

EAST AFR. PROT.
N^o 33086

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(Subject.)

Legislative Council

Minutes showing on Aug 16 Encloses
programme of proceedings & address delivered
Selection of members made of official members
has given very general satisfaction

(Minutes)

Mr. Antelas

Very good speech
- fact of my the P.P.P. has passed
with interest

M. 14/2

18th Sept 18.

In - 20/10/07
G. A. A.

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Governor's Office

16 SEP 07

Nairobi,

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August 17th 1907

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 250

(L.S. 41)

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that the Legislative Council was formally opened yesterday morning in the crowded hall of the largest building available for the purpose, all the members being present. The ceremony was followed with the keenest interest, and a great deal of enthusiasm was shown, the hall ringing with cheers when "God Save the King" was given.

I enclose a copy of the programme of the proceedings, and of the address which I delivered on the occasion.

Before the proceedings commenced a sympathetic allusion was made to the loss we have suffered in the sudden death of Mr. J.C. Baillie; I had previously wired to

H.E. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

Programme
Address

the Governor of the Transvaal requesting that an expression of our sympathy and of the deep regret with which the sad news had been received in the Protectorate might be conveyed to the bereaved family at Krugersdorp.

4. There can be no question but that the events of yesterday, as well as the selection that had been made of the Unofficial Members of the Council, have given very general satisfaction.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

Alfred Buller

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PROGRAMME OF THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL ON FRIDAY 16th AUGUST 1907.

His Excellency the Governor will arrive at the Council Hall at 10 a.m.

A Guard of Honour of the King's African Rifles, with Band, will be drawn up facing the main entrance, and will present arms as His Excellency arrives.

The Members of the Council will have previously taken their seats at the Council Table and will receive His Excellency on his entering the Council.

The Right Reverend the Bishop of Mombasa will offer a prayer for guidance and blessing.

His Excellency will deliver his opening speech, at the conclusion of which three cheers will be given for His Majesty the King, the Guard presenting arms, and the Band playing the National Anthem.

The Honourable Members of Council will then be sworn in and His Excellency will formally declare the Council open.

Ladies wishing to witness the ceremony will be accommodated with seats on a raised dais at the end of the Hall. Gentlemen will be reserved seats in the body of the Hall.

A Table will be provided for the Press.

It is requested that all present will take their seats by 9.50 a.m.

By Order
H. J. Fenwick
Clerk,
of the Council.

Despatch No. 351 of 21/7/1907

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are met together to open the first Legislative Council of East Africa.

The day is an important one in the history of the Protectorate and marks a distinct advance in Political Administration.

First administered in 1893 under the direction of the late Sir William Mackinnon, the patriotic chairman, and his Board of Directors of the Imperial British East Africa Company, East Africa was declared a Protectorate on the 1st July 1895 under the control of the Foreign Office.

Following the practice usually adopted with African Protectorates when outside relations had been settled, when peace and security were sufficiently established, and a certain development had been reached, the time came when the control of affairs passed from the hands of the Foreign Office to those of the Colonial Office. This marked a further stage, which was reached on the 1st April 1905, ten years after East Africa had become a British possession.

During these periods East Africa has been singularly fortunate in securing the services of such able and eminent Administrators as Sir George Mackenzie, Sir Arthur Hardinge, Sir Charles Elliot and the late lamented Sir Donald Stewart, who laboured devotedly and successfully for the advancement of the country, and whom it has been my proud privilege to succeed; whilst with the progress made in the period between 1899 and 1905 will ever be associated the name of Sir Clement Hill, to whose able work on its behalf and sympathetic interest in all its affairs East Africa owes more than is generally known.

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Two years later the office of Commissioner is promoted to that of Governor, an Executive Council is appointed and to-day a new chapter is opened in the annals of the country with the constitution of a Legislative Council, on which the Colonists and non-official European element are duly represented; and we begin to emerge as a Crown Colony.

The inauguration of this Council has been brought about in a prominent degree by the influx of white settlers, which has been so marked a feature of the last few years and whose legitimate aspirations to have a say in the laws that govern them the local administration and the home government have been ready to admit, and I am happy to see them now so far realized. I congratulate the Protectorate to-day and I heartily welcome the Legislative Council. The public will now have a direct voice in the legislation of the country and a closer interest in its administration, which must be to the great good and benefit of all concerned.

We officials will be in a better position to ascertain needs and requirements viewed from a different standpoint to our own whilst to me personally it will be of the greatest benefit to have the official advice of such an able body of gentlemen as will sit on this Council. And I look as well on this constitution as the means of bringing about a happier feeling and more cordial relations between all classes who will now be brought into closer and more intimate touch, I feel sure, for our mutual advantage and better understanding. After all, gentlemen, though we may be acting on different lines and may not always see the same thing eye to eye which is perhaps as well, we are really all working directly towards the same end - the good of this Protectorate.

In yesterday's Gazette publication was given to two

matters

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matter of great interest. I refer to Lord Elgin's despatch reviewing the financial and administrative progress made during the two years the Protectorate has been under the control of the Colonial Office, and to the notification constituting the Land Board, which you will have observed provides for five non-official members.

There are present in this Hall to-day those who have known East Africa from the early days of the Company and watched its growth from the time it first came under British Rule, some of whom have been very instrumental in bringing about the results obtained; others there are who came later, all of whom may possibly have not fully realized all that had to be done in a virgin country before it could be in any way said to be ready for European colonization. As a matter of fact it was not ready when the influx came, and it is much to be regretted that the earlier colonists were confronted with many difficulties in selecting and settling on their land; these were not due to any want of sympathy on the part of the Administration which did all it could under the circumstances; they were essentially due to the conditions existing at the time. Many of these disabilities have been removed, others are in course of remedy, but what I would urge is that in a new country all this takes time.

If any of us are tempted to think that progress has been slow, that we do not advance as rapidly as we should, I would say: look at the large extent of territory with which we have to deal, the interests that have to be considered, and the numberless questions that come up for settlement, and remember that our staff as well as our resources are limited. Remember, too, that where there may have been some impatience as to delay in action on certain questions of more than ordinary public interest, it may frequently have happened that these very questions

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questions have been under consideration all the time, steps taken to obtain all information connected with them, and a course of action proposed; though it may not have always been possible to make a definite statement and anticipate a final conclusion till all the considerations bearing on the particular question have been fully weighed. If thoughtful minds will look back a few years and contrast the conditions existing then as they exist now, I think they will admit that very real progress has been made. I will even go further and say that it is doubtful whether within the given time - remember only a very few years - any British Colony can, taking itself round, show the change and progress which have been achieved in East Africa.

Gentlemen:- The Official Members of this Council are well known to you and need no introduction from me. They have been daily working in your midst and you have every opportunity of appreciating the varied and special qualifications each will bring to bear on the work before him.

In the Lord Delamere we have the foremost pioneer. He owns large interests in the country, has expended large sums on his estates which he is developing in the most admirable manner, and he has ever taken a prominent part in the colonization of East Africa and in making its resources and capabilities known to the outside world. The interests of the settlers and of all concerned with the development of the Uplands could not be in safer hands.

Mr. J. E. Wilson is also well known to you as the Manager and Partner of a large British business and shipping Firm which has been established in Mombasa since the earliest days of our occupation with which indeed the Firm is politically connected. He has a wide and varied experience of trade conditions in East Africa and the near East, and has himself been

long

long connected with Mombasa, in the trade and commerce of which, as well as in its more social pursuits he has always taken a leading part.

I count it a high privilege to be associated with such a Council as that now assembled in this Hall.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:- We have high and important functions to discharge on which great issues will depend. We have by wise and impartial legislation giving equal justice to all, to enact such measures as will be best calculated to ensure peace and order; further the expansion of trade and commerce, and develop the economic resources of the fertile Coast regions, the more temperate tracts of up-country; encourage colonization, and promote the interests and legitimate aspirations of the Colonists and planters who have made their homes among us and whose stake in the country is real and vital, the pioneers of a larger settlement in the Uplands; safeguard the rights and interests of the traders of the Indian subject races who have long been established in our towns, and secure the contentment and the moral and material progress of the teeming native races whose habitations have been here for ages, and to whose help we must necessarily look for the economic and progressive results we are striving to obtain.

We have, in short, to continue, under more favourable conditions, the work already done by my eminent predecessors and the able staff who have worked under them, and build up on foundations, well and truly laid, a united, rising and prosperous Colony in this wide expanse of territory which stretches before us, from the sea to great heights, in every considerable form of climate and condition known to the tropics.

In all this I feel assured I shall have your most loyal and hearty co-operation.

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There is a good deal of legislation pending before us. At this meeting there will be introduced 11 Bills of which the most pressing are those dealing with the abolition of the Legal Status of Slavery on the Coast area, Revision of Customs Regulations, Liquor Laws, Diseases of Animals, Branding of Cattle, and Establishment of Municipalities. These will be for the first reading and there will be no debate till the second reading. We shall also consider a draft of the Standing Rules and Orders for the Council.

Important measures such as those connected with the revision of the Land Laws, the compilation of a Penal Code for the Protectorate, and the revision of the Mining Laws will be laid before you as soon as possible and ample time will be given for discussion of the drafts in the Press and by the public before the Bills become Law. Your consideration, too, will be early given to the weighty matters of Education and the native questions which have been actively engaging the attention of the Administration.

I trust I have not detained you unnecessarily long, the occasion, I feel, is one of more than ordinary interest.

I conclude with the earnest hope that we may all be given strength, wisdom and guidance to properly conduct the high duties which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to commit to us.

For Case
33086

23 Sept. 1907

Sir,

I have the honor to
ack. the recd. of your
despatch no. 350 of the
17th of August, and to
inform you that I have
perused with interest
the report of your speech
at the opening of the
Legislative Council on the
16th of August.

DRAFT

Sent by Post no. 525
for
Lt. Col. J. H. S. S. S. S.

MINUTE

- Mr. ~~Butt~~ 20/9
- Mr. ~~Rand~~ 20/9
- Mr. ~~Just~~ 20/9
- Mr. ~~Astrosbus~~
- Mr. ~~Gen.~~
- Mr. ~~Lucas~~
- Mr. ~~F. Hopwood~~
- Mr. ~~Chamberlain~~
- The Earl of Elgin.