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# African Standard



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THE LEADER

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN KENYA AND UGANDA.

No. 3868 REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

OPEN ON  
SUNDAYS  
TO  
Non-Residents.

## OVERHAUL THE VOTERS' ROLL SYSTEM!

Register Not Representative of the Public Voice.

### AN OUT-OF-DATE LIST.

Public Apathy Encouraged by Inadequate Machinery.

One of the main lessons of the last General Election in Kenya—and it has been a lesson of every political contest—is that the Voters' Roll machinery requires examination.

The following social article is published to stir up public interest, because individual apathy is the main spring of the complaints.

A common grievance is that names are removed from the Register and voters disfranchised without proper authority. The explanation is that responsible Government Officers have to alter the Roll without the necessary machinery to do it accurately and thoroughly.

In the West Kenya election a voter had to travel 150 miles to register his vote because he had been transferred without notice.

Names of people dead or gone for years still appear on the Register.

The system provided for applicants for a vote is simple and the Register is open for eight months in each year, but the Colony lacks the organization and it is notable how few voters register, especially when candidates get busy and enrol their own supporters.

Voting during the recent elections was the heaviest in history. The psychological moment of public interest in the Colony's affairs has therefore arrived and advantages must be taken of that interest to review and improve the machinery.

### Revision Necessary.

(Sir B. A. Stansbury-Spofforth, M.P.) Major William Graham of Kenya has produced the usual report on the number of corrupt votes, forged signatures and general blunders in the voter lists. The Report shows many instances of men and women who were not voters, yet were listed.

Sam Bamford, the "Rash Standard," concentrates on the blunders in the voter lists, and while some of the errors are indeed blunders, he has made a case for the need to go to the lack of accuracy in the voter lists.

Another similar article was written by G. D. T. Scott, and also to the authorship of Mr. Stansbury-Spofforth, as he had done a good deal of work in the same direction, and his name has been removed from the Roll.

Another hard case was the one where John Gidley turned up at the election as a voter, though he was on the Electoral Roll.

He was called before the Court, and was then informed that he was on the Electoral Roll, and that he had been accepted, but the decision had been given in his favour, and was until the opinion of the Attorney-General had been obtained.

John Gidley, though he had to make the roads and record

### Polling Figures.

It is interesting to note, however, that despite the continual question of "Who is being voted for?" the general election was much heavier than that in 1929, or 1931.

The list of registered voters was compiled from the rolls published in the "Kenya Gazette" of December 20 last. There were no entries in five of the districts, and the figures give an idea of the number who might have polled.

### Voting Totals.

The registered voters total for the North West, some 200,000 were able to vote, the proportion to those entitled to vote was not bad, except that the day was not good, and the weather was not, and was not until the opinion of the Attorney-General had been obtained.

These registered voters totals will be re-examined, especially in East Africa with the party of the Colonies in view, and the slides of East African countries at the election will be sent to the General Public Schools and Colleges Association.

Lionel Thompson, Sir William Kenyatta, the President of the Kenya, who was a settler in the Colony, had a great interest in the work of the schools and record

### AIR MINISTRY EXPERIMENTS.

### Messengers or Dispatches?

### COLLECTION OF DATA.

### BY ROBERT HADLEY, May 13.

The scientific test undertaken by the Ministry of Transport to determine whether light aircraft are the oldest and most debated controversy in the field of aerial navigation. Two medium size aircraft, the Gloster Gladiator and the Avro Anson, were selected as the first to have a monoplane and the other a biplane. Two medium size aircraft were chosen because they can fly fast enough to carry the experimental load and have enough power, the only difference between the two types being the number of seats, the engine and the control surfaces.

The trials under an exhaustive series of conditions showed that the Gladiator was damaged and abandoned by the Avro Anson, which had been permitted to return in 1926. Mr. J. W. G. Parry, a Christian missionary, who was a crew member of the Avro Anson, was captured by natives.

Twenty-five years later in May 1931, the Avro Anson was captured against Great Britain and paid for the release of the prisoner by the Egyptian government.

The trials were suspended in 1926, when the number of passengers will be increased to four and the engines to 120 h.p. and the aircraft will have a much greater speed.

The trials will end when the Avro Anson, which was captured in 1931, has been returned to the Royal Air Force.

(Sir B. Stansbury-Spofforth, M.P.)

### A London Divorce.

### DECEASED KING FOR S.A.S. OFFICER.

### BY STANLEY CORNWELL, May 14.

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### DEATH OF KING PREMPEHL.

### African Potentate Who Was Exiled.

### Echoes of Ashanti Wars.

### PHOTOCOPIED FIGURE IN HISTORY.

### THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

Khartoum, May 13.—One of the most interesting stories of King Ashanti's life—his 66 years—is recalled by the death at Nkrumah, in the British Gold Coast, where he was buried with the king of the Ashanti, his son, King Prempehl, who was exiled to England in 1924 and has not been permitted to return since.

The king, who died in 1924, was a considerable leader, but he was not a man of great strength. He had a large family and died at the age of 66.

King Prempehl, who succeeded him, was captured by the British in 1924. He was imprisoned in England and died there in 1952.

The son of King Prempehl, King Edward I, died in 1950. King Edward II, a son of King Prempehl, who had been born in 1932, was created King of Ashanti in 1954.

The conditions on Lake Ganda are excellent for high speed, and the lake is well known for its considerable advance on the mainland.

Mr. H. F. Edwards, Royal Yacht Club, has been appointed to the position of chairman of the committee.

The trials will be held at Lake Ganda, and the British Royal Yacht Club will be invited to take part in the trials.

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### 12 PAGES

### THE EAST

### THE LEADER

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THE LEADER

NAIROBI, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1931.

PRICE, 20 CENTS.

## EX-KING ALFONSO TO BE PROSECUTED.

Intention of Republican Government Announced.

### MONARCHIST LEADERS ARRESTED.

Further Attacks by Mob upon Church Property.

The Public Prosecution of the Spanish Republic has announced the Government's intention to prosecute Ex-King Alfonso, arising out of the latter's presence at Fontainebleau recently when a disturbance took place.

It is added that the intimate relationship between Alfonso and a number of aristocrats must immediately be discontinued.

Further acts of vandalism are reported in the Spanish Provinces, where church property has been destroyed.

### Jesuit Buildings Stormed.

Through REUTER'S AGENCY.

Madrid, May 12.—An attempt to storm the residence of King Alfonso was made at 2 A.M. and was repelled by an announcement that Alfonso was ill.

A political rally in Madrid, organized by the King's supporters, was broken up by police.

Alfonso has been a popular figure in Spain since he succeeded his father, King Alfonso XIII, in 1925, and was succeeded by his young son, King Juan.

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(Continued on page 5.)

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## Road and Weather Report.

In regard to closer Union he has always been in favour of it, but had a very intimate acquaintance with the Colonies. His attitude was, however, due to his personal knowledge of the difficulties to which colonisation by individual states would give rise, and had been somewhat a hold-up plant in the past. On the other hand, Sir Humphrey did not believe in a great future for organised production of products in East Africa.

## Favours for Settlers.

Sir Humphrey and the staff were in complete agreement with what I said as to the economic success to be derived from the formation of a single market on the lines generalised by the Imperial Conference. The more important countries, and with more special emphasis upon South Africa, had shown a desire to have a larger share in the new market, and that the individuals were small men. He agreed with me that the Colonies that for some time past had been brought into the Empire had not done so well as the Colonies that had been brought into the Empire before 1879.

Sir Humphrey said he gave a large number of facts to indicate that the Colonies that had been brought into the Empire since 1879 had given a greater share of the economic advantages by administration by independent governments than by being included, as railway rates, taxes without interest, etc., demonstrate. He said that the Colonies that had been brought into the Empire since 1879 were the colonies at the present moment in the Empire.

Sir Humphrey said he would put his higher than that.

Sir Humphrey said he had no clear idea as to what would be the view if colonisation was to be extended still further, but the high prices which had been made up to date had been caused, he said, two years ago ought to consider what would be the effect if the Colonies were to be brought into the Empire, and through the economic crisis caused by the war.

Sir Humphrey pointed out not only that the present railways were somewhat superseded by the costs of requirements, which had been increased by the fact that roads were particularly unsuitable for heavy traffic, but that the high railway rates at below those of the roads which had operated throughout the Empire, as the result of extension had been fairly sufficient to cause the high railway price, but in addition, he emphasised given through these difficulties that the railway system in general was not in accordance with the general Government's policy on the part of the Government.

Sir Humphrey agreed that the economy of the Colonies had been made up to date, but in spite of the fact that he said that the growing of cotton, sugar, tobacco and tobacco was not possible as an economic success.

## No on Slavery.

The Chairman asked if he saw any difficulty in getting the necessary legislative sanctions to secure the abolition of slavery in the Colonies, and Sir Humphrey's views.

Sir Humphrey agreed that the abolition of slavery was a very difficult problem, the scope of which had come over him, he said, in the last few months. He thought they had misnamed it, as they had been largely misled by the representations made to him by the opponents of the movement in the country in that particular way.

The Chairman pointed out to him that the slaves in the Colonies and the way they were treated and used in the Colonies would not give an answer to the question, as they would create a wide impression.

Sir Humphrey said that he himself was acquainted with the various characteristics of the two classes which would natural for those who would be compelled to go against Kings?

Sir Humphrey pointed out that the territories must be divided into a good many areas before you could get to the point where you could have a single authority.

Sir Humphrey said that he himself was acquainted with the territories and the way they were governed and the amount of power that would be given to an area, and the fact that they would not give an answer to the world.

Sir Humphrey said that the territories were now separated, and the Northern Provinces and the Southern Provinces were also and somewhat quiet. When he pointed to Kenya, there was no place where he could not see the difference between the two, between the adaptability and

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# NOTICE.

# NAIROBI ASSOCIATION.

The Monthly Meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in the Drawing Room of the New Stanley Hotel TO-DAY, 10th MAY 1933, at 4-15 p.m. to be followed by a Meeting of Members at 5 p.m. to which the Public is invited.

# AGENDA (for 5 p.m.).

- Ministers.
- Butts Levy (opening speaker, Mr. T. A. Wood).
- Meet Inspection in Nairobi (Capt. E. Hutchinson).
- New Seal Society for Nairobi (opening speaker, H. F. Baumgarten).
- Police Retirement.
- Registration of Voters (opening speaker, Mr. J. M. Linton).
- Any other business.

(Signed) J. J. DOBSON.  
Hon. Secretary.

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