

# ETHIOPIA LANDLOCKED BY EUROPEAN NATIONS

GENEVA, Switzerland, August 2.—The principal relevant facts about Ethiopia around which rages the controversy which threatens to develop into war may be briefly summarized. Ethiopia is an inland country, or Empire, since it includes peoples who are not properly Ethiopians, in North-East Africa, lying between five degrees and 15 degrees North and 35 degrees and 42 degrees East, bounded on the North by Eritrea (Italian), on the West by the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, on the East by the French British, and Italian possessions in Somaliland, on the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, while to the South are territories in which Great Britain is interested, notably Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, besides, at one remove the Belgian Congo.

The two Italian possessions contain between them about 1,000,000 inhabitants; the French strip only about 9,000, though in it is the port Djibouti, which is linked by rail with Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia; the British part of Somaliland 350,000, while the Sudan population is put at 6,000,000 in round figures, Kenya at 2,600,000 Uganda at 3,200,000 Tanganyika at 4,200,000; and the Belgian Congo at 15,000,000 if one includes Ruanda-Urundi which is mandated.

## BRITISH INVOLVED

It will be seen, therefore, that the interests of a number of countries, which are more or less immediate neighbors, are involved in the Ethiopian question and that Great Britain is particularly concerned. It is particularly concerned, not only in East Africa as such, but because of Egypt itself which is joined up to the Ethiopian lake Tana by the Nile, and because of the whole Arabian scene, which lies across the Red Sea, with the Suez Canal at one end and the port of Aden at the other.

Ethiopia is thus cut off from the sea by Ethiopian powers, though the European possessions are only from 40 to 250 miles in depth. Both Britain and Italy have offered ports, which unfortunately might be rivals to the French Djibouti at Zeila and Assab. Other ports are Berbera (British) and Massawa (Italian).

Ethiopia is narrow in the north—about 230 miles across—and wide in the south—900 miles. Properly, it may be said to consist of the former kingdom of Tigre, Amhara, Gojjam, and Shoa; with more recent acquisitions in the south and east of Galla, Kalla, Danakil, and Ethiopian Somaliland with Harrar, which the present Emperor regards as his personal domain. Its whole area is 350,000 square miles.

## UNSCALABLE MOUNTAINS

Between the low-lying regions of the east and southwest are elevated plateaus with mountain ranges. The walls of these highlands rise abruptly, almost perpendicularly in many places. There are deep and narrow clefts through which run torrents, which often lose themselves in the sandy soil of the plain. The fantastic shapes of the mountains, their fissures, their uncalability, make them extremely impressive in aspect.

In the event of military operations, unless these operations were confined to the lower levels, the offensive value of modern instruments of warfare would be largely nullified by the character of the country which renders it difficult of access.

The exact population is not known. It is usually put at from 10 to 12 millions, though well-known books of references continue to give figures, which are only about half, around five millions.

The climate is naturally—owing to the different heights—very variable. In the Somaliland and Danakil lowlands it is hot and dry and desertic; on the highlands it is temperate. From June to September, speaking generally there are heavy rains. It should be noted that heavy rain means a high Nile, for nearly all the flood water is derived from Ethiopian tributaries.

Apart from Addis-Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Harrar, there are no towns of any size, partly owing to the state of incessant warfare which existed for centuries. The roads, suitable for wheeled traffic, are few. The mineral deposits include gold, silver, platinum, iron coal, copper sulphur potash rock salt and doubtless the exploitation has been inadequate Manufacturing industries have not been developed Rubber can be obtained Coffee is cultivated

extensively and cotton, sugar cane, date palm and the vine thrive in many parts. There are large numbers of domestic animals.

It is often said that Ethiopia is a Christian country, but this statement needs very serious qualification.

In the fourth century a form of Christianity was grafted on to African heathenism, streaked with primitive Semitic ideas; and officially, despite the mixture of savage rites and loftier ethics, the state religion is a sort of Copt Christianity, with a head bishop consecrated by the Patriarch of Alexandria. But in addition there are many Muhammadans, to say nothing of the nondescript beliefs and practices of virtually uncivilized tribes.

The Ethiopians proper may be described as of Hamitic origin. Semitized by their relations with Arabia and adulterated by intermarriage with Negro and other conquered races it is from the Gallas, in part Moslem, or Pagan, that the army was mainly recruited, and most of the chiefs have some Galla blood. There are Palashas (the so-called Jews) and Negroes, and Ogaden, Issa and other Samalls, and the various peoples who have been treated as inferior and who for generations have been subjected to serfdom.

The slave-holding practices of Ethiopia have been rightly criticized, although there is no doubt that the present Emperor has done something to fulfill the promise made on the admission of Ethiopia to the League of Nations in 1923 gradually to abolish domestic slavery, and above all to prevent the traffic in human beings which has been operating for centuries.

Such is necessarily a slow process. To change the status of domestic slaves, as distinct from changing their mere name, involves a change of social habits and of thinking; it calls for an economic transformation by which the slaves will be given opportunities of earning their livelihood. It would be foolish to expect rapid progress, even though a European power, or European powers, established a protectorate.

But energetic measures have been taken by the Emperor and particularly by foreign powers, to stamp out slaves through their territory and across the Red Sea.

There can be no doubt that Haile Selassie, who succeeded to the throne in October, 1928, and was proclaimed Emperor in 1930, seeks the modernization of this country. But it should be remembered that something like the feudal system of the Middle Ages in Europe still exists, and though the authority of the princes of the provinces (the rases) has been diminished it would doubtless be dangerous to dispossess them. Besides, such education as there is remains largely in the hands of priests, and monks (though some secular schools have been founded at Addis Ababa, Harrar and other centres), and the influence of the priests, not always prepared for progress, is powerful.

Certainly the Emperor would run grave risks were he to engage in combat with all the conservative forces of the country. In many parts of it, it would be hazardous to say that his writ runs. However enlightened Haile Selassie may be (and it would be an exaggeration to suppose that he accepts European ideas *holus-bolus*—all at once), he has to reckon with deep-ingrained customs, a scattered people, a hierarchy, an absence of the machinery of central control, and difficulties of communication. It would certainly not advance matters to attempt to move precipately. Only recently an Eastern ruler was deposed because he tried to modernize his kingdom.

## Recent Documents

The principal international documents regulating the status of the Ethiopians—who, as Gibbon said, after their expulsion from Arabia in the seventeenth century, and the increasing successes of the followers of Mohammed, “encompassed by the enemies of their religion, slept for near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten”—date from the end of the last century and the beginning of the present

century. After the unhappy Italian campaign, the convention of Addis Ababa, of October, 1896, between Italy and the great Emperor Menelik, recognized their independence. Then an agreement was signed Dec. 12, 1906, by Great Britain, France and Italy, to respect the integrity of Ethiopia. They were to co-operate in maintaining the status quo. Should it, however be disturbed, the powers were to concert to safeguard their special interests. In 1908 a convention with Italy provided for the settlement of frontier questions on the spot—not worked out and now again acute.

By the notes of December 1925, were specifically defined the interests of Great Britain and Italy. Italy recognized the exclusive right of Great Britain to deal with the waters of Lake Tana; Great Britain agreed not to oppose the Italian scheme for railway development in the hinterland of Eritrea or Italian Somaliland. The French protected arrangements which were envisaged under the 1906 agreement.

On August 2, 1928, a treaty of friendship was signed by Italy and Ethiopia providing for arbitration in all disputes for a period of 20 years. By further agreement at the same time Ethiopia was granted a free zone at the port of Assab in Eritrea, and provision was made for the construction of a motor road from Assab to Dessie. Other economic and political advantages were contemplated, and one of the Italian complaints is that Ethiopia has shown bad faith in carrying out these promises.

## COLD AND SPARKLING

In the year 1850, there occurred in the city of London, an outbreak of cholera, known to history as the “Broad Street Pump Epidemic.” This pump which became famous, or infamous, as the source of a most terrible outbreak of cholera, had a fine local reputation because it provided water which was both cool and sparkling.

At this period, cholera was not a rare disease, but suddenly, in the Parish of St. James, Westminster, it burst forth in unusual severity, and over five hundred deaths occurred within three months. The well in Broad Street came under suspicion, and, to put an end to its use, the pump handle was removed by the authorities.

Suspicion was directed towards the well because investigation revealed the fact that the disease was practically limited to those who used the water; those who did not drink of the well, such as the employees of a brewery in Broad Street, escaped. It was shown that the disease developed in persons who, coming from other parts, used the water, as it did also among those who had the water brought to them.

The Broad Street Pump Epidemic is of interest to us as it was one of the first epidemics recognized as water-borne, and the necessary impetus was thus given to the provision of safe water supplies. The result of these unfortunate experiences is that who have learned the lesson, are no longer exposed to danger from cholera and other water-borne diseases.

Nevertheless, there are still some who have not learned the lesson. There are still those who think that water which is cold and sparkling must be safe. Every autumn we see fall victims to disease those who have forgotten that when they go out into the country, it is not safe to use water unless the supply is known to be safe, regardless of the appearance of the water.

It is always wise to boil water when there is any question as to its purity. The safety of water can be determined by means of certain tests. Provincial Health Departments arrange for the examination of well water and of other supplies. If you are intending to use an unknown supply, write to your Provincial Department of Health and secure information as to how to take samples for examination.

You cannot rely upon appearances. Disease germs are not visible to the naked eye. They may be present in large numbers, regardless of the clearness, cloudiness, warmth, coolness or other properties of the water. Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 134 College St., Toronto will be answered personally by letter.

# SUNDAY AT CITY CHURCHES

The usual services were held in the city churches on Sunday with fairly large congregations. At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. G. E. Ross spoke on “A Time to Sow and A Time to Reap”, in the morning, and in the evening spoke on “John's Vision of the World to Come”.

Union services were held at the Wilnot Church and St. Paul's United churches, public worship being in the Wilnot church in the morning and the sermon: “The Ministry of Desire”. At 7 P.M. service was held in St. Paul's Church and the sermon theme was: “Are We Fooling Ourselves?” Rev. J. W. Bartlett, pastor of Wilnot United Church, took over the services for August, it being his first appearance in the pulpit since his recent serious illness.

At Marysville United Baptist church Rev. D. L. Kennedy in the morning. At 7 p.m. another popular open air service was held in the Pine Grove near the ball field. The guest speaker was Rev. Richard B. Oliver, of Sudan, Africa.

At the Devon Baptist and Devon United churches union services were held. Rev. W. Steadman Smith of Marysville, spoke in the morning, and in the evening Rev. David L. Kennedy, the regular pastor, was in charge of the services.

# KILLED IN FALL WHILE HELPING UNLOAD FISH

YARMOUTH, N. S., Aug. 4.—Slipping as he was busily engaged unloading fish from the schooner on which he worked, Harry Veno, 48, was killed instantly when he fell head first on to the winch on the Gloucester, Mass., wharf. Word of the fatality was received in Yarmouth by the victim's brother Murray Veno, baseball player with the Yarmouth Gateways.

The schooner had just arrived at Gloucester from a trip to the Banks and all hands were active in unloading. Several persons saw Veno fall but none expected fatal consequences. When he was reached, a few seconds later, he appeared to be unconscious, but medical examination revealed he had died instantly.

He is survived by his wife, one son Edgar, Wakefield, Mass.; four brothers, Edgar, Gloucester; Bernard, Boston; Thomas, Lynn; and Murray, of Yarmouth; and one sister, Mrs. Edward Moulaison, Wakefield. He was born at Amiraault's Hill, N. S., son of the late Charles Veno and had made his home in Gloucester for the last 25 years. He had visited Yarmouth only three weeks ago.

## PROCESSING TAX DECLARED NO TAX

CHICAGO, August 3.—Ruling the federal processing tax is “not a tax at all,” Federal Judge John Barnes today granted a temporary injunction to 18 meat packing companies who sought to avoid paying about \$7,000,000 in such taxes on pork.

The meat packers, including Armour & Co., Swift & Co., and Wilson & Co., among the largest in the United States won a court order restraining the internal revenue department from enforcing payment of the overdue taxes, mostly for May.



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