

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 5786

5786
REC'D FEB 17 08

Verif. No. 20

(Subject.)

1908  
12 Jan

Kavirondo  
Tour Through Kisumu & Mumias District

at previous Paper.

Reports tour between 24 Dec & 3 Jan  
Principal object to induce chiefs to cultivate  
cotton, ground nuts & acacia. Hut tax  
collection satisfactory

31264/81

(Minutes.)

Mr. Antrobin.  
Ask: ~~not~~ say that  
Lord Elgin has sent with interest &  
satisfaction?

H. J. R.

19/2

Mt. Feb. 20.

Jfr

20-3

at me

SR (30)

Quad 57. 24 Feb

at subsequent Paper

2/57

Governor's Office

Nairobi

January 15th 1908

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 20

5785  
REC'D  
FEB 17 1908

My Lord,

Between the 24th December and 3rd Instant I made a tour through the Kisumu and Mumias districts of the Kavirondo Province.

2. The principal object of the tour was to induce the Chiefs to get their people to plant cotton and extend the cultivation of the oil-containing ground nuts and ~~sem-sem~~ so as to allow of an export of payable economic products of which the Province is quite capable; and for this purpose I was accompanied by Mr. John Ainsworth, C.M.G., the Provincial Commissioner, and Major Leggett, D.S.O., the General Manager of the British East Africa Corporation, acting on behalf of the British Cotton Growing Association.

3. A big Baraza, or Meeting, of Chiefs was held at Mumias and was attended by some 6,000 natives. The objects we had in view were explained at length, and the advantages which would accrue to the Chiefs and their people by planting more payable products than the potatoes and maize to which they are so accustomed were detailed. They seemed to grasp the situation and at another meeting which was held the following morning all the Chiefs present declared their intention of

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S. W.

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

January 12th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 20

5786  
Rec  
17 FEB 08

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H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

of clearing ground for the planting suggested to them in readiness for the big rains which are due the end of February or early in March.

4. The same ground was gone over again at each Chief's place where a camp was formed. It may be remembered that we had a meeting of Kavirondo Chiefs over the cotton question at Kisumu in the summer of 1906; unfortunately the Province has since suffered from a shortage of rain, which the chiefs tell me is the reason why I saw on my tour so little result of the advice then given them. I am hopeful that the results of this tour will be better, and that a commencement will now be made of agricultural development in the Province. Mr. Ainsworth is most keen to push Kavirondo and establish an export trade, and Major Leggett who had one of his assistants with him was able to assure the chiefs that apart from other purchases his Company was prepared to purchase all the commodities of the kinds mentioned they would be able to produce, at rates which were quoted to them. The assurance of a firm market for all produce brought in seemed to have a good effect, and as a further inducement I offered a reward of Rs. 100/- to the Chief whose people brought in the largest quantity of cotton after the next rains.

5. These districts of Kavirondo are thickly populated with an industrious people accustomed to agricultural pursuits. They rival the coast districts in the fertility of the soil and have the great

advantage

advantage of an abundant labour supply. The hut tax collection in these districts has been very satisfactory; Mumias, for instance, has already paid in Rs.53,000, the estimate for the year, and it is expected that another Rs.20,000 will be brought in before the close of the financial year.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

*W. J. S. S. S.*

C. D.  
21  
D. 24

*Gr*  
5786/08  
E. Q. P.

182

*Gr*

DRAFT.

24 Feb 08

E. Q. P. N. 87

Gov  
Sadler

Sir,

MINUTE. 20/2

- Mr. Noall 20/2
- Mr. Read 20/2
- Mr. Jupp
- Mr. Astropus
- Mr. Cox
- Mr. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch N. 20 of the 12th of January, & to inform you that I have read with much interest & satisfaction the report of your tour through the Kiamu & Munias districts of the Kauri-lands Province.