

EAST AFR. PROT

4112

REC'D  
REC'D 26 JAN 16

4112

5  
16

on Bowring's

1915

21, Dec

Last previous Paper.  
for 2097 15/16

Shortage of Labour on Magarini Estate

In copy memo by Dist Commr, Mahud  
re: q - showing that efforts have been made  
to encourage settlement of natives. Cannot  
admit any blame to Govt for shortage + say, the  
Company did make conditions of residence more  
attractive

Mr. G. Fiddler

The under letter to 2097, to which  
I do not refer. There is one or two  
points in the Beech's report which seem  
to be evidence of a real labour difficulty,  
apart from defects in the system of  
management. Only Wangika are  
available (except for possible unfit  
Swahilis), and Wangika are not  
satisfactory at rubber tapping. If  
labour in bulk is required it must  
be looked for elsewhere.

It appears that Gwizema have at  
some time been removed from the Gwizema  
planted land - no doubt for purposes  
of control after the rising.

The main point is that the Jones

Part of it

at subsequent Paper.  
for 6785

is at liberty to send into the Gambia  
Country in order to get labour. As it is  
nearly the end of January - in which month  
be considered it, essential to get to  
work - we shall no doubt hear soon  
if his difficulties continue.

? Wait for replies to our letters

on 2077.

S.C.B 28/1/16

H. J. R.

29/1/16

at once (P. 29.1)

See now Gov/6785. If they  
make no move we shall do nothing further.

Putty Gov 6785 at once

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.  
No. 874

4112 473  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI. RES-26 JAN 16  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

21st December, 1915.

Sir,

*B. 68894*

With reference to your despatch No. 798 of the 30th. of October, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum from the District Commissioner, Malindi, on the subject of the scarcity of labour on the estate of the Magarini Syndicate, Limited.

2. It will be seen that direct efforts have been made to encourage natives from the neighbouring districts to settle on the land, and I cannot admit that the Government is in any way to blame for the shortage

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

from D. C. Malindi.  
13. 12. 1915.

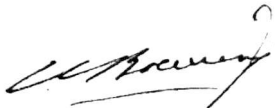
shortage in the supply.

3. I would suggest that the Company should endeavour to make the conditions of residence on their estate more attractive for the natives, and I can assure you that no obstacles will be placed in the way of any families who may desire to live there provided that the management will undertake to employ them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

  
GOVERNOR'S Deputy

4112

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 874 of 21/12/11  
Notes on Magarini Syndicate Labour Supply

11/1

453

26 JAN 16

About six months ago after settling the Malindi Wanyika into a new location I estimated that about 100 p.m. would be available for local estate work and since that date the location has supplied the Malindi Plantations (Manager, Mr. Bird) with 50<sup>men</sup> p.m. I intimated to Mr. Jones that a similar supply would be available for him. He however said that

- (a) It was not worth while starting work with less than 200
- (b) Monthly labourers were not satisfactory owing to the fact that 'tapping' was skilled work and that therefore it was necessary for the labourers to work continuously.

With regard to (a) 200 men are not available from the district

With regard to (b) the monthly system is that in vogue at Powysland and Sokoke and also at <sup>the</sup> Malindi Plantations. It enables the labourers to look after their own crops in their own location and also ensures a steady supply all the round; it not being necessary for the labourers all to decamp at specific seasons of the year.

2. With regard to squatters. I have for many months endeavoured to persuade the Wanyika to settle on the Magarini Estate but have only achieved success with about 10 people. Squatters want to settle on arable land but that part of the Syndicate area which answers to this description is about 2 hours walk from the nearest water i.e. the Sabaki River.

There are some 200 families still living near Punwani whom I have attempted to persuade to settle on the Syndicate land but so far without success.

I do not anticipate that they will do so of their own free will. It does not seem right that I should forcibly settle

settle them on the estate. Besides, even if I did, they wouldn't stay there. If the Syndicate dug wells in the first instance they might regard the matter more favourably.

3. Mr. Jones informs me it would not pay to give wages more than 25 cents per lb. of wet rubber. At one time, when the price of rubber was high, the Malindi planters paid as much as 60 cents per lb. Natives do not realize the fluctuation of market prices - consequently 25 cents per lb. does not attract them. Malindi plantations pay, I believe, 30 cents per lb. They get good results from other natives but a very poor return from Kanyika.

4. The correspondence from London is dated in September. Less than a month after this Mr. Jones informed me no work was necessary until January next. We had however subsequently received orders to "start cleaning". With regard to cleaning and preventing the rubber from 'reverting into jungle' I should have thought that the 50 men p.m. which I guaranteed would have been sufficient - these would doubtless be supplemented by a few locally engaged Swahili who were unfit for the Carrier Corps. But for tapping on a large scale the Manager must look outside the Malindi district as the required supply is not there.

Sd/- Merwyn Beech.

P.S.

13/12/5 District Commissioner.

There were a certain number of Ariana refugees who were found on the Syndicate land and removed by my predecessor to the Reserve or rather to the area which it was proposed to grant to the Syndicate in exchange for their 5000 acres of bad land.

As there were settled beyond my temporary boundary

I have not concerned myself with the matter.

Sd/- M. Beech

**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

**CONTINUED ON NEXT FILM**

**CO/533/157**

**TOTAL EXPOSURES →**

no  
are  
enc  
Cap  
90  
ort  
asi  
res  
us  
eas  
ep  
rau  
e l  
he  
Brit  
uses  
ossi

*My heavy finger good Lord of  
Greece to Syria for the  
for the of Constantinople  
to manifest beauty by: Dear  
after that time through  
1876 of, and called for  
no not hope you see aligno  
this direction would  
tions and with the  
gypt, the question  
nuously. His rep  
time, he forwarded  
Rough Notes to g  
e System of L  
e rough not  
already a  
y of  
their control over  
il to deal  
at  
And according  
explain in the  
December 17th  
note  
tion ult  
officials, 7  
a limited nu  
unofficial mer  
members of t  
ended espe  
have secu  
him  
at n  
o  
best  
the direction of  
was state  
ink,  
speri.  
ass into*

PUBLIC

RECORD

OFFICE

As app  
ifficultie  
and  
of  
in the  
and considering  
and confirm  
into ammittu not beye  
net Augh ad festa uti guthu  
fem sen ad manno Gallinoy veln  
ink,  
speri.  
ass into

qualified opti  
ar 1900, but abc  
=culation which finis