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Oct 20, 1921
John P.

no. 1296

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
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My Lord,

I have the honour to refer to Your Lordship's despatches Nos. 947 of the 8th July and 1241 of the 20th August, regarding the payment of compensation to the claimants who were granted monetary awards by the Fiscal Commission appointed to investigate the damage done by native tribesmen in the Kiisi district during and after the German invasion of September, 1914.

It is reported in my despatch No. 626 of the 4th July, 1919 a collective fine was imposed on the native tribes concerned and the proceeds, some 19,628 head of cattle, were handed over to the Military Authorities. 16,295 head were used for rations and transport, and only a balance of 3,332 head were transferred later to the Agricultural Department. Credit to Civil Revenue accrued from the latter source to the following extent:-

Financial year	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	Total
					24,802/87
					26,100/70
					12/10
					<u>50,915/67</u>

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RIGHT HONOURABLE
 VISCOUNT MILNER, F.C., F.R.S., G.C.M.G., Esq., M.C.
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
 DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

The amounts received in previous years were appropriated for various services, and the payment of claims totalling some Rs. 81,107 this year from Civil funds would necessitate a further deficit and an unjustifiable burden on the Protectorate Exchequer.

3. The figures given show that the Military forces obtained by far the largest benefit from the fine collected and I consider it only equitable that the Common Charges Account should be called upon to bear the cost of compensation which in view of the imposition of a fine on the offending natives, Government normally is liable to discharge. Payment for the damage inflicted in 1914 is now long overdue and I trust that in the circumstances Your Lordship will approve of the grant of compensation recommended by the Commission being defrayed from the Common Charges Account without further delay. I have received repeated representations from the majority of the claimants and would appreciate a notification of Your Lordship's decision by telegraph.

4. I will now deal briefly with the suggestion that payment in this instance may form an embarrassing precedent for other claims for compensation in respect of war losses in this Colony or other East African Protectorates. After full consideration I could submit my firm opinion that the Kiell awards merit entirely different treatment from the Gasi and Tavata, or other claims submitted in the correspondence quoted in the margin. The damage in South Kavirondo was caused by natives of this territory

