

barbed wire, and as many Hottentot prisoners as could be got were shut in here. These literally died of starvation and exposure, and daily a wagon was sent across and returned laden with corpses.'

I do not know, of course, and it is impossible to say what we may not be forced to do at the end of the war, but if there is any measure of success, I confess I should regard with horror the idea of returning natives who have been freed from a government of that kind. These are the extreme cases. They are not the only cases.

*The Question of Poland and other Provinces*

What about Poland? I think we are all agreed that it is desirable to set up an independent Poland. Is there to be no annexation there? [An hon. member ejaculated: 'Freedom!'] Broadly I agree, if that is what you mean; but annexation has not that meaning in the English language, and we are discussing an English debate. I only want to get things perfectly clear. [Another hon. member pointed out that 'There is no word of annexation in the amendment'.] I am afraid the hon. member has not followed my argument. The hon. member for Blackburn will bear me out that he certainly said he thought it was conveniently summed up in the phrase, 'No annexation and no indemnity'. I will not elaborate the case of Poland, because we seem all to be agreed; but what about Alsace-Lorraine? Are you to say really that Germany, having taken two provinces from France, they shall not be restored. Take Italia irredenta. Are we really to commit ourselves to the proposition that, under no circumstances, would we restore to Italy provinces populated by Italians? I should regret any acceptance of short, misleading phrases. The hon. member [Mr. Whyte] referred to another phrase, 'No peace with the Hohenzollerns'. There is a great deal in that that is very attractive to any ordinary British mind, but at the same time I agree with him that it is too attractive to be quite true—at any rate, to be quite prudent as a definition of national policy. It is one thing to be against conquest which, without reason and against the will of the population, transfers territory from one sovereignty to another.

(Being asked if that principle will apply to Ireland, Lord