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From the Victoria Nyanza to Kilimanjaro: Discussion

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Name.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.	Height in feet.
	° ' "	° ' "	
Longido	2 41 52	36 42 45	8645
74	1 59 32	36 44 3	6974
Lemeboiti (Bisil)	2 8 28	36 45 12	7018
Erok N. Rock	2 26 53	36 45 34	7648
Arusha (Meru)	3 14 32	36 44 49	14,962
East foothill	2 30 47	36 49 45	6180
Lolginegi	2 44 13	36 56 3	3972
Rocks	2 41 14	37 0 0	3898
N. 3	2 41 14	37 9 10	3978
Merrisherry	2 40 52	37 10 45	3984
No. 2	2 43 3	37 11 51	3989
El. 1	2 30 50	37 29 48	4205
El. 2	2 31 47	37 29 13	4439
Olobrauk	2 53 11	37 25 56	4959
Malagogoi (W.)	3 21 33	37 39 45	3577
T.	3 22 59	37 33 54	2935
Reata	3 25 47	37 38 40	3175
U.	3 26 29	37 35 1	2603
Ugweno	3 34 10	37 39 59	6135
Ugweno foothill	3 34 22	37 43 21	2834
Ugweno 2	3 33 29	37 35 44	5779
Mbare	3 44 21	37 38 57	6981
Loukeri	2 36 41	37 41 24	4202
Sambu	2 36 30	37 43 39	4768

Before the paper, the PRESIDENT: Captain Smith, who in Africa has the local rank of Colonel, is known to our Society mainly by his having read a paper to us of a very excellent character some seven years ago on road-making and surveying in East Africa. Captain Smith is an Engineer officer who went out to East Africa in 1892, and has made repeated visits there, during which he has done a great deal of useful work; but a little over two years ago he was appointed by His Majesty's Government as the head of the British section of the Anglo-German Commission for marking the boundary between the Victoria Nyanza and Kilimanjaro. His expedition lasted for a period of about a year and eight months, and terminated a few months back. Captain Smith has, during the course of that period, not only done good political work, but also some excellent geographical work. I am told that his survey work on that expedition is of a remarkable character. I should mention that we have here to-night one or two distinguished guests from East Africa. We have His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar, whose ancestors have had a long and historic connection, as you know, with all those regions. And, in the next place, we have present here to-night Hauptmann Schlobach, the leader of the German section of this boundary commission, who has done us the honour of coming from Berlin to-day for the express purpose of being present at this meeting. During that expedition of a year and eight months the most perfect harmony existed between the German and British sections of the expedition. That does great credit to Hauptmann Schlobach and his companions, and also to Captain Smith and his companions; and it is one more proof that Englishmen and Germans, when not incited by over-zealous newspapers, can work together just as harmoniously as they did in the days of Frederick the Great. I will now call upon Captain Smith to read his paper.

After the paper, the PRESIDENT: I am sure you will now wish me to invite Hauptmann Schlobach to address a few words to this meeting.

HAUPTMANN SCHLOBACH: This my first visit to England is undertaken to accept the very kind invitation of the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society. I need not assure you that I feel greatly honoured by this kindness, and by the fact of my being here you can see that I was always able to work harmoniously with my British colleagues in Africa, not only with regard to the boundary work, but all through our private relations were very friendly. The work we have done has doubtless some scientific value, and I would direct your thoughts to the fact that our work had not only a local interest, but possessed a wider character, as we succeeded in joining the 30th meridian with Zanzibar, which has been accurately fixed with Cape Town by the exchange of electric signals. I hope very soon to see my British colleagues in Berlin. And now I have to thank you once more for the kind hospitality you have shown me this evening, and I would say how much pleasure and honour it has given me to be amongst the members of this the most distinguished Geographical Society of the world.

The PRESIDENT: I now propose calling upon Sir Clement Hill, a Member of Parliament, as well as of our Council, not because he is a member, but because he has not only visited these regions, but, for many years at the Foreign Office, was a sort of autocrat who directed their destinies. I hope he will kindly say a few words.

Sir CLEMENT HILL: It gives me peculiar pleasure to stand here to-night, partly owing to my near acquaintance—official, and, I hope I may say, friendly—with the Sultanate of Zanzibar, whose Sultan we are proud to welcome amongst us to-night, and partly because I had the privilege of accompanying Sir Bartle Frere, one of your Presidents, to Zanzibar in 1873, where we received, even in times of great stress, when relations were not so easy in those countries as they now are, a most cordial and friendly welcome from the Sultan. I am proud to think that these relations have been encouraged and improved since, till we welcome amongst us the Sultan of the present day. He was educated at Harrow, talks English, understands the character of the English nation, and, I am quite certain, will do his best to give that support to the geographers, explorers, and commercial men of this empire which his ancestors have always accorded to us before. I remember when we went to Zanzibar, the great traveller Livingstone had recently been rediscovered by Stanley. We went out with an expedition fostered and promoted by this Society to give relief to Livingstone. That was the expedition of Cameron. It shows the great difference of the conditions of those times when Cameron's expedition, which started from Bagamoyo, had the greatest difficulty, not only in making a start, but in making any progress at all. Out of the four Europeans who started, Cameron himself was the only one who survived to cross the country, and he came out in Portuguese territory two years afterwards. That was one of the great journeys made by a representative of this Society. Now we have the great difference that our representatives will come back after journeys which, in their way, are at least as important and almost as difficult as Cameron's, and they receive hardly any notice in the Press. They report to us how they communicate with one another, they fix their different positions by telegraph, they get to their destination by train, they have their caravans with the very easiest methods of transport, and, instead of all the difficulties and all the deaths which occurred before, they come back amongst us well and strong to say that the country is a habitable country and that it has a still greater future than that which has already been brought to it by the efforts of geographers. The work of the Foreign Office has always been to encourage cordial relations with our friends of other countries

who march with us, and all the time I was in the Foreign Office, I believe I can honestly say that there never were any difficulties with our German friends on the frontiers. They have since shown how cordially they can work with us by the work which we have seen shown on the screen and by the description which has been given us, and I am quite certain that those relations in Africa will always continue. Captain Smith has not told you what he must be very proud of, namely, that the Smith whom he alluded to as having made these excellent surveys was his brother. He was the person who brought the survey from the coast to Kilimanjaro, and it has been given to the two brothers of that family to complete the whole of that boundary between Germany and the British sphere. I can only add, I am profoundly impressed by the advance which has been made in our knowledge of East Africa, by the facilities which are given, and by the extraordinary friendliness of the natives whom we meet there, and the great ease with which travelling is now done throughout the eastern coast of Africa. I think, before I sit down, that I should like—I am not quite certain whether it is in my province properly to do so—but I can hardly refuse myself the pleasure of calling your attention to the fact that we have amongst us the representative of a newly born kingdom. We have here amongst us a man whom many of you have listened to, when you heard in the Albert Hall, as I did, that extraordinary history of his wonderful journey towards the north pole—I mean Dr. Nansen. I am sure we shall all cordially welcome him, and, although he cannot tell us about tropical Africa, we can feel in his presence, that whilst we are warmly inclined to him, he will not have a cooling influence amongst us.

THE PRESIDENT: I will now call upon Major Bright, whom you may remember is the recipient of one of our awards this year. He accompanied Captain Smith in his expedition, and he has done excellent work in other parts of Africa.

MAJOR BRIGHT: The comprehensive paper which Captain Smith has read this evening does not leave much need for additional information. A fact, perhaps, worthy of notice is, that during the commission's journey no trouble was experienced with natives through whose country it passed. For about three and a half years British and German officers were working together delimitating the boundaries between their respective protectorates. That they were not only on speaking terms, but on the best possible terms, with each other, after spending such a long time together in such tropical and trying climates, speaks well of the tact and good feeling displayed on both sides. Hauptmann Schlobach, in conjunction with whom the British were working, is present this evening, and I can only express the sincere pleasure his arrival in England has given to those who were so long his colleagues in East Africa and Uganda. Captain Smith, not content in having already surveyed a considerable portion of East Africa—he has been out there on three separate expeditions surveying—is shortly to return as Surveyor-General, and I can only tell him that he carries with him the best wishes of all the officers, myself included, who had the pleasure of serving on his last expedition.

THE PRESIDENT: I will now call upon Major Close, who, as you know, in the Intelligence Department of the War Office, takes charge of what I may call the military geographical information of all the British Empire, with the exception of India. He is the highest living authority on the geography of the British Empire from that particular standpoint.

MAJOR CLOSE: Our explorers and surveyors, like Captain Smith, do their best to make Africa uninteresting. We have every year a great succession of elaborate surveys—and how elaborate, I suppose, only those know who are, so to speak, in the technical world—which are gradually reducing Africa to a place as well known as the United Kingdom. There is hardly a town in Africa that we do not know

the position of, within about 10 miles—in fact, most towns we know within 2 or 3 miles.

Major VILLIERS: I am sure it is quite an unexpected honour to me that I should be asked to address this meeting. It is a great many years since I was in East Africa, but the photographs which we have seen depicted on this sheet have brought home very vividly to me the long marches I had many years ago with the late Sir Gerald Portal. It was owing entirely to the late Sir Gerald Portal that this country was taken over, and I feel certain that in the near future we shall find that East Africa will form one of the brightest gems in the British Empire. It is capable of growing almost anything, it has every class of soil and every class of climate. In finding one's self on an expedition such as I was on many years ago, one looked forward to what the future might bring forth for this country, and I must say that I think the Foreign Office can congratulate itself upon the enormous developments which have taken place. When I walked to Uganda it took us seventy-five days to walk there from Mombasa, but now we find a railway which will take you there, I believe, in about two days, and halfway up the railway, I hear, there is a large town sprung up at Nairobi, which in those days was open veldt inhabited by game. I think no one could walk through a country like that without having great interest in the country, and I have, I am glad to say, been able to try, in a small way, to help the development of that country. For the last two or three years we have been trying to start Australian sheep there, and there is no doubt that on the high plateau in East Africa the Australian sheep will live and thrive very well. Also in that country, at an elevation of, say, 6000 feet, the white man will be able to live and farm and earn a good living. I think one of the drawbacks to East Africa is, that up to the present time it has not been properly developed, and people do not know enough about it. There is, between Uganda and the coast, a country of many thousands of square miles, where white men can undoubtedly live and live well. Again, in East Africa no doubt a large part of the country is fit for the overflow population of India. Up to the present time, I believe that no minerals have been found in the country; but if minerals are found there, the Government will find that they have the same difficulty to contend with in East Africa as they had in South Africa, namely, the labour question. I think, before I sit down, I cannot do better than draw attention to the fact that this fine country is the natural place for the overflow population of India, and more attention ought to be drawn to that fact than has been hitherto.

The PRESIDENT: I now rise to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Captain and Colonel Smith for his very interesting address. Some remark was made about geographical details; you will find full details of the geography of his expedition in the *Journal* of the Society. We have had an interesting discussion, and I only propose to say a few words on one remark which the last speaker made. He said it was Sir Gerald Portal who took over those countries; it is perfectly true Sir Gerald Portal took them over for the Crown, but I hope it will never be forgotten that those countries were acquired by the Imperial British East Africa Company, and if it had not been for the efforts of Sir William Mackinnon and his associates—I am sorry not to see Sir George Mackenzie here to-night—there would have been no British East Africa to take over.