

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

to act as treasurer of the fund, and all subscriptions should be addressed to him at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2, England.

Anglo-German Stork Experiments

THE present experiments on the migration of the stork (*Ciconia alba*) being carried out in England in conjunction with German ornithologists is evidence of the wider possibilities of international co-operation in field ornithology than have hitherto obtained. Earlier in the spring, eleven storks' eggs from German nests were sent to England and placed in heron nests in Surrey by the Haselmere Educational Museum, as the stork is no longer a British nester, and it was hoped the experiment would indicate whether or not the English-born birds under heron foster-parents would follow the same migration route as German birds. However, only one egg hatched, and after a week the stork chick was accidentally crushed to death by the foster parent. It is hoped to repeat this experiment next spring. In June, a further experiment was made when twenty-three nestling storks from East Prussia were distributed to artificial nests in Scotland, Kent and Surrey where they were hand-fed, and it is hoped that if reared, these birds, which are ringed, will shed further light on migration, and how far inheritance plays a part in it.

MUCH work on the migration of storks has been carried out on the Continent in recent years. The early experiments at bird-ringing were made by Brugmann in Holland and Mortensen in Denmark last century with storks (NATURE, Sept. 30, 1933), and later research showed that birds nesting east of the River Elbe used an Asia Minor route to the Natal winter quarters and those nesting west of the river a route through Spain and Morocco. Three years ago, young storks born east of the Elbe were ringed and released west of the river, but soon found their way back. The small percentage of stork rings recovered in Africa has lately been shown to be due to the Egyptian natives treasuring them as tokens for fertility, a barren woman who obtained one having worn it and given birth to children, and hence the superstition spread. Skougaard has reported a stork ringed in Jutland and believed to have lived between thirty and forty years.

Hadrian's Wall

EXCAVATION of the fort on the Roman Wall at Halton Chesters, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, by the University of Durham Excavation Committee, has made it possible to state definitely for the first time that the building of the wall was completed within a period of five years. A dedicatory tablet on the west gate of the fort has been found, it is stated in a report of the Committee (*The Times*, July 13), which bears the name of Platorius Nepos, the Governor of Britain in A.D. 122-126. As he also directed the first stages of building, the whole erection was completed within his term of office. The excavation has thrown much light not only on

the methods of planning and construction of the fort but also on that of the wall itself. It is evident that the original plan was not always followed. For example, the original ditch fronting the wall runs straight through below the existing fort, one of six, which projects 200 ft. north of the wall. The east and west gates of the fort are carried down the entire depth of the filled-in ditch and are built on massive foundations. There is evidence of two considerable reconstructions or enlargements. After the Caledonian invasion, the Emperor Severus rebuilt the fort in about the year A.D. 205, erecting a monumental fore-hall in front of the administrative building. No hall so fine as this, it is stated, has as yet been discovered in Britain, where, in any event, they are rare. It is shown by the foundations to have been 160 ft. long by 30 ft. broad, with a central entrance spanning the north-to-south street. About a century later the fort was increased in size by an enlargement towards the west behind the shelter of the wall. This structure gave the fort the peculiar L-shaped plan which has long been a puzzle to archaeologists.

Meteorology for Airmen in India

A COPY has been received of a new publication of the India Meteorological Department (M.O.A. Pamphlet 1936) entitled "Meteorological Organisation for Airmen". The purpose of this pamphlet is made clear in the introductory pages by the Director-General of Observatories, where the relevant part of the organization of the Department is described, together with the procedure to be adopted to obtain weather reports for the different parts of the area with which the Department is concerned; this area extends from the south-eastern half of the Persian Gulf across the whole of Baluchistan, India and Burma. It is admitted that the existing organization for the supply of weather reports and forecasts for such a vast area falls short of the standards recommended by the International Convention for Air Navigation, particularly in the south of India, the reason being the size of the area in relation to the permitted financial expenditure on the organization, which is less than what it was formerly in spite of the increased demands of aviation, a fact that has necessitated various reductions, including the closing down of the important forecasting office at Quetta.

THE different areas covered by the forecasting centres in India are shown on a key map, which indicates also the centres themselves, the different airship bases, the pilot balloon stations from which information about the winds of the upper atmosphere can be obtained, and the aeronautical wireless stations. More precise information about these centres is given in extensive tables, which, together with further tables giving the various weather codes in use in India, occupy the greater part of the fifty-one pages of the pamphlet. Information of the kind provided is of course practically essential to airmen flying in a part of the world subject to very violent disturbances, ranging from tropical hurricanes to duststorms and tornados and other local