

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 43989

43989

PLCF

REGD JEC 07

File 500

1907

Previous Paper

(Subject)

Wandana Tills

In report of Mr. Lane & Stokes has
reference for drawing in their country

(Minutes)

Mr Read

This appears a capital
piece of work. With receipt
of course in the Gov's
approval of the Bank of Africa
Lane & E. B. Harrow
& let Exchange Committee
note 10/14/12

Mr. Antolius

So passed? - when this has been
done send the receipts: send in orig. to
the D. & A. for payment & return 3rd
class note

J.R. 18/11
J.R.

3/18/12 (18/11/12) 18/11/12

War Office.

Whitehall.

S.W.

154

8th February 1908.

The Director of Military Operations presents
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the
Colonies, and begs to return with thanks a report on the
Trans-Tana tribes of the British East Africa Protectorate,
which has been perused with interest.

83
969

For EAD
43989

10
155

Dec 1st 1899

DRAFT

For D. P. Proctor
695

For
Lt. Col. James Sadler
ACMG CAS

MINUTE

- Mr. Bottomley 1/1/11
- Mr. King 11/19/11
- Mr. Judd
- Mr. A. Graham
- Mr. Cox
- Mr. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Mr. Chirehill
- Mr. Bial of Bial

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your
report as sent of the
25th of Nov; and beg
you that I have read
with interest and have
report on the Trans-Texas
Trails being beyond the
facts

and fully concur with
you in your approval
of the work of Lt. Col.
and Mr. E. B. Horn in
this matter.

2

Return for Patrons Com. the
1st & 2nd 1899

Governor's Office, 42,888

REC

Nairobi REGISTRY DEU

November 28th 1907.

AFRICA DEPARTMENT.

No. 507.

(Incl. 1.)

My Lords,

I have the honour to submit a very interesting report by Mr. Lane, the Provincial Commissioner of the Kenya Province, on the hitherto unknown "Transana Tribes" living beyond the Embu.

It will be remembered that last year when the expedition was undertaken against the troublesome Embu tribe who for years had ruthlessly raided and pillaged all caravans and were a terror to their neighbours, I escaped the expedition with the subjugation of the tribe, wishing to give the Embu the opportunity of submitting by the season the Embu had received.

This policy has been amply vindicated by the results of the work of Mr. Lane and Mr. Lane who have now

Yours faithfully

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

LONDON, E.C.

successfully established our authority over wild and
 1. It is felt that it was time thought we should
 have to fight, and the way is now opened to a permanent
 account for the Mweru, whose chiefs are available for our
 presence there to stop raiding and inter-tribal fighting
 and to administer the country.

2. Mweru is the centre of a rich food supplying district
 and I have already alluded to it as a base from which we
 should draw our supplies for Marsabit, or any station

3. Mr. Lane is now in the country of Mweru and I had
 already made provision for doing so in next year's estimates.
 But the result of the tour of Messrs. Lane and I have through
 the intervening country has been such that we can safely

propose to send Mr. Lane accompanied
 by Mr. [Name] and a suitable escort to Mweru in January next,
 to see how far Mr. Lane can take, returning with the
 necessary reports on the occupation of the place which as I
 have already said is in accordance with their wishes.

4. This step has the full approval and sanction of

the

C. G. 158
43089
REC-17 080-37

the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,

I trust Your Lordship will agree with me that
Mr. Lane and Mr. Jorke are to be congratulated on
their work in these wild districts.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your obedient servant,

Richard S. S. S.

Richard S. S. S.

some of them have already done so.

The agreement with which the Government went to war to protect these natives against a Moslem raid has had the effect of convincing them that we are not only willing but able to protect them.

The Tharaka and Emberré countries are divided by the Pangani River, which forms the South and South-Eastern boundary of Tharaka. This and the Vani Rivers are impassable for some months during the rains, so that the wa Tharaka are cut off from all other tribes except the wa Mera, who have always raided them, and of whom they live in constant fear.

The wa Saka are neighbours of the wa Senu, the boundary between their countries being the Murobi River. So far they have had very little intercourse with them or any other tribes.

They live in a very fertile, well wooded, and well watered, country, of about 10 miles by long by 4 to 5 miles broad. All the main approaches to this country are well and strongly guarded gates similar to the gates of native villages but much stronger and on a bigger scale, they being 10 yards in length and just large enough to admit one man at a time. There is thick bush between the gates which is rendered more impenetrable by being interlaced with the thorn trees. In the enclosed area the wa Saka have their huts and plant and have banana, sugar cane, and rice cultivations. It is well watered, the Vani and the Murobi rivers running through it with 2 other rivers, the Murobi, and the Mera, forming the boundaries between the Senu, the Mera, and the Murobi countries respectively. The principal cultivations are outside this area, and extend for 4 to 5 miles on all sides. In these villages are watch houses, built in the highest trees

where

where one or two young men keep guard day and night and on the approach of an enemy give the alarm; the flocks and herds are then driven into the bush, and all persons come in from outside, and the gates are closed.

By such means the wa Suka have been able to successfully resist all attacks, and it is probable that this accounts for their very independent spirit, and the fact that they have never made friends with the tribes living on either side of them.

The Mvishi and Mithambi may be classed as one tribe, Mithambi being a sub-division of the former. The tribe is small and resembles the wa Meru both in language and customs. By all accounts they appear to be braver than other natives and have been able to hold their own, and to successfully raid other tribes.

The Nithi River which rises in Kenia separates their country from Suka, and the Mara River forms the Northern boundary.

The wa Jishi live on the Southern border of Meru, and are separated from that country by a stream called Iriri; their customs and language are the same as those of the Mvishi and Mithambi with whom they do not appear to differ in any way.

Some years ago, close to Chief Mvishi's village, Mr. Hall, who went through Iriri some years ago as part of a scientific expedition, established a camp. He is said to have raided the natives on the east, and returning with cattle bartered them with the wa Jishi for ivory. He was eventually killed by a rhino.

A few years ago a large Swahili caravan from Mombasa established ^{Trade} ~~stations~~ in this country, and stole women and cattle. They tried the natives beyond ^{the} ~~reference~~, so one day the wases met together and decided to ~~send~~ ^{send} the party. This they did, and to show their ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} to

where one or two young men keep guard day and night and on the approach of an enemy give the alarm; the flocks and herds are then driven into the enclosures, all people come in from outside, and the gates are closed.

By such means the wa Sufa have been able to successfully resist all attacks, and it is probable that this accounts for their very independent spirit, and the fact that they have never made friends with the tribes living on either side of them.

The Mwisibi and Muthambi may be classed as one tribe, Muthambi being a sub-division of the former. The tribe is small and resembles the wa Meru both in language and customs. By all accounts they appear to be braver than other natives, and have been able to hold their own, and to successfully raid other tribes.

The Nithi River which rises in Kenia separates their country from Sufa, and the Mara river forms the Northern boundary.

The wa Jiroshi live on the Southern border of Meru, and are separated from that country by a stream called Iriri. Their customs and language are the same as those of the Mwisibi and Muthambi with whom they do not appear to differ in any way.

It was here, close to Chief Mwisibi's village, that Mr. Hall, who went through Iriri some years ago in connection with a scientific expedition, established a camp. He is said to have raided the natives on the east, and returning with cattle's plundered them with the wa Jiroshi for some time. He was eventually killed by a rhino.

A few years ago a large Swahili caravan firm was established ~~at this place~~ in this country, and stole women and cattle. They tried the natives beyond endurance, so one day the wares met together and decided to put up the party. "Up they did, and to show their friendliness to

Government they have now sent in 3 of the rifles which
 belonged to the Swahilis.

The whole country passed through, with the exception of
 Igoshu where I have mentioned that Mr. Kell, crossed a camp,
 had never been visited by white men before. Mr. Horne went
 through it about a fortnight previous to my visit, and even
 in that short time ^{he} induced the native chiefs of all the
 tribes to cut a good road right through their countries
 to the border of Meru. I was very surprised at his being
 able to do so, considering only a very few of them had ever
 seen a white man.

All the rivers are well bridged and are strong enough
 to ~~have~~ ^{bear} the weight of cattle, &c.

There was about 4 miles of road between the Naku and
 Suka country unfinished when we passed through, but on speak-
 ing to the chief about it, it was finished when we returned
 3 days later. He must have put on some thousands of his
 men to cut and bridge it in the time. Their ~~idea~~ ^{object} of cutting
 the road, is that by so doing they may induce Government to
 take them under its protection and to administer their
 affairs. There will be no difficulty about this if Meru
 is opened up next year.

All these tribes are very poor, they have not traded
 with any Swahilis and have consequently no cloth, ~~beads~~ ^{beads}, &c,
 and are very keen to ~~see~~ ^{obtain} them. There would be no difficulty
 in getting them to work, and in order to ~~enable~~ ^{enable} them to
 Europeans and Swahilis and the kind of labour required
 by Mr. Horne is receiving small parties of Naku, &c. &c.
 to assist them to work at his station. Many of them
 have expressed a wish to go to Nairobi, which they have
 of course others, to work, but I do not consider it is advi-
 sable, to send them there yet. By giving them work at the
 station we will gradually get more in touch with them, and
 be able to eventually administer their country without

difficulty

difficulty or friction.

It is all the more surprising that we could get to Maru through the country visited, as my predecessor informed me that it would be impossible to get to Maru except via Tverd and the North of Kenya, owing to the hostile attitude of the wa Baka, who would have to be sooner or later conquered.

The greatest credit is due to Mr. E. J. Horns for the excellent work he has done, not only in his own district, but among these hitherto hostile tribes. He has got the wa Bubu thoroughly in hand, and rules them entirely through the chiefs, who appear to have not only respect for him but also a great amount of affection. He has 18 chief's sons attached to him, who accompany him on all safaris. There are two from each tribe, and so when he wishes anyone arrested or a chief sent for, he sends one of these young men to the principal chief and the orders are invariably carried out without any trouble. ^{He seldom em-} ^{ploye} ^{as} ^{police} ^{to} ^{serve} ^{summons,} ^{to} ^{attach} ^{property,} ^{or} ^{to} ^{make} ^{arrests.} I consider him to be the best man for that district. The best man to open up the Suka, the Awishi, the Marhi, and the Tanahi countries.

I would like here to mention that Capt. J. G. Law was the first officer to start the wa Bubu road-making. He also appointed the chiefs and laid the foundation for the working of the district. Mr. Horns has continued this policy and roads have now been cut from every chief's village to the main road which runs from Bubu to Suka.

The principal chiefs and names of the districts are:-

Suka	Mundu wa Marendu
	Mundu wa Wajui
	Mundu wa Simba
	Mundu wa Murunu

Mundu wa Imaha

Mundu wa Ikutha

Mundu wa Kibao

Mundu wa Mwarisi

Mundu 1. Mwarisi

Mundu 2. Mwarisi

Mundu 3. Mwarisi

It will be noted that all the wa-Mundu are called "Mundu wa" meaning "Man of" the reason for this is that each takes the name of the man who held them while they are being circumcised.

Of all these chiefs Mundu wa Mwarisi and Mwarisi may be said to be the most powerful.

I enclose a sketch map of the "Mundu" of the country traversed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Provincial Commissioner.