

### The Regeneration of West Africa

SOME 150 years ago, an Englishman expressed in writing a very prevalent opinion of his countrymen—that Britons were in the habit of making the peoples of the new countries which they annexed give up their normal ways of life, and yet took no real pains to teach those natives better ways. That was doubtless true of a generation ago; but it cannot fairly be alleged against the present one. No better illustration of the change is to be adduced than West Africa, although similar conditions exist throughout the entire African continent. In British India, and elsewhere, the variations in local circumstances being duly considered.

West Africa is a territory so great in area, and so well populated, as to rival many, if not most, of the European states. Since Great Britain and France are working together in amicable harmony all through this great region, it seems as if one might safely include in a brief study of the material, industrial, social, and educational development a large part of the western Sahara, all of the Gold Coast, and continue downward to the southern boundary of the Kameruns. By the terms of the recent convention between Great Britain and France, endorsed by the allies, France is the mandatory for Togoland and the whole of the Kameruns.

The exact area, in square miles, is not important. For the precise population (even if it were possible to give it), for we are primarily interested in the manner of education and the ways followed in training the natives to appreciate the advantages of the systems presented by the European governors and commercialists in social and domestic devices. How, they, the natives, savages but a short time ago, can—without sacrificing their own dignity and independence—co-operate with the British, French, and Belgians in bearing the burdens entailed by progress, is a matter worthy of study.

It was the custom in former times to hide from the natives, as much as possible, the true value of their own products, and to enhance in questionable way the actual worth of the articles which strangers offered in exchange. By such methods, the process of hand-to-hand barter has all the advantage for the foreign trader and little or no commensurate benefit for the native.

During the early days and continuing into the transition period of perhaps two or three decades ago, even these questionable methods can hardly be said to have entailed serious hardship upon the natives, because the fabrics and gewgaws which were offered them in barter for things which had cost practically no labor did have, in their uneducated opinion, values that were at all measured by intrinsic worth.

But in the matter of education, there was a most unfair attitude taken by the first officials and merchants. Too often, these classes openly opposed all efforts of missionaries and lay instructors; or, if they seemed too hard, it was true that an overwhelming percentage of officials and traders did contend that the religious teachers should restrict their efforts because practical knowledge must inevitably make for diminution of trade profits.

A great change has come over the whole of West Africa, including Liberia and the Belgian Congo. The change began with a broadening of the scope of education. At first this was noticeable in the efforts made by missionaries, with the grudging consent of their home societies and their meagre financial assistance, as against the hot disapproval of government officials and merchants, who still contended that general education would "spoil trade." But the effort was persistent in to devise alphabets with which to fix the legends of the natives in a permanent form, and also to permit religious books as well as secular literature being placed in the hands of the natives so that rudimentary and advanced education might be passed to a stage beyond that of oral and mere memorizing work.

The change of heart as to education with foreign officials, merchants; this is in happy contrast with the opposition displayed a decade or so ago. Native schools of the primary, middle, and higher grades are scattered all over the various colonies, while even a university for advanced students is not lacking. Competent natives are, too, sent to Europe for special education—mainly in theology for ordination to the clergy—and in some cases for consecration as bishops, for numerous dioceses are in charge of bishops either of the Anglican or the Roman Catholic church. Natives on boards of civil administration are made welcome as soon as they display ability, and African schoolmasters and lawyers are frequently in demand.

The general consequence is that West Africa, from Cape Verde into the very heart of "The Dark Continent," holds promise—and, indeed more than promise—of becoming a

group of self-governing provinces, allied with the powerful states of Europe.

#### Vessels for England.

Since the Germans surrendered their merchant ships to the allies, at least one hundred of these steamers have arrived at Firth of Forth ports and have been distributed to various British firms at London, Plymouth, Cardiff and Barry, for management. These vessels represent approximately 200,000 registered tons.

#### A RECORD OF SERVICE.

Splendid Work Done by Gen. Ross in the War.

Wrig.-Gen. Arthur E. Ross, of Kingston, is a soldier and a citizen of national reputation. By his eminent services and self-sacrificing devotion he has earned and receives the enthusiastic admiration of practically every Canadian soldier who went overseas. Dr. Ross is a native of Ontario, now in his 49th year. During the South African war, while still a young man, he enlisted and fought as a private, and later on gave noteworthy service as a surgeon. Dr. Ross was the representative of Kingston in the Ontario Legislature when the great war broke out. Recognized as a man clear and strong in his convictions by all his associates, and yet a moderate thinker, he was perhaps keener for action than for debate. His contributions to the deliberations of the House were characterized by sound, practical common sense, by independence of judgment and an accurate knowledge of the subject in hand. From the moment war was declared Dr. Ross realized, as few men did, the importance of medical and surgical attention to the men at the front. Therefore he offered himself to his country, and he was privileged to render such service as seldom falls to the lot of any man.

A few days ago, speaking in Toronto, Sir Arthur Currie declared:—"It was largely due to Gen. Ross that the wastage in the Canadian Corps was lower than in any other unit of the British army." To those who know the man and who have observed his career this was no surprise. Day in and day out, year after year, from almost the beginning of the war until the guns were silenced, Dr. Ross labored with his abounding enthusiasm and his great talent, close up to the firing line, sparing no effort and avoiding no danger, in order that he might save Canadian lives. It is well known that he was several times offered work of a less hazardous and less exciting nature, outside of the danger zone, but he sought neither safety nor comfort while Canadians were in action. Even the flattering offer of an appointment as Director of Medical Services with the Fifth British Army could not induce him to leave his own Canadian countrymen, and even when he suffered the greatest loss that can befall any man in the illness and death of his life's partner, he remained at his post. He learned from actual experience probably more about the hardships and the suffering of our army than any other man in the service, and he labored as earnestly for the welfare of Canadians as it would be possible for any man to do.

#### Khaki Settlers in Quebec.

Very encouraging results from soldier settlement work in the Province of Quebec are reported by Col. Bruce Campbell, provincial superintendent of the Soldiers' Settlement Board. The board has been brought to a high plane of organization, the province having been divided into three separate areas, all of which report good progress. The headquarters of the three areas are at Montreal, Sherbrooke and Quebec.

The soldier is required to pay down only 10 per cent. of the actual purchase price of the farm. This payment is required mainly to give the soldier-farmer a more vital interest in his venture. In certain cases the payment of this 10 per cent. is waived. The money paid down is to apply solely on the purchase price of the farm itself; thus \$5,000 may be paid for the farm, the soldier's 10 per cent. making up the cost with the Government loan of \$4,500. This is loaned for 25 years at 5 per cent. In addition the Government will buy live stock and farm equipment, up to the sum of \$2,000, upon which no interest is due for two years. The third year the soldier-farmer starts paying 5 per cent. on this \$2,000. A further loan of \$1,000 is made for building repairs, making the grand total of \$7,500.

In a visit through St. John's and Huntingdon counties, Col. Campbell and Major W. R. Stevens came in personal contact with many of the soldier settlers. In almost every case favorable progress was noted.

#### Gets V. C. After Five Years.

The gallant behaviour which cost the late Lieut. William Archer McCrae Bruce his life nearly five years ago has just been rewarded with the bestowal of the Victoria Cross. Bruce was a young officer of the regular Indian army, 59th Scinde Rifles, which was formerly commanded by his father, and was a nephew of Edward Hay, former general manager of the Imperial Bank of Canada. The young soldier displayed great bravery at Givenchy on the night of December 19, 1914, leading a party against a German trench, and afterwards, though severely wounded, walking up and down encouraging his men to hold out against the overwhelming masses of the enemy. The onrush of the field grey hordes later swept over this little outpost of the "Old Contemptibles," and most of those not among the slain were taken prisoner. Consequently it was only lately that the story of Lieut. Bruce's gallantry became known.



# The Sea — What It Means to You!

YOU would be surprised to learn how little many people know about the relation our prosperity bears to the problems of shipping.

With the exception of our purely domestic trade and that with our neighbors to the South, every dollar's worth of goods we produce must cross the seas, and so exports are largely the measure of our wealth as a nation. Submarine losses have placed a heavy premium on ships, so that we cannot rely on foreign vessels to carry our goods, but must build and MAN our own mercantile fleet.

Above all, we must see that CANADIAN seamen are available to man Canadian vessels as they become ready for our export service.

## A Patriotic Duty An Economic Necessity

The work of training Canadian boys for the sea is carried on by the Boys' Naval Brigades. Funds are absolutely imperative if the work is to be carried on and extended at this critical period. The appeal to the patriotic spirit is strong to give our lads a chance.

Help by giving—and giving liberally. Then help again by putting the great need before another. The Nelson Day Campaign is going to be a great success and it will be because of the loyal co-operation of public-spirited citizens like yourself.

What YOU do to-day counts much for Canada's future and your own! Assist generously.

**Aims of the NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA**

- To emphasize Canada's opportunities and responsibilities on the sea.
- To raise funds for the relief of our merchant seamen, injured in the war, and for dependents of those who were killed.
- To maintain sailors' homes in our ports.
- To train boys and young men for our merchant ships by the organization of Boys' Naval Brigades.

Patron  
H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES  
Donation President  
COMMODORE SEMILUS JARVIS

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## for \$500,000

### October 21-22-23



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G. D. McKAY,  
Manager

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**The "Pretended" Bank.**  
In 1819 the people of the town of York (now Toronto) asked for the incorporation of the Upper Canada Banking Company, which was granted, but reserved for royal assent, which, however, was not proclaimed until April 5, 1821. But previous to that date a private bank was established in Kingston under the name of the Bank of Upper Canada. The business of this institution was not taken over by the chartered bank. And the Kingston bank has for this reason, been called the "pretended" Bank of Upper Canada. The chartered Bank of Upper Canada failed in 1868.

Over two thousand years ago the ancient Gauls made good soap of beech ashes and the fat of goats.

The man who displays his money invites the attention of those who would be glad to rob him of it. For peace of mind's sake the woman with the calico capital ought to keep away from the silk department. About the smallest thing on earth is the small politician but you cannot convince him of the fact.

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