

LAST MR. PROT
15394

1916
RECEIVED

From
Booring Bld

1916

25 Feb.

Last previous Paper.
No of 6
52015
15

Publication of news in local press.

Seeds report by J.V.C., with copy of notes
re: sedition publications false rumors,
disclosure of military movements. States
generally as to press censorship.

Tw. Reed.

Nothing unreasonable or
unnecessary in the restrictions imposed.
We can wait for the A. Warham to
raise the matter again

? Putty Oct 3/4/16

H. J. R.

3/12/16

W. K. P. P.

AS. M. 54

Apr 6.4

subsequent Paper.

File in

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE
No. 154

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

February 25th, 1915.

G.O.C.
15394
REC'D
MAR 31 1915

Sir,

Doyle
523 15/15

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 847 of November 18th respecting the publication of news in the local press and to transmit herewith a copy of a report on the subject by the General Officer Commanding.

From G.O.C.
8-1-16

Notice

2. Since the commencement of hostilities it has been our object to confine the censorship to matters affecting the military situation and not to use it to suppress those criticisms of civil administrative methods and measures, which have for long been a prominent feature in East African newspapers. It must not therefore be supposed that because an article has been allowed to appear without protest that it is endorsed by the local Government,

and

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, E.C.

and I gather from your reply in the House of Commons that this has been fully realized.

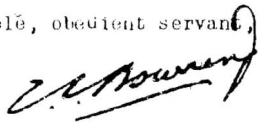
3. I may add that no such notices as those suggested in Sir Arthur Markham's question have been posted up or issued, but the dissemination of false rumours and the disclosure of military movements are of course offences against Martial Law, and the public was so informed in the attached notice.

4. The only official news issued by Government to the Press apart from your own daily telegrams is contained in the communiques emanating from the Headquarter Staff which describe the progress of local operations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



GOVERNOR'S Deputy.

No. 14/22.

ENCLOSURE

In receipt No. 134 of February 25th 1916

Command Headquarters, 181
Nairobi, January 8th, 1916.

From The General Officer Commanding
the Forces in S.E.A. and Uganda,
To The Honourable the Chief Secretary,
Nairobi.

G. O.
15394
21 MAR 16

Sir,

With reference to your No.S.13366/4 dated 29/12/15 to the G.S.O. Censorship, I have the honour to state that these questions by Sir A. Markham in the House of Commons evidently refer to a letter written by one Mr. Macdonald of Elgon to Sir A. Markham. This letter was brought to me by the Censor, and, as I was of opinion that it contained a scurrilous and untrue attack on His Excellency and the Administration, I showed it to His Excellency and intended taking action on it. His Excellency however the next day said it might be forwarded and this was done.

With reference to the paras quoted I should like to remark that, in regard to Martial Law Notice 2,1915, so many untrue, libellous and alarming reports were current regarding the situation in the Protectorate and which were traceable to various bars and clubs, that I decided to put a stop to it. There was any foundation for the mischievous and dangerous statements which often resulted in bringing about a state of affairs almost verging on panic in certain stations.

The Censorships, having regard to the conditions obtaining in this country, are rigorous enough, and only official communiques dealing with the Military situation are communicated from Headquarters. So far as possible everything is done to allow fair freedom in criticism in the press.

I have, etc.,

sd/ J. M. TIGHE Major General,
Commanding the Forces in B.E.A.
and Uganda.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE. UNDER MARTIAL LAW. NOTICE.

The attention of the Public, and all persons in Government employ, is drawn to the following extract from Regulations issued under Martial Law. *Official Gazette dated 10th December, 1914, republished for information.*

4. Seditious Language and Publications.

No person shall make use of any language with the intention either

- (a) Of raising or fomenting disaffection against His Britannic Majesty, or
- (b) Of promoting hostility against His said Majesty, His Majesty's troops, subjects, or other persons responsible for the maintenance of Government under the British Military authorities for the time being.

2. No person shall print, publish, circulate, or have in his possession, any publications containing seditious articles or articles likely to promote disaffection or bad feeling.

14. Spreading False Intelligence or Alarmist Reports.

No person shall disseminate false intelligence which he knows to be false, or spread false reports calculated to create alarm or despondency.

18. Miscellaneous Offences Against Public Safety and the Troops.

No person shall commit any act, or be guilty of any omission

- (a) Which is to the prejudice of good order, or of the public safety, or
- (b) Which is calculated to mislead, or hamper the movements of, or imperil the success of His Britannic Majesty's Forces.

The above Regulations are being freely broken, and the General Officer Commanding the Forces, in British East Africa and Uganda, is determined to put a stop to the abuse. All persons are hereby warned that all Officers and men of the Forces in East Africa, and the Police Authorities have been directed to arrest any person they may hear, or who are reported to be, promoting hostility against His Majesty's troops or subjects, spreading false rumours or giving away military information, as for example, the movements of Troops, which may hamper or imperil the success of any Military operations in progress.

All persons so arrested will be liable to trial by Court Martial under the Martial Law Regulations in force in the Protectorate.

Nairobi,
20th May, 1915.

F. F. BROWNE,
Provost Marshal.