

# FLOGGING THE NATIVES

## They Use Hippotamus Whips On The Shores of Victoria Nyanza.

Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

**M**WANZA.—Can the African native be controlled without flogging? This is a live question out here on the shores of Victoria Nyanza. The British laws are strict in regard to this matter, and the white man who is liable to fine and imprisonment. It is now only a few months since three negroes who had committed white women were publicly flogged by Capt. Grogan, the head of the "Colonists' association" in front of the court-house at Nairobi. This created a stir in England, and Grogan and those who helped him were punished by a mild imprisonment. On the British East Africa, the flogging is one of the sanctions of the courts. In Uganda, the flogging is done on the ground. His clothes are taken off and one man sits on the small of the back and another on the thighs, the flogging being done on the fleshy parts between to prevent permanently injuring the man.

In German East Africa I am told that any negro who insults him 15 lashes, but that if more punishment than this is demanded the case must be brought before the courts of Lake Victoria and down here at Mwanza I find that every popo-man has a whip with him. The popo-man is called the kaboko. It is a strip of the thick skin of the hippopotamus about a yard long trimmed down at the sides to the diameter of one's hand and made tapering at one end.

Such a whip is a terrible weapon. It is heavy and flexible and will cut like a knife. It requires only a light blow to draw blood, and the expert flogger brings down a kaboko on the bare flesh with a peculiar twist, which saves it from breaking. The natives who receive their knuckles and bog for mercy if they even shake a whip at them.

Peters had ordered to be served for his dinner. Dr. Peters first gave the man an order to get back the chicken and then flogged him.

During my trip about Victoria Nyanza, I have been accompanied by the famous missionary, Archdeacon Walker, who was in Uganda at the time Peters passed through here. He tells me that the learned German doctor boasted to him that he had killed 27 blacks while he was in the country and that he evidently thought nothing of shooting a native down in cold blood.

### HOW THE GERMANS FAILED TO ACQUIRE UGANDA

It was from Archdeacon Walker, that I learned how near the Germans came to getting possession of the rich province of Uganda, and thereby the control of the whole of Lake Victoria. The British were attempted by Prince Bismarck and the German government. I do not know, but the movement was engineered by this same Dr. Peters. The incident occurred about 1890, when the relations between King Mwanga and the British government were exceedingly strained. Mwanga, who then reigned in Uganda, had said that if the English would furnish troops to support him in his trouble with his subjects, he was ready to make a treaty with them and thereby bring his country under their protection. Archdeacon Walker wrote a letter to this effect for the king, and sent it to Mr. Jackson, the commissioner of British East Africa. The man who took the letter was captured on the way and it fell into the hands of Dr. Karl Peters, who was then traveling through the country as a soldier of fortune and diplomat combined. As the story goes, Dr. Peters tore the letter up and then by forced marches reached Uganda before his loss became known. In consequence of the delay he was able to make treaties with King Mwanga, whereas Uganda should come under the protection of the Germans.

In the meantime, however, the officials of Germany and England had come together and had held a conference over African matters, during which they made an agreement as to the boundary between the German and English possessions. By this agreement all of the country lying south of a line which goes about midway through Lake Victoria was given to the Kaiser and all north of that to Queen Victoria, then reigning. The little island of Heligoland as a consideration therefor. The Germans, as I understand it, had as yet received no news of what Peters had done in Uganda, and when it did become known this treaty made his work of no avail.

### THE CASE OF DR. KARL PETERS.

Most of the German officials claim that it is impossible to keep the natives in subjugation except by the whip. This was the opinion of Dr. Karl Peters, who was dismissed from the position as imperial commissioner of the district about Kilimandjaro on account of his brutality towards the natives. The case was brought up by a libel suit which Dr. Peters instituted some months ago against the Meuninger Post. That paper had called him a hangman, a murderer and a coward, and had published the story of his flogging three female servants and the hanging of others. In the libel suit which followed several German officials who had served in East Africa testified that the natives could be ruled without flogging. One of the witnesses was Gen. Albert, a former governor of German East Africa, and others were Herr Kuhnert, a well known animal painter who had recently been here and Father Acker of the African mission. Gen. Liebert said that it was absolutely necessary to use the whip with the natives and that he regretted the mildness of the present official. Herr Kuhnert averred that it was impossible to treat them with too much severity. He said he had seen one of the negroes when she was flogged by Dr. Peters and the punishment did not seem cruel to him. Father Acker said that one could not govern the natives without flogging, and that he himself had often caused men and women to be whipped.

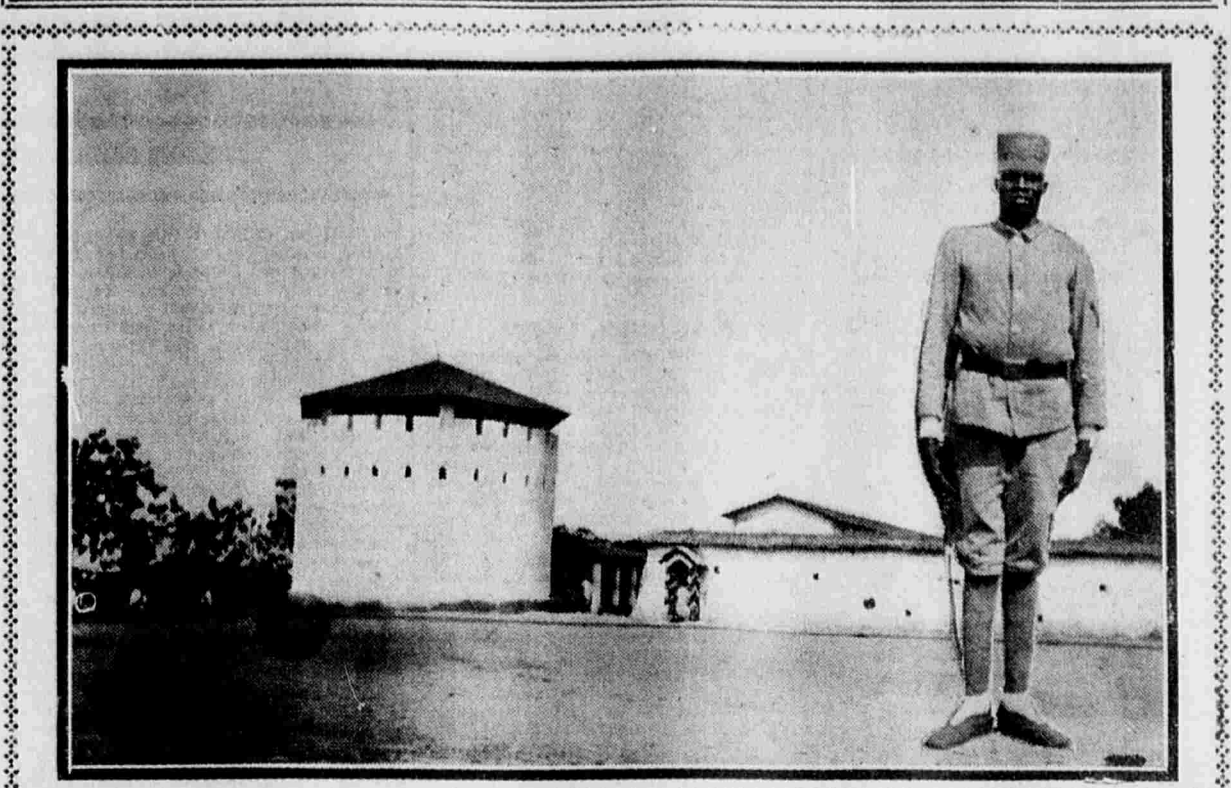
### BISMARCK'S BAD BARGAIN.

Heligoland, the country which they thus got in exchange for one of the best regions of the African continent, comprising a territory larger than the whole German empire, and far richer and including a population of 4,000,000 of the best of the African natives, was a little island in the North sea, covering less than 130 acres and populated only by fishermen to the number of something like 2,000. Moreover, that island is fast being eaten up by the sea. A few centuries ago it was five times its present size, and it grows less every year. On the other hand, Uganda is now setting out cotton plantations. There are roads all through it, and the people claim that you can go over them for a distance of 600 miles in an automobile. The land is rich in rubber and other resources, and it also controls the source of the Nile. Verily, the British had the best of that bargain.

### BUSINESS IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

The German officials here seem to be well satisfied with their colony. They say it is richer than British East Africa, and in support of their statement, point to the fact that it already

## The Case of Dr. Karl Peters—How The Germans Lost Uganda—A Bad Bargain Bismarck Made—The Kagera River Region—Native Soldiers Trained by the Germans—More About the Basukumas—Professional Rain Makers—How Bad Luck Babies Bring Drouth—The Thirty-Five Devils of Uganda.



GERMAN FORT AT MWANZA—EVERY SOLDIER CARRIES HIS WHIP WITH HIM.

Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

has a larger native population. British East Africa has something like 4,000,000, and this country has 2,000,000 or 3,000,000. The most of the colony is high and healthy. It has extensive grass lands, and many of the natives are more than ordinarily thrifty.

Take, for instance, the lands along the Kagera river, which flows into the lake on the edge of Uganda. I met two officers here who have been stationed in that country. They tell me that the soil is fertile, and that it is covered with a thick sod of fine grass. Much of the country is a mile above the sea and is well suited to be the residence of white men. These officers tell me that when railway communication can be made German colonists will come in, and the country will be developed as an agricultural and stock raising region. At present it is thickly populated by natives who rear many cattle, sheep and goats.

### THE KAGERA RIVER.

The Kagera river rises not far from Lake Tanganyika, and the lower portion of it can be made navigable for steamers. It flows not far from the Cape to Cairo road, and it may form an important link in the chain of rail and water which is to go north and south through this part of the continent. I am told that if the bar at its mouth is dredged out, boats of considerable draft can steam so near to Lake Tanganyika that the building of 50 miles or so

of railroad will practically connect the two lakes.

As it is now, it is the intention of the railroad builders to use Lake Tanganyika, which is 400 miles long, and Lake Albert Edward and Albert Nyanza, both quite extensive, as a part of the Cape to Cairo system. They are all deep and easily navigable. Indeed the richest part of that route is through the Nile and its tributaries. The road is now within about 400 miles from the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, and it will be through the Nile and its tributaries. The road is now within about 400 miles from the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, and it will be through the Nile and its tributaries. The road is now within about 400 miles from the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, and it will be through the Nile and its tributaries.

### BISMARCK IN AFRICA.

The Germans have erected a monument to Prince Bismarck out here on the southern shores of Victoria Nyanza. It stands with its back to the lake and its face towards the town of Mwanza. It consists of a bronze medallion as big around as the head of a flour barrel, bearing the bust of the great chancellor. This medallion is cemented to a pyramid or obelisk, which stands in a beautiful grove. Just back of it there is a bar of rock 100 feet high, and all about are trees and banana plants. I understand there are other monuments to Bismarck in one of the German towns along the coast of the Indian ocean, and that a fine statue of

him has been erected at Dar es Salaam.

### THE NATIVE SOLDIERS.

The Germans are organizing a native army out here, which shows the effect of their system of military training. They already have 2,500 native soldiers, officered by about 200 Germans. The men are put through the same exercises as the soldiers at home. They are big fellows, well set up and very muscular, many being over six feet in height and large in proportion. The most of them have been brutal fates, and they look as though they might be butchers in battle. I have gone about through the villages with some of these troops during my stay. Each man carries a hippopotamus whip with him and so uses it that he has no trouble in making himself respected by the ordinary native.

### IN THE BASUKUMA TOWNS.

The people here are not as wealthy as those of Uganda. They wear less clothing, and their houses are poorer. The average Uganda hut looks picturesque. It is made of cane, bent and woven together and thatched with straw, the roof often extending down to the ground. The huts of the Basukumas have walls of sticks set upright in the earth, and laced with vines running in and out through them. After this the walls are chinked with mud, and a cone-shaped roof is put on. The doors are so low that one has to stoop to enter them, and it requires some engineering to go in and out, as the door

may swing either way. Sometimes it is hung at the top and sometimes at the bottom, or it may be lifted in and out at will. The huts are seldom more than 10 or 12 feet in diameter, and such is divided into rooms for sleeping and cooking. The cooking is done in the center of the hut on a fire built over stones, which sits on the ground. The cooking utensils are usually clay pots and the chief food is a porridge made of stewed millet.

The people also have corn and peanuts in addition to millet, and they grind all three by pounding them in a mortar and rubbing them between stones. The stones look as though they might have been picked up from the wayside. The lower one rested on the edge of a basket, and as the flour was worked down into the basket, the upper one was used as a pestle. I find but little furniture in any of the houses. The people sleep on the ground and they squat about on the floor when they eat. They have no tables and no chairs. A few houses contain stools eight or ten inches high, and in one or two I saw low frames, which were evidently used as beds. The Basukumas are skilled in making baskets of all sizes, including enormous grain baskets for the straw. The latter are used in nearly every hut for storing millet and corn and other such things. I saw one which measured five feet in height and at least eight feet in diameter. I would, I venture, hold a good-sized cow and leave room to spare.

### WITH THE WITCH DOCTORS.

In one of the yards I visited this morning I found a group of men on their knees about a woman, seated on the ground. The woman was of an ebony blackness, but her eyes were ringed with white paint, and across her cheeks were streaks of the same material. She was dressed in a white hair and other adornments, which made her look hideous. She was a witch doctor, and had been brought in to cure a man who had been afflicted with a fever. Going onward, I saw many evidences of other superstitions. In one yard were a lot of straw mats, which I thought were for the sick, and I saw a man until my guide, Sasfras, told me they were put up to ward off the devil. Sasfras firmly believes in witches. He says all trouble comes from them, and that if one kills a chicken and examines its entrails the way they lie in the chicken will tell him whether the man or woman he suspects of bewitching him is guilty or not. I understand that such oracles are often the test of witchcraft, and that if a man unexpectedly dies his friends suppose he has been hoodooed. Nearly all deaths are supposed to be caused by witches, the witch doctors are always called in at such times to find out who has made the special charm which has caused the calamity. Sicknes is thought to be the work of an enemy or perhaps of an ancestral spirit. If it is an enemy the medicine man or woman sacrifices a victim, a charm or tells him to wear a leopard skin or something of that kind. If this fails an attempt is made to smelt out the witch, and in this case the person pointed out is liable to be beaten to death.

### PROFESSIONAL RAINMAKERS.

Prof. Willis Moore of our weather bureau ought to come out to Lake Victoria and learn something of the real science of the weather. The lands south of the lake are frequently troubled with drouths, and it is on this account that the witches and rainmakers flourish. I am told that some of the chiefs and satans are supposed to be able to make rain, and that they are liable to lose their jobs at the first long dry spell. Ancestors are sacrificed, too, in order to bring rain, and there are certain unfailing signs which indicate that a drouth is coming. One of these is the advent of rains. This is the greatest ill-luck any community can have, and the woman who brings it upon a village is sometimes banished.

There are certain kinds of babies who are just the reverse of mascots. They are called bad-luck children, and when

one is born trouble is sure to follow. One of these is a baby born with seven eyes, and another one that gets its upper teeth first. If the teeth sprout out in the upper jaw before they do in the lower jaw, that is a sure sign of evil weather, and the child is supposed to bring it. Indeed, this belief is so strong that such children have been killed on account of the drouth which the drouth brought by them, has entailed.

This belief in evil spirits is common in all the countries lying south of Lake Victoria, and it was largely so in Uganda, north of the lake, until that country was converted to Christianity. Indeed, many of the Basakuma people still believe more or less in a legion of spirits. They have 35 different devils, one of whom presides over war, another over earthquakes and another over the plague. There is supposed to be a devil in every leopard, and it was to appease them that when the old kings built their palaces hundreds of men were slaughtered. Sacrifices were made to Kitinda, the man-eating demon, and also to the snake demon and others. The Basakumas had their god of plenty, their god of war and the rainbow, and their demons of thunder and the falling stars. In short, the whole world of Africa is supposed to be infested by spirits of all kinds and in every where present.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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### ORIGIN OF THE MAYPOLE.

May-Day ceremonies were not in origin a mere sign of rebelling that the trees against the trees and the flowers blooming once more," says J. Ernest Poythian, in his "Trees in Nature Myth and Art," recently published by George W. Jacobs & Co. "They were religious observances, believed to secure the blessing the spirit could bestow. The spirit which inhabited the tree inhabited the Maypole taken from the tree, and the dance around the Maypole was a religious ceremony. The gardens that children still carry from house to house were believed in the past to secure a visit from the spirit, and consequent well-being. The May-Queen and Jack-in-the-Green were, in origin, human forms of the tree-spirit. The belief that the Maypole ensures fertility, both in women and cattle, is not yet extinct in Europe, and in some parts of Germany, on May-Day, the peasants set up May-trees at the doors of stable and cow-houses, a tree for each horse and cow, to ensure fertility, and that the cows will give plenty of milk."

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### PROSPEROUS TIMES FOR BEET SUGAR

The higher price of sugar is already reflected in increased profits for the beet sugar industry. The stock of the American Beet Sugar company has advanced in price and the New York Journal of Commerce has this to say on the subject:

"In explanation of the recent sharp advance in the shares of the American Beet Sugar Company, persons who claim to be in a position to know the facts in the case state that the net earnings of the company for the year ended March 31 last reached a total of something like \$1,000,000, equal to about 45 per cent on the common stock after deducting charges and 6 per cent on the preferred, against \$71,000 in the previous year. As a result of the shortage in the Cuban sugar crop, which is now generally estimated at about 300,000 tons, as against 1,400,000 tons the previous year, the company is getting higher prices than ever before for its sugar.

To the above may be added the growing freedom of the market for the New York Journal of Commerce. The statement was evidently inspired by rumors that the Sugar Trust had gathered everything up, including the control of the American Beet Sugar company.

With regard to reports that the American Beet Sugar Company is controlled by the American Sugar Refining Company, H. R. Duval, chairman of the board of directors of the former concern, says: "The American Sugar Refining company has never had control of the American Beet Sugar Company, nor has any interest or persons connected with the American Sugar Refining company.

The annual report of the Beet Sugar Company, which will be issued shortly, will show a surplus over charges of \$600,000, but the necessities of the company demand a large increase in the working capital, and additional expenditures for improvements to the plants, land and irrigation. The company owns 20,000 acres of land, 5,000 in California and 15,000 in Colorado, the retention of which is essential toward supplying sugar beets for the factories."

### PAT'S REASONING.

An Englishman and an Irishman were walking along a country road when they crept into a farmyard and stole a horse from the stable. Pat, thinking that the horse was no good without the cart, stole a cart from the same place. The news at once spread about that Farmer Giles had had a horse and cart stolen, and the police were soon on their track. The policeman, meeting the Englishman with the horse, inquired of him where he got the cart, and the Englishman replying that the cart belonged to him, said: "How can you prove it?" asked the policeman.

"Because I have had it since it was a foal," was the answer.

Pat overheard this conversation. He was pulling the cart along when the policeman stopped him, asking him if the cart belonged to him.

"Sure," said Pat, "why, I have had this cart ever since it was a wheelbarrow."—Judge's Library.

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