

EAST AFR. PROT.

No 600

Prospects of Soilers

Contrasts statements contained in pamphlet published by the Agricultural Dept. with those appearing in other Gov't publications. Submits it would have been wiser to have emphasised some of the drawbacks of the first. Suggests alterations shd be sent

(Minutes)

Copy to the Com: for report - 1 of the S. I. O. that this has been done. H. J. R.

at 11/11/19

H. J. R.

2/11/19

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1905

July

Previous Paper

10/11/19

10/11/19

By Com: 22/11/19  
Amad 5/12/19

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31, BROADWAY,  
WESTMINSTER, S.W.,

24 July 1905

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a considerable number of enquiries have been received lately at this Office with regard to the British East Africa Protectorate, and my Committee desire to lay the following observations before Mr Secretary Lyttelton.

On the first page of a handbook dealing with a settler's prospects in the British East Africa Protectorate lately published by the Agricultural Department in the Protectorate it is stated that "the settler with £300, being able to live cheaply, will certainly do better here than in any other colony or at home, but he must be prepared to work and he should settle in a district where a white man can work." This statement is reprinted in Africa No 11 (1905) and has attracted attention in the press here, for instance in the June issue of the 'Colonizer'.

The statement quoted from the  
settlers

Under Secretary of State  
for the Colonies  
Colonial Office.

17.  
settlers hand book is hardly borne out  
by the Annual Report of His Majesty's  
Commissioner on the East Africa  
Protectorate for the year 1903-4, which in  
the sections VII and VIII dealing with  
Vegetable Products and Live Stock clearly  
indicates that the Protectorate is more or  
less in the experimental stage and  
therefore not suitable to the settler of  
moderate means who cannot afford to  
run risks.

In section III of the same report  
the Commissioner dealing with Native  
Labour states that the natives of the  
Protectorate are as a rule very erratic  
in their desire for work, for months  
together labour is as plentiful as one  
can desire, and then suddenly there is  
a great scarcity. To a planting  
community of settlers, native labour  
is a most important factor of success,  
and it is unfortunate that all our  
native labour comes from the  
agricultural tribes for the reason that  
the planting and reaping seasons,  
when labour is most required on the  
nativest

natives' own farms, coincide, with the seasons in which the settler requires most labour.

In the handbook published by the Agricultural Department no mention is made of locusts, but in leaflet No 5 published by the same Department it is stated that "enormous numbers of this insect are always present in the country and at any time their ravages may result in very serious loss."

Nothing definite is said in the same handbook about markets, but the point is clearly one of the greatest importance to the settler.

I would also call attention to the following passages in recently published Parliamentary papers. In Africa No 2 (1905) on page 3, paragraph 10, "the labour difficulty is a serious obstacle to the development of the country," and on page 4, paragraph 13, "transport . . . is in an unsatisfactory state."

In

In Africa No. 4 (1905) on page 7,  
 (Enclosure 1, paragraph 2) "The rainfall  
 at Naivasha has been very disappointing,  
 22 inches per annum fairly distributed  
 over the season, is of little use under  
 a tropical sun. It has, in fact,  
 scarcely been sufficient to keep the  
 grass alive. Crops were, therefore, a  
 total failure during this abnormally  
 dry season."

Also in the same report and on  
 the same page, paragraph 3, —  
 "Disease has played havoc all round"  
 (with stock); and, on page 8,  
 "cultivation without irrigation is  
 of very little, if any, use."

In the handbook, on page 3,  
 "the Railway and Shipping rates  
 are at present necessarily rather  
 high"; — on page 8, "so far only a  
 few crops have proved remunerative  
 in the Likuyu country"; — on page 9,  
 "No satisfactory results have yet been  
 got from the wheat crop, the average  
 yield,"

year only two quarters per  
acre in this country, the average is  
over 10 bushels, and in Canada and  
New Zealand rather less; on page 12,  
but settlers can expect to go  
straight ahead, profiting by failures  
of the former farmers, but they will  
usually find it best to carry on  
mixed farming. Land is cheap and  
good, and the settlers will find the  
Highlands as healthy as any other  
colony, with an agricultural  
outlook second to no country. The  
settler must, however, remember that  
the less capital he has the slower  
must be his progress, and even in  
the Highlands £300 is a poor  
minimum as it does not permit of  
the purchase of sufficient stock for  
the economical supervision of a  
European.

These are of course statements  
which in some cases bear the other  
way but I have quoted the above to  
show that the success of a settler  
with £300 cannot possibly be so  
certain.

certain as is indicated in the handbook of the Agricultural Department, and my Committee venture to think that it would have been wiser to have laid more emphasis on some of the drawbacks and uncertainties of the Protectorate, and to have insisted more upon the possession of capital - not of a poor minimum but of an amount which would permit a settler to tide over a bad season without running a grave risk of failure.

It is the practice of the Emigrants' Information Office to warn intending emigrants that they should not invest money or take up land before they have acquired some knowledge of the country, and the warning seems to be as necessary in the East Africa Protectorate as it is in the case of a country such as Canada where the conditions are nearer to those to which the emigrant has been accustomed and the chance of success more assured.

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these concerns  
brought to the notice of the  
Government in case  
issue any further handbooks  
dissemination in this country

I have the honour to be  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. R. Lamb

Chairman of Committee.