

Telegraph:
50 CITIZENRY, CHURTON, LONDON

Telephone:
VICTORIA 6065

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society

(in which are incorporated the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society).

Joint Presidents :

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. THE RT. HON. LORD MESTON, K.C.S.I. THE RT. HON. LORD NOEL-BUXTON.

Chairman : CHARLES H. ROBERTS, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman : CHARLES RODEN BUXTON, Esq.

Hon. Secretary : TRAVERS BUXTON, M.A.

Parliamentary Secretary : Sir JOHN HARRIS.

Joint Hon. Treasurers :

ALFRED BROOKS, ESQ., J.P.

SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON, BART.

H. J. TAPSCOTT, ESQ.

DENISON HOUSE,

296 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.1.

(CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATIONS.)

28th June, 1933.

A. da Silva, Esq.,
rua Quental 125,
Porto,
Portugal.

Dear Sir,

The Committee has decided to issue on July 1st a special Centenary number of the Reporter, in which will be set forth some of the principal events and proposals connected with our Centenary.

We have ordered a much larger number than usual, in the hope that members will apply for copies and place them in the hands of possible subscribers - for we must increase our membership in view of the big effort before us.

Our Committee trusts that every friend of the Society will make a special endeavour to support local proposals for celebrating our Centenary, more particularly where Clergy and Ministers are proposing, as large numbers are doing, to preach upon the subject.

There is one way in which just now every friend of the Society may be able to help us. In order to place before the

public a short popular history of the work of the Society during the last hundred years, the Committee had to purchase over a thousand copies of the new book by Sir John Harris - "A Century of Emancipation". If each of our friends would take one or more copies, and present one to local Clergy and Ministers, it would not only help the Committee, but would render material assistance in spreading knowledge of Slavery. One friend has generously bought enough to send a copy to every Bishop in the country.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Roberts

P.S.

You will be glad to note that we have been able to arrange for a Celebration Meeting this year in St. Paul's Cathedral. This will take place on Sunday afternoon, July 23rd. Full particulars will be announced later.

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Private.

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A. da Silva, Esq.,
Rua Quental 125,
Porto,
Portugal.

27th February 1936.

Dear Sir,

At our last Committee meeting, I was asked to send to members and friends of the Society a short note upon certain important features of our work which cannot be published at the moment.

In the first place, the Abyssinian question in its relation to the emancipation of the slaves has given us much concern. I am glad to be able to inform you that we have received highly satisfactory official assurances from our Government that the matter will receive close attention in any final settlement that may be made.

The next cause for satisfaction is that through the co-operation of Lord Cranborne, M. Sandler (the Swedish Foreign Minister) and others at Geneva last September, it was agreed that a special meeting of the League Slavery Committee should be summoned this year.

The third feature is of a disquieting nature. We have for some time had only too much reason to fear that the buying and selling of children as slaves in territories under British control was being continued on a surprising scale in certain parts of the world. Now that the facts are no longer a matter of dispute, the Committee is endeavouring to secure a full enquiry into the whole situation.

The fourth subject is an entirely different one. For twenty years the Society, through a Committee composed of its members but acting under a separate trust, has been devoting its energies to the helping by advice and relief where there was distress, Africans and West Indians in this country. The whole subject bristles with difficulty and is full of really tragic features. The burden of the work and the raising of special funds has fallen heavily upon Sir John Harris, the Hon. Secretary. I attach a short note upon the inception and character of this work. Our Committee is of the opinion that members and friends of the Society will like to know that this work is being done and therefore the reports upon the Work and Annual Accounts will in future and with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, be incorporated in the "Reporter".

I am glad to say that our subscription and donation list has been maintained - Unfortunately, we lost many valued friends during 1935, but secured new friends and helpers. Unhappily, no new legacy has been received during the year and certain exceptional expenditure had to be incurred, with the result that we shall need to make a "whip round" for about £400, if we are to present a clean balance sheet to the Annual Meeting.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Charles Roberts

Chairman.

NOTE ON AFRICAN WELFARE.

At the request of Lord Haig, Sir John Harris was asked to arrange for "comforts" for members of the African Labour Corps employed during the war; for this purpose Sir John collected a substantial sum of money. At the conclusion of the war there was a balance in hand of about £2,000. Although relief of distress amongst Africans in England had hitherto been no part of the work of the Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society, one of the difficulties was that Government departments and private persons were in the habit of sending Africans, West Indians and others in distress to the Offices of the Society, which, of course, had no funds for the relief of such distress.

Sir John Harris therefore proposed to the Charity Commissioners that this balance should be invested, in order to provide a small, regular fund for the relief of distress. The first Chairman of the Committee was Lord Selborne and the present Chairman is Major-General W. H. Grey. Most members of the Committee have had Colonial experience and thus they are able to render assistance in cases of relief or difficulty, and, by working in co-operation with business firms, are frequently able to secure passages either freely or at a low charge back to Africa for Africans in distress. Another part of the work is taking the oversight of African children sent to this country for education.

The whole of this work has for twenty years imposed a considerable burden on the Officers and Staff of the Society.

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A. da Silva, Esq.,
rua Quental, 125,
Porto,
Portugal.

3rd February, 1937.

Dear Sir,

As Chairman of our General Committee, I am submitting to members and friends of the Society a short note upon certain developments in our work which have a domestic importance and should, I think, be put before them.

Last year I pointed out the concern of the Committee at the continued sale of children in territories under British control. Following upon my letter, we were able to persuade the Government to appoint the Mui Tsai Commission, the issue of whose report we are now awaiting.

This year we have been disturbed to learn of slave raiding and slave trading of a violent character, and on a considerable scale, in quite a different part of the world. The persons witnessing some of these raids thus describe one scene - "The sky-line was seen to be a mass of flames.....many huts were found in a smouldering condition, the huts having been burnt at night." We are endeavouring to persuade the authorities to issue these reports to the public, as we feel that this condition of affairs ought to be made known.

One of the helpful features of our work this year has been the calling into existence of an African Conference, the membership of which is composed exclusively of men and women with African experience. The Conference includes some of the best known names concerned in African welfare.

The South African "Protectorates" continue to absorb a great deal of the time and thought of the Committee. The article by Sir John Harris, published in the "Times", has attracted wide notice, and has already gone through two editions of reprints. In so far as the transfer of the government of these territories is concerned, it was a matter of profound thankfulness to our Committee when we learned that at last the Home Government and the South African Government had accepted the principle of consultation with the natives before any transfer is allowed to take place.

I am glad to report again that our subscription and donation list has not only been well maintained, but has in fact increased in numbers, whilst several members have spontaneously increased the amount. But from the figures appended below, you will see that, whilst the Society is constantly increasing its membership, the average subscription and donation tends to decrease as the years go by. This means that we shall again have to make a "whip round" amongst our friends to liquidate a deficit of about £400 if we are to issue a clean Balance Sheet to the Annual Meeting.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Charles Roberts

Chairman.

| <u>Year.</u> | <u>Membership</u> | <u>Average Subscription.</u> | <u>Donations.</u> | <u>Average Donation.</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1909. | 300. | £1. 9. 2. | 23. | £5. 11. 1. |
| 1929. | 571. | £1. 8. 8. | 99. | £3. 5. 8. |
| 1935. | 740. | £1. 4. 0. | 258. | £2. 14. 9. |

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DENISON HOUSE,
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8th April, 1938.

A. da Silva, Esq.,
Rua Quental 125,
Porto,
Portugal.

Dear Sir,

This year I find exceptional pleasure in sending out my Annual letter to members and friends of the Society.

In the first place, it has been a year of great activity. In the second place, I have usually been requested by the General Committee to include in my yearly letter an appeal for funds to liquidate the Society's annual deficit. I am glad to tell you that I have not to make any appeal this year, because, through the generosity of a limited number of friends of the Society, we have secured sufficient funds to liquidate - or at least almost to liquidate - the deficit we anticipated.

Another cause for gratification is that the membership of the Society has received a greater accession this year than over the same period in any previous year.

Our Annual Meeting promises to be one of the most interesting and important functions held by the Society for many years. The array of speakers, as you will see, is a notable one, and we have every reason to anticipate that the outcome of this meeting will be a forward movement on behalf of aboriginal races in different parts of the world.

I am afraid I must now strike a somewhat different note. We regret that there is no information yet upon the definite abolition of slavery in Abyssinia. In China, the war has involved a set-back in the movement for the emancipation of the slave children. In South Africa, the situation regarding the natives and the question of the Protectorate territories is giving the Society constant anxiety. We hope to be in a position to make an important announcement upon this latter subject at the Annual Meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Robeth

—
Chairman.