

New Times and Ethiopia News

(WEEKLY)

EDITOR - E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

All Communications to:

"WEST DENE"

3 CHARTERIS ROAD
WOODFORD GREEN
ESSEX : ENGLAND

Telephone: BUCKhurst 2463

Your Ref. :

Our Ref. : ESP/JS.

27th March, 1941.

Thank - s -

(wrote again 28th!)

Lord Noel-Buxton, P.C.,
House of Lords,
Westminster,
S. W. 1.

Dear Lord Noel-Buxton,

I was very glad to have a word or two with you about Ethiopia after sir Sidney Barton's address the other day, and I promised to send you a note about the question of slavery in one of the worst places in Ethiopia, the province of Jimma.

I have marked on page 3 of the enclosed paper a statement about what happened there. The other bad patch was the territory for which Ras Hailu was responsible ^{in Gojjam}. He was the Governor of Gojjam and a very important man in Ethiopia as he was grandson of the King Takle Haymanot, but he had numbers of slaves, treated them badly and also engaged in the traffic to enrich himself. The Emperor sent ^{for} him to the capital and kept him there on account of his crimes, released his slaves and appointed another Governor.

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27th March, 1941.

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All Communications to:
"WEST DENE"
3 CHARTEERS ROAD
WOODFORD GREEN
ESSEX: ENGLAND
Telephone: BUCKING 2483
Your Ref.: _____
Our Ref.: WSP/12

Lord Noel-Buxton, P.C.,
House of Lords,
Westminster,
S.W.1.

As you know, an Englishman was appointed to supervise the slavery question in one of these bad patches, and another was just about to take up his duties in the other bad patch when the Italians made war.

As you know, it is not only the ^{Europeans} ~~Europeans~~ who took part in the slave trade. Englishmen in times past have done the same. The French poet, Arthur Rimbaud was engaged in the trade in the Nineteenth Century and, to say the very least, the French winked at the slave trade and the arms traffic down to the Nineteenth Century, as Augustus B. Wyld alleged they were doing when he wrote his book "Modern Abyssinia", Methuen, 1901...

Europeans

far from it

British Consul for Red Sea

on page 4

I have reproduced in this issue a most important letter which appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" by George Percival Kaye who has been second in command in the British Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Patrol, who alleges that the Italians were countenancing the traffic right down to 1936. He objects to pressure being brought to bear upon the Arab States, but I think he is quite wrong because the slave markets are in Arabia, and the people of Ethiopia and other African

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countries are merely the victims of the trade, except in so far as some evil persons in Africa itself, assist the raiders who desire slaves for Arabia.

Is there?

Wang

Wang

What I find remarkable and I think unjust to the Emperor and the Ethiopian Government is this: There is a propaganda against their effort to bring those parts of the Ethiopian Empire which were almost, if not fully, separate kingdoms of very loose allegiance to the Emperor, under fuller control, and to remove those governors, even if they had a hereditary title, who are guilty of misrule ~~and~~ in relation to the slave trade or any other very flagrant matter. At the same time the Emperor and his Government are blamed for any of the crimes which these unsatisfactory rulers commit. The Emperor was only ruling for five years and it was of course difficult for him to tackle questions of so difficult a nature all at once and immediately, but all agree that he desires to do so, and Sir Sidney Barton certainly thinks he was proceeding as rapidly as was in any way possible and with great judgment and tact.

I have read correspondence ^{to our Government & others} by the Emperor Menelik ^{II} in which he greatly deplored that his people should be the victims of the slave trade and complained that it was difficult for him to deal with the matter because the ports were in European hands and because his European neighbours limited his supply of arms.

The slave trade and the arms traffic appear to be

absolutely united because the raiders could not get the slaves but for the possession of fire arms.

Miss Enid Starkey in a book published by the Clarendon Press has performed a very useful service. She set out to write a study on the poet Rimbaud whose work she greatly admired, and then found he was mixed up with the slave trade and the arms traffic. Both the British and French Governments enabled her to see many State papers, and she went into the matter very fully, making her researches under this head a separate book. She there discovered that had it not been that the French permitted Menelik to receive arms, he would have been defeated by the Italians at the time of the first battle of Adua, but these arms ^{he could} ~~they did~~ not receive in a satisfactory manner but through the agents who were trafficking in arms in the most obnoxious manner and were deeply mixed up in the slave trade.

It seems to me that the whole solution is that we should help the best elements in Ethiopia to raise the status of the country, to encourage developments which will enable the serfs to find a market for their labour as artisans or to live as peasants on their own land, or to engage in co-operative enterprises, according to their own desires and state of development. To put over them a foreign domination will but retard their development, and as in Ethiopia there

March 27

are undoubtedly very mixed elements, some much further advanced in culture than others, but education and the teaching of modern methods of production will raise the culture of the most primitive in quite a reasonable space of time.

I feel that the watchword should be co-operation, not compulsion.

Yours sincerely,

E. Sylvia Pankhurst

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Encl.

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Our Ref. : ESP/JS.

28th March, 1941.

Anti imperial
P 2
St

Lord Noel-Buxton, P.C.,
House of Lords,
Westminster,
S. W. 1.

Dear Lord Noel-Buxton,

Further to my letter about Ethiopia, I mentioned to you that the Emperor had kept Ras Hailu in the capital and not let him go back to Gojjam where he had mixed himself up with the slave traffic. The result was that he helped Lidj Yassu to escape and raised a rebellion. He was then convicted of high treason and sentenced to death, but the Emperor spared him, having the prerogative of mercy and gave him imprisonment instead. When the Italians invaded the country the Emperor liberated him, believing that though he had behaved badly, he would be loyal to his country at such a time. He immediately went over to the Italians, and it turned out that he had been acting with them before. As De Bono's book proves, they spent a great deal of money in bribing anyone they could get hold of for some

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What for?
bribery
by H?

De Bono

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Editor - E SYLVIA PANKHURST

28th March, 1941.

All Communications to
"WEST DENE"
3 CHARTEERS ROAD
WOODFORD GREEN
ESSEX : ENGLAND
Telephone: BUCKHURST 2403

Dear Lord Noel-Buxton,
House of Lords,
Westminster,
S.W. 1.

Your Ref: _____
Our Ref: BAP/25.

Chairman,
West of England
Agricultural Association
General Secretary:
A. EISENSCHENK-PATIN
HARRY CUNARD
Address Board:

years before the invasion.

One point I wish to make is this, to put a country
under European power does not immediately bring
enlightenment and justice, even in such matters as the
abolition of serfdom and the slave trade. It is apt to
bring very great evils in its train; the exploitation
of the people by foreign concerns, sometimes a very cruel
exploitation. We remember what happened in the Belgian
Congo, and conditions in Trinidad were reported as being
very very bad by the Royal Commission that went there,
and besides that, it handicaps, if it does not prevent,
the people from developing their own culture and their
own initiative in evolution.

Yours sincerely,

E Sylvia Pankhurst

E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

Irish
Ceylon
Palestine
Burmah

New Times and Ethiopia News

(WEEKLY)

EDITOR - E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

All Communications to:

29th Dec. 1941.

"WEST DENE"
3 CHARTERIS ROAD
WOODFORD GREEN
ESSEX : ENGLAND
Telephone: BUCKhurst 2463

Your Ref. :

Our Ref. :

Lord Strabolgi,
House of Lords,
S. W. 1.

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President.

Union of Young People's
Evangelical Associations
in Bulgaria.

Dear Lord Strabolgi,

I enclose a confidential memorandum which speaks for itself.

Sir Philip Mitchell is now again in Addis Ababa and is endeavouring to negotiate new proposals.

We are told, of course, that these are all that they should be, but I very much fear that the proposals are still far from being such as any free nation could accept without loss of essential freedom. I know that British

occupation of the Ogaden is insisted upon, and

that British occupation of the Boran has been proposed as I was told this by Brigadier Sandford himself on the eve of his return to Addis Ababa. I do not wish to emphasize to the Authorities that he gave me this information, so I trust you will retain this fact in confidence, but I tell you in order that you may realize that the statement is authoritative.

I would point out that Ethiopia was independent for thousands of years until the Italians invaded her, and I am at a loss to understand why she should be placed

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25th Dec. 1941

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ESSEX: ENGLAND
Telephone: BUCKHURST 2403

under British suzerainty. I am convinced that the
Ethiopian people have better chances of education and
development under their own Government than under the
Government of any European Power, by comparing what has
been done during the last fifty, and, particularly, during
the last twenty years before the Italian invasion in
Ethiopia, with what has been done during the same period
in our own African Colonies.

Should you desire any further details I shall be
glad to supply them.

Yours sincerely,

E. Sylvia Pankhurst

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ROSIKA SCHWIMMER
Colonial Maurice Spender
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Editor of "The
International African
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copy of the paper is insisted upon, and
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