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THE RIVER KAGERA

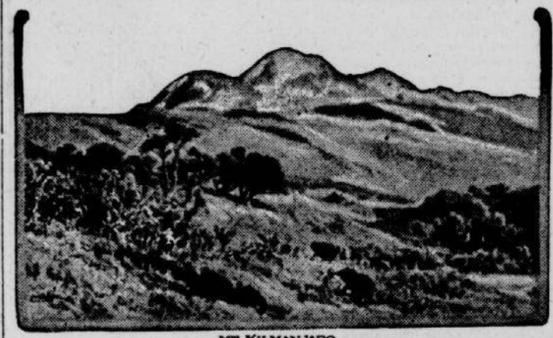
IF THE occupation of Ruanda, German East Africa, by Belgian troops from the Congo, and their establishment of a provisional government in this territory prove to be permanent Belgium will possess the most densely populated as well as one of the most fertile and salubrious territories of central Africa, says a bulletin of the National Geographic Society. Ruanda lies to the east of Lake Kivu, through which runs the boundary line between the Upper Congo region and the German possessions. To the north lies British East Africa. The Kagera river, also known as the Alexander Nile, flowing in irregular S shape, east, north and west, and emptying into Lake Victoria Nyanza, is the eastern boundary.

While there are two considerable tracts of forest in Ruanda, the central portion of the territory is bare of trees, but on the mountain slopes there is to be found wonderfully rich grass, on which graze magnificent herds of cattle that constitute the chief wealth of the natives. The agricultural possibilities of the region are almost unlimited.

One of the most striking advantages of this territory is its high altitude, an average of nearly a mile above sea level, so that although it lies under an equatorial sun, the temperature is usually about the same as that of a warm summer day in central Europe. Malarial mosquitoes are not known here, nor does the dread tsetse-fly hover over the land, bringing sleeping sickness to human beings and quicker death to cattle.

Contrasts in the Natives.

Two remarkable contrasts are to be found among the natives of this region. The highly developed, intelligent Watussis are magnificent physical specimens, lithe, well-proportioned and athletic. It is not uncommon to meet men from five feet eleven inches to seven feet two inches tall. On the other hand, on the island of Kwidschweil, in Lake Kivu, and in the bamboo forests of Bugole the traveler finds the pygmy Batwa tribe, whose spear-carrying warriors are under five feet in height, shy, timid and devoted almost



MT. KILIMANJARO

entirely to the chase. The aborigines belong to neither of these tribes, however, but are the Wahutu, a medium-sized, agricultural people. The black sultan of the region, one of the world's most powerful potentates ruling in territory held by white colonists, is a Watussis. His word, subject to the censorship of the European resident or governor, is law to a million and a half people.

There is abundant water in Ruanda, the small mountain streams never running dry. When the grass becomes parched on the hillsides, the natives burn it off and immediately there springs up fresh, tender pasture for the cattle.

The perfunctory salutation among friends is one of the interesting customs of the country. Upon meeting they either place their arms lightly about the waist or else grasp each other's elbows, holding them for a while, then one declares "I wish you cattle," while the other replies, "I wish you women."

First Explored by Von Goetzen.

This region was first explored in 1894 by Count von Goetzen, formerly governor of German East Africa, who came from the coast as far as Lake Kivu, about which Arab traders had frequently brought vague reports. This beautiful, island-dotted body of water, 5,000 feet above sea level, was the last considerable lake to be discovered in central Africa. Its outlet is the Rufiji river, which flows south into the famous Lake Tanganyika.

One of the most noted parties of exploration which has visited Ruanda was that headed by Adolphus Frederick, duke of Mecklenburg, who

HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES



A MATTER OF MEDICINE.

For many years Doctor Eustachy had been the leading physician of Pertuis, a town in the south of France. His professional reputation was so high that he often was summoned to distant places, and many people wondered why he persisted in hiding his light under a bushel, by dwelling in a country village; but the doctor held that it is better to be first in Pertuis than second in Paris.

Personally he was not exactly popular, because of his temper, over which he had poor control. Small things exasperated him to an unseemly degree, and when he was warm under the collar it took him a long time to cool down. So it happened that when Doctor Tournatoire arrived in Pertuis, announcing that he had come to stay, and was prepared to furnish pills in any quantity, many of the leading citizens, who were tired of Doc Eustachy's tantrums, gave the young man the glad hand.

Tournatoire had been graduated from the best of medical schools, he was highly recommended, and he soon demonstrated that his skill was great. His manners were most engaging, and he had a comforting way with patients that was quite as effective as his medicine. He became popular at once,

old Doc was convicted and fined, and returned to his office madder than ever.

Six weeks later Tournatoire invited some of his friends to a little banquet at his home, and on the afternoon of the festive day a basket of game arrived at the house. Half a dozen beautiful thrushes were in the basket. The thrushes were cooked, but there was such an abundance of good things at the feast that nobody ate them. The guests dispersed at a late hour, well fed and happy, and no doubt "One Who Was There" wrote a story of the joyous occasion for the local paper.

On the following morning Doctor Tournatoire returned from his office to his home on some errand, and, upon entering, was astonished to find his wife trying to stand on her head. Assisting her to her feet, he asked her what she was trying to do, and she began explaining that all her relatives were dead, her husband killed in a duel, and she wanted to die herself. The pupils of her eyes were extraordinary dilated, and she acted like a woman both crazy and blind. The doctor, alarmed, went into the kitchen to question the cook, and found her trying to put the dog in the stove. The dog was a large one, and defended itself heroically, but the cook seemed to have superhuman strength, and she considered the work of cremation highly important. The doctor rescued the dog, and tried to get some information from the woman, but she would talk of nothing but death. Everybody was dead, she said, and she had received a spirit message ordering her to put the dog in the stove. Her eyes also were dilated, and she seemed half blind.

A layman in such a painful position would have thought it a plain case of insanity, but the doctor, after a moment's consideration, decided what was the trouble.

"They have been poisoned with sulphate of atropine," said he, and governed himself accordingly, to such good purpose that the two women were convalescent in a few days.

They explained that they had each eaten a thrush that morning, and sickness followed, and they remembered no more. The doctor examined the remaining birds, and found them saturated with the poison. The news was made public, and it was taken for granted at once that Eustachy had been playing another of his pranks.

The old doctor was arrested, and strong evidence against him soon was forthcoming. It was easily established



Trying to Put the Dog in the Stove.

and his practice grew in a manner that must have been gratifying.

All this was gall and wormwood to old Doc Eustachy, who found himself almost abandoned by his townsmen. The calls for his services became so infrequent that he spent most of his time in his dingy office, calling down maledictions upon his young rival. He hadn't pride enough to keep quiet. He talked of nothing but Tournatoire, whom he denounced as a quack, an impostor, and everything else unpleasant to himself. Meanwhile business was humming with Doctor Tournatoire, who frolicked over the countryside, cutting off people's limbs and feeding them with pills, in the merriest way imaginable.

This went on for two or three years, and in 1884 Tournatoire was urged to run for a local office, so he placed himself in the hands of his friends, explaining that he always was ready to bleed and die for the flag at a moment's notice. This public spirited conduct was more than Eustachy could stand. He determined to be a candidate himself, and thus bring humiliation to his rival. He had the idea that he had enough friends and sympathizers to elect him, but when the votes were counted Eustachy was the most pronounced kind of an also ran. He didn't have a look in. And he was so mad over it that he howled like a wolf.

A day or two after the election the people of Pertuis woke to find the town plastered with handbills in which Tournatoire was held up to scorn as a moral leper, and a professional shyster, and a few other things. All the wire-edged words in the French language were used in the effort to do him justice. The people were called upon to rise as one man and run the faker out of the community. Doctor Tournatoire stood by a dead wall and read the hand bill, and his lips whitened, and a cold sweat stood on his forehead.

"Parbleu!" said he, in the absence of a good American curseword. "This is going too far!"

So he had old Doc Eustachy arrested on a charge of libel, and it was easy to prove his responsibility. The

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