among them. My contention as to his clean living is there-
fore well founded. Whoever in the future may be the authors of a
hybrid offspring, this charge will never with justice be laid at the
door of the Beers.

TELEPHONES
NO 8786 (CENTRAL
NO 8425) CITY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES
KOLLS LONDON

CHOLMLEY & SONS

28 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London.

8

29th July 1903.

60 P

Lord Granville and Mr. J. B. W. W. W.

747-15

I am much obliged for your letter
of yesterday, and for your courtesy in
sending me of the answer you have sent to
Mr. Webb.

Yours truly

Your obedient servant

E. J. Fendon

Under-Secretary of State

Colonial Office

Downing Street, London

21 July, 1915

I am &c to order,

DRAFT.

A A Dolepp Esq.

MINUTE

Mr. Cobbe 19/7/15

Mr. Bottomley 20.7.15

Mr. Read 20/7

M

Sir G. Fydes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Cromwell, London.

A. B. & Co.

Ans'd 307854

the receipt of your letter
of the 3rd of July, with
~~reference to~~ in which you
urge that the book by
Lord Cromworth entitled "A
Colony in the Making" should be
removed from the list of books
of reference recommended for
the purpose of the B.F.A.

(2) In reply I am to

say that the opinion expressed
by Lord Cromworth in the
work mentioned ~~is~~ represent
his own
views, and that the S. of S.
takes no responsibility for them.

(3) It is presumed,

that the book is recommended
by the Uganda R.N. authorities,
not by reason of any opinion
which it expresses, but
because it contains much useful
general information
concerning
the B. E. A. which it contains.

(4) I am to add that

Mr. Bone Law does not consider
that there is any need for
an interview; but that if you
will desire one, and will
call at the
Office any week-day, between
the hours of 12 and 5, Mr.
Read will be happy to
see you.

(Signed) HENRY LAMBERT,
For the Under-Secretary of State.

0 30747/15 E.A.K.

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Mr. Gordon E. J.

4th

21 July, 1915

Sir,

A.C. 1917/15

M. Bottonley 20/7/15
for Read 20/7/15

[31240]

2 drafts

I am to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter
of the 7th of July, regarding
Mr. A. A. Ortel's communi-
cation on the subject of
Lord Cromwell's book
entitled "A Colony in the
Making" and to inform you
that a letter has been
addressed to Mr. Ortel
stating that the opinion
expressed in the book
referred to, represents Lord
Cromwell's own views, and
that the S. of S. does not
accept any responsibility for the

(2) ^{has} ^{been} also explained

to Mr. Orloff that the

reason why the book is so well

recommended by the ^{effect of the} ~~the~~ ^{Uganda}

R.Y. authorities, not by

reason of ~~the~~ any opinions

which it expresses, but

because it contains much

general
useful (inf.ⁿ) concerning

B. E. A.

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