

News and Views

Native Policy in Africa

A MOTION by Mr. de Rothschild in Committee of the House of Commons on July 9 to reduce the Colonial Office vote initiated a debate on colonial administration with special reference to East Africa, and afforded Mr. Ormsby-Gore as Secretary of State for the Colonies an opportunity of making an important statement in reply, in which he touched upon a number of matters affecting native interests. As an earnest of a promised expansion in education when resources permit, he referred to the provision forthwith of a central institution in Uganda, which would extend facilities for higher education throughout East Africa. He also showed that he is fully aware of the necessity for considering the possibility of regulating the movements of emigrant labourers, to which attention has been directed recently, more especially by conditions in Nyasaland (see *NATURE*, June 6, p. 921). His most important pronouncement, however, was concerned with the difficult and controversial question of the allocation of land as between native and settler in Kenya. He announced that two orders arising out of the Morris-Carter Report are in contemplation. By one of these orders, some 48,000 square miles of territory will be reserved to the natives, this including the most thickly populated areas, in which 86 per cent of the natives are living; while in the second order, 16,000 square miles of the highland area will be assigned to non-natives, one quarter, however, being set aside for a permanent forest reserve. Before these become effective, however, Mr. Ormsby-Gore indicated that it would be necessary to deal with the question of the 'squatters', upon which he confessed frankly that he had not made up his mind. There are now, he pointed out, 150,000 natives in Kenya living on European farms under annual agreement. These hold from the farmer a house and land in return for 180 days labour per annum at a contract rate of pay. There are also other natives in the European area who are not squatters, but in course of time have acquired rights. Some of these have been dealt with already in accordance with the recommendation of the Morris-Carter report, and removed to an agreed location.

THE problem of the squatter is, indeed, difficult. Mr. Ormsby-Gore's dilemma, as he showed, is whether to permit a system to endure, which while it assures a certain amount of labour to the farmer, is open to abuse, as experience has shown, on both sides, or whether to require labour to be obtained from the reserves in conditions which would keep the native in touch with tribal institutions and discipline. In South Africa, where the squatting system has a long history, it is proposed under the new regulations for native lands that it should not further be permitted; while scientific study of native institutions and the

effects of the impact of white civilization on native life and morale would favour the stricter regulation of conditions of employment and intercourse, which the restriction of labour to natives from the reserves would make possible. The present mobility of labour in Africa, as recent events have shown, makes it eminently desirable that there should be some uniformity in native policy; and this is, no doubt, one of the considerations which the statesmen of the Union of South Africa have in mind in their expressions of opposition to any interference with present conditions in the mandated territories of South-West Africa and Tanganyika. It was certainly contemplated by Mr. Pirow, the South African Minister of Defence, when, at Nairobi on his way back to South Africa (*The Times*, July 10), he urged the importance of a common policy for native affairs, defence and customs, in the three groups into which he classified British Africa, from Kenya to the Union. A further important step in this direction is also to be noted in the amendments to the constitution of Southern Rhodesia. According to the draft regulations in the White Paper (Cmd. 6218), issued on July 9, the native reserves in future will be vested in a Board of Trustees, and there is to be a Native Department with a Chief Native Commissioner at its head who "in view of his very important responsibilities, may not be removed without the Secretary of State's consent".

Proposed Tribute to Prof. A. L. Bowley

It is intended to mark the retirement of Prof. A. L. Bowley from the chair of statistics in the University of London by a recognition in some degree commensurate with his distinguished services. Prof. Bowley has not only given to the London School of Economics, since its beginnings in 1895, years of brilliant and devoted teaching; he has at the same time made contributions to social welfare that have been recognized throughout the world, by universities, by learned societies and by Governments. His published writings have given him an eminence all his own, and his kindness and geniality have endeared him to generations of students and to all who have had the good fortune to work with him. Over the signatures of Lord Kennet, Mr. J. M. Keynes, Prof. D. H. Macgregor, Prof. W. R. Scott and Sir Josiah Stamp, an appeal has been issued, since it is felt that past students and many others will welcome an opportunity to share in an expression of admiration for the work he has done. It is proposed that this tribute of esteem shall include a portrait of Prof. Bowley to be hung in the London School of Economics, and a scholarship or prize tenable in the University of London (at the London School of Economics) to assist a student pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate study in economic or social statistics. Sir William Beveridge has agreed