

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.  
N<sup>o</sup>. 30668

C. O.  
30668  
2. AUG. 05

No. 418  
1905  
4 July  
Previous Paper

(Subject.)

Deaths of Messrs Jacques, Gray + Mc Leish

Is copy of letter from Mr W. Jacques regard  
Reports result of a second + independent enquiry  
into matter.

(Minutes)

Mr Read

W. P. R. 20/8

atone.  
W. P. R.  
26/8

Part to

30810

C. O.  
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Commissioner's Office,  
Mombasa,

July 24th 1905.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 413

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 200 of April 4th reporting on the circumstances attending the deaths of Messrs. Jacques, Gray and McLish (alias Macgregor), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter that Mr. William Jacques, a brother of one of the deceased, has addressed to me, in which he states that he has come to the conclusion that Jacques and Gray were extensively robbed and poisoned, and that he intends to bring the matter up before Parliament.

Since writing the despatch above referred to, I have caused a second and independent enquiry to be made into the deaths of the three Europeans. Nothing new, however, has come to light, beyond the fact that McLish (alias

MacGregor.

H. M. Principal Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Downing Street,  
LONDON.

MacGregor) probably took the property from Jacques and Gray's cook by force and forged the account books shown to the Collector of Kitui who supported his statement, that he was a partner of the deceased. It is presumed that McLeish having thus obtained possession of Jacques and Gray's effects disposed of a great part of the estate before he died at Munchi. As the locality in which the death occurred was some days march from the nearest Government station, no official can be blamed for McLeish's action in taking over the property; but I have censured Mr. Skene, the Collector at Kitui, for not stopping McLeish and keeping Jacques and Gray's belongings for transmission to the Administrator General. As McLeish is now dead, no further steps can be taken in the matter and no more property is recoverable.

I have notified to Mr. Jacques that although a second enquiry has been held into the matter the only fresh information that has been obtained regarding his brother's death and estate is that McLeish probably stole the property and disposed of a part of it before his death.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Stewart

Dublin,

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1905.

Sir,

I wrote you about a month ago in reply to yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> April in which you state that the property recovered belonging to my brother and Mr. Gray only amounted to £ 100, now as I am informed that they both invested £ 300 each into the expedition and had been trading about 4 or 5 months. I have come to the conclusion they were extensively robbed and poisoned for that purpose. I must insist on a full investigation into their death, otherwise I will put the matter into the hands of Swift McNeil Esq., M.P. to bring it up in Parliament.

I will wait until middle of August before taking this step when I hope the guilty parties will be brought to justice.

Yours etc.

(Sd.) Wm. Jacques.

K.C.M.G.,

Esq.,

from letter received from my brother previous to his going to Africa. He mentioned that himself and Mr. Gray financed the expedition and made no mention of McGree or McLeish whom you say was a partner.