

EAST AFR. PROT.

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Last previous Paper.

Aglyou 11/4/16

Legislative Council
Elective representation

Submits further views on points arising from recent memorial from Convention of Associations. Proposes to submit scheme for reorganisation of administrative system into two divisions - one to control areas occupied by white community - the other to deal with native areas and people outside the limits of the townships.

Mr. G. Zoller

Still wait?

H. J. R.

31/III/14

I refrain from comment at present.

But I or'd ask + suggest it will doubtless be necessary hereafter to publish paper with view to enclosed? If not to be printed write and say, leaving me to write matter as can be perceived.

Mr. 1.4.14

I am not convinced that a good Indian, if not less be found would not be useful on the Council. Ch. 1.4.14

Neither am I. E 2.11.14.

I will wait H 2.4.14

Next subsequent Paper.

see 4/10/10
26943

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

6th March, 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 45.

11525

Sir,

Agfow 9446

During my absence on tour in the North Kavirondo district the rejoinder of the Convention of Associations to your reply to their Memorial for elective representation was forwarded to you by the Deputy Governor without comment, and, having now had opportunity of perusing it, I have the honour to offer for your consideration such remarks as it appears that I may properly make upon certain points taken in your Confidential despatch of October 14th, 1913, and on the views expressed in reply thereto.

for 32234

2. It does not appear that any useful purpose will be served by further exposition of my personal opinion upon matters of general principle, as that opinion was communicated to you in my Confidential despatch of August 23rd, 1913. It has however been somewhat modified in consequence of points which have been brought to my notice since that despatch was drafted. The extent of that modification

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWLING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

(2)

modification will be explained in the following paragraphs.

3. Paragraph 3 of your despatch above referred to is indicative of your view that any proposals for elective representation should provide for the community as a whole. Your memorialists have dealt somewhat fully with that part of the question in their rejoinder and have made endeavour to satisfy you that extension of the franchise to all sections of the community would be both impolitic and impracticable and that the situation at the present stage of the Protectorate's growth justifies a limitation of elective rights to the white population. On this subject I desire to offer a few remarks by way of personal observation.

4. I am in agreement with the view of your memorialists that it is out of the question to confer such rights upon the native African tribes. The time is still far distant when even the most intelligent of these people can be expected to attain to such a degree of civilization as will qualify them to take any direct share in the government of the country. For many years to come, the rights and duties of the chiefs and headmen of the tribes must be limited to participation in their native councils and to the exercise of tribal authority over their people in conformity with the directions of Government and the instructions of the local authorities. Their rights must be maintained and their interests safeguarded by the officers specially entrusted with

with that duty, whose action will be supervised and controlled by the central administrative authority.

5. There remains for consideration the question of the Indian and Arab sections of the community upon whom I was inclined to think, at the time of writing my previous despatch, that it might be necessary to confer some degree of voting power. I have never been in favour of placing a native upon the Council, and I should never make recommendation to that effect, because I believe that an Indian or Arab member would either be apathetic and useless or active only in matters where his personal or commercial interests are concerned and that the section of the community which he is supposed to represent would derive no sort of benefit from his occupation of that position. I am of opinion that the interests of our native communities can and should be adequately maintained and promoted by the official majority on the Legislative Council, and that nothing more is needed to ensure the preservation of their rights and the advancement of their welfare.

6. I now desire to explain the reasons which have led me to modify my view that the franchise should be extended to certain members of the Asiatic communities. Since that opinion was recorded I have received the report of the Labour Commission and am much impressed with the arguments which have been adduced in favor of a reorganisation of the whole of our administrative system

is made in paragraph 4 of your despatch under reply. Such information as can be obtained from available records will be compiled at the earliest possible date, but will not be sent to you until after the 31st instant, as the reports of the Provincial Commissioners which are due at the end of the current financial year will supply the latest available figures.

8. I desire to invite attention to an erroneous statement which has been made in paragraph 12 of the rejoinder submitted by your memorialists. It is not the fact that I referred to the subject of elective representation in my speech at Nakuru in December 1912. As I have already informed you, I carefully avoided it, and have now verified this by reference to a newspaper print of the official report. I am making enquiry as to how it has happened that this statement has been made to you, but the matter is of no such importance as would justify my delaying this despatch pending the receipt of reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alauddin Beyid.

GOVERNOR.