

highlands of Kenya Colony and the vast plains of Abyssinia, embracing also the south-east portion of what used to be Italian Somaliland, now known as Somalia. All year round the sun beats down mercilessly. Burning sand, stunted thorn scrub, dried river beds and black volcanic rock are the main features of this wilderness. Occasionally a lone hill or small range will appear, shrouded by a blue haze on the horizon. No sounds, no signs of life, except around the water holes which often lie hundreds of miles apart. These spots attract game in plenty, especially baboon, and there is the odd leopard or lion, wild elephant, rhino and different types of gazelle.

There are no roads, just camel tracks

Recruit Arrives for Training



which have been used for years as supply routes to British outposts on the frontier itself. They are wider now, made that way by the transport which rolled by during the Abyssinian campaign.

Before the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935, the onus of policing this area lay upon approximately eight or nine white police officers, a score of native askaris of the Kenya Police and three companies (450 men) of the King's African Rifles, the latter officered by white men and probably the most famous native regiment of its kind in the British Empire. When Mussolini set up an organized administration in his new colony, the burden was lifted for a time, until his pro-axis inclinations made the task doubly difficult.

In view of the foregoing, one might ask whether the second line of the old K.A.R. song is not truer than it sounds. In fact, it is not. There are many lawless native tribes inhabiting the district, which for centuries, on and off, have been at war with one another, exploited from time to time by the crafty Habash (Abyssinian tribesmen) who were about the first to discover that rifles were better weapons than bows and arrows.

Ever since the beginning of the 20th century, troops of the K.A.R. have been endeavoring to restore law and order between the Turkana and Merille tribes who live near Lake Rudolf. Likewise, both troops and police have been on the alert constantly for smugglers of arms, drugs and other items which fetch a good price in more civilized communities, and which are usually conveyed in camel trains by Somali nomads.

Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Nyasaland are the four colonies which comprise the British East African Territories. Each has a separate native police force led by men who are chosen by the Colonial Office in London, England. The leaders start at the initial rank of sub-inspector and, to the best of my knowledge, have no specific training apart from learning as they work in company with experienced men. A number are