



WOMEN BRINGING THEIR ANNUAL FOOD-TAX TO THE CHIEF. THESE WOMEN HAD TO CARRY IT TWENTY-TWO MILES

nominal duty of three per cent.

The country, a low veldt, is only two or three hundred feet above sea level, and this, in part, accounts for its malarial climate. It possesses a sandy soil, with no rock formation, and large portions of its surface consist of broad, grassy plains dotted here and there with the lala palm, from which is drawn the famous "palm wine." Other districts are rolling and hilly, covered with grass and dotted with single fruit trees, or patched here and there with clumps of bush. This, however, applies only to the eastern half, forests, lakes and reedy marshes covering the western part. In the east, Kosi Lake, which the Boers greatly coveted as a port, is the largest body of water. It is some five or six miles long, and two or three miles wide; and is united with the Indian Ocean by Kosi Bay and a series of lagoons. The hippopotamus and crocodile infest nearly all these waters. Some ten or twelve brooks, called "rivers," give the land a fair supply of water, which is pure and of ex-

cellent taste. These "rivers" run, as a rule, from west to east, slipping over silver or golden sands.

British Tongaland is the most beautiful district I have seen in South Africa. Its latitude is 26° south (the same as Johannesburg), its climate is mild, and frost is unknown. The seasons are practically only two in number—the wet and the dry periods, called winter and summer, rains being expected any time

from October to February. The mean temperature runs about 80° or 85° F. One hundred and twenty-two degrees in the sun was the highest record I observed, but that was hot enough to keep the natives from travelling in the sand paths, and to cause insects and small reptiles, such as lizards and snakes, to fall from the interior of the thatched roofs with heat exhaustion. Birds, also, have been known to drop dead when flying out from shelter.



A FEW OF THE CHIEF'S WIVES. HE HAS ABOUT SIXTY, BUT THEY DO NOT ALL LIVE TOGETHER