

not only the coast but the inland in advance
of British Administration. I have no objection in
saying that this is a gross misrepresentation.
But Indian merchants have certainly carried on
business at the coast ports for many years, but
except in German East Africa, with which we are not
concerned, all inland trade was in the hands of
Arabs and Swahilis. The Indian only participated
in promoting it by means of advances of money and
trade goods at usurious rates and his active pro-
tection of it was limited to an occasional journey
to Rabai, some 1^o miles from the coast, to meet
some returning caravan and make sure that his luck-
less debtor did not escape him. Of pioneer enter-
prise and personal risk or discomfort he had an
equal dread and from my own knowledge I can
confidently state that the small Indian up-country
trader, as distinct from the coast merchant, is a
product of our administration of the interior and
particularly of the Uganda Railway.

4. The construction of the latter certainly
owes much to Indian labour and something to
Mr. Jivanji. The latter did not however work
entirely on philanthropic lines and the handsome
fortune which he is understood to have amassed may
perhaps have afforded him some compensation for his
efforts. I do not however wish to deprive him of
the credit of having come forward to assist when
the Government had no connection with the
Protectorate and again with the completion of
the Railways, at one time seemed likely, I could
not refuse to let him possess a character. The

1. It may be said that amongst his compatriots, who
resided in Uganda, there were no such men as the
authorities. However, when the railway was
finished, he left his residence in the
Protectorate without ever having been examined. As far
as their influence on the native, both mental
and physical, has been developed, testimony evidence
is unanimous in regard to the ill-effects of inter-
course between the Asiatic and African race.
The former cheats and swindles the latter by counter-
feited coins and false weights, and teaches him to
recoup himself by theft and forgery. Prostitution
is fostered by the presence of the Indian, who
uses the means of introducing venereal and physical
diseases amongst tribes where they were a few years
ago unknown. Truly the Protectorship has had to pay
dearly for the acceleration in the construction of
the Uganda Railway.

5. Passing to the claim of Indians to possess
paramount claims in the town of Nairobi, it is easy
to see that the language held in the newspaper
reproduces more or less closely the pretensions of
the Hon. Mr. Iwanji. This gentleman certainly
owns a considerable amount of property in the town-
ship, but it is not true that he and his compatriots
"carry on the great bulk of the business and, of
course, pay most of the taxes". It would be fairer
as being within the bounds of truth, to say that
they are responsible for most of insanitary condi-
tions and the bulk of the disease.

6. Such being the claims of the Indian

73. A second so-called grievance is made up to the Emigration Act, by which immigrants to the Immigration Ordinance, it is said.

This seems a curious complaint, as the Ordinance Indians have only to pay a sum of £100, or £150, doubtless, whereas immigrants must pay £50, since required to rent. The Ordinance could doubtless be revised so as to provide for the payment of the larger sum by all immigrants.

8. The exclusion of Indians from the Market as stated in the Memorial would appear prima facie to be a genuine grievance. It might perhaps have put a different complexion on the case if the author had not forgotten to mention that the market in question is a small new European produce market for the neighbouring farmers and that the largest market in the town, in which nine-tenths of the business is transacted, is absolutely unrestricted to any one race or colour.

To put this forward as a grievance shows either gross ignorance on the part of the Memorialists, or a deliberate desire to misrepresent facts.

9. The next disability, the condition of white occupation in the case of Fifth Avenue plots, constitutes a grievance only in so far as a natural desire to keep the principal residential and business streets of the town free from insanitary conditions may be deemed to be such. It is not true that the street in question is surrounded by plots owned by Europeans, but only except in the sense that Park Lane is surrounded by Chinese. In both cases there is a question of distance.

Perhaps

Perhaps at this point it may be well to observe that we are not dealing in Nairobi with a wealthy and educated Indian community, but with a population of small tradesmen and shopkeepers completely ignorant of hygienic principles and exceedingly annoyed by their introduction in practice. Every consideration of health makes it imperative that these people should be segregated in one quarter, in order to lessen the labour of the Medical Officers, who as it is find it a herculean task to cleanse such an Augean stable as the present Indian bazaar.

10. It will be time enough for the Indians of East Africa to make a grievance of their exclusion from the office of Justice of Peace, when they number amongst them persons who would be considered suitable for such a distinction in India itself. The fact is that the community here is a very low class one and includes practically, if not absolutely, nobody who would either by birth or education be considered an "Indian gentleman" in his native land. Thirdly, it was thought desirable to give the community a representative on the Council the most worthy person who could be found was Mr. Jivani to whom reference has already been made. This gentleman is of lowly origin and can neither read nor write.

11. In view of Dr. Percy Girouard's intimate acquaintance with the subject I scarcely think it necessary to say more. I trust that I have been able to show that the Indian community so far as

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the Highlands of East Africa are concerned, has a but small claim and that those claims have received very adequate consideration.

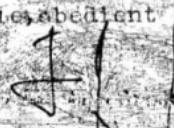
The old-established merchants of the coast come under a different category, but they are quite at home with the propounder of the Juba River and the Northern League, with the objects of which they have little sympathy. They are quite content with the freedom they enjoy to carry on their business without interruption or interference and have no desire to thrust themselves into prominence.

[12. As regards the proposal to introduce Indian immigrants into the country bordering on the Juba River, Sir Percy Girouard, who has recently visited that region and has, I believe, a high opinion of its capabilities, will be in the best position to advise.]

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,


ACTING GOVERNOR.