

1925

The High
E. AFRICA
KENYA

C. O.
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Date

24th July 1925.

A. G. S. DEP NORTHCOTE.
921

CIRCULATION :-

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

ALLEGED CUSTOMS EVASIONS.

97

Post U.S. of S.

Mr. Strakley

See Memo by Commissioner of Customs, with which Governor of Uganda concurs, refuting allegations made by "The African World".

Perin U.S. of S.

Perin U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

Previous Paper

60 57827

MINUTES

This is available if attention is drawn to the "African World" article: we need not say anything to the paper.

Mr. Omsby-Gore may like to see otherwise.

Put by

C. J. Jeffries

*I will ask trouble Mr. Omsby for - 22.8.25.
espoused *C.J.* at once*

Put by

Subsequent Paper

KENYA.

No. 921.



24th July, 1925.

93

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No.441

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of the 8th May, relative to an extract from "The African World" regarding alleged evasions of the Customs regulations, I have the honour to transmit a memorandum by the Commissioner of Customs, with which the Governor of Uganda concurs, which entirely rebuts the allegations which are made in the newspaper.

Memorandum
Dated 17-6-1925.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S. W.

17th June

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The Honourable
The Ag. Colonial Secretary,
Nairobi.

EVASION OF CUSTOMS REGULATIONS -
KENYA AND UGANDA.

Ref: Your No. S/L. 500/44/S of 12.6.1935.

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2027/15

The statements made in the newspaper cutting forwarded under cover of the Secretary of State's despatch No. 441 of the 8th May are grossly inaccurate and cast aspersions upon the proper conduct of this Department which I submit are entirely unjustified.

2. As regards the "transit" story contained in par 1 of the cutting from "The African World", goods declared in transit at Mombasa are examined on importation and the owner is called upon either to deposit the amount of duty involved or to enter into a bond for a like sum. In the case of an unknown passenger bringing transit goods into the country an actual deposit of duty would be insisted upon. On exportation of the goods across the frontier each package must be produced for examination together with the relative import papers and if the goods do not correspond with particulars taken on importation no refund of duty is made or the bond is put in suit as the case may be. These regulations are strictly enforced and they leave no loophole for evasion of payment of duty in the manner suggested by "The African World".

3. The restrictions on immigration into the Congo mentioned in paragraph 2 of the cutting appear to have

little

little or no bearing on the subject under discussion.

4. The meaning intended to be conveyed in the third paragraph of the cutting is obscure, as the first sentence reads "Another case of "doing" the GOMM is told, this time by an American", whereas such point as there is in the anecdote would appear to be directed against the supposed laxity of Customs control at Mombasa. The anecdote itself sufficiently exposes the absurdity of the allegations. In the first place bona fide scientific missions are given special Customs facilities only in cases where a definite recommendation is received from the Secretary of State, and even then the facilities do not extend to any remission of duty. If the two Americans quoted were prepared to come to this country in the hope of evading the payment of Customs duty by passing themselves off as a scientific mission, and succeeded in their object, the amount of trade goods such as razors &c which they could import as personal effects would be negligible in value and such profits as they could make would not pay their expenses for a week. That the possibility of so fantastic a "business" venture should be envisaged is surprising, ~~and it is even more astonishing that the respondents should be attributed as citizens of the United States of America.~~

G. H. G.
 Commissioner of Customs,
 Kenya and Uganda.