

EAST AFR. PROT

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C. O.  
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REC'D  
REG'D 30 MAY 14

Administration of Coastal Area.

1914

6 May

Last previous Paper.

42674/13

Finds obvious on letter from E. Africa  
Coast Planters Union on the question of development &  
administration of coastal area

Mr. G. Fiddes.

In view of the time which has  
elapsed since we last heard from  
the Assoc<sup>n</sup> I think that they may be

Out by ?

H. J. R.

3/27/14

Fr. 36 14

Mr. Harcourt.

Want talk they require  
(but they did in Dec)

Coastal Steamer

H. J. R. 4. 6. 14

Next subsequent Paper.

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42674/14

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 87.

May 6th, 1914.

Sir,

*M.S.  
28309/13*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 28th of August 1913 on the subject of the development of the Coast area of this Protectorate and to express my regret that my reply should have been so long delayed owing to the fact that I have only now been able to obtain from some of the officers concerned their necessary comments on the points raised in Major Guest's memorandum.

2. I believe that it is generally recognised by the community on the Coast that more personal attention has been devoted by myself to its requirements than was bestowed by my predecessors, and I am able to assure you that substantial improvement and advance in the Seyidie Province have been effected and are still continuing under the assiduous care of Mr. Hobley. I have not yet had an opportunity

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS MARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

19765

173

opportunity of visiting the coastal <sup>Area</sup> North of Malindi but I have no reason to suppose that European interests in those districts are being disregarded by the administrative officers stationed in them.

3. I now propose to deal categorically with each of the questions raised by Major Guest.

*Dec 1971*  
4. As regards the administration of the native tribes, I have in my despatch No.420 of the 4th instant referred to the action I am taking with regard to the Wa-Giriana. I may add that arrangements are now in progress for the concentration in defined locations of the tribes South of Mombasa Island, which will materially facilitate future control.

5. The opening up of the Coast by means of roads and bridges is entirely a question of Funds and while the amount annually available for major works of this description continues to be so small, it is inevitable that preference should be given to those requirements which will meet the most urgent public needs. In this connection I desire to observe that the allegation that "at present there is only one European Public Works Department Official in all the coastal provinces" is not strictly accurate. The staff which has been conducting recent operations in those districts of late consists of two Executive Engineers, three Assistant Engineers, one Chief Storekeeper, one Sub-Storekeeper

Sub-Sterekeeper, one Overseer, and eight Foremen. The Director of Public Works has moreover recently approached me with a request for additional Assistant Engineers, one of whom he proposes to station at the Coast, and I am addressing you on this subject in a separate despatch.

6. As regards Coast Land Settlement, I am able to state that since the inauguration of the work in 1910 large areas have been thrown open both as Crown Lands and Lands privately owned by natives and non-natives. The majority of the latter have already received their Certificates of Title.

These areas stretch from Takaungu to the Sabaki River, while on Mombasa Island itself practically all the "shamba" claims have been dealt with. Upwards of 30,000 acres of privately owned land have already been required by European purchasers for planting purposes.

7. At present the Land Titles Ordinance has been applied to the whole of the Malindi District including the sub-district of Takaungu, to Mombasa Island and to the Tana River District lying within the ten-mile zone. Moreover the Mazrui settlement has been completed, while to the South of Mombasa a preliminary enquiry into the ownership of the land extending as far as the boundary of German East Africa is now being held by Mr. O. F. Watkins, Assistant District Commissioner, prior to the application of the Ordinance in the near future.

On this latter subject I have already addressed you in the correspondence ending with my despatch No. 335 of the 3th of April.

*for 16991*

8. The system of demarcating areas simultaneously with the adjudication of claims, to which Mr. Lowring referred in paragraph 5 of his despatch No. 712 of the 15th of ~~September~~ 1913, has resulted in greatly accelerated progress, though even now the work is not proceeding as rapidly as I could wish owing to our inability to secure a sufficiency of demarcators, the Survey Department being quite unable to spare men for the work. I see no reason why there should be any differentiation in the nature of land tenure in the Highlands and on the Coast and I consider that the regulations for the future must be those which will eventually be enacted in the new Crown Lands Ordinance.

*for 34590/13*

9. I am not aware that the usurious practices of Indians on the Coast are worse than those which exist in other parts of the Protectorate, but the owner of a plantation can always obviate them by establishing a small shop on his estate where his employees can buy goods at reasonable prices.

10. The question of education is probably of less importance on the Coast than elsewhere, and further progress in this direction must be deferred until we are in a position to provide the necessary funds.

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11. The Director of Agriculture has recently inspected the Coast belt from Lamu to Vanga, and has recommended that three areas of 150 acres each should be reserved for the purpose of conducting experiments in tropical plants suitable to the districts but mainly for the production of selected seed coconuts for issue to planters who experience difficulty in obtaining reliable seed. The areas would be situated (a) South of Mombasa (b) at Malindi or Jagarini (c) on the banks of the Tana River. I am making inquiry as to the possibility of providing the plots which the Director of Agriculture advises should be reserved.

12. The Commission which, as I reported in my <sup>40285/13</sup> despatch No. 850 of the 31st of October 1913, I recently appointed to enquire into the question of the revival of the coconut industry, has now finished its labours and I expect to be placed in possession of its report within a short time. The question of the tempo traffic will be dealt with simultaneously. Provision has also been made in the current year's estimates for the appointment of an Agricultural Instructor with experience in Ceylon or the Federated Malay States, possessing a special knowledge of coconut planting and the preparation of copra drying and coir for rope.

13. The entomological researches of Dr. Aders, referred

referred to in my despatch No. 290 of the 27th of March, will also be of great value in determining the most feasible method of exterminating the coconut beetle and other insect pests.

14. As regards the question of general health and sanitation, you are aware of the measures now being taken at Bombasa, and the Medical Officers at other Coast stations are fully alive to the necessity of energetic action in such matters. As regards private estates, I consider that it is the duty of the owner to take measures to maintain the health of his staff. The Provincial Commissioner, Seyidie, however, informs me that, so far as he is aware, there is no plantation which provides skilled medical attendance for its employees, or has instituted sanitary measures to any appreciable extent.

15. As regards the proposals in the enclosure to Major Guest's letter, the present inter-port communication on the Coast by means of local steamers in the possession of Indians is unquestionably most inefficient and irregular, and considerable inconvenience to all classes is caused thereby. Much waste of time would be obviated, and a great boon conferred on all whose work takes them up or down the sea-board if a government steamer could be provided which would make regular advertized trips, but the inefficiency and

fortuitous

fortuitous nature of the existing service leads me to infer that the volume of local trade would be insufficient to make such an arrangement a paying proposition, and it could only be considered if the principle is accepted that it is incumbent on the Government to provide adequate and regular means of transport for its own and the public service at substantial capital outlay and considerable recurrent cost. The suggestion to utilize the Zanzibar Government steamers for such a purpose is out of the question for reasons which will be sufficiently apparent to yourself.

16. The construction of a proper road between Mombasa and Malindi is purely a question of funds. Such a road would be desirable in every way, but it is estimated that the expenditure, in wages, rations, compensation for land and improvements, provision of quarters and water for labourers, clearing of bush, cartage of material, consolidation, drainage, and supervision, would be from £300 to £1,000 per mile, the latter figure being approached on new alignments to suitable ferry sites where extensive acquisition of plantation land would have to be effected. I do not consider therefore that a sprinkling of partially developed European estates justifies expenditure on such a scale at the present time when a similar outlay in other parts of the Protectorate, e.g. in the Nyanza



- 8 -

Nyanza Province, would result in an immediate traffic of some hundreds of carts per diem all filled with produce.

17. The improvement of the ferries, and the construction of stone jetties on both sides of the Likoni ferry are similarly a question of funds, but I can assure you that the necessity for these works is not being ignored by the Government.

18. I trust that the foregoing explanation will make it clear that I am in no way indifferent to the legitimate needs and requirements of the Coast Provinces.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*A. Conway Bayfield*

GOVERNOR.