

WEST AFR. PROT
6093

REC-5
JAN 19

India Office

1919

Exclusion of Indians
to be regarded by the Government as a
restriction on ownership by Asiatics of plots
in the European area.

This has been held up for... of the
previous papers in circulation.

There are two points:

- (a) segregation of Indians in Wombasa, i.e. that they shall not occupy plots in the area reserved for Europeans, and
- (b) restrictions on ownership by Asiatics of plots in the European area.

I put up just below this paper a copy of Professor Simpson's report on sanitation. It will be observed that he is a strong believer in segregation, and with his intimate experience in Indian conditions it is impossible to go behind his opinion. As to whether it would have been better for us to have consulted the I.O. when his report was first received, I doubt whether we should have been able to bring home to them, then as now, the fact that the Indians in Wombasa are practically without exception of the wrong type, (see Professor Simpson's letter to Sir H. Read (C/10/10/18523))

25 Feb 19
307/913/10

Next subsequent Paper

9/5/19
1/15/19

We have made little progress in introducing Professor Simpson's scheme as there is little money available for town plots. While everyone here is agreed as to the necessity of the scheme.

It was no new affair in E. A. It was a long time ago in 1911, as in the towns, at all points, there must be separate locations for Europeans and Asiatics.

As regards (b), the idea of restricting marriage in the European area was raised in Mr. ...'s despatch of ... The position has already risen ... the Governor's ... transfer of land as between persons of different races. This ... retained in the ... other executive powers for the ... given up.

At the ... the Govt. to prevent native ... being violated by land sharks, whether European or Asiatic. In the 1917 despatch, the C.A.C. tells us that, with the concurrence of his Executive Council, it was decided to prohibit all transactions which involved the acquisition of town plots by members of the community in areas in which they were not allowed to reside. This plan was enforced in the case of the sale of certain enemy property in Mombasa.

The C.A.C. proposed to apply the same plan generally in the sale of town plots by auction. He gave three reasons in para. 5 of his despatch, and particularly emphasised the fact that if it were made impossible for an Asiatic to acquire land in the European area, there would then be no danger to public health should another Govt. in the future remove the restrictions on residence.

He did not at the time intend to apply this arrangement to Mombasa, but in Dec. 1917 he telegraphed proposing to apply it to the sale of certain town plots in Mombasa.

63058/17

Mombasa which were required for European residential
... recommended that the purchase should
... to Europeans as others feared that
prices would be much inflated and rent of buildings
erected so high that they ^{the} means of poorer

... was well
founded. ... U.A. ... able to
make money during the war, and ...
they have made it hand over ...
have bought the land and the ...
and that people ... would ...

... the ...
... obviously still ...
question of segregation
fear that ... cannot admit ...
irrelevant. ... our reply ...

(62384/18). In that letter they quoted ...
Stimson as saying that there was no reason why
segregation should limit ownership ... that the own-
of whatever race conformed to the provisions of the
Ordinance relating to these zones. Our reply pointed
that further consideration would be given to the matter
when an Ordinance of the kind contemplated existed.
It is true that our letter did not bring ^{out} the point
that it was the matter of ownership we were dealing with.
The phrase used was "the question of the acquisition of
Indians from certain areas of Mombasa".

... until the papers have been to the ... of S. I
find it difficult to suggest any form of reply to Mr.
Montagu. It will probably ease matters considerably
with the I.O. if something were said to the effect that



My dear Milner,

I shall be glad to see the question of the African Protectorate which a good deal of your predecessor's

Colonial Office, dated 3rd September 1918 with enclosure. Colonial Office, dated 1st October 1918 with enclosure. Colonial Office, dated 2nd November 1918 with enclosure. Colonial Office, dated 24th December 1918. Colonial Office, dated 7th January 1919.

convenience of the see that the official is the is the does not issue the official is the 24th December, but postpones further consideration of the question to the passing of a Public Health Ordinance the reference of which to the

auction of Government land is not at first sight clear.

I need not repeat what was said in Sir Thomas Holderness' letter of the 24th December. My contention remains

unanswered

The Right Hon. The Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

answered that it was attempted to justify a varied racial
discrimination against Indians at Mombasa by a report of an
eminent sanitary expert who did not by fact recommend what

but I do not wish to dwell on a poor point.

reference to the last year's past raised
of the kind to be treated in question but so far as

I have never before your arguments by the Colonial

Office that such matters were purely domestic affairs of the
Sanitary Department. I remember that

was questions of trading and municipal regulations

in Natal and the Cape Colony in which the local authorities

were obviously not in violation from the legal point of

view, have been never discussed by the Colonial Office

and the Imperial

Mombasa of course differs markedly from any

South African town, and in some respects offers a closer

analogy to Indian towns; hence my remarks on Indian

practice. It is not in origin a colonial town like Durban

or Johannesburg, but a very old Oriental seaport. I fully

realise the necessity of the strictest sanitary rules in

such a place, though I am informed that under tropical

conditions the residences of the lower classes of Europeans,

BRITISH DELEGATION,
PARIS.

as on their servants,
 prohibition of the
 ownership of plots by
 measure that goes
 further, and is not
 regarded by them as a
 real financial hardship,
 from the noble class
 placed upon them.
 where, without any
 practice more
 the legal residences of the
 two races than ex
 from Indian
 landlords.

Indian
 in my judgment with
 good reason, by British authorities in any
 art of the Empire will conflict with the general
 assurances given by His Majesty's Government of full
 recognition of Indian services in the war. Such measures
 afford powerful weapons to the disaffected, while they
 perplex and discourage the loyal. In connection with
 the future of German East Africa a great deal has been
 made in India of Indian disabilities in British East Africa,
 but for the most part these were connected with the
 reservation of the Highlands for European settlement.
 Now comes this Mombasa affair, in the coast-belt in which

Indians

Indiana gave him... probably for centuries. I feel sure
... of... standard, and I trust that
... to review the whole question.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature

3rd September

6093

Office for India

... Ministerial ...
 ... Protectorate ...
 ... British East Africa ...
 ... exclusion of ... of Mombasa.

2. The ... these areas is ...
 ... recommendation of ...
 ... Simpson, ...
 ... allowed to settle in Asiatic areas.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) G. G. ...

Under Secretary of State,
 India Office.

39/1918

TELEGRAM. From the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate to the Secretary of State
C. 1115

(dated 29th August)

(Recd Colonial Office 3.30 a.m. 30th August, 1918)

1635. August 29th.

Your telegram 29th December is requested by British East Africa Indian Association transmits to you following resolution passed and to ask that copy thereof be forwarded to Secretary of State for information. This association protests against Government's restoration of British subjects to the sale of plots Mombasa September 2nd that they would not be permitted to live there except as servants of Europeans. This discrimination most unfortunate especially at a time when Empire engaged in fight for world's equal opportunity of liberties. Indians entitled equal treatment other British subjects being second to none in their loyalty crown and many war sacrifices whereas it is obviously sought to deny them privileges accorded even to foreigners. Such Government actions bound create state racial animosities and bad blood among different sections which calamity our association most anxious see averted. Anxious as they are Indians of this

country

country not to embarrass
engaged in more serious

be failing in the
Empire if they pass

instead of else

the

objection

and also generally
of national

one voice over
the

the

our Association is urged
steps is well

to remove said humiliating conditions
and so on quality from plunging into active

agitation

at time it is

that they feel they

themselves and to

themselves thus to

relationship.

made by our association.

community.

BOWRING.

TELEGRAM from the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

13th September 1918).

support of the Congress Association
 all these points there. Instruct
 imposing of land
 principle of segregation races. Most
 controversial matters such as above
 Fact existence
 Reference
 telegram 6/2 192
 further received no
 Government imposed surcharge tax.
 Applied conscription to Indians. Yet no Indian members on
 Civil Service Commission without
 Indian members. Appointment of Indian members on
 Council absolutely necessary to
 members seri-
 ly pre- interests of Indians. Most respectful prayer
 to obtain His Majesty's sanction and to necessary
 instructions to Government to appoint at least two members

... recommended by Nairobi and Mombasa Indian Associations.

... independent of contemplated self...

... Husaini Guleman Virji President Indian

... representing Indian Association at

... Mombasa ...

... reported to Secretary

27

508

50

1.

1.

J. & P. 3578.

2 NOV 1918

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to acknowledge Mr. Long's letter of 25 September and Sir W. ... October forwarding ... copies of telegrams from the ... Government of the East African Protectorate, ... Indians in British East Africa ... Indians ineligible to acquire residency ... auction sale in an area reserved by ... European occupation in Mombasa. ... the reply which has been given by ... representation made by Mr. Polak.

Mr. Montagu regrets that Professor Simpson's important Report which was presented to the Colonial Office in 1914 has only been recently communicated to this Office. The Report makes constant reference to the position of Indians in East Africa, and Mr. Montagu would have been able, had the Report been received earlier to convey his observations on the issues raised before action had actually been taken by the local authorities.

Mr. Montagu notes that Mr. Long proposes to await a report on the subject of the memorials from the new Governor of the East African Protectorate, but in the meantime he feels it incumbent upon him to protest against the action that has been taken in the way of imposing conditions involving racial

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

discrimination

DOWNING ST

22 Nov

to inform Mr. Secretary

concerning your letter

of the 14th inst. regarding the protest of the

Indian Association against the exercise of land

rights of the

which

the

is wholly without

sole

ability with

Public

J. & P. 1911



discontinuance of this practice... at a time when
 India's place in the Empire has been fully recognized by the
 presence of Indian representatives at the Imperial War Cabinet, the
 Imperial War Conference, and the Peace Conference, and by the
 acceptance of the principle that questions affecting Indian residents
 in the Self-Governing Dominions are of Imperial and not merely
 local character.

It can hardly be gainsaid that, however strong may be the
 reasons for the recent action of the East African Administration,
 it has in fact imposed upon British Indian subjects a new racial
 Secretary of State, disability
 Colonial Office.

...to appear before the... that could not fail
...it was open to doubt whether the
...Mr. Simpson, whose competence is fully
...action against which
...Simpson observes that the division... would not
...prevent any... from being...
...providing they conform to
...the Ordinance... This is
...November.
...for strict enforcement...
...submitted that these can be... strict enforcement
...and are not guaranteed by...
...as regards... it has
...the one hand...
...strict
...protection.
...for...
...of India
...practices ought necessarily to...

...in connection with the
...himself India experience...
...on a question which intimately
...in the Protectorate.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) T. W. HOLDERNESS.

