



# THE UGANDA

## HOW JOHN BULL SUCCESSFULLY GOVERNS FOUR MILLIONS OF AFRICAN NATIVES

Uganda as the Cream of the Black Continent—Its Enormous Extent and Its Many Odd People—Mount Elgon and Its Cave Dwellers—The Pigmies of the West—The King's African Rifles—A Glance at Entebbe, the British Capital—Talks with the Officials—How They Govern Through the Chiefs, Etc., Etc.

ENTEBBE.—Take a seat with me on the mud veranda of the mud hotel at Entebbe and look out over Lake Victoria, while I tell you something of this Uganda protectorate which the British have recently added to their share of the white man's burden. You had best keep your hat on. There are lizards and scorpions in the thatched roof overhead and some may fall down upon us as we talk. I advise you, also, to tie your shoes tight and by no means to rest your bare feet on the floor. It is true it is plastered with cow dung and that ought to keep out the ants and the jiggers. The latter insects, however, have a way of crawling in under one's toe nails and laying little sacks of eggs in the skin, which, if they hatch, may cause the loss of our toes. I have had 10 jiggers taken out of my feet since I came into Uganda, and, now, I suppose, my native servant, goes over with my toes every morning.

Do you see that black hand moving across the path down there in front? It is made up of ants which will attack you if you come near it. They are the famous warrior ants, whose bite feels like red-hot pinners and whose

heads have to be torn from their bodies before they will let go. They are far more dangerous than that baby lion who is tied with a clothline about his neck to a tree nearby. He is only about as big as a Scotch collie and is not old enough to know how strong he is. He was brought in last night by a traveler from Lake Tanganyika, who also owns the two gray parrots with red bills, who, perched in the tree above it, use alternately whistling and scolding.

### ON THE EQUATOR.

Before we begin our talk let us look around and try to realize where we are. This mud hotel is called the Equatorial. It is situated right on the equator, and by spreading out our legs we could almost straddle the same. Nevertheless, we are about 4,000 feet above the sea, and the cool breeze from Victoria lake makes the air as delightful as Virginia in June. There are oranges and lemons growing out there in the garden, great bunches of feathery papayas are waving to and fro on the shores and we can see tall palms with their whispering leaves everywhere.

We are right on the edge of Victoria Nyanza, about as far inland as the western shores of Lake Erie are in from New York and right in the heart of the African continent. That lake was not known to the world until about 50 years ago, and today a large part of the lands surrounding it are unexplored. The equator goes right through the lake and it is only about 60 miles south of it that the German possessions begin. This part of Lake Victoria belongs to Great Britain, and all the vast territory extending from here to the Mediterranean Sea, as the crow flies the distance is farther than from Philadelphia to the Great Salt Lake, and the country contains some of the richest lands upon earth. Every one knows of the wealth of Egypt, which has never been so rich as since the British took hold. The Sudan has vast territories equally fertile, and Uganda, away down here at the Nile's source among the highest of the African mountains, is in some respects richer than all.

### THE UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

Indeed, the English officials tell me that Uganda is the cream of the African continent. I have now been traveling some weeks through it, and I can say that it is true. There is no other place where so many valuable crops can be grown. In some of the provinces the natives raise grain with practically no cultivation, and others have bananas and other tropical fruits. In another

letter I shall write of the great possibilities of cotton, which is already being raised here and there; and shall treat of the stock growing prospects which promise to make Uganda the great meat market of England.

The land is one of great forests as well as of rich plains covered with grass. It is a land of rubber, and it has vast resources in fibers which may be used for the making of paper, rope and cloth. I have already spoken of the bark blankets which are used by a million of more of the natives as dresses; but I have said nothing of the rubber fiber which is brought here to Entebbe for shipment to England where it brings as high as \$150 a ton. This country can raise hemp as good as that produced in the Philippines, and China grass and sisal are said to thrive equally well.

The Uganda protectorate is rich in minerals. Hematite ore is found almost everywhere, copper has been discovered in the central provinces and gold is said to exist in some places. There are also deposits of white china clay of great value in certain localities, and the natives themselves make pottery from it.

### UGANDA AS THE SUN SEES IT.

But suppose we take a look at Uganda as the sun sees it. The country lies on the roof of the African continent. Where it borders Lake Victoria it is about as high up in the air as the highest of the Alleghenies, and the crater of Mount Elgon which rises in the central province, a little north of the lake, rises sky 100 feet higher than the top of Pike's peak. Away off to the east are Mounts Kilimanjaro and Kenya, and at the west are the mighty highlands of the Congo. The country is almost surrounded by water. On the south is Lake Victoria, on the west are Albert Edward and Albert Nyanza joined by the Semuliki, and further down is the Nile. On the east is Lake Rudolf, an enormous body of water, and throughout the whole country are beautiful little lakes, ponds, rivers and creeks.

The general nature of the country is rolling. It has many hills and hollows and undulating plains, with swamps in the valleys. The hills are covered with grass and the valleys are fertile. Other as far as the eye can see. The swamps are often spotted with woods, and one is never out of sight of the papayas, the banana trees and groves of which the Egyptians made paper.

As to the extent of the protectorate, it contains altogether more land than New England added to New York, Maryland and Virginia. It has a bigger population than New England and bigger than that of any state of our Union, with the exception of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio or Illinois. The people all told number between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000, and of these con-

siderably over 1,000,000 are Christians. These are the semi-civilized Baganda. In the country I now am.



ONE OF THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES.

Five Great Provinces.

The British have divided up this territory into five provinces. Originally they made six, but within the last year or so, they have taken off the lands lying east of the lake and given them to British East Africa. That province contains the naked Kavirondo, of whom I have already written. It is traversed by the Uganda railway, which terminates on the lake at Fort Florence. The five provinces of Uganda, consist of the kingdom of Uganda, the central province to the east of it, the western province lying between it and Lakes Albert Edward and Albert, and the Rudolf and Nile provinces at the north.

The central province, which is almost directly north of Victoria Nyanza, is fertile to an extreme. It borders on the Kavirondo, and many of its people go naked. It is densely populated, and its people raise cattle, sheep and goats. They also do considerable farming. One of the most characteristic features of this province is Mount Elgon, which ranks as one of the high-

mountains of the continent. It is an enormous volcano, whose lower slopes are covered with forests and on whose top are frequent snowmets, although it is almost on the equator.

Among the curious features of this mountain are its caves, which have been inhabited by the natives for ages. They use them as homes, and as stables for their cattle, sheep and goats. The cattle caves are never cleaned, and the manure of ages beds their floors. They swarm with fleas and the stench is terrible. Roads are now being cut through the central province by the native chiefs, and one would have no difficulty in journeying through it.

### WESTERN UGANDA.

The poorest part of the Uganda protectorate is in the north. The country fades out into the desert not far from Lake Rudolf, and the Nile province partakes somewhat of the nature of the Sudan. As to the western province, that is high and healthy. It is a broken tableland, a great part of it a mile above the sea rising in some places to high mountains. The country is well watered, and a large part of it is covered with a tropical forest filled with monkeys. The people are well-developed black negroes who devote themselves largely to stock raising. They have cattle with horns so large that they seem to be leading the beasts. In this same region there are pygmies just like those which Stanley describes as living in the forests of the Congo.

Those western natives are not so advanced as those of Uganda proper. Many of them go naked, and others are clad only in aprons of bark cloth held by strings. They have their waists decorated with cowrie shells. These natives ornament their bodies with scars. I have seen some who have their breasts and stomachs cut in such patterns that they somewhat resemble Persian shawls. Many of them file their teeth and altogether they are low in the scale of African civilization.

### THE CAPITAL OF UGANDA.

I wish we could send Uncle Sam to Entebbe and show him how John Bull handles those millions of savages. This country has more than half as many people as the Philippines, and some of them have for ages been noted for their warlike characters. John Bull takes care of them all with a few score of officials and about 2,500 soldiers. His soldiers are almost all native blacks, and most of them have been recruited from the country itself. There are a few East Indians, Sikhs, but the army is mainly made up of what is known as the king's African rifles, who are commanded by British generals, colonels and captains. This force consists of 1,500 blacks, and, in addition, there are 1,000 native constables. It seems a small army to control 4,000,000 people.

Nevertheless, the country is kept in perfect order, and law courts have been established in all the provinces. There is a supreme court to which appeals

may be made. The people pay their taxes in some of the provinces they are establishing schools, and altogether they are far better off than they have ever been before.

### ENTEBBE.

This town of Entebbe is the capital of Uganda. It has the greater part of the white population, which consists of just 400 souls, embracing 33 women. The men are chiefly British officials. They are well educated young fellows, fond of sport and devoted to tennis and golf, which they play almost every day. The women are, as a rule, fine-looking English girls, the wives and daughters of these officials. They dress as well as our girls at home, and if one could lift up this white colony and drop it down in any city of England or the United States the people would not be out of place.

And how do these people live? Well, here at the capital they are better off than in many parts of the interior. They have houses of sun-dried brick, roofed with galvanized iron. Very few of the houses are of more than one story, but they have wide verandas and the rooms are spread out over the ground. Many of them are surrounded by beautiful gardens, filled with all sorts of tropical plants and trees. The houses are built far apart along wide roads of the red dirt of Uganda. Some of the roads are lined with flowering trees, the most common being the Cape lily, which is now bearing a great mass of blue flowers. Indeed, there are so many flowers and plants that one seems to be going through a botanical garden as he walks along the streets.

The business part of the capital is given up to the East Indians. There are a half-dozen or more galvanized iron stores filled with goods to sell to the natives. The brown-skinned merchants wear little yellow skull caps, calico pantaloons and long coats, buttoned high up in the neck. They have yellowish brown faces, dark eyes and black hair.

The government buildings are scattered here and there over the hills. They are usually roofed with galvanized iron. They have brick walls and wide porches. There are no native huts in the town proper, and as a rule very few buildings thatched with straw. The police barracks form one of the exceptions. These lie on the western edge of Entebbe, and they consist of rude Nuba houses, with cone-shaped roofs.

### A CENTRAL AFRICAN HOTEL.

The hotel here is about the only one in central Africa. In most other places one has to have his own tent or stop with the officials. I am usually able to get in with an official, and this was the case at Kampala, the native capital. This new hotel is an oddity. It is made of mud and grass. The main building is, I judge, about 50 feet square and it measures about 25 feet to the eave of the thatched roof. Its walls are only 12 feet high, but the roof does not begin for several feet above them, a space of a yard perhaps being left for air between the walls and the rafters. This main part of the hotel contains a diningroom, a parlor and a billiard room, with kitchens off at the side.

The bedrooms are bungalow-like sheds made of mud and thatched with straw. They are some distance away from the hotel itself and run around the walls of the compound. Each bedroom opens out upon a little porch of lodge floored with mud and coated over with cowdung well smoothed down. way, but each has a rush mat made of papyrus reeds from Lake Victoria running across it. The beds themselves consist of a rude framework of wood, to which are woven strips of antelope skins. Upon these rush matting is laid, and then a thin mattress of Uganda cotton. Every bed has its mosquito netting. This region is very malarious and no one would think of sleeping here without such protection. As for the food of the hotel, it is fairly good for central Africa, although it would be poor anywhere else. The chief trouble is the cooking, which is universally bad. As to variety, we had at our last dinner a soup, some fish, fried beans, dessert began with a slice of papaya, a delicious melon-like fruit which grows on a tree here, and ended with coffee. The hotel rate is \$2 a day, including rooms and board.

### RULED THROUGH CHIEFS.

During my stay here I have had some talks with officials as to how they controlled Uganda. They tell me that they rule as far as possible through the natives. Each petty locality has its own system of government and its own laws as far as possible, and the machinery in these systems, through the native council and the king or the officers appointed to represent him. The council or lukiko consists of 20 chiefs, each of which has his own county or district with his court. These counties are subdivided and given over to subordinate chiefs, until there is perhaps a chief to each village of any size. The chiefs receive money from the British government and in return they collect the taxes and turn them into the treasury. The taxes are assessed at so much to each hut, the amount being usually about \$1 per year. This seems low, but when it is remembered that it requires about a month of good hard work to make a dollar out here in Uganda, it will be seen that it is pretty high after all.

I have met many of the Baganda chiefs during my stay. They are very intelligent. Not a few are able to read, having learned to do so in the mission schools. I have written a book, and all are more than ordinarily bright. Not a few of them are now keeping their court proceedings in typewriting, the native language having been adapted to the Roman letters so that the ordinary machine can be used.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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## National Forest Reserve and Wild Horses of Nevada

WILD horses by the thousands are overrunning the government national forests of Nevada and neighboring states, and the authorities in Washington are besieged with petitions from stockmen and farmers begging them to put a stop to the nuisance. A recent dispatch from Reno conveyed the intelligence that there are 15,000 of the untamed beasts upon the Toiyabe, Toiyabe and Monitor forest reserves in Lander county alone, and that orders have been received by the forest rangers to begin a systematic war of extermination upon them. This dispatch, although twisted as to facts, does not exaggerate the number of horses now supposed to be roaming at large in the districts mentioned. As a matter of probable truth, there are a good many more than 15,000 wild horses in Nevada and the neighboring states, and every herd is a pest to the owners of vegetation and domestic stock.

The part of the Reno telegram which is not true in that relating to the orders sent from Washington, says the New York Tribune. Neither the forest rangers nor any other employees of the government have been told to destroy the horses, and unless they do receive such orders they will confine their energies to fencing crops from the trespassing animals or rounding them up when they appear and threaten damage to the range. Indeed, if half the stories brought to the capital are true, all the rangers in Uncle Sam's service would have little chance of destroying the big herds that are roaming over the western states.

CLASSED AS VARMINTS. Within the last few years they have increased to such an extent that in many localities they are classed as "varmints," with wolves, wildcats and grizzlies, and every man's life is turned against them. No fence is strong enough to stop these horses, and when they appear in force they have even been known to knock down and kill cows and calves. After each visitation from a herd the ranchman is likely to mourn the loss of his domestic horses, and it requires only a few days' association with their new companions for the best broken animals to become as wild as their homelike comrades.

NEW INDUSTRY. A study of the wild horse problem brings to light many interesting facts about the animals. The legislature of Nevada, it seems, passed a law many years ago specifically allowing hunters to shoot wild horses and to sell their hides for what they could get in the open market. The law opened the way to a new and unusual industry,

and many men found the killing of wild horses very profitable. Besides the added zest of sport, as time went on and the business of killing these "outlaws" (as the horses were often termed) on the ranges assumed greater and greater proportions, stockmen found that the professional hunters were, in many cases, abusing their rights and were killing branded and shod horses. This put an end to the business, for on complaint of the stockmen the Nevada legislature promptly repealed the law. It is estimated that 15,000 animals were killed during the time that the law was in force. This figure gave the basis for last week's story.

### SERIOUS QUESTION.

The report, however, had good basis of fact, for the wild horse question has grown to be as serious in the last few years as it was when the Nevada legislature was forced to enact the old law. The United States forest service has not given orders to the rangers to shoot the horses, and it has no right to do so. The forest officers of the Nevada national forests realize how bad conditions are, and will do anything to stop the stockmen to put down the nuisance.

Any one who finally discovers an effective method to settle this problem will have done a great service for the stockmen of every state west of the Missouri river. As an old and experienced stockman, now in the employ of Uncle Sam, said of this wild horse problem: "Theoretically it seems a very simple matter to handle, but practically it is quite the reverse." On the ranges of many of the national forests the supervisors have been at their wits' end for several years trying to devise a method to meet the difficulty. Apparently an entirely satisfactory method can not be found because of the inadequate stray laws now enforced in the different states. Under the circumstances, the following plan has been recommended by the conditions in the national forests: "If the presence of the horses is seriously damaging the national forest range and public sentiment favors such action, the supervisor may, upon petition of a majority of the permittees of a grazing district, allow the horses to be gathered and disposed of according to the state or territorial laws. In such cases the forest service will, upon recommendation from the supervisor, co-operate in the construction of corrals or fences for the purpose of confining the horses."

### TRESPASS CHARGES.

"Forest officers may drive unpermitted horses from the national forests at any time, but if the owners of the horses are known and ownership acknowledged the owner should be allowed to adjust the matter by paying

the grazing fee. If he refuses to apply for a permit, then a trespass charge should be brought against him and the case conducted according to instructions.

"Unbranded horses may be handled according to the state stray laws, but forest officers cannot be allowed to gather such horses for the purposes of using or selling them, nor can they be allowed to collect any compensation from any person for corralling unclaimed horses. The policy of the forest service will be, therefore, to co-operate with the stockmen of the state or territorial authorities when they take the initiative in disposing of wild horses in the national forests, but the present law and regulations do not admit of independent action by the forest service."

### PREDATORY ANIMALS.

The wild horse problem is only one of the many which stockmen have to contend with which the government is trying in one way or another to solve on the ranges of the national forests. Predatory animals, such as wolves, coyotes, mountain lions and wildcats, do thousands of dollars' worth of damage to stock each year in all parts of the country. On some ranges forest officers have to contend with rustlers, who sometimes succeed in stealing the greater part of the stock which the predatory animals do not kill.

### MEETS THEM HALF WAY.

Uncle Sam has always shown a disposition to co-operate with the stockmen in combating these nuisances; in fact, he is doing better than merely meeting the stockmen half way in the work. In many of the national forests rangers for the last year and guards have been assigned to the work of hunting and trapping, with the sole aim of killing off the animals that prey upon the stock. The work has met with marked success, and hundreds of wolves and coyotes have succumbed to the bullets and the poison of the hunters. Each animal killed means a decided saving to the sheep industry, for it is estimated that one wolf averages about \$1,000 damage each year.

### ARE CO-OPERATING.

Forest officers are co-operating with the stock associations to stop the stealing of livestock and run the rustlers out of the country. The war on poisonous plants has been carried on for more than a year by the forest service, in co-operation with the bureau of plant industry, and while the investigations have just begun, it is already seen that their growth can be checked in many states.

If it is possible to check the wild horse nuisance as easily as the other troubles which have bothered the stock interests, both the stockmen and forest officers will find the western ranges out of another serious drawback which helps to retard progress in the business.

### BAVARIAN BARBER BAD BLACKMAILER.

(Continued from page thirteen.) barber himself, he doesn't seem to have cared to shave himself, and his barber's bill for the year was \$150. Very large sums were spent upon jewelry. Frank Wood, who appeared in court in a handsome costume, seems to have had very expensive tastes in dress. On one occasion he paid \$20 for a hat and gave it away the next day to his housemaid. Her dressmaker's bills ran into some \$1,200 a year.

The jury were not long in finding both prisoners guilty. Wood was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$750 and 10 years' loss of civil rights, and his wife received the same term and fine, and five years' loss of civil rights. It is stated that shortly before the trial Wood attempted to commit suicide, but the prison warders frustrated his efforts.

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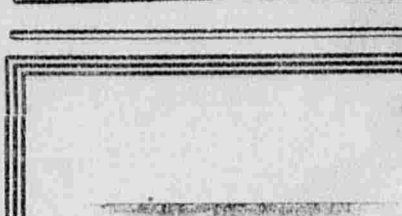
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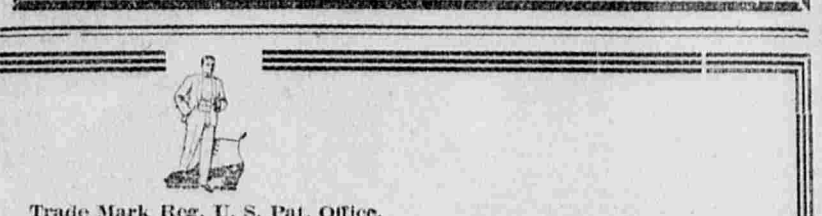
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