

WHITEN BLACK NATIVES ARE CROED

GERMANS USE HIPPOPOTAMUS WHIPS ON BACKS OF NEGRO LABORERS IN AFRICAN COLONIES



EVERY SOLDIER CARRIES HIS WHIP WITH HIM

BY FRANK O. CARPENTER.
AN THE African native he controlled without flogging?
This is a live question out here in the shores of Victoria Nyanza. The British laws are strict in regard to this matter, and the white man who, unauthorized by the courts, flogs a black man is liable to fine and imprisonment. It is now only a few months since three negroes who had insulted white women were publicly flogged by Captain Grosman, the head of the Colonists' Association, in front of the Courthouse at Nairobi. This created an outcry in England, and Grosman and those who helped him were punished by a mild imprisonment.

In both British East Africa and Uganda flogging is one of the sentences of the courts. In Uganda the criminal to be flogged is laid face downward upon 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 the sides of the flanks. In German East Africa I am told that any white man has the right to give any negro who insults him six lashes, but that if more punishment than this is demanded the case must be brought before the police. On the western shores of Lake Victoria and down here at Mwanza I find the overseer and soldier carries his hippopotamus-hide whip with him. The whip is called the kabuko. 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 finger 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 the kabuko on the bare flesh with a peculiar twist, which saws it to shreds. The natives get down on their knees and beg for mercy if one even shakes a whip at them.

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 demitted from his position as imperial commissioner of the district about Kilimanjaro on account of his brutality toward the natives. Peters had secured a libel suit which Dr. Peters instituted four months ago against the Munich Post. That paper had called Peters a gangster, a murderer and a coward, and had published the story of his flogging three female servants and the hanging of others. In the trial which followed several German officials who had served in East Africa testified that the natives

could not be ruled without flogging. One of the witnesses was General Liebert, 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. General Liebert said that it was absolutely necessary to be severe with the natives and that he regretted the mildness of the present officials. Herr Kuhnert averred that it was impossible to treat them with too much severity. He cited the case of Karl Peters, the negroes when she was flogged by Dr. Peters and the punishment did not seem cruel to him. Father Acker said that the courts do govern the natives without flogging, and that he himself had often caused men and women to be whipped.

During the trial Herr Rebel, the socialist member of the Reichstag, was called in. He said that he had evidence that Peters had caused a negro to be shot down merely because he had crossed his path, and that when he was on the Emin Pasha expedition he had shot numerous natives and burned their villages. He also said that he had seen books showing how he had punished a native servant. The servant had stolen a chicken which Peters had ordered to be served for his dinner. Dr. Peters first gave the man an emetic to get back the chicken, and then flogged him.

German Failure 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 Nile. Whether this was attempted by Prince Bismarck and the German government I do not know, but the movement was foreshadowed by the actions of Dr. Peters. The incident occurred about 1896, when the relations between King Mwanga and the British government were exceedingly strained. Mwanga, who was then King of Uganda, had said that if the English would furnish troops to support him in his troubles 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 the King of the King, and sent it to Mr. Jackson, the Commissioner of Brit-



BAD LUCK BABIES BRING DROUGHT

ish East Africa. The man who took the letter was captured in 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 its loss became known. In consequence of the delay he was able to make treaties with King Mwanga whereby 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 the 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 British, ending the Germans the little island of Heligoland as a consideration therefore. The Germans, as I understand it, had as yet received no news of what the Kaiser had done in Uganda, and when it did become known this treaty made his work of no avail.



THE GERMAN FORT AT MWANZA

monuments to Bismarck in some of the German towns along the coast of the Indian Ocean and there a fine statue of him has been erected at Dar es Salaam. The Germans are organizing a native army out here, which shows the effect of their system of military training. They already have 200 native soldiers, offered by about 300 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 brutal faces 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 unless it that he has no trouble in making himself respected by the ordinary native.

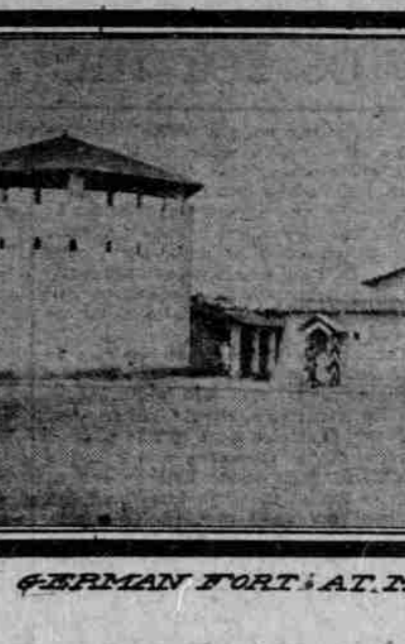
In the Basukuma Towns.
The people here are not as wealthy as those of Uganda. They wear less clothing and their houses are poorer. The average Uganda, but looks picturesque. It is made of cane, bent and woven together and thatched with straw, the roof often extending down to the ground. The huts of the Basukumas have walls of wicker 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 ten or fifteen feet in diameter, and each 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 rest on the ground. The cooking utensils are clay pots, and the chief food is a porridge made of steamed millet.



SHE WAS A WITCH DOCTOR

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. In one inclosure I saw a girl of fifteen pounding peanuts in a mortar with a wooden pestle, and in another a woman knelt down and ground millet by rubbing the grain between stones. The stones were set into the earth, and the pestle was picked up from the wayside. The lower one rested on the edge of a basket, and as the flower was ground it fell down into the basket.

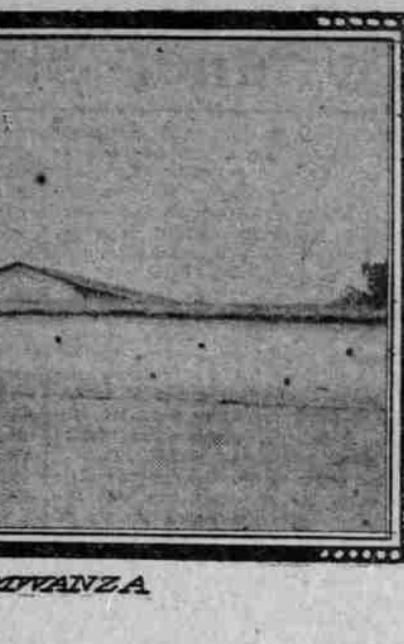
I find but little furniture in any of the houses. The people sleep on the ground and they squat about on the floor at their meals. They have no tables and no chairs. A few houses contain stools eight or ten inches high, and in one or two I saw low frameworks of poles covered with mats, which were evidently used as beds. The Basukumas are skilled in making baskets, and they manufacture all kinds of articles. They have many grain baskets of fine straw. The latter are used in nearly every hut for storing millet and corn and other things against the wall. They are about five feet in height and at least eight feet in diameter. It would, I venture, hold a good-sized cow and leave room to spare.



THE GERMAN FORT AT MWANZA

streaks of the same material. She had white feathers in her 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 the colic.

Professor 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 droughts, and it is on this account that the witches and wizards are so numerous. I am told that some of the chiefs and sultans are supposed to be able to make rain and that they are able to lose their jobs at the first long dry spell. Amateurs are sacrificed to in order to bring rain, and there are certain unfailing signs which indicate that a drought is coming. One of these is the advent of twigs. This is the greatest of ill-luck, any community can have, and the woman who brings it upon a village is sometimes banished.



THE GERMAN FORT AT MWANZA

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 sore 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 dry weather, and the child is supposed to bring it. Indeed, this belief is so strong that many a child has been killed on account of the suffering which the drought, 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 Baganda people still believe in or has in a legion of spirits. They have as different devils, one of whom presides over war, another over agriculture, 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 Bagandas had their god of plenty, their gods of the rain 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, and the devils of all kinds are everywhere present.

GIVING AWAY OREGON SCHOOL LANDS

BY T. T. GEER.
REFERRING a few days ago editorially to the fact that the school fund of Oregon amounts to less than \$1,000,000, while that of Washington, it is said, reaches \$30,000,000. The Oregonian has this to say in part: "The duties of a Governor without commenting in any manner upon the particular issuer of the controversy over Geer's official acts, or the acts or omissions of the board of which he was a member, one may with good reason condemn his doctrine of joint responsibility, otherwise non-responsibility. It is such a doctrine, whether proclaimed by the individual citizen in his capacity as a voter or by the Chief Executive of the United States, that forms the weak spot in popular government. Civic duties and obligations are not only joint, but several, and no man can be heard to say that he is not responsible because he is only one of many who joined in the performance of a particular act. For one may be relieved from responsibility, others may be also until each and all have shifted the burden from their shoulders. Manifestly, every participant in an act must be held accountable for the result."

And yet, in your entire editorial you intimate nowhere that anybody having to do with the disposition of our public lands during the past 40 years is responsible for anything, excepting myself. No name is used and no direct reference made to any other man who has ever lived in the state. And that is what I object to. That custom, adopted during the past five years by a little coterie of critics, is all I ever have objected to. I have never and do not now have the slightest desire to shirk any responsibility that is mine, but I do not coincide with your view that the doctrine of "joint responsibility should be condemned," since such responsibility frequently exists and the desire to place all the responsibility on one person for a certain thing when others are equally responsible, is itself properly to be condemned by those who desire to do justice.

But this matter of the disposition of Oregon's public lands is almost altogether one where the responsibility does not rest on my shoulders to any degree. It is the result of a policy inaugurated by the people of the state while I was a small boy, assuming for generations a public sentiment, and when I came to the Governor's office in 1899 the public lands were so nearly disposed of that I had no alternative but to recommend to the Legislature in his last communication to that body that the office of state land agent be abolished. Governor Lord's words were as follows: "The special agent appointed to select land under the act of 1895 has prosecuted his work energetically and efficiently, adding many thousands of acres of valuable lands to the public domain. His report is full of valuable suggestions relating to the disposition of the public lands, not the least among which is his recommendation that the act creating his office and its duties having accomplished the object for which it was created, be abolished. These being the views of the Governor, and for the continuance of the act I concur in his suggestion and recommend its repeal."

And in his report to Governor Lord at the end of his term and at the beginning of mine, Honorable T. W. Davenport, the state land agent during those four years, one of the best officials my Oregon has ever had, as The Oregonian correctly remarked, but a month ago, said: "As respects the land sales by the state of Oregon, I can say that they are well closed. At least, there is no more need of a state land agent, unless other duties are added to his office."

And yet, after millions of acres of our state lands had been sold, Governor Lord and his efficient state land agent had, after four years' handling and selling of those lands, as "well-nigh closed them out" that they both recommended the abolition of the office of state land agent, a lot of disgruntled politicians who had failed to dictate appointments and policies of my administration in their interests, pounced upon me with a bitterness only born of political savagery, and charged me with alone being responsible for not only the manner of the disposition of all our public lands during the past quarter of a century, but for

the fact that, now it is seen those lands should have been sold at a much higher figure or held for better conditions, with that fact also. In Governor Lord's last message to the Legislature he called the attention of that body to the regrettable fact that the land system which had been in vogue in Oregon for so many years was a lame one and bemoaned the short-sighted policy which had "frittered away our lands." It was practically too late at the beginning of his term even, he says in substance, to rectify it, and at its end he recommended the abolition of the state land agent's office, for the reason that there was nothing to do in that line of work, and Mr. Davenport himself, better acquainted with the land condition in Oregon than any other man, said "land sales by the State of Oregon are well-nigh closed."

Now what I object to, what any man would become extremely tired of, is the perpetual charge by men with more viciousness than judgment or regard for fair play or justice, that after all these years, after the state's lands had all been practically disposed of, I should be held individually responsible for all that had gone before and which could not through the administration of any earthly power be changed or prevented. It was already done. I cannot you see, Mr. Editor, the rank invective of it all? Or is it to keep on forever as a means of expressing a malice born through the disappointment of a lot of men whose displeasure is an honor to the man who incurred it?

Ex-Governor Geer Disclaims Responsibility for Administrative Acts Done When He Was a Boy, Forty Years Ago.

He man and told again and then again, will do him so much harm that its refutation will never undo it. There are thousands of people in Oregon today who believe that I am a rich man, that I am a millionaire, and that I am a crooked public official, and that right now I have in my possession the entire amount of the school funds of Oregon and Washington, all to gratify the wolfish malice of a few politicians with whom I refused to train and who resolved that, at any price, I should retire to private life.

THE GERMAN FORT AT MWANZA

But for all this the legislatures and Governors who were responsible for it are to be cheerfully forgiven, or, at least, to be permitted immunity from criticism, for wasn't I out on my farm in the Waldo Hills at the time and shouldn't I be held responsible for it? Certainly I should, for when I object to being the only man who is ever criticized for it all I am at once blamed for "shrinking from the burden of joint responsibility."

I am aware that the programme outlined in all this conspicuously unfair and in many cases, vicious charge, instituted to injure me politically by men whose venom was aroused for the sole reason that I refused to bow to their behests, men who cared no more for the school lands of the state than did the Shah of Persia, nor do they now, has done its work in conjunction with similar disreputable methods employed by them. My admitted desire to continue in public life has been blasted by the systematic and persistent circulation of such charges as this, that I—not anybody else—have been the sole cause of the school lands having been sold during the past 30 years at so low a figure that Oregon's school fund only amounts to some \$1,900,000, while that of Washington reaches \$30,000,000.