

September 16, 1919.

Preiska. Arrived at this place 7:30 p.m. Spent the morning about town. This is an old Boer settlement, the end of the railway until the end of the late war, when the railway was extended to connect with the rail lines in German Southwest Africa, which is now called the Southwest Protectorate. The Kalahari is here referred to as a great grassland, which needs only drinking water to make it valuable grazing land. At present mitsama (*Citrullus vulgaris*) are not growing, but I have been able to secure here a large Kafir melon of the same species.

O. Jantje is one of the oldest natives, 114 years old some years ago as he puts it. Did not know Livingstone but heard of him when 14 years old. His mother was a Griqua and his father a Namaqua. He has been at Kuruman and Macotti. Very talkative. He insisted upon being taken by "taxi" to his home.

P3--Shows the taxi with Jantje on board, and his house at the left. This man was the nearest Bushman of any seen in South Africa.





P5.--Shows a closer view of Jantje. Half Griqua and half Namaqua. The wrinkled skin is characteristic of even much younger men. The distribution of hair on the head reminds one of a miniature low veld, where scattered acacia thickets are interspersed with grassland. He is not black, but yellow in color.



P6---An old Dutch oven, open on the inside of the kitchen. Kitchen in the back is typical of this section.



P7--Another type of kitchen with oven fed from the outside.

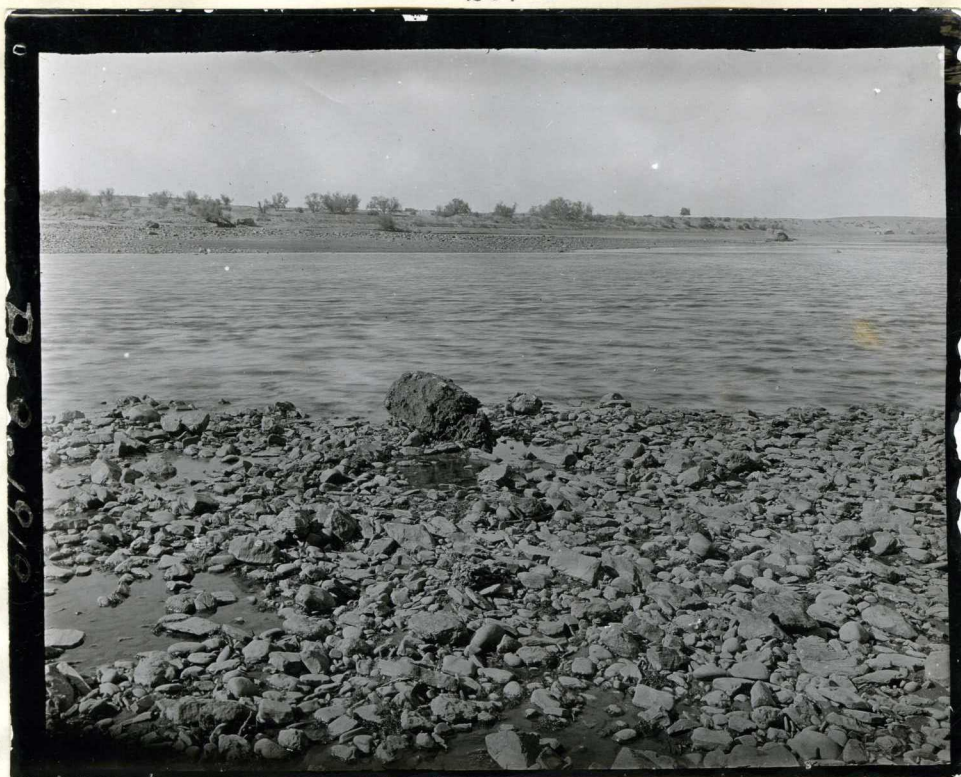
Mr. W. L. Calder of the South Africa Nitrate and Potash Company showed his samples of shales with KNO_3 . It occurs in great quantities at the surface of the shales about Preiska and can be extracted by washing and recrystallization. He extended us every courtesy and could probably be called upon for material from this section of the country.

In the afternoon I went out along the Orange river. This river is a mere stream, bounded on one side by a sparse growth of Acacia horrida, on the other the vegetation is more dense, but consists primarily of two acacia species. Gum arabic is abundant on the larger of these acacias. I also noted Chara foetidissima along the river. A Nicotiana glauca is as prominent here as in our desert. A Mexican poppy, Argemone, is also a prominent plant.



P8--A general view across the Orange river showing a train of donkeys in the drift (ford). In the foreground is a plant of Nicotiana glauca. The trees on the further bank are largely Acacia horrida and on the extreme right a much larger acacia is shown.

There are also many trees of Ziziphus, which form a sort of wait-a-bit thorn with their small recurved thorns.



P9-- Is a closer view of the Orange river with diamond gravel in the foreground. Thorn trees are shown on the opposite bank.

Even if a diamond were found here it would have to be put up at auction by the government and a small percentage of the returns paid to the finder.

P10 ---A general view. Acacia horrida and Acacia sp. along the road or south bank of the Orange river. E.M. Thierry and W.L. Calder in the photograph.





P11--Agave (Herb.172), abundant on the hills about Prieska.

Mesembrianthemum is abundant on the low land. Every crevice of this cliff seemed to be filled with wild bees and it was rather difficult to get across these hills without disturbing them.

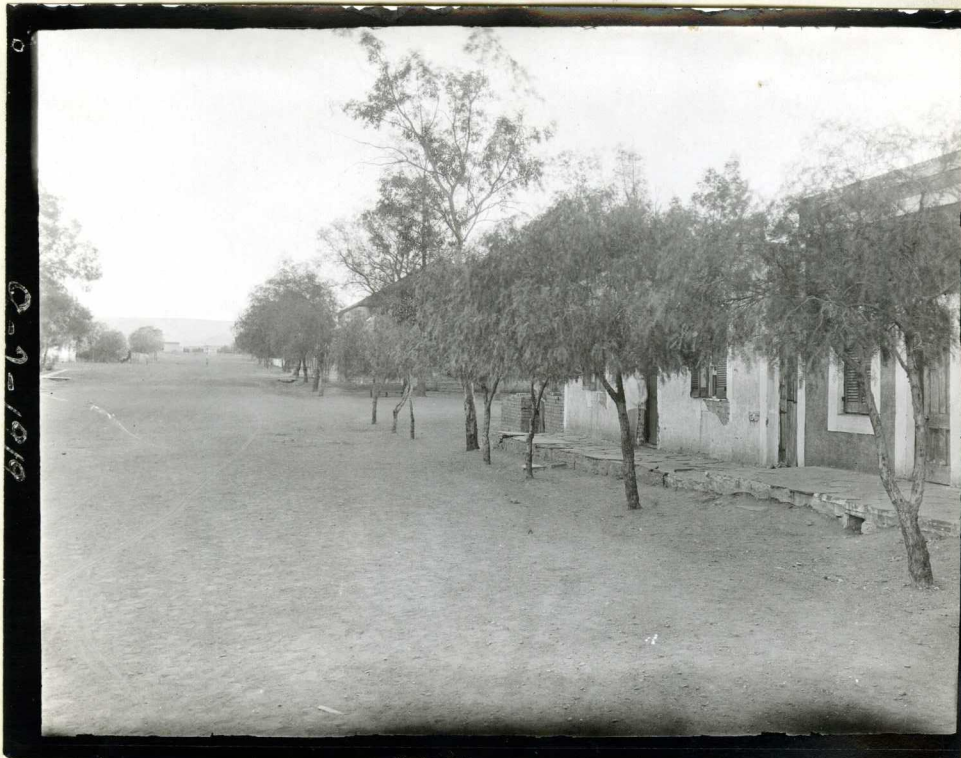


P12--The angular-stemmed shrub, Herb. 174, Agave, Herb. 172, Cotyledons, Herb. 173, on the hill along Prieska. English blockhouse in the background built by the English and used by them during the Boer war.

The blockhouse above is hexagonal, about 16 feet across, has port holes, one narrow low entrance, and a large water tank. The roof also affords parapet for use in firing and also has port holes. It is built of stone. There is also an additional wall around the blockhouse, and a small stone breastwork farther down the hill.



Q1---A general view from the hill, showing typical desert country, with a Boer wagon drawn by donkeys at the left. Goat herd at the right. Railroad in background. The hills from which potassium and nitrate are secured shown in background. Vegetation at base of hill is largely mesembrianthemum.



Q2---A street scene in Prieska, showing pepper trees and Eucalyptus, and low plastered houses.