



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Pamphlet: The Negro Worker Vol. 4 No. 5

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 07:16:16

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

there are possibilities there for planting extensive areas with cotton.

The position of France and Italy is above all determined by strategical problems. As there are the most varied African antagonisms between these two powers, the penetration of Italy denotes one of the most important moments of danger. Unless there is a weak <<independent>> Abyssinia dominated by France (or at least a pliable Abyssinia), Djibuti is worthless as a French naval base.

[[image]]

[[caption]] Italy also constructs waterworks in attempt to dominate the Sudan. [[/caption]]

Abyssinia occupies a position of tremendous importance in the competitive struggle of the powers for cotton. England strives to break America's cotton monopoly by attempting to control other sources of production. This means an intensified struggle between England and America. While England and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan are building dams and water-works which dominate the cotton production of Egypt and the Sudan, America is hastening to get concession rights from the Abyssinian Government to build the Tanasee dam. This concession in itself is absolutely worthless for America as cotton plantations in Abyssinia for America are out of the question. (Cotton production in the U. S. A. is still being curtailed). But this

-10-

means that America will be able to control the supply of water for the Sudan. Through these dams, America could cut off the water supply for Egypt and for Sudan at its own discretion.

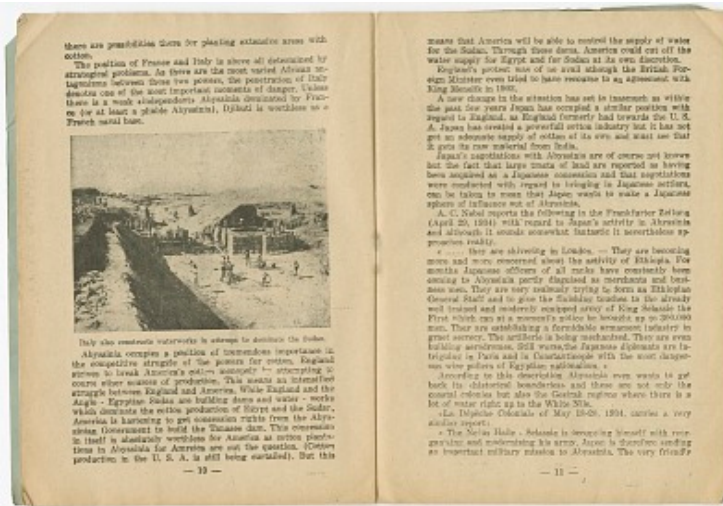
England's protest was of no avail although the British Foreign Minister even tried to have recourse to an agreement with King Menelik in 1902.

A new change in the situation has set in inasmuch as within the past few years Japan has occupied a similar position with regard to England, as England formerly had towards the U.S.A. Japan has created a powerful cotton of its own and must see that it gets its raw material from India.

Japan's negotiations with Abyssinia are of course not known but the fact that large tracts of land are reported as having been acquired as a Japanese concession and that negotiations were conducted with regard to bringing in Japanese settlers, can be taken to mean that Japan wants to make a Japanese sphere of influence out of Abyssinia.

A.C. Nebel reports the following in the Frankfurter Zeitung (April 29, 1934) with regard to Japan's activity in Abyssinia and although it sounds somewhat fantastic it nevertheless approaches reality.

<<<.....they are shivering in London. -- They are becoming more and more concerned about the activity of Ethiopia. For months Japanese officers of all ranks have constantly been coming to Abyssinia partly disguised as merchants and business men. They are very zealously



trying to form an Ethiopian General Staff and to give the finishing touches to the already well trained and modernly equipped army of King Selassie the First which can at a moment's notice be brought up to 300.000 men. They are establishing a formidable armament industry in great secrecy. The artillery is being mechanized. They are even building aerodromes. Still worse, the Japanese diplomats are intriguing in Paris and in Constantinople with the most dangerous wire pullers of Egyptian nationalism.>>

According to this description Abyssinia even wants to get back its <<historical boundaries>> and these are not only the coastal colonies but also the Gesirah regions where there is a lot of water right up to the White Nile.

<<La Dépêche Coloniale>> of May 18-20, 1934, carries a very similar report:

<<The Neues Haile - Selassie is occupying himself with reorganizing and modernizing his army. Japan is therefore sending an important military mission to Abyssinia. The very friendly

-11-

Pamphlet: The Negro Worker Vol. 4 No. 5
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-19-2024 07:16:16



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)