

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 25266

25266
REC
REL 16 JUL 07

Governor. No.
Conf. 49
1907
June 18
Last previous Paper.
25265

(Subject.)

Naval Incident

Submits draft of an article sent by Mr. H. C. ...
Africa Standard. Explains defect in reading article ...
copy later published by the Editor on the subject.

(Minute.)

Mr. ... thinks that ...
brother ... be most ...
administration ...
latitude ...
although I should have thought ...
they would not have been so ...
want of support ...
strengthen their position by the help of
a 2 1/2 paper like the ...
Standard

Acknowledged
H. J. R.

Recy of Conf 12/18 Aug 1907

Next subsequent Paper
25267

West Africa Correspondence
Confidential No (39)

25266
REC
16 JUL 07
Governor's Office
Nairobi
June 18th 1907

My Lord,

I mentioned in my despatch
No. 31 Confidential of the 19th ult^o
that one of Captain Progan's com-
plaints was that an attempt had
been made to suborn the African
Statesman in connection with the
Hoggins incident.

I now have the honour
to submit a copy of the draft of
the article which was sent by
one of the Secretaries with the
assurances of this Office through
The Herald to the Editor of
The Standard.

It will be observed that the
draft was written on the 18th of
March, two days after the oc-
currence, and the only object of
the Secretary

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies
Colonial Office
London

sending it was to give the Standard which had hitherto been always anxious to receive communications the facts as they were known at the time from the Government point of view, facts which were in the main if I except the statement that many of the Europeans were armed, fully borne out by the proceedings at the trial.

It could not have then been known that the paper would have turned round and come so completely under the influence of the agitators as it did, after the Editor had spent some days in Nairobi at the time of the trial and I fail to see any ground for Captain Probyn's contention that an attempt was made to suborn the Press. Any view that did not fall in with his own ideas, would be considered by him as a misrepresentation.

I saw the edition on this subject in Mombasa and I told him that whatever views he

May

may have held as to the correctness
 or otherwise of the statements made
 in the article, three weeks after
 he received it he would have been
 better advised to have merely de-
 clined to publish it, without
 committing himself to the remarks
 contained in his note of the 4th
 April to the Herald, a copy of
 which is enclosed

I have the honour to be
 with the highest respect,
 Your Lordship,
 your Lordship's most obedient
 humble servant
 J. W. [Signature]

Death Accounts for the C. I. Standard

C. I. S. 25266

N. 32 111 07

At 10.15 AM on the 16th July 07 in the morning
 of the 14th inst. Capt
 F. S. Hogan, Mr Russell Bowler and
 Mr Thord Gray severely flogged three
 Kikuyu natives, nicknamed boys in the
 name of the former in front of the
 Nairobi Court house. They were for-
 bidden to proceed by the Magistrate
 Mr Hogan and by the European
 S.P.S.P. Captain Smith, but the latter
 reaction was disregarded and could
 not be escaped as the three in-
 censed were supported by upward
 of 100 Europeans, many of them
 armed. The offence of which the na-
 tives were accused was that of be-
 having rudely and insolently to Mr
 Hunter and Miss Macdonald, but
 the majority of the spectators had
 been induced to countenance the
 proceedings by reports of a far more
 sensational nature sedulously cir-
 culated by a few individuals desi-
 vious of inflaming the European
 population against the Government.

Very

Very few of them, probably only those who actually organized the incident were aware of what the natives had actually done and it has since transpired that the so-called insults offered to the ladies were of a most trivial nature amounting to nothing more than what may be described as 'chatter'. The insinuations of gross behaviour, which were spread with the object of exciting and undoubtedly did excite popular indignation, have been subsequently proved to be a fabrication.

No effort was made to hand the culprit over to the police or to allow the law to take its course, it being asserted that in similar cases offenders had either been let off or punished too leniently. The point of fact no such case has been brought before the Magistrate and there is no reason to suppose that he would have failed to inflict an adequate penalty on any native against whom such a charge was proved.

It need scarcely be said that interference

interference of this kind with
the course of justice, as a very
serious matter and is viewed
as such by the Government
which will shortly take action
against the offenders. The latter
will find that the consequences
are none the less serious because
the Administration has for a
few hours held its hand to con-
sider the best means of dealing
with the situation without
further magnifying its gravity
or exasperating its importance.

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REC
16 JUL 07

From Editor 'Standard' to Sub-
Commissioner of Seyidie,
Mombasa.
April 10th 1907.
S. L. Huse, Esq
Sub-Commissioner's Office,
Mombasa.

Sir - I would draw your attention to the statements made in the proceedings of the trial of certain five Europeans held in Nairobi at which these Europeans were found guilty of being members of an unlawful assembly. After you have read this true and full report you will at once realise how very improperly you, yourself, and through you, I myself, would have been misled had we accepted the suggestions contained in the article sent down from Nairobi for publication as an inspired or in any case semi inspired statement of the actual state of affairs. Had I allowed the said article to appear under the auspices of the Standard I should have been guilty of grossly misleading public opinion and what would have been worse should have been guilty of a gross injustice to citizens involved. Situated as I was far from the scene of events I could not know what was actually

taking place consequently the charges were all the greater than I should have gratefully accepted the article as a fiction as a true statement of facts more especially when the character of the information is considered. However my duty as a public officer would require me to protest and make representations.

As a public officer I should be a writer of the article in question and I should be motivated other than what I should have done as an officer holding a position of trust in the Government of this Province. I had a very bounden duty to place the matter in the hands of H. E. The Governor and a view of having the matter considered by an Officer holding a responsible position should write such a statement for public purposes.

Your own position I fully recognise. You regarded the article as a true matter, and as such proper for publication. You can be doubt aware that through the courtesy of successive Commissioners the Editor of the East African Standard, is frequently furnished with official news for general publication. This article however was evidently not supplied in the ordinary course, (this I find out since) and consequently for my future protection I must ask you to send the document on to H. E. The Commissioner for his consideration.