

E. AFRICA

C/O
87820

R.P.
27 NOV 19

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133

Association

1919

6 Nov

previous Paper.

C/O
87820
H

Grievances of Indians

Complains that Indian representation is not elected by local Indian population and that differentiation has been created between Indians & Europeans re residence in towns ownership of movable property.

W.B. Stanley L. F. H. S.

1. This new association is obviously going to give us trouble.

For the whole paper, as far as possible, to compare the discussion of Indian grievances in East Africa to the discussion between the C.O. & the Governor - & where necessary the India Office. We shall, of course, receive no assistance from the latter in the usual way. It is not yet clear to the view already taken that S.O. is responsible for administration of East Africa & that we cannot share the responsibility with any other individual. It is not clear

copy sent to 1919
copy sent to 1919

next subsequent Paper.

10
69841

Those letters all should reply
direct to this Association
always - & only send copies to
Congress to T.O. for reply

2. Anti-Slavery Legislative Council

See I (4)(i) & (ii) in memo
with 47520/19

3. Residence of principal officers

See I (5) Separation of Race
in memo with 47520/19

4. Purchase of property of
movable goods

This would refer to houses etc.
See I (3)(ii) in memo with
47520/19

General Policy (Cases 1)

There is awaiting discussion with
for 2nd meeting - see II B & C of
memo attached. 47520/19 and
disc (para 4) on that paper.

Mr. Bennett for opinion

Recd
28/11

Jayce
6/12/19

28/11
29/11

Indians Overseas Association.

15, Bishopsgate, London,
E.C. 2, Central 2332.

6732748
R-27
O.V. 19

48, Danes Inn House,
265, Strand, London, W.C.2

November 26th. 1919.

The Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

Sir,

I am desired to place the following observations before you.

2. British East Africa. My Association learns with much appreciation that His Majesty's Government have secured some form of representation of the large and very important Indian community in British East Africa in the local Legislature. The absence for a number of years of any representation whatever has been felt by the local Indian population as a very grave hardship and an unwarranted disability, in the light of the clearly hostile attitude of a large and influential section among their European fellow-colonists. But the representation that has been provided in the new Constitution for the Colony is by way of nomination, whereas the Indian community had earnestly hoped and urgently requested, through its representative organizations, that the franchise should be conferred upon Indians, upon equal terms with their European fellow-colonists, to enable them to elect such of their compatriots as enjoyed their confidence to fill the seats reserved for Indian representatives in the Legislative

Council. At public meetings that have since been held in the Colony, the Indian community has expressed its great regret and disappointment, which my Association shares, that their hopes and wishes in this respect have not been fulfilled. They point to the fact that the statutory differentiation against them, in the matter of elective representation, places them in a position of inferiority as regards their European fellow-colonists, and to the further fact that, whereas it is now proposed under the Government of India Bill, to extend the franchise to several millions of their countrymen possessing certain qualifications, whilst Indian gentlemen sit by election as members of the British Guiana and Trinidad Legislatures, Indians resident in East Africa are impliedly stigmatised as being unworthy of receiving or incapable of using the vote. My Association is of opinion that persons nominated by the Government to represent a community will, in spite of their ability and patriotism, seldom if ever enjoy the confidence of their countrymen in the same degree as when they have been elected by them in the exercise of the franchise, and my Association ventures to hope that an early occasion will be sought to amend the Constitution of British East Africa so as to enable the local Indian population to be represented in the Legislative Council by Indian gentlemen popularly elected.

3. My Association, at this stage, does not propose to detail the various disabilities under which Indians resident in British East Africa labour. But I am desired, nevertheless, to draw your attention to the very unsatisfactory and undesirable

differentiation that has been created, as between Indians and Europeans, in the matter of residence in the principal towns and the purchase and ownership of movable property. My Association is aware of the reasons that have been advanced by the local Administration for the origin and maintenance of this differentiation, but it feels that the Administration's attitude in the matter is fundamentally wrong, is prejudicial to the good relations that should exist between different classes of His Majesty's subjects, and is objectionable as providing a basis for methods of administration and legislation which, in South Africa, have furnished so much cause for anxiety to His Majesty's Government, and aroused so much resentment among all classes in India.

4. My Association does not seek to conceal its alarm at the possibility of the gradual extension of a policy of racial privilege, in a Colony over whose administration His Majesty's Government exercise direct control, similar to the policy prevailing in the Union, and against which His Majesty's Government and the Government of India have protested energetically for many years. It is hoped that my Association may receive specific assurances in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Hon. Secretary,

ms/ 67820 Ed.

DRAFT.

The Hon. Sec.
Indian Museum Association

8 Dec 1919

Sr,

MINUTE.

accd 28/11/19
Bolt only 28/11/19

I am directed to ask the receipt of your letter of the 26th of November concerning your certain matters respecting the Indian community in British East Africa.

10 Dec 1919
29 Jan 1920

- Grindle.
- H. Lambert.
- H. Read. 29/11
- G. Fiddes. 2/12
- Amery. 3/12
- Milner.

in common
of course to
10. for up etc.

2. In reply I am to inform you that the various subjects to which your reply have recently been brought to the notice of the Sec of State in connection with certain representations.

were made by the British
before his departure in
Egypt

It is hoped that the
S.P.S. will have completed
the work of his Commission in
Egypt in time to enable him
to discuss ~~generally~~ ^{personally} with the

3. That if
proposed
in the
present

Gov. of the East, who is coming
to this country, the questions
affecting the the Indian community
in Egypt generally, ^{and} but in the
meantime, it does not appear
that any useful purpose would
be served by entering upon
a discussion of the points
on which you touch in your

(Signed) H. V. FIELD