

Official Report 12 May 1914

The SECRETARY OF STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Harcourt): I would refer my hon. Friend to the answer which I gave him on the 7th of May.

Mr. WEDGWOOD: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman, in regard to the latter part of the question, whether he will watch in future the educational proposals of the East African Government, with a view to preventing the introduction of slavery under any such term?

Mr. HARCOURT: I shall certainly watch the educational proposals, and take care that in their being carried into effect there shall be no forced labour of any kind.

EAST AFR. PROT

21326

REC'D
11 JUN 14

21326

Commons

Nairobi Fort School

322

1914

10 June

at previous Pa. *36. Mr. Edmund Harvey, — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether his attention has been called to the inadequacy of the accommodation at the Government school in Nairobi, and in particular to the absence of any proper playground and of any shelter to which the children can go out of school hours; and whether any steps are being taken to remedy these defects. [Tuesday 16th June.]

97

Mr. G. Zides.

2-2-14

? Reply
[No, Sir; but I will inquire into the matter]

copy of 2-2-14 to be put in report

H. J. R.

11/5/14

11.6.14

12.6.14

at subsequent Paper.

430

20632

Copy Q-a to S.W. 592 and 23 June 14

~~W. H. H. H.~~ W. H. H. H. W. H. H. H.
W. H. H. H. W. H. H. H.

The only action required, I think,
is in carrying out the minutes
on H. J. of 21326/100 to invite
the Governor's attention to this
letter in the Leader of N. E. A.
of 16 May 1914.

324

The whole style & tone of
the letter, I think, sufficiently
condemns it as unworthy of
much consideration. It is the
same old story of the arm-chair
critic who wants everything
in a new country to spring into
being complete & perfect in a
moment of time, always with
the proviso that "my exp." is
borne by some one other than
himself. Gradually the Govt.
is working out a system of
education for the white, Indian
& half-breed children in E. A. : it is only
3 years ago that the Govt. appointed
a Director of Education in E. A.

to organise the educational system
on the lines of the expert report by
Mr. Fraser. The Director (Ludlow)
has done excellent work, but
of course he has been somewhat
hindered by "half & half principles"
the general clamour of all
Depts for money. The expⁿ
in the Educ. Dept rises from
£8186 in 1913-14 Est. to £9675
in 1914-15 Est.

Acad. 18/6/14
W.C.S. 18/6/14

H. J. R.

19/VI/14

Pr. 20.6.14

Worral
Ch 20.6.14

Account for 5ft
21326/14

The Leader of British East Africa

May 16th 1914.

THE EAST AFRICA.

323

CORRESPONDENCE.

Education.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "LEADER."

Sir.—Can you spare me a little space to ventilate what I think is a very serious state of affairs.

Y.M

In a new and rapidly developing country such as ours it is inevitable that administrative machinery fails to occasionally cope with the changing conditions, but if the importance of a matter is to be judged by its far-reaching effects the Protectorate's failure to supply adequate educational facilities for the children of the country allows of no defence.

The fixtur eveni Tea and G Dowle Lar and I Baller Tanns Ref Lin Ero

At the Government School in Nairobi there are about one hundred and fifty pupils. All the available accommodation for boarders is not only occupied, but fifteen applications for girl boarders have on this account been refused.

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FRD.

The school buildings are of wood and iron on stone piers and are quite unsuitable apart from want of size for the purpose. There is no proper play ground; no place where the children out of school hours can go to get out of the sun or rain except under the floors which are utilized for this purpose, or occasionally in the school rooms which should be airing for the overcrowding which follows in school hours.

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The staff is quite too small to properly supervise the teaching of so many pupils and is consequently overworked.

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There is no attempt at physical instruction and there are no sort of playthings provided by the school. The children do get a few playthings, however, supplied by the teachers, to their honor be it said, out of their underpaid salaries.

ok,

Now, sir, this state of things is an absolute disgrace. It is one that will react on the pocket of every landholder in the country, our land jobbing Government included. It will affect the confirmed bachelor, the unmarried one as well as the married people with or without children, because the children of to-day are the men of to-morrow, who will have to carry on the work of the country; and so long as there is one child refused admission owing to want of accommodation to that extent is the Government doing absolutely nothing towards education.

Y.M retu by leng who oate the Y This erts For: goal Soon and Max half-exect Y. M Ha Surv

The Convention of Associations brought forward a scheme requiring £6,000, to be spent in three yearly instalments of £2,000. This scheme was thrown out in toto by the Executive. I venture to think if Sir Percy Girouard had still been here it would have gone through as his keen interest in the education of the country was well known and my children tell me when in Nairobi he used to visit the school several times a week.

To last, s cor throu a mir At is put t rarely good Surv early Y. M

We pay poll taxes and are heavily taxed in other ways; the industries that need fostering get no assistance direct or indirect (otherwise we could perhaps afford to send our children away for education). We have absolutely no say in the way money is spent and the very least Government can do is to provide educational facilities for the children of the country.

C.D.
22 JUN
93

Ag. 6. 21326/1914
E.A.P.

323

23 June 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour
to transmit to you
the accompanying
copies of a question
addressed to me in
the House of Commons on
the subject of
the accommodation
at the Gov. School at
Kairovi, and of my

reply thereto. ^{Mr. Edmund Home}
Who put the question, has drawn my
attention ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{to}
the letter headed "Education
on page 2 of the 'Leader
of British East Africa'"

Word 50005

DRAFT:

E.A.P.
No 594

C. Sir H. Belfield

MINUTE.

- Mr. Harper 22/6/1914
- Mr. Buxtonley 24/6/14/p
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Handwritten scribbles

Hyb. 21326/1914

EAP

326

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22 JUN.
93

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DRAFT.

EAP
No 594

Sir H. Balfour

MINUTE

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- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Letter
number

of the 16th of May,
and I shall be
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2

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2
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