

from the mouth of the Tana to Kisimayu on the north, but there is reason to believe that the country around Lake Rudolph and the rivers to the north may be made to yield valuable results to commerce.

"As for Zanzibar, its strategic value need not be pointed out; it is worth many Heligolands. As the great centre of the commerce of the East Coast, its acquisition was worth a good deal of compromise. Any trade that may come down through the German sphere will yield a percentage to Zanzibar; though, as a matter of fact, since the German troubles much of the old trade now finds its way down Lake Tanganyika and across the Stevenson Road to Lake Nyassa, greatly to the advantage of the Lakes Company. In their interest it is to be hoped the trade will continue along that route. The total area of Zanzibar Island is 625 square miles, to which must be added that of Pemba, famous for its cloves. Between the two the population is probably 250,000. The total trade has been estimated at two millions sterling. There is no part of Zanzibar island over 1,000ft. high, and most of it is much lower, consisting of low hills and valleys. Both the islands are rich in tropical products and capable of yielding extensive grain crops; they produce several million pound weight of cloves. The population is of the most mixed character, the Arab element being, of course, dominant. Christian missions have been established many years, and Europeans find the island comparatively healthy. The city of Zanzibar is the largest on the African shores of the Indian Ocean.

"So far, then, as geographical considerations are concerned, the arrangement proposed could hardly, under