

Miners' 'Claims' and Native Lands in Kenya

ELSEWHERE in this issue (p. 37), we have discussed the grave situation which may arise through the proposed legislation dealing with gold prospecting in native reserves in Kenya. The explanatory memorandum issued by the Chief Native Commissioner of Kenya Colony to the natives likely to be affected has now been published in the *Times* (Jan. 5). It would appear to be fundamentally opposed to the whole conception and purpose of the institution of a native reserve, and is likely to be thoroughly disturbing to the minds of natives nervous for their rights. It seems that no attempt will be made to segregate the native or to control the siting of mining claims. European interpenetration of native holdings on the reserve will be complete. The natives are informed that they may expect to see their holdings 'pegged', or such part of them as may be required, wherever it is thought worth while to look for gold, and their huts and shambas may be destroyed; while they are invited to squat on their neighbours' land and make money, pending the vacation of their own land at some indefinite date, by working in the mines. It is also suggested that natives may sell to the miner meat, chickens' eggs and vegetables, but this applies, presumably, to those who have not been dispossessed of their land. Sir Edward Grigg has rebuked the Archbishop of Canterbury for suggesting that "African interests . . . are likely to receive better and wiser consideration from 'public opinion' in this country than from the Government of the Colony"; but the anthropologist asks "*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes*"? This unfortunate memorandum, issued, be it marked, by the department responsible for the well-being of the native, passes over all that has been achieved by scientific study of native races and of the problems that arise from their unchecked contact with Europeans.

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

DR. J. MIDDLEMASS HUNT, who held the post of honorary dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for many years, has, by the terms of his will, emphasised the great interest that he took in research on tropical diseases. He has made a bequest of £20,000 to the University of Liverpool in order to provide for the endowment of the chair of tropical diseases of Africa. This will greatly strengthen the position of the laboratory of the School in West Africa originally established under the will of the late Sir Alfred Jones. In the Sir Alfred Lewis Jones's bequest, a sum was set aside for the specific purpose of building a research laboratory in Sierra Leone, West Africa, but no endowment was available. The building was erected as soon as possible after the War, the first director of the laboratory and first holder of the chair of tropical diseases of Africa being Prof. D. B. Blacklock, who remained in charge from 1921 until 1929. The present director and holder of the chair is Prof. R. M. Gordon. The laboratory has a normal staff of three which, in exceptional times, has been increased to five, and combines research on West African diseases with pathological investiga-

tions of a routine nature connected with these diseases. Dr. Middlemass Hunt was impressed by the fact that this overseas development of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine lacks any endowment and his generous bequest is evidence of his desire to initiate the consolidation and extension of the work of this important branch of the School.

Institute of British Geographers

THE work, extending over the past two years, of various preliminary committees was brought to a conclusion on January 3 when the Institute of British Geographers held its first meeting and elected a council and officers. The initial membership is open to all present members of the staffs of university departments of geography in Britain; in the future, membership will be by election. With one possible exception, all universities, as well as a large number of colleges of university rank, in Great Britain have now departments of geography and there is thus an obvious need for co-ordinating the teaching and research work of their staffs and for permitting an exchange of views on matters of particular interest in the furtherance of the subject in the universities. The Institute is thus in no way a rival to existing bodies. In discussing problems of special interest to themselves, it is clearly not the desire of university geographers to lose the contact which they have with administrators, travellers and surveyors, amongst others, who provide so much of their material, through the Royal Geographical Society; or with the teachers who have charge of the school training of the rising generation, through the Geographical Association. At the first meeting, papers were read, on "Soils", by Mr. A. Stevens (Glasgow), on the geography of the Arab Empire in Europe, by Mr. W. G. East (London), and on a comparison between the iron industries of Northamptonshire and Lorraine, by Mr. S. H. Beaver (London). The council and officers elected are: *President*: Prof. C. B. Fawcett (University College, London); *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*: Mr. A. A. Miller (Reading); *Hon. Assistant Secretary*: Dr. H. A. Matthews (Birkbeck College, London); *Council*: Mr. J. N. L. Baker (Oxford); Dr. R. O. Buchanan (University College, London); Prof. H. J. Fleure (Manchester); Prof. Ll. Rodwell Jones (London School of Economics); Prof. P. M. Roxby (Liverpool) and Dr. S. W. Wooldridge (King's College, London).

Centenary of Friedrich Koenig, 1774-1833

Few things have assisted the spread of knowledge more than the invention of printing from moveable types, the mass production of paper and the introduction of the power-driven printing machine, the last of which we owe to the German printer Friedrich Koenig, whose centenary occurs on January 17. He was born at Eisleben on April 17, 1774, and, after attending school, was apprenticed to a printer of Leipzig and then worked as a journeyman. His first improvements were made in connexion with the ordinary hand press. To further his projects he came to England in 1806, and it was soon after this that