

1924

KENYA

C. O.
26855
5 JUN 24

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DATE
4th June 1924.

46

FOR CIRCULATION:—

RAILWAY ASIATIC STAFF. RETRENCHMENTS.

*18 Lieutenant-Colonel Meyler, — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he has received any representation from the employees on the Uganda railway in respect of dismissals; what was the number of such employees last year, of 2,088 such employees 368 were dismissed; what is the reason for this reduction of staff; and whether he will receive a deputation from those who desire to represent the injustice of the action taken. (111)

Perm. U.S. of S.

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

111

SECRET

Mr. J.
26/7/24

Please see
return, etc.
J. M. P.

The figure
European
African decrease
Native (white) increased from
1093 61589 = 2.66 %
which 368 may be taken to set off
African decrease, leaving 4% or 9%
of total increase native figure
The increase of work done is about 10%

Copy 2 & no refer. 10 July 24

Subsequent Paper

9/8
27/4/24

Diff apply hereafter. His
will be long, and the least change
practised in present and all the

MINUTES

MINUTES NOT TO
ON THIS

Omitted, but I think
we should save trouble
in the long run by going
by rule only.

Local
7/6/24

H. J. R.
7/12/24

Lieut.-Colonel MEYLER
Secretary of State for the Colonies
will be pleased to receive a
deputation from the Asiatic
employees in respect of dismissals
which during the past year of 2,068
staff employees were dismissed: what
is the reason for this reduction of staff
and whether he will receive a deputation
from those employees who desire to re-
present the influence of the action taken
against them.

Mr. THOMAS: I have received no
deputations of the kind, and I am not
aware of any dismissals of Asiatic
employees having taken place. No doubt
many temporary engagements have
expired and in many cases natives have
replaced by the employment of natives of
Africa, and the report of the general
manager shows that in 1923 the number of
Asiatic employees was reduced from 2,068
to 1,791. During that year, as compared
with the previous year, the expenditure
decreased by 12 per cent, while the earn-
ings increased by 13 per cent, and I con-
clude that the replacement as opportunity
arose of Asiatics by Africans tended to
economize without sacrifice of efficiency.
The responsibility for the just treatment
of Asiatic employees rests with the
Governor, and I am confident that it is in
safe hands. As at present advised, I do
not think that it would serve any useful
purpose for me to receive a deputation
representing such officials.

Lieut.-Colonel MEYLER: Will the
right hon. Gentleman answer the last part
of my question as to whether he will
receive a deputation from those employees?

Mr. THOMAS: To bring deputations
such a long distance merely to be told
nothing is a waste of money, and I have no
objection to receiving a deputation, but
it would be equally unwise to incur
expenditure without being able to see any
useful result.

Sir C. YATE: What steps have been

See the supplementary
? Copy of this + 27/47 to
Gov. M/3.
Local
17-6-24
at once.
H. J. R.
17/12/24

Mr. THOMAS: The result is shown in
the figures I have given.

Mr. SIMPSON: Is the right hon.
Gentleman sure that these men have been
replaced by Africans?

The petition in 23484/24 is
not a matter of dismissal but
in respect of reduction of salaries.
From the Indian Overseas Association's
letter in 26076/24 it seems clear
that another petition is on the way;
it has not however been received here.

The figures are correct according
to page 21 of the General manager's
report for 1923.

The reason for the reduction of
Asiatic staff is the increased
employment of natives - of the
top sentence in page 21 of the
report already mentioned. It is impossible
in the figures, to take seriously the
suggestion that the reduction of
Asiatic staff have been effected not
in order to give employment to
natives but to benefit Europeans.

22955/24 contains a request

for a deputation to explain
personally from the General manager

and the greater
economy thereby
attained.

The petition in 23484/24 is not in respect of dismissal but in respect of reduction of salaries. 46
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The figures are correct according to page 21 of the General Manager's report for 1923.

The reason for the reduction of Asiatic staff is the increased employment of natives - cf. the top sentence on page 21 of the report already mentioned. It is impossible on the figures, to take seriously the ~~Stock Association's~~ I. O. A.'s suggestion that the reductions of Asiatic staff have been effected not in order to give employment to natives but to benefit Europeans.

22955/24 contains a request for a deputation to examine personally grave situations. This was

and the ~~great~~
economy thereby
attained.

in a message about salaries and leave conditions. The Governor said he did not consider that there were any grounds to justify the proposed deputation.

Suggested reply -

I have received no representation from the Asiatic employees in the Uganda Railway in respect of directors' salaries. The report of the ~~General~~ ^{Pr} ~~Manager~~ ^{Man} for the year 1923 shows that the number of Asiatic employees was reduced during the year from 2,088 to 1,720, the reason for this reduction being the cessation ~~replacement~~ of recruiting from India and the increased employment of African natives in posts formerly held by Asiatics. At present advised I am of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by any receiving a deputation.

Director of Railways
C. J. 5

a message about salaries and leave conditions. The Governor said he did not consider that there were any grounds to justify the proposed deputation.

Suggested reply -

I have received no representation from the Asiatic employees in the Uganda Railway in respect of directors etc. The report of the ^{Financial} Manager for the year 1923 shows that the number of Asiatic employees was reduced during the year from 2,088 to 1,720, the reason for this reduction being the cessation ~~replacement~~ of recruiting from India and the increased employment of African natives in posts formerly held by Asiatics. At present ~~advised~~ I am of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by any receiving a deputation.

a message about salaries and leave conditions. The Governor said he did not consider that there were any grounds to justify the proposed deputation.

Suggested reply -

I have received no representation from the Asiatic employees in the Uganda Railway in respect of deputation. The report of the ^{General} Manager for the year 1923 shows that the number of Asiatic employees was reduced during the year from 2,088 to 1,720, the reason for this reduction being the ~~replacement~~ cessation of recruiting from India and the increased employment of African natives in posts formerly held by Asiatics. At present advised I am of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by my receiving a deputation.

By order of the Secretary
and Controller C. J. 5/10/24

12

As all the papers

463

I have received no representations of the kind, and I am not aware of any dismissals of Asiatic employees having taken place. No doubt many temporary engagements have expired and in many cases have been replaced by the employment of natives of Africa, and the report of the General Manager shows that in 1923 the number of Asiatic employees was reduced from 2,088 to 1,720. During that year, as compared with the previous year, the expenditure decreased by 13 per cent, while the earnings increased by ^{13 per cent.} ~~about the same~~ amount, and I conclude that the replacement as opportunity arose of Asiatics by Africans tended to economy without sacrifice of efficiency.

DRAFT. Reply to

Lt. Col. Meyler
Coral 16th June.

MINUTE.

Mr. *Bottomley* 7/6

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis

Sir G. Grindle.

+ Sir H. Read. *7/11/24*

Sir J. Masterton Smith

3 Lord Arnold.

4 Mr. Thomas. *of 7/11*

for answer

10/6/24

I would not propose to see a Deputation

Mr. Mark brought this to me and suggested that the subject be taken up by the Deputation

also 26076/22484

The responsibility for the just

treatment of Colonial Officials rests with the Governor, and I am confident that it is in safe hands. I should

not

C.O. 533 / 322
ALL VIEWS OF PARLIAM
PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE

not except in the most extreme
~~circumstances~~ be prepared to receive
a deputation representing such officials.

J. H.

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