

1925

KENYA

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REC'D  
REU. 21 DEC 25

DATE

20th November 1925.

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CIRCULATION:—

Mr.  
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Secretary of State.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE COAST PROVINCE.

Trs copies of a Report on - during 1924, and for the half year ended 30th June 1925. Comments briefly on Report.

Previous Paper

*Apr. 49/19/24*

MINUTES

*Act. met. & express satisfaction at the good progress made. Note with interest the revival of the cotton industry, but say the S. off. trusts that its encouragement is limited by a due regard for the production of the natives' own necessary food stuffs. Ask as to the variety <sup>varieties</sup> of the seed distributed & where it was obtained from.*

*[It is said some Egyptian, and I am afraid of which will work.]*

*Receipt on Mr. Hickey's return for him <sup>See MS. 27/11</sup> [Handwritten signature] 23.12.25*

Subsequent Paper

*N 2888/26*



KENYA

No. 1221

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

NAIROBI, 21 DEC 25  
KENYA

57151

16th November, 1925.  
20th

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2)  
Sir,

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With reference to your despatch No. 1297 of the 23rd of December, 1924, I have the honour to transmit copies of a Report on the Economic Progress made in the Coast Province during 1924 and also a Report on the same subject for the half year ended 30th of June, 1925. Copies of an article entitled "A Coast Safari" which appeared in the "Mombasa Times" of the 13th of September together with amplifications by Mr. Maclean the Senior Coast Commissioner, are also enclosed for your information.

2. The revival of the cotton planting industry in Malindi district has, it will be noted, made good progress and it is hoped that the inhabitants of other coastal regions will, when they see the benefits to be derived, pay more attention to this crop in the near future. A ginnery at Malindi has been opened and application has been received for the establishment of others at Kilifi and Gasi.

3. Owing to the fact that the river Tana never reached normal flood height in either of the bi-annual floods

in /

HONOURABLE  
COL. L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

in 1924 and the land remained dry, the rice crop, unfortunately, did not come up to expectations along the banks of this river where great efforts had been made to stimulate planting. A good harvest, however, is anticipated at Vanga.

4. The Senior Agricultural Supervisor in the Coastal area has, with the native staff at his disposal, done a useful amount of work during the period reported upon and the Deputy Director of Agriculture has also made an extensive tour.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

*J. A. Northcott*  
GOVERNOR'S Deputy

The Honourable,  
The Chief Native Commissioner,  
N a i r o b i .

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REPORT ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS  
MADE ON THE COAST  
PROVINCE DURING  
1924.

Ref. your No. A2/4/3/16 of the 20th January 1925.

INTRODUCTORY. I have dealt with the subject in as full a manner as the information before me allows, in my Annual Report for 1924, under the Headings of Trade, Agriculture, and Veterinary, as well as in my general notes on the social and economic development of the various tribes.

The present report is mainly a series of extracts from my Annual Report, arranged in a way convenient for ready reference.

The fact that the Tax has been more fully collected in every District than has been possible for several years past attests to the increased prosperity of the natives.

This was due both to good weather conditions and to improved prices. In Lamu District the Mwaka rains were very patchy and the Mtama crop failed, but the short rains have been exceptionally good. On the Lower Tana River excessive flooding caused great distress, but the middle river appears to have produced good crops. Malindi District has been favoured by an excellent season, while Digo has no cause for complaint, unless it be that the Mwaka rains were a trifle scanty.

DEBTS. It is regretted that the practice of borrowing on prospective crops prevents the natives from deriving the full benefit from a good year except  
in so far .....

in so far as they are able to some extent to reduce the burden of their debt. But they are not free agents in the disposal of their crops and consequently the stimulating effect which competition would have upon prices is lacking.

An attempt has been made to assess the extent to which the Bajuns are in debt to Traders and it may be taken more or less as an indication of the state of affairs all along the Coast. At a conservative estimate the indebtedness of the Bajuns of the Kiunga Area may be taken at about 35,000/- amongst a male population of about 600. or £2 per head of the male population.

An attempt is being made to frame ~~to~~ to delimit the practice, but we shall profit by previous experience and make no recommendation which has not been first submitted to detailed criticism by all Coast Officers.

CROPS. Cotton. The most notable fresh feature of the year has been the attempt to start cotton planting on an extension<sup>n</sup> scale in the Malindi District, 11,800 lbs of seed were distributed. The District Commissioner reports:-

"The revival of cotton has amply justified itself, although, owing to the drought in July, the crop was not as good as might have been expected. The Coast natives are, however, thoroughly converted to cotton, and the interest has spread to the Giriama. It has been unfortunate that the ginnery at Malindi has temporarily broken down, and the lack of ginneries both at Kilifi and Mombasa limits the area in which cotton can profitably be planted.

The prospective crop is estimated at about 150,000 lbs seed cotton.

In order to encourage ginneries a recommendation has been put forward that for the next two years Licenses may be granted at a reduced fee.

In the Lamu District Mr. Petley has been experimenting with seed for distribution. He states that Lancashire Experts reported on his sample as follows:-  
"A very .....

"A very good cotton of 1½ staple, rather coarse but would readily be accepted in the Lancashire Market."

No cotton is yet being planted in the Mombasa or Digo Districts, which, perhaps wisely, prefer to await the experience of Malindi.

MAIZE. 800 lbs of Hickory King Maize seed were distributed, but that variety is not success, as has been proved before, and it is as a wonder that it was issued. Maize of the Yellow Flint variety is best suited to the Coast.

Both Yellow and White varieties of Maize tried in the 1918 Famine and results were very conclusive in favor of the Yellow, 2068 tons of maize were exported from the Port of Malindi during the year, nearly double the amount for the previous year.

Maize is not grown in any quantity in the Digo country, but the Duruma contry grows it well and over 100 tons were exported from Samburu and probably more went into Mariakani from that area.

Whatever surplus to the needs of the population is grown in the country, locations of Tanaland is consumed in the town of Lamu, and no figures are available except as to 39 tons exported from the Tana River to Lamu. This is a small decrease on the previous year.

RICE. The principal rice growing area is Tanaland, though a fair quantity is produced on the Sabaki River in Malindi District and also in Mombasa and the Coast part of the Digo District at Vanga.

87 Tons of Paddy and 1711½ bags of Rice (which together may be computed to represent about 293 tons of Paddy) were exported from the Tana River to Lamu.

This is nearly equal to last year when 240 tons of Paddy and 82½ tons of Rice were exported.

Major Sutcliffe appears to consider that too great a feature has been made of Rice on the Tana River at the expense of other crops. There is nothing in Mr. Fazan's Economic Report on the Tana River to suggest the intention that other crops should be neglected, and the Wa-Pokoma have

always been encouraged to grow crops for their own consumption and to some extent for export also. When 52  
Mr. Fazan did suggest was that in aiming at better methods of cultivation it would be unwise for Government to dissipate energy over too wide a field, and to that extent he advised concentrating principally on Rice. It is hoped that the efforts made to grade up the seed and to keep it pure and unmixed will not be discontinued.

It is true and indisputable that for their own consumption and to provide them with an economic margin a wide diversity of crops <sup>is better</sup> and Major Sutcliffe quite rightly draws attention to the danger of this aspect of the case being neglected.

In spite of the efforts made on the Tana River, Lamu consumed all the Rice sent in from there and 215 tons besides which were imported from elsewhere.

Malindi exported 35 tons of Rice in 1934 and imported practically none. As a great deal of Rice is consumed on the spot, the production must have been considerable.

Digo District appears to have exported nine tons of Rice and imported none.

MILLET. As a personal opinion I should say that, while up-country maize is very much better than Coast-maize, Coast Mtama is very much better than the up-country Mtama. It is somewhat surprising that not more of it is grown. The reason is probably that it requires so much protection from birds, which do enormous damage. The only District which has made it the principal crop is the Lamu Coast Belt. Unfortunately this year it did not do it well owing to the patchy natures of the Mwaka rains. The local consumption is heavy and export figures are a poor guide.

Malindi exported 110 tons from the Port of Malindi alone, but in Kilifi and Digo Districts it is

not .....

not grown as much as it might be.

SUGAR CANE. Sugar is principally grown in small patches all along the Coast. The amount exported was negligible.

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BANANAS. Grow very well all along the Coast. They are not exported to any extent by dhow except from the Tana River, from which they are sent to Lamu. An enormous number of plants were destroyed in the area in the 1923 floods, but they will recover rapidly. Transport difficulties alone prevent the export of Bananas in large quantities.

FRUIT TREES. The fruit growers at Malindi received no encouragement this year, as steamers do not call. When they did, fruit was exported and it is of very good quality.

GROUND-NUTS. Some very poor seed was distributed and the result was correspondingly poor.

SIM SIM. Has proved itself over several years to be the best paying crop on the Coast for the short rains. The short rains have been satisfactory, and the crop has done well.

The quality grown on the Coast is reported to be of a lower market value than that grown up-country, but no doubt there will be very careful inquiry and experiment before any change is recommended.

BEANS. The Coast varieties (Kunde, Pogo, Fiwi etc.) have done well owing to the good short rains.

TOBACCO. Grows very well on the Coast, especially at Malindi and Mambrui. A somewhat different variety grows very readily on the Tana River in the Myuli rains. There being no expert, it is impossible to say which variety is the best. The price which fell heavily in 1923, remains low.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

In September last Mr. A. G. Bailey was appointed to the Coast as Agricultural Supervisor. He spent the remainder of the year in familiarizing himself with ....

with the Coast conditions, and it is expected that when he has had a sufficient experience to enable him to work out a definite system of development, he will be most useful. AT the Meeting of the Coast District Commissioners in December the opinion was stated that the gradual improvement of seed and the prevention of mixing were among the most necessary steps to be taken. Mr. Bailey scattered about the various locations. These should have great educational value. 554

Before leaving the subject of agriculture it is necessary briefly to survey the position in regard to European and other Non-Native Plantations. Progress to be a problem of much difficulty.

#### EUROPEAN PLANTATIONS.

LAU DISTRICT. Gongoni Estates (Mrs. Sheen), Manager Mr. P. A. Petley. Total area under coconuts 500 acres; increase during this year 125 acres. Total number of trees about 25,000 earliest planted now coming into bearing.

Messrs. Petley & Co., Manager Mr. P. A. Petley about 650 acres; no planting during the year, earliest plants in bearing or coming into bearing.

Belazoni Estates. have grown 80 acres of good rice during the year yielding approximately half a ton of hulled rice per acre but at considerable expense on account of pump irrigation. The Manager estimates that it has cost him about 200/- per acre.

MALINDI DISTRICT. The only European Plantations still working are Powysland, and Sokoke. The District however is full of abandoned Plantations, particularly around Malindi.

Powysland, 9275 bales of Sisal were exported, compared with 5305 in 1923.

Sokoke, Coconuts, about 160,000 palms just beginning to come into bearing in negotiable numbers.

7.  
Some copra was exported towards the end of the year. It was of excellent quality, and, if the price holds, 1925 should be a prosperous year for the Estate. 55

DIGO DISTRICT. The East African Estates confine themselves chiefly to coconuts but Kapok and Sisal are grown. No detailed report is to hand.

At Songoni, Major Eustace experiments with many tropical crops, but his most successful are Cocoa, and Ylang-Ylang.

#### ARAB PLANTATIONS.

There has been some revival during the year owing to rise on the price of Copra.

#### LABOUR.

In the Lamu District there are only three employers of labour other than Arabs owning small shambas on the Island who can be considered regular employers as the European understand the term.

Messrs. Petley & Co., and the Sheen Estates at Witu between them employ 140 labourers of which most are Wapokomo and the rest miscellaneous. The Belezoni Estates have 85 contracted labourers, mostly Wapokomo. In April they showed a strength of some 250 Kibarua Labourers of whom most loafed while others worked if they felt so inclined. In April Major Sutcliffe induced the Manager to contract all labour required and leave the balance of hangeron free to produce on their own account. a far more satisfactory arrangement.

In the Malindi District the Wanyika display very little inclination to go out to work. They are a very home-loving race, and most of them who go out, will only engage to work as day-labourers on the "Kibarua" system. Large numbers from the Southern part of the District are working as casual labourers in Mombasa, but private employers on the Coast cannot compete with the high wages and other attractions of Mombasa, and neither Europeans nor Indians can obtain labour without great difficulty. The same situation is not found in the Malindi .....

8.  
Malindi area, both because the number of employers is so few and because Mombasa is further away.

The Uganda Railway is the only employer of imported labour on a large scale in the Digo District. The labour there is mainly Kavirondo and Teita. There has been a certain amount of trouble with the contractors' gangs, but it appears to have settled down.

Besides an indefinite number of "casuals" there appear to be about 3183 natives working on voluntary contracts in the Malindi and Digo Districts, of whom about 1933 are local, and the rest imported.

It is most important that all firms and individuals taking up land in the District for purposes of extensive production should be warned of the difficulty of obtaining local labour.

STOCK. I now pass from Agriculture to stock.

Somali Trade through Lamu in cattle, sheep and goats has undoubtedly increased, owing to the improved prices offered for shipment to Zanzibar and Mombasa. Galla, Arab and Swahili-owned stock has thrived and kept in excellent condition and is very greatly on the increase again. It is now reported to have reached nearly the strength which existed before the epidemic 1921.

There was a heavy mortality this year at MIDIO probably due to fly. But this is the only place where more than common mortality has taken place and comparatively few cattle were involved.

The cattle of the Malindi-Kilifi District are almost entirely in the South. In the North there used to be fair herds of goats, but they have been thinned by an epidemic which broke out amongst them this year.

Serious mortality also took place in the South. One Mkamba lost 25 head in July alone. East Coast Fever and Rinderpest were suspected. This is the Area which supplied Mombasa with its meat. Nevertheless the Veterinary Department were not able to detail anybody to visit it, when disease was reported.

There .....

There are roughly 24,970 cattle and 236 sheep and goats in the Digo District. There are outbreaks of Rinderpest from time to time, but one can do nothing.

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Report from all Districts make depressing reading, all of them containing as they do complaints of the neglect of Veterinary Services. It is poor consolation for the Coast to be told that shortage of Staff also exists up-country, Stock owners went to see some return for the Taxes paid by them.

#### TRADE.

The excellent year that we have enjoyed from an agricultural point of view is reflected in the trade returns, in which exports are seen to be well in advance of any recent year. It is of course not always grain that is exported. For instance in Tanaland the surplus agricultural produce of the River is consumed in Lamu, but in order to pay for it the Lamu native has to produce something, and this he does mainly in the shape of Matting Bags and caps, the export figures for which during 1924 reached a total of £7,164 and £2,215 respectively. The figure for caps for 1923, was only £889, so that there has been a most satisfactory increase in this industry.

The total exports of all kinds from Lamu for the year are valued at £54,223, of which the principal item is Ivory (£28068.)

In Malindi there has been a notable increase in Exports from £17,372 (value for 1923) to £26,923 (value for 1924). Most encouraging is the rise in value of grain exports from £23,683 in 1923 to £45,627 in 1924.

In Kilifi there has been a still more impressive increase from £23,683 in 1923 to £45,627 in 1924.

Besides these exports by sea there are further exports by rail through Mazaras and Mariakani and by road. A considerable number of livestock reaches Mombasa by the Coast road.

In .....

In Digo District there has been quite a considerable increase of trade. Exports from Gazi have risen by £1,608 from £6,613 in 1923 to £8,221 in 1924. 558

The figures in regard to the Dhow Traffic are frankly puzzling. It appears from the returns that 929 dhows entered Lamu in 1922, 567 in 1923, and 353 in 1924. It is incredible to me that with what is reported to be slowly increasing prosperity in the export trade there can have been so great a reduction in the dhow traffic.

According to the figures in the returns 526 Dhows have entered Gazi and only 353 entered Lamu, the exports of the latter are more than six times the larger of the two.

I am instituting further inquiries on all points on which doubt exists. But it is beyond all question that the year has been the best that the Coast has known for several years. The District Commissioner Malindi reports that his export figure show an increase in value of £1,000 over 1911. In those days the European Planters were at Malindi and the Giriama had not yet been moved from the Sabaki North Bank. All this is most comforting for those of us who are tired of hearing of the good old days and the decline of the Coast.

Because we have had this very good year it must not be assumed that the recovery to pre-war prosperity is yet complete, but we are advancing towards it.

(sgd) A. J. Maclean.

SENIOR COMMISSIONER COAST.

MS.

The Honourable,  
The Chief Native Commissioner,  
Nairobi.

REPORT ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS  
MADE ON THE COAST PROVINCE IN 1925.  
HALF YEAR ENDING 30th. June 1925.

1. FINANCIAL.

	S.C.C/s Office £	Lamu & Kipini £	Malindi & Kilifi £	Digo £	Total £
A. Revenue } 30.6.25 }	44	5041	3194	4080	12359
B. Expendi- ture } 30.6.25 }	341	1978	3349	1491	7503

In nearly every case the bulk of the Native Hut and Poll Tax is collected during the latter half of the year. Efforts are being made however to gradually get the Natives to pay in their tax early in the year and so have the latter half of the year open for more Administrative work free from taxation. In the Digo District taxation is coming in freely and a gradual increase of revenue all round is foreshadowed.

2. TRADE.

A. At Malindi Port the Exports for the six months under review total £.24,403 - 2 - 0. A slight set back been caused by the necessity of prohibiting the export of grain except under permit, but with improving conditions, it has now been possible to apply for the removal of the restrictions.

The .....

The Honourable,  
The Chief Native Commissioner,  
Nairobi.

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The.....

The demand for Malindi grain at Kismayu, and the Benadir Coast Ports seems constant and local buyers find no difficulty in disposing of their purchases. Grain remains the staple export, though there are indications that more profitable crops e.g. Cotton, will shortly make a respectable showing in the export list.

B. The figures supplied from the Kilifi Sub-District as follows are encouraging :-

Exports of Messrs. Powysland B.E.A. Ltd. } (Sisal Estates)	} January to June 1925 £.25,358.
Grain Exports via Mariakani and Mazaras } Railway Stations	} 850 tons
Arab and Native Produce } from Coast Ports.	} £.7833

compared with figures available for 1924 the above show a marked increase from the Southern area near the Railway and from Messrs. Powysland B.E.A.Ltd., but a small decrease from Arab and Native cultivation due to the fact that the main harvest from the heavy rains has not yet commenced to be exported. Sure signs of the increase in trade are :-

- (a) the number of Traders Licences taken out
- (b) the increase in the number of shops opened in the Trading Centres.
- (c) the number of Motor Lorries on the road.

C. In the Digo District trade has increased very considerably and especially that in livestock it is surprising how popular this trade has become and applications for Cattle Traders Licences will be very considerably increased. A number of new Trading Centres have been commenced and are the cause of increased .....

increased trade - New markets have also been started.

D. L A M U.

(1) The total value of imports for the period under review at this port was £.12,452 being an increase of £.5265 on the corresponding period of last year. The total value of exports was £.38,674 being an increase of £.11,130 on the corresponding period of last year.

(2) The principal items imported showing an increase were Sugar, rice, cotton, piece goods, tobacco, tea, dates and soap.

(3) The principal exports showing an increase were Borities, Cowries, Cattle, Sheep and Goats, Sandals, caps, copra and Cotton.

(4) The following exports show a decrease :-

Sim Sim, Fish Fins, Mangrove Bark and Ivory.

The figures indicate a considerable increase in the Volume of trade.

3. A G R I C U L T U R E.

The short rains crop was a successful one, but the same remark can hardly be made of the long rains season except perhaps on the Tana River in its lower reaches where a heavy harvest is anticipated - The rains were late, practically no rain falling at all in April. Conditions improved later in most parts and with the exception of the more remote parts of the Sabaki Valley and western parts of the Malindi and Kilifi Districts and even more in the Samburu, Taru and Southern Duruma locations where a shortage of food if not actual famine is anticipated, normal

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crops of maize should be obtained. The harvest however has been much belated. In spite of the shortage of rain larger areas than usual have been put under cultivation. Especially is this seen all along the Coast North of Lamu where in spite of depredations from Baboons, Elephants, Buffalo, Procupine and other animals good harvests of Mtama, Wimbi and Mawale are expected to be gathered.

### R I C E.

This crop chiefly grown on the banks of the Tana River shows sign of failure again owing to the non-flooding of the river. At Vanga however a good harvest is anticipated. Rice is not grown extensively elsewhere but such places as at Goshi in the Malindi District the harvest is expected to be up to the average.

### C O T T O N.

Every effort has been made to increase the area under cotton. In the Coastal belt an excellent response has been made and the areas now under cotton probably exceed that of any previous year. At Mambrui North of the Sabaki River in particular exceptional efforts have been made and the area under cultivation is said to be at least four times that of last year. Every man, woman and child is working in the cotton fields which look extremely promising.

It is to be regretted that the same conditions are not to be found among the Wanyika, with the exception perhaps of Chonyi and some experimental plots among the Wadigo, the Wanyika are difficult to interest in the crop. The fears of the Elders  
that .....

that cultivation of cotton will result in the decrease of food crops make certainly for passive, if not in some cases active opposition to our efforts.

I am relying however on the possibility of the Local Native Councils when fully established to alter this state of affairs.

The Malindi Ginnery after many vicissitudes has at last become a reality and 70 bales of cotton were ginned during June. Eight gins are now installed run by a 22 H.P. Oil Engine.

The other applications for setting up Ginneries one at Kilifi and one near Gasi have been received and are likely to materialise before the end of the year, they are far enough apart not to interfere with each other.

The Malindi and Digo Districts have received several visits from the Senior Agricultural Advisor and experimental plots have been established and maintained at several centres, such as Ganda, Kakoneni, Ganzi, Mariakani, Kinango and others. The conditions were none too favourable, but some planting have been fairly successful.

I trust that these efforts may be extended to the Lamu and Tana River Districts in the near future. European Poultry has been introduced into selected places and is proving a success. There is great competition among the natives especially the Waduruma to get these birds, in some places they treat them as pets, hand feeding them and giving them names.

#### 4. VETERINARY.

In one or two of the locations in the Digo District 70% of the cattle died from some undiagnosed disease, it was unfortunate that no Veterinary assistance could be obtained to deal with the disease.

It has however died out. Except for the stock in other parts of the District and that in the Malindi District and Galla country are reported on as looking exceptionally well.

Goats appear to suffer in some parts from some perennial complaint but are plentiful throughout the Coastal Districts.

Lamu reports that 1440 cattle and 4957 sheep and goats were exported during the six months as compared with 142 cattle and 2751 sheep and goats during the corresponding period last year.

There has been little or no sickness reported in the District.

5. PRODUCTION.

European, Arab and Native Industry.

A. The following are the European enterprises on the Coast at present :-

(1) Belezoni Estates (10,000 acres) Tana River, coconuts and rice are grown.

Cocoanuts are only satisfactory in the South East corner at Sadani. Rice and Sugar grown on a large scale should be a successful venture, but it is unfortunate that the river floods have failed for the past two years and these Estates have depended for irrigation purposes entirely on their power plant, with the result that the cost of working the rice fields some 80 acres only in extent has been prohibitive.

Rumours are extant that these Estates will shortly close down. I am sure these Estates properly managed in the hands of a wealthy Company could be made a success.

- (2) Petley & Co. Witu.
- (3) Mrs. Sheen Estates, Witu.

These two Estates adjoin and are under the same

same management and cover some 4000 acres. Coconuts are chiefly grown and there is some rubber. The coconuts are just coming into bearing.

A Saw Mill is also worked by Petley & Co., and turns out some excellent timber.

(4) Powysland Estates - Kilifi. 2000 acres, a very flourishing Sisal proposition.

(5) Sekoke Coconut and Rubber Plantations. This is one of the most flourishing Estates on the Coast and the coconut trees are now bearing.

(6) East African Estates - Digo District. The coconut plantations both at Waa and Gazi belonging to this Estate are now beginning to pay and are producing quite a large quantity of Copra. At present they find a local market for their produce in the Mombasa Soap Factories.

The Kinondo Sisal Estates, sublet by the East African Estates to an Indian firm has produced a fair quantity of Sisal. They are now cutting out the old areas, replanting others with sisal and catcherop cotton.

(7) The Diani Estates Coconut Plantation is looking well.

(8) The Gojoni Estates (Major Robertson Eustace M.L.C.) is producing copra, cocoa, chillies and sugar cane.

(9) The Ramisi Sugar Estates are commencing to produce a small quantity of sugar. I rather gather that capital is required to get a move on.

(10) The Coastal Mining Concession has a coal boring cut. At present it is more or less closed down.

(11) The Vitengeni Mining Co., (Chas. Cottar) is being developed over seventyfive tons gallena have been exported.

B. The Arabs are showing considerable enthusiasm for cotton production, and at Mambrai, much of the planting to which reference has been made, has been done by them.

C. NATIVES. With the assistance of the Senior Agricultural Supervisor efforts have been made to induce the Wanyika to produce crops of higher economic value than their own maize. Seed of better maize, ground nuts and sim sim have been issued in large quantities and the first and show signs of giving a good return.

Generally speaking Native production has increased very considerably and had the year been a propitious one it would have been considerably more noticeable.

6. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) The selection of members for the Local Native Councils was undertaken during the early months of the year.

(b) The inauguration of a new "Kambi" formed one of the main features of social development during the period under review, chiefly in the Malindi District.

(c) Efforts have been made to instil into the Natives the necessity for improving their local industries. The chief work has been in pottery, basket making of which there is a considerable trade, the making of wooden trays, mats and sticks and there are signs of improvement.

(d) In the Digo District, the Wadigo are turning out in much greater number to work, most of the plantation work on the East African Estates, is carried out by them. The Waduruma are also working on the Railway and a number of Wanyika work for Paulings in Mombasa.

(e) The initiation of the Native Councils and the

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meeting of all the Native Tribunals at Ewale twice monthly has considerably added to the social and economic development of Natives in the Digo District. The Natives are better dressed, money is free and tax is brought into the station voluntarily. Two of the factors bringing this about have been fewer changes of Officers than previously and the opening up of roads. I hope to be able to report the same improvement in the Malindi District in the near future for the same reasons.

(sgd) A. J. Maclean.

SENIOR COMMISSIONER COAST.

HCS.

Senior Commissioner's Office,  
Mombasa,  
16th. September 1925

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The Honourable,  
The Ag. Chief Native Commissioner,  
NAIROBI.

COAST SAFARI.

In compliance with instructions received from His Excellency the Acting Governor, I herewith for His Excellency's information four copies of the article entitled "A COAST SAFARI" appearing in the Mombasa Times of September 13th. together with my amplifications of same.

1. The article was written by Lt. Colonel G.C.G. Maclean C.I.B. Rajputana Rifles, who accompanied me on my recent safari up and down the Coast between the 13th August and 6th. September.
2. As stated in the article our first destination out of Lamu was FAZA. This is a small Township in the N.W. of the Island of PATTE. An Island of great historical interest of many Sultans. FAZA is said to have had its own Rulers separate from the ancient town of PATTE which is situated in the S.E. of the Island. The small Town of FAZA is placed at the head of a Creek only approachable at full high tide by the Launch. A Mudir and Kathi reside here and there is a small Government Rest House built by Mr. MacDougal formerly H.M. Sub-Commissioner for Tanaland. The lower portion of which is used as Government Offices and a Medical Dispensary. (Vide Photo No.1)

Photo ...

Enclosures of

# 'A Coast Safari.'

By One Who's Done It.

(Special to the Mombasa Times.)

The sun was setting when we embarked in the "Dumra" lying in Mombasa Harbour, and almost immediately we weighed anchor and set out on the first stage of our safari to Kiunga. Mainly owing to the luxury of our accommodation on board, we all passed a comfortable night and, at 6.30 next morning, were anchored in Lamu Harbour. What a picturesque town old Lamu is with its maze of narrow streets and typical Arab houses every corner is a picture and, as one strolls past old doors of carved wood picked out with brass knobs and mellowed to wonderful tints by years and years of exposure, one instinctively conjures up the history of the slave days when this old town was prosperous and thriving. In the centre stands the ochre walled fort with its ancient keep towering dark and massive above the surrounding flat topped houses.

After one day's halt, we set out on the second stage of our safari by launch to Faza. This is a typical coast village hidden on one of the many islands. We spent the night in a very comfortable house setting out next morning in the launch for M'Kokoni. It was difficult to realize we were on the coast of East Africa. From M'kokoni, which lies at the corner of a beautiful bay, one looked out over sands gleaming white in the sunlight to little green islands where gentle slopes are covered with verdure, a Devonshire inlet, or perhaps the Channel Islands but not the tropics. Here our porters joined us having come over land and we started the third stage of our safari.

### Sands and Mangrove Swamps.

Marching along the sands for two miles we then struck inland, passing the village of Ashwe to M'vundeni, our path lying through elephant country, grassy lands, then mangrove swamps; we camped at Moundeni close to the sea shore. Next morning some of our party went by "dug out" and others marched to Rubu via Simambaya. Here the natives were full of elephant and buffalo stories, clamouring for arms and ammunition to deal with the herds that nightly invaded their shambas.

From Rubu the whole party sailed for Kiunga in dhows. The wind and current in our favour, we did a fast journey of 2½ hours but we were all glad to disembark and spread ourselves in the very comfortable house we found there, built, as also is the Faza one, in the old days by Mr. McDougal late P.C. to the Province.

From the house, which is built on a little promontory, one gets a delightful picture of the Coast which stretches north in a circular sweep forming a large bay of which the northern arm is Dick's Head or Ras Kiamboni. This is the limit of our territory now and the frontier of Italian Somaliland. Until a few months ago it was our Jubaland. Here we stayed 2 days and a very pleasant halt it was.

### By Dhow to Lamu.

The return journey to Lamu was made partly in dhows but instead of sailing we had to pole—a wonderful performance. For 5 solid hours without a break did the natives pole against the wind and arrived at Rubu without turning a hair. We had to return to Lamu before starting the homeward journey and, from there, went by launch to Mikilnombi with a 3½ hours' march on to Nyikani when we had a hot camp.

Next day saw us up at 6 o'clock with an eleven mile march in front of us to Kipini. Here we have the mouth of the Tana and a nice station for any sporting man. We spent a couple of days with the hospitable A. D. C. whose collections of trophies are worth a visit. He had arranged a very nice little duck shoot which we all enjoyed immensely, our enjoyment lasting for some days as the fare of duck was very good after constant mutton, "Kuku" and mahindi.

From here we took the river launch "Tana" up to Bellazoni. The river is well known to abound in hippos, crocodile and other game and from the launch we saw a school of some 40 hippos and passed many crocodile, either sunning themselves on the banks or lazily slipping down the stream, their ugly snouts just awash. Bellazoni is managed by Smith, Mackenzie and Co. Here is a pumping station which irrigates the rice fields.

Our host, Mr. Naidu, the energetic local manager, was most hospitable and we left with a good supply of oranges which proved a godsend on the long, hot marches before we reached the end of the safari.

### Elephant Country.

From Bellazoni the track lies West to Dirtu a 3½ hours march. Passing the villages of M'koyani and Shanrimayo, more elephant country. Here we saw plenty of new spoor. Here we were met by the headman, Aberya, who is very proud of his knowledge of European out-lets—a wonderfully ugly Galle of Mkaaba origin, but quite a charac-

ter. The bellies of him, under his instructions, no doubt, brought milk and eggs and, in return, got coffee and a bottle of Sarabbe Amara. Very graceful gifts these of the Galle country and though they look like Somalis they have not their transient disposition.

From Dirtu to Kurawa is a short march and we arrived early and spent a long and pleasant day on the open plain close to the water hole which had been newly dry out. Here we ran into topi and Petersi but they were all very shy and refused to give us a sporting chance.

Our next effort was Mererani, a good 5 hours march back to the sea shore again, and very brackish water. On again next day to Ali Hamadi's shamba, another long and hot march of 6½ hours. The camp was pitched alongside a "ziwa" and we were lucky to bag some more duck. At night we were turned out of our tent by siakas. Those who have had experience of these little beggars will know what it means.

A short march next day brought us into Mombrai; plenty of cotton here and in a flourishing condition.

### A Hamlet with a Past.

This, too, is a hamlet with a past of better days; from Mombrai to Malindi is 8 miles along the sea shore. One has to cross the Sabaki river in a day out en route; but at low tide the whole distance can be done on foot—we had 2 days very welcome rest at the D.C.'s bungalow at Malindi. On the bar lies the 2 year old wreck of the "Nairobi" and at the point is Vasco da Gama's pillar said to have been erected by him in the 15th century.

We then took to the ubiquitous Ford and bounced about like peas on a drum for some hours until the crossing at Kilifi; after which the track somewhat resembles a road and we changed to a more comfortable car arriving at Mombasa in the evening—glad to be back in civilization again after three weeks safari, 342 miles of which had been done in steamer launch and dug out, and 111 miles on foot.

The very pleasant experience on the road was to find all the villages prosperous and happy after a really good harvest.

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Photo No.2 illustrates the method of embarking at low tide in front of the House. The Chief industries of the place are copra and fish curing, boriti and fuel cutting.

3. From FAZA it was necessary to start on the rising tide to reach our next camping place MKOKONI, a small village on the mainland inhabited by Bajuns and opposite the uninhabited Island of KIWAIHU; enroute we passed the flourishing Bajun Island villages of DAU and KAVENI. MKOKONI village suffers from lack of water; at present the water supply is found in a small hole dug in the sand and very brackish. I was informed however that good sweet water was to be found near by and a well had actually been dug but had fallen in; the people assured me they had been too busy in their shambas to attend to it. I issued instructions for the well to be re-dug and built up with logs to prevent the sand falling in. The Shambas were being cultivated near by and promise a good harvest chiefly of Mavee, a small Millet grain

from which they make flour, Mtama, Simsin, Wimbi and a little maize. These Bajans are very improvident and between harvests mortgage their crops to traders for goods supplied and are consequently seldom out of debt.

4. The villages of ASHWE and MVUNDENI (MVUNDJENI) so called from the presence of the MVUNJE or CASUARINA tree are similar to MKOKONI though a good deal larger. The inhabitants are Bajans and gain their living by fishing and cultivating. From MVUNDJENI to RUBU the road is fair and passes along the edge of the MANGROVE Flats. The flourishing village of SIMAMBAYA is passed en-route. RUBU is another large village picturesquely situated at the end of a Creek. It possesses many wells and the people cultivating largely but suffer from the in-roads of Baboons, Buffals and Elephant. Each large village is supplied with two Martini Henry Rifles, left in charge of the Headman and a small supply of ammunition is given. The instructions are they may shoot any animal entering their shambas but not outside. In spite of the in-roads complained of the shambas were in a very flourishing state.

5. From RUBU, the wind being in our favour, KIUNGA was reached in 2½ hours comfortably by boat. KIUNGA is one of the most picturesquely situated places on the Coast; the Government House, another of Mr. MacDougal's rest Houses, is a substantially built stone house of two stories, (Photo No.3) facing KIUNGA bay (Photo No.4.)

The lower portion as usual being used as Government offices by the Mudir Resident there. The Town is clean but the people are poverty stricken eking out a bare living by collecting Cowrie Shells for which they effect an exchange with local traders for grain. Behind KIUNGA the country is covered with dense bush and forest infested by elephant and Buffalo. From KIUNGA a trade route lies through the villages of SHAKANI and RAB KIANBONI (Dick's Head) where the Italian Frontier begins. The trade route runs into Italian Territory just inside the borders in which there is a permanent water hole; and I am told a favourite spot for Somali cattle. KIUNGA must, in the near future, become a Frontier Station and the Garrison of Police will have to be strengthened to enable control of Somali movements to be maintained. The road between KIUNGA and RUBU lies through dense bush and one large village is passed viz that of MAMBONI at one time the flourishing centre of the mangrove bark industry. The distance by road between KIUNGA and RUBU is 4 hours. The return journey by boat took 5 hours plying. From RUBU the journey to Lamu was made via MOKKONI and MTANGA-WANGA a small landing place with a deep anchorage situated in the

S.V. of the Island of PATE and the starting off point for the ancient town on the ocean side of the Island, thence across MANDA Bay to LANU.

6. From Lanu, KIPINI was our next destination this was reached by launch 3½ hours to NKUNJUMBI a large Swahili and Galla village. Cattle flourish here and a Mudir is in residence; thence by the newly re-opened road to Kipini via NYIKANI, so called from the small settlement of Natives of the Wanyika tribe, a distance of 21 miles. A short stay at KIPINI was made for inspection purposes. The inhabitants welcomed me outside the village and expressed their gratitude to Government for re-opening the Station. It is unfortunate that the sea is rapidly encroaching on the town. Whole Shambas, plots and buildings including a mosque have fallen into the mouth of the river, and if something is not done in the near future to form some sort of sea wall or Barrage the fate of the present Kipini will be that of the former town which now lies somewhere in the centre of the river mouth. The people themselves do nothing to save their property, they plead poverty and hope that Government will come to their rescue.

7. From Kipini we proceeded to NGOMENI from where we gain an entrance to the MBIBIONI Estates (Photo No.5. on page 5.) shows the landing stage where also is situated the pumping station for irrigation purposes. The Estates consisting of some 10,000 acres most of the land having been reclaimed from swamp by digging deep irrigation channels. Many thousands of pounds have been spent on the Estates in developing them and it is to be regretted that they will shortly be closed down, presumably for want of enterprise. It is an ideal Estate for Rice and Sugar cultivation on a large scale and in one corner of it (SADANI end) for coconuts, cotton and rubber have been tried but were not paying propositions. I would like to see a large Sugar Company take over this property; it is at present managed by Messrs. Smith Mackenzie & Co. of Mombasa and is hardly in their line of business.

8. From MBIBIONI after leaving the old TANA RIVER the journey lay through country occupied by Gallas and their cattle. The cattle looked well and healthy and there were no complaints of disease but apparently some cattle recently brought down from Jubaland had passed through leaving many dead behind en-route. I was informed these cattle had passed through a Tsetse fly belt and were consequently suffering.

( Photo No.6 - see page 7.) shows a typical Galla youth - The last Galla village existing at present is that of Godara Mahe; formerly the Gallas reached as far as KURAWA where a very large village stood; but lions were so prevalent they were driven out of their grazing ground which has now reverted to bush and dense thorn scrub and had to move further back

At KURAWA water is found by digging in an old water hole. From this Camp a long waterless stretch of land is met with skirting the edge of Mangrove Swamps and mud flats until the vicinity of MAREKUNI is met with. Between KURAWA and MAREKUNI, so far as I could judge there is ample room for the exploitation of salt but it requires the opinion of an expert to say if the flats are really suitable for the purpose or not. The last

applicants for a salt manufacturing Concession mentioned 10,000 acres as their possible requirement and that acreage could easily be found here. Further West and Inland of the route taken the soil appears good and I am of opinion there would be no difficulty with the exception of clearing bush in finding a good hard surface for a motor track between HAMBURI and the TANA RIVER somewhere in the vicinity of GOLENTI. I hope a Surveyor may be detailed shortly to go over this route.

9. At MAREKUNI there is a small settlement; fresh water slightly brackish is to be found close to the shore. Between MAREKUNI and GONGONI the march again lies through a long waterless track covered with bush and over mud flats. The old village of FURDI-ISSA and GONGONI no longer exist the inhabitants having deserted them from lack of water. In the immediate vicinity of GONGONI there are natural marine salt deposits to be found during the dry season and a small local trade is carried on by the people living in the neighbourhood. A large quantity of salt was supplied from these deposits during the war though the quality was poor.

Tenders for Concessions to work these deposits have been recently called for and it remains to be seen as to whether they can be worked on a Commercial scale or not.

10. MAMBRUI is reached after an 8 hours march from MANGENI; this township now nothing but a small village used to be a flourishing place noted for its healthy climate and prolific shambas. There was also a Galla settlement in the neighbourhood and cattle abounded. People came from North and South to re-coup here. The place is now almost dead but a great effort has been made during the past year to revive cotton growing, the soil is eminently suitable for such and at the present time every man, woman and child is occupied in attending to the cotton fields. I was informed the acreage under cultivation with this crop this year is four times as great as last. An Indian has taken over and is working the old cotton Ginnery formerly the property of the Sabaki Syndicate.

11. Malindi the Headquarters of the Malindi District lies 8 miles away from MAMBRUI with the Sabaki River flowing between; this River will have to be bridged for the continuation of the Coast Road North to LAMU. Malindi was reached on the 4th. September and I had the pleasure of formally opening the Local

Native Council on the next day.

Mombasa was reached on the 6th. by Car, it is extraordinary what an amount of motor traffic there is along the road now, nearly every Indian Merchant and Trader possesses a Motor Lorry, the consequence is that the road has been greatly cut up and is barely passable in parts; the

the Irish Bridge (Photo No.7) page 8) across the  
Tahabgu Creek has also suffered. The state of  
this road is now receiving the attention of the  
authorities concerned.

*A. P. Hinchey*

Senior Commissioner Coast.

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19 December 1925.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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No: 12.91.

Governor Gigg

*[Handwritten signature]*

Sir,

I have pleasure to acknowledge  
the receipt of <sup>your</sup> ~~Mr. Northcott's~~  
Despatch No: 1421 of the  
20th of November <sup>forwarding</sup> ~~with~~  
~~regard to the Economic~~  
~~reports on~~  
~~Progress of the Coast~~  
~~Province in the year 1924~~  
for the lighter  
months under the 30 June 1925.  
~~to inform you that~~  
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12.91.  
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~~7.11.~~

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2. I have learnt with  
I am most satisfied at  
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the good progress which

has been made during the period in question

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2 I have noted with  
special interest the  
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industry & but I must however  
state that <sup>the</sup> encouragement of this industry  
will be limited by

a due regard for the production  
of the natives of foodstuffs ~~of the~~  
natives ~~own~~ necessary  
~~the natives~~ for their own use &  
foodstuffs. I should

be glad to learn what  
variety of cotton - seed  
was distributed and from what  
source  
it was obtained.

(Signed) L. S. AMERY