

ETHIOPIA'S REAL LEADERS ARE THE WARLIKE AMHARAS

(By R. H. Markham) | |
ADDIS ABABA, October 7 — The capital of Ethiopia—over which dark war clouds hang—is almost as much a melting pot as the chief cities in America, for in the business part of town on a market day, one finds a dozen racial types and as many different complexions. A few decades ago there were not less than 40 kingdoms in the land, while even now there are a score of distinct regions, each of which has produced its special type.

One of the men who is most helpful to me in Ethiopia is black, fine featured, slight of build, with woolly hair and a vivacious temperament, and when I ask him what he is, he says "a Tigrean", which has nothing to do with the word tiger.

A boy who has served me in the hotel is an Oualamo. He also is dark, a little awkward, not very alert and always good-natured. He was helped, in serving the table, by a reddish brown attentive, lithe, straight-standing boy who says he's an Amhara. My horse boy is a Galla. The man who brings me an enormous bundle of wood once a week from three miles out of town is a Gurage. He carries the wood on his head and I use it for my fireplace for its cold up here in August, near the equator. My interpreter is a Godjamese. The jet black clumsy girls with shaved heads and wearing coarse clothes, who carry huge jars of water past the hotel every morning are Shankalas, former slaves.

Conglomerate Nations

If you should ask, "Is there then an Ethiopian nation?" I could only reply by inquiring, "Is there an American nation?"

Among the 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 inhabitants of this Empire—which is larger in extent than any European country except Russia—a brave, aggressive, militant, Christian minority, called Amharas, constitute the dominant class. Most of the rest are pagans and Moslems. The people of Ethiopia are divided into three distinct racial categories, a dozen racial and language groups, are of many different ethnological and social origins, and are forcibly held together by a few million soldiers, whose chief occupation is fighting, governing and gathering into their granaries the wealth of the land.

They have often been cruel and domineering and not infrequently have ruled with a very hard hand. Too proud to work, their leaders have grown rich off the toil and thrift of others. They have, in

times past, devastated great areas, have more than once massacred, en masse, the people whom they subjugated, sometimes collect taxes in a ruthless manner and still maintain toll stations on the chief traffic or caravan routes where they collect customs like medieval knights. They own and control a greater part of the land, exercise the authority and fill most of the high positions. The Amharas are masters of Ethiopia.

Vain and Proud

Their skin is dark or reddish brown and their features often fine like those of the handsomest white people. They are courteous in their manners, gallant in their relations to one another, vain and very proud.

They are knights and gentlemen, warrior and policemen, politicians and sportsmen, the land-barons of Ethiopia. They are not distinguished as merchants, artisans, tillers of the soil or financiers. They carry guns, win battles, hold estates and run the country. They succeed in doing this because they are able, daring, aggressive and inclined to stick together. They learn languages very quickly, delight in jokes, find much innocent pleasure in mimicking or "taking-off" foreigners.

In spite of their vanity and pretentiousness they are probably the most agreeable and attractive of all the Ethiopians. Ordinarily, they are tolerant, friendly and polite and make one feel at ease.

Gallas Most Numerous

They are probably of Semitic-Arabic origin and occupy the northern and central part of the Empire. They have small families. They have no strong racial or religious prejudices and have so long and so intimately intermingled with the other groups, including the most extreme Negro types, that many Amharas are very black. The light ones are held in no special favor. Their tongue is the official language of the country. The present Emperor is an Amhara.

By far the largest racial group is that of the Gallas. There is not much physical difference between them and the Amharas, because for centuries, these groups have intermingled and intermarried.

The Gallas are the peasants of Ethiopia. They may have come in from Central Africa. Some writers refer to them as the Germans of this country. Most of them are Moslems and pagans, though many have been persuaded or forced to accept Christianity.

The Gallas are somewhat more stocky, solid and stout than the tribe

which has mastered them, and tend to be a little less agile and responsive. They are hard workers, skilled horsemen and brave, but are reputed to be not good fighters except in hand-to-hand combat.

At times they have dominated large parts of Ethiopia and have been subdued only at the cost of long and furious campaigns resulting in the devastation of whole provinces. They pay for their defeat by tilling the soil for the Amharas. They are the principal wealth-producers in the country districts though they do not enjoy a full share of what they create.

They are divided among themselves in many hostile groups and are marked by a lack of unity, co-operation and leadership. They are considered to be quite intelligent, industrious and reliable.

The Gallas are thrifty and economical and would form an excellent basis for a thriving agricultural civilization. In spite of repeated defeats and suppression, they are the largest, most virile, and most rapidly growing group in the land. Though found principally in the south and central areas, they have penetrated into every district except the extreme north.

Their hostility to the Amharas is diminishing. The Gallas may eventually dominate the country, with their thrift. They are assimilating their masters as has happened in many lands. They are absorbing the country and step by step will effect their own emancipation. They are strongly attached to Ethiopia and would fight side by side with the Amharas.

The hardest working people of all are the Gurages. It is they who carry the heavy loads—and on their heads, too. So completely have they monopolized this humble employment that the word for porter or burden bearer here is Gurage. Their hardiness and power of endurance is beyond belief. Because of their capacity and willingness to do all sorts of unpleasant jobs they are popularly thought to be stupid, but they are far from it. They are patient and enterprising and co-operate with one another better than any other group in the country. They often hire out in gangs and when the job is done each receives from the chief his share of the final pay.

Take Savings Home

The Gurages have come into the capital with wives and children by the thousands from their country, three days away. But they consider themselves only transients and when a family saves up a few dollars it goes back home to live on the land.

Gurage women manage most of the booths in the outdoor market. So the people in this city get their simple food products from Gurage women and have their heavy work done by Gurage men. These are the leading indigenous money-makers of Addis Ababa, yet they always appear to be poor. That is partly to deceive the tax collectors and partly because they spend nothing on themselves. They are strangers here and save their pennies to make a showing when they get back to the home country.

Their power of endurance when on a trek is considered phenomenal. With no other provisions than a handkerchiefful of parched corn they can cover 150 miles in four days. They do not walk but trot, and are indifferent to the weather. They can run along in the darkness of night almost as well as under the noonday sun. They do well in school, are law-abiding, make rapid progress as artisans and as a social group are pushing their way ahead. They have a language of their own. Most of them are Muslims.

Negroes Are Shankalas

All of the Negroes are classed together as Shankalas. They may be originally in the western provinces or were brought as slaves from Central Africa. They are black, with thick lips, flat noses. They do the heavy work in most households and most of them still serve as slaves, receiving almost nothing for their toil except food and clothing. Since they intermarry with their masters they will eventually be assimilated, and slavery will disappear. They are not a group apart as slaves were in America. They are merely a very humble sort of servants. An their children are free.

A strange little group found in northern Ethiopia are the Falashas, commonly known as the "black Jews." In their physical characteristics and ways of living they do not differ greatly from the Amharas, who are also of Semitic origin. But they are unique in confessing an ancient form of the Hebrew religion. They live a part, in squalid villages, refrain from intermarriage and try to preserve undefiled a religion which they think they have held for a couple of millennia.

Wild Sections

The wild people of Ethiopia are the Danklis and Somalis, who live in the deserts surrounding the fertile plateau. The Dankli county, together with Ogaden, is reported to have been tentatively offered by the powers at Geneva to Italy, and this offer is said to have brought the cryptic response from Premier Mussolini that he doesn't want to be known as a "collector of deserts". The Danklis and the Somalis are nomads wandering from oasis to oasis, defying law, evading tax collectors, sometimes plundering their neighbors' herds and making themselves lords of all they survey.

It is the task of the Ethiopian Emperor to merge all these groups with their many distinct subdivisions, into a united nation. With no press, few schools, no common religion, no good communications no common army, in which all may mingle together and not many common interests it is a very difficult task. But progress is being made and it is certain that the Ethiopians are more nearly united today than ever before in their history.

The powers at Geneva seem to feel that the Emperor needs help in reorganizing his country with foreign capital and expert advisers, and giving it the civilizing influence of European inventions and improvements. To this end the Committee of Five of the League Council offered a plan to establish a virtual international protectorate over Ethiopia. And it was to this plan that Ethiopia replied—with reservations—"Yes", but Italy replied—less reservedly—"No".

AIR PONIES

Already an air-minded people and amply supplied with cumulative marvels in the way of daring flights, great speed, dizzy heights and big ships, Canada is now only on the threshold of its winged age. Not until flying, like motoring, become individualistic, will it take complete hold upon the national consciousness. No one can yet estimate the repercussions of the automobile upon the individual mentality and the folk ways of Canadians, but we know that it has been more profound than the less intimate effects of the clipper ship, the river packet and the railroad, despite the glamorous chronicles that pertain to them.

The automobile appealed to the individualism of a questing folk. One explanation of its quick advance to well nigh universal popularity is that it lent itself to "mendacious comparison," as do the speed of one's horse, one's prowess at poker, or skill with rifle, shotgun and fishing gear.

With the advent of the moderate-priced, mass-produced plane we shall be in for another golden age of tall tales. All nations like to brag, but the Canadian prefers personal to tribal bragging, good as he is at both. So the most significant news of aviation today tells of the experimentation in low-priced, fool-proof planes for the non-professional flier.

Perhaps the most significant experiment lately undertaken is the use in low-cost planes of motors made for horse power than are conventional airplane motors, they have nevertheless proved that they can drive serviceable ships at speeds well over 100 miles an hour. That would seem to make certain the manufacture of airplane motors for as little as \$150. In the meantime, low landing speeds, automatic landing and the elimination of spins and dives have been attained in low-cost models. The wingless autogiro, which can be used in a pinch as a ground vehicle with a road speed of twenty miles an hour and can literally jump into the air from a roadway and fly away at 110 miles an hour, is another development that rouses lively anticipation.

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Of Interest to Women

AUTUMN SUPPER DISHES

Cool weather brings with it a natural appetite for warm food. Almost over night restaurant proprietors change luncheon and supper menus to meet this seasonal desire of their patrons, and similarly the homemaker plans to serve nourishing hot supper dishes which are sure to please and satisfy the family.

Creamed and scalloped dishes are exceptionally tasty, and no matter what foods are combined to make them, the fact that the foundation is a cream sauce assures high food value and is enough to please them at the top of the "supper dish" list.

Scalloped Dishes

4 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons flour
2 cups milk
3 cups cooked food, cut in pieces
Salt and pepper.

Melt butter. Blend in flour and seasonings. Add milk gradually and stir until mixture thickens. Cook for three minutes. Place alternate layers of cooked food and sauce in buttered baking dish. Cover with buttered bread crumbs, and bake in a hot oven of 400 degrees F. until crumbs are nicely browned.

Note: Half to three quarters cup grated cheese and a pinch of mustard may be added to sauce just before removing from the stove.

Suggestions for Scalloped Dishes

Use:—
3 cups cooked chicken, veal, ham, or any cooked fish.
1½ cups cooked meat or fish and 1½ cups cooked spaghetti or macaroni.
1½ cups meat and 1½ cups corn.
4 hard-cooked eggs, sliced or cut in pieces.
4 hard-cooked eggs and 2 cups cooked potatoes, diced, celery, corn or peas.
3 cups cooked vegetables, cauliflower, cabbage potatoes, corn spinach, asparagus, carrots, peas, string beans.
1½ cups carrots and 1½ cups peas.
1 cup peas, 1 cup carrots, 1 cup potatoes.
1½ cups corn and 1½ cups potatoes.
2 cups cooked macaroni, spaghetti or rice.
1½ cups cooked macaroni or spaghetti and 1½ cups corn.

Creamed Dishes

All of the foods suggested for scalloped dishes may be served creamed, using the same proportion of sauce and solid food. In making a creamed dish the chopped meat, eggs, or whatever is being used is carefully added to the cream sauce and thoroughly heated. Creamed mixtures may be served on toast, in croustades, in split tea biscuits, in patie shells or in rings of mashed potato. Chopped parsley, grated cheese or paprika makes a simple, but effective garnish.

Household Hints

A very little furniture polish lightly rubbed over the freshly cleaned brass, then polished off, will keep it from tarnishing so quickly.
Tar stains may be removed by cov-Mail.

ering them with vaseline or paraffin, and leaving this on all night. Next day remove the vaseline with a clean rag, take out the grease mark with a brush dipped in gasoline (away from the fire) and the stain will have entirely disappeared.

Spiced Crab Apples

Boil one pound of sugar and one pint of vinegar to a syrup, add ½ of an ounce each of whole cloves, white pepper, stick cinnamon. When the fruit is tender take it out, and continue cooking the syrup until reduced to half. Pour over the fruit and leave for three days. Reheat the syrup, pack the fruit and spices into jars. Pour the boiling syrup over, and cover.

ST. PIERRE and MIQUELON, Oct. 7.—The members-elect of the Legislative Council of St. Pierre have received a plan proposed by the inspector of colonies, that an envoy of France be sent out as special commissioner for the purpose of reducing the cost of administration. According to the plan submitted the three islands of St. Pierre, Grande Miquelon and Petit Miquelon, would thus become self governing after having been governed by France during the last three centuries.

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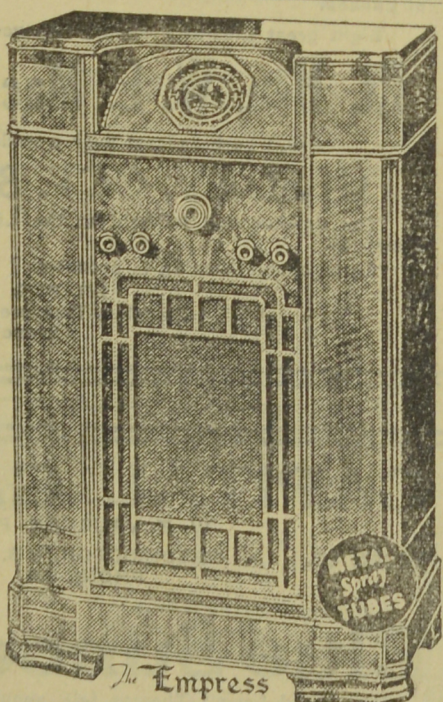
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