

1934

23195

1934

23195

KENYA

CO 533/448

Unemployment.

Previous

Subsequent

Reg 297	23/5
Room 609	/
297	25/5
M. Hunter	20
The Hand	28
See C. Bottomley	28
R. 297	/

Share to library

Col. Secretary 3 hrs _____ 26 April 34
Trans. Address of Report of Comtee. on Unemployment.

Require

6.1.
Unemployment.

Pl. annex copy of Secretariat Circular

21 of 1931

25

Copy of Circular herewith.

28.5.34
Reg. 247.

9. P. L. H.

20/5

Sup. Bottomley

you may care to see.

28.5.34

10.11.34

28.5.34

HC

Share to library

Col Secretary 3 hrs _____ 26 Feb 54
Trans. Records of Report of Comtee. on Unemployment.

6.1.
Unemployment.

Request

Pl. annex copy of Secretariat Circular

21 of 1931

37.
15

Copy of Circular herewith.

28. 38 5 34
Reg. 247

9. P. L. by

20/5

Sn. P. Bottomley

you may care to see

28. 5. 34
28. 5.

6. Col. 28. 5. 34

HC



THE SECRETARIAT,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE
No. SD. L.G. 20. 22/3/5/15.
AND DATE

2/6
April, 1954.

The Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and has the honour to transmit for information twelve copies of the Report of Committee on Unemployment.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,

The Committee appointed under terms of your letter No. MUN.2/18/1/146 of the 4th January 1934,

"To undertake an investigation of the present position of unemployment, and to submit any recommendations that it may consider necessary or desirable"

have the honour to submit the following report.

2. The Committee consisted of the members of the Unemployment Executive Committee appointed in January 1931, viz:-

The Hon. The Postmaster General (Chairman),
The Hon. The Director of Education,
The Deputy Treasurer,
The District Commissioner,
His Worship the Mayor of Nairobi,
Col. the Hon. C.C. Durham, D.S.O.,

with the following additional members:-

The Rev. J.F.G. Orr,
The Hon. Mr. Hakim Singh, and
Mr. A.R. Cocker.

3. It may be of convenience to review briefly the events leading up to the appointment of the Committee.

The first effects of the current period of depression began to make themselves felt locally towards the end of 1930 and public concern was expressed regarding the volume of unemployment. In consequence, a representative Committee was appointed in November 1930, "to report on the unemployment situation in the Colony and to advise on measures which should be taken to deal with it". The report of this Committee was followed by the appointment in January, 1931, of a small Executive Committee to carry into effect the following recommendations of the original Committee:-

- (1) Assist deserving unemployed to return to country of origin if there was reasonable hope of obtaining employment there.
- (2) Assist in placing unemployed on the land by payment from Government funds of a small monthly allowance, the farmer providing board and lodging.

In addition, the Executive Committee maintained an unemployment register and endeavoured in every way it could to place unemployed persons in

in employment.

During the three years that the Executive Committee have been functioning, i.e. up to the end of 1933, some 670 persons had registered as unemployed; the highest number on the register at any one time being 227. The total amount of Government funds disbursed by the Committee in the three years on assisted passages, allowance under the Farm Scheme, etc., amounted to over £6,000.

Towards the end of 1933 there were indications that the situation had improved and by that time the combined records of the Executive Committee and the British Legion showed that the number of registered unemployed was down to 64, some of whom were admittedly unemployable because of age or other causes.

Doubts were, however, expressed as to the accuracy of these records, and following a debate on the subject in Legislative Council on the 5th December last, Government, in order that the exact position might be determined, appointed the present Committee.

4. At our first meeting on the 7th January, it was decided that the best method of obtaining as complete information as possible as to the incidence of unemployment would be by giving the widest publicity to the appointment of the Committee and by urging all unemployed persons to register. Accordingly, a notice was published in all newspapers - European and Indian - in the Colony, and large posters containing this notice in the following languages:-

- English,
- Gujrati,
- Urdu,
- Gurmukhi,

were exhibited at all Post Offices and District Offices. The notice was as follows:-

"UNEMPLOYMENT"

Government has appointed a Special Committee to investigate the unemployment position in the Colony.

In ...

In order that the Committee may obtain reliable information in regard to the amount of unemployment and so be in a position to frame proposals for dealing with it, it is imperative that every unemployed person should register as early as possible.

Those in Nairobi and District should register with the Secretary, Unemployment Executive Committee, at the G.P.O. Nairobi, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon on week-days. Those living outside Nairobi should register with the nearest District Commissioner.

The Committee desire to impress on all concerned that registration by the unemployed is required only for the purpose of ascertaining the unemployment position.

G.P.O., Nairobi,
24th January 1934.

T. Fitzgerald,
Chairman, Unemployment Committee."

The reference to the fact that registration was required only for the purpose of ascertaining the unemployment position was specially intended to allay fears which were said to exist that registration might lead to deportation.

5. Because of the wide publicity which it received, it is reasonable to assume that every unemployed person became aware of this notice.

6. Unemployed have registered as follows:-

Europeans.

Male.	98	
Female.	<u>6</u>	
Total		104.

Non-Europeans.

Asians.	201	
Seychelles.	24	
Goans & others.	<u>15</u>	
Total		240.

Europeans.

7. Appendix I contains a detailed analysis of the incidence of unemployment among Europeans.

8. From the 104 registered, the following should, it is considered, be deducted in order to arrive at a true indication of the situation:-

Number ...

Number registered 104

Deduct:

- (1) Unemployables because of age or otherwise 13
- (2) Arrivals in the Colony during 1933 and 1934 and in respect of whom the Immigration Authorities are holding deposits 3
- (3) Persons whose wives and/or children are earning not less than Shgs.350/- per mensem 7
- (4) Pensioners or property owners who are in a position to maintain themselves 19

Total... .. 42

Balance. .. 62

Note 1. Of this balance of 62, 10 are of foreign birth or parentage.

Note 2. None of the above categories 1 - 4 overlap.

9. It will be observed that of the number who have registered (viz: 104), 73 fall within three classes of occupation, viz:-

Agriculture. ...	29
Metal workers. ...	28
Clerks. ...	16
	<u>73.</u>

10. The number of registered unemployed in the age group 20 - 60 years is 86. The number of adult Europeans in the same age group, according to the 1931 Census returns, is 11,718. This gives an unemployment incidence for the group of .73%.

Non-Europeans (other than Africans).

11. Appendix II contains a detailed analysis of those who registered under the above head. It will be noted that the total number amounted to 240, of whom the bulk was of the artisan class and connected with the building trade - the number of masons alone being 96. Few of these people have reserves of any kind and there can be little doubt that there is distress amongst them. 25 have expressed ...

expressed a desire to be provided with assisted passages to India and a further 15 also desire assisted passages if work is not forthcoming shortly. The existing Executive Committee will deal with the cases of these in due course, and it may, in the circumstances, be taken that 200 unemployed Asians will remain on the register.

Taking the age group 20-60 years for non-Europeans also, the following figures emerge:-

Registered unemployed.	212
Population according to 1931 Census ...		31,098

= an unemployment incidence of approximately 1%.

Africans.

12. The number of Africans who registered was 56. These almost entirely consisted of house boys and motor car drivers.

GENERAL.

13. In the light of the foregoing figures, for both communities, the Committee consider that the present position is not unfavourable or such as to call for exceptional measures. They fully appreciate, so far as the European community is concerned, that, but for the activity in the Kakamega Goldfields, the position might well be serious. So long, however, as that activity continues and provided the immigration laws are strictly administered, they are of opinion that no adverse change is likely to take place.

14. As already observed, the great bulk of such unemployment as exists among the non-European community arises from depression in the building trade. The decision to proceed with the building of the new Law Courts has afforded appreciable relief and the Committee would strongly urge upon Government and the Nairobi municipality to collaborate in a building programme which would cover, say, the next 2 or 3 years. The Committee have in mind such work as cannot, in any event, be long deferred, and in respect of which, it is understood, funds are available, such as the Central Government Offices and the municipal Offices. It may be said that this would only relieve unemployment ...

unemployment in Nairobi, but reference to Appendices I and II will show that 67.3% and 88.3% of European and non-European unemployed, respectively, are resident in Nairobi.

15. After due consideration of all the circumstances, we recommend:

- (a) That Government and the Nairobi Municipality collaborate in a building programme spread over the next 2 or 3 years.
- (b) That an appeal be made to business houses contemplating the erection of new buildings or other works to commence work on these as early as possible.
- (c) That the Farm Scheme be continued.
- (d) That the system of assisted passages for deserving unemployed who desire to return to the country of origin be continued.
- (e) That the terms of Secretariat Circular No. 21 of 1931, relating to the employment of married women whose husbands are in regular employment, be strictly observed.
- (f) That the Immigration laws be strictly enforced.

On behalf of all)
members of the)
Committee.)

T. FITZGERALD.
(Chairman)

Nairobi,
4th April, 1934.

EUROPEAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.
REGISTERED OCCUPATION.

APPENDIX I.
(Abridged).

Cause of leaving previous employment.
Not stated or no previous employment. 1
Dismissed. 3
Left of own accord. 1
Retrenched - Staff reduction. 2
" - Completion of work. 10
" - Business failure. 11
2

Age Groups.
15 - 19. 1
20 - 24. 6
25 - 29. 1
30 - 34. 1
35 - 39. 4
40 - 44. 4
45 - 49. 4
50 - 54. 4
55 - 59. 3
60 - 64. 3
65 - 69. 3
70 - 74. 3

District of Residence.
Mombasa. 1
Nairobi. 14
Kiambu. 1
North Nyeri. 3
Kajiado. 1
Naivasha. 1
Nakuru. 2
Uasin Gishu. 2
Trans Nzoia. 4
North Kavirondo. 2
Kisumu - Londiani. 2

Date of arrival in Kenya.
Born in Kenya. 1
1898 - 1899. 2
1900 - 1905. 2
1906 - 1910. 2
1911 - 1915. 3
1916 - 1920. 4
1921 - 1925. 6
1926 - 1930. 5
1931. 5
1932. 5
1933. 6
1934. 1

Not stated.		Agricultural occupations.		Mining and Quarrying.		Metal workers.		Textiles.		Wood and Furniture.		Building Trade.		Commerce.		Railway and Govt. employees.		Professional.		Clerical.		Storekeepers.		Miscellaneous.		Total Registered Unemployed			
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
1			3									1															6	1	
			1																	1	1						1	-	
			2				6					1			2					2			3				13	-	
			10		1		10		1			1			2	1	4			2			1				42	3	
			11				8		1			3			4			1	1	9							28	2	
			2				4					1								1							8	-	
1	-		29	-		1	-		2	-		1	-		5	-		8	1		4	-					98	6	
			6		1		3								1					1	2						6	2	
			1				3													1							6	-	
			1				2								2					1							13	-	
			4				1					1			1				1								6	-	
			4				6					1			1				1								8	-	
			4				2				1				1				1								13	-	
			4				2					2			1				1								9	-	
			4				3					1			1				1								12	2	
			3				5		1			1			1				1								14	1	
			3				1		1			1							1								7	1	
																											4	-	
							1																				2	-	
1	-		29	-		1	-		2	-		1	-		5	-		8	1		4	-					98	6	
			14		1		3					5			7	1	1			1	1						5	1	
			3				21		2		1		5		7		1			10	3		3		1		66	4	
			1																	1							4	-	
			1																	1							1	-	
			2				2					1							1								1	-	
			4																1								2	-	
			4																1								7	1	
			2				1												1								4	-	
			2				1												1								2	-	
1	-		29	-		1	-		2	-		1	-		5	-		8	1		4	-					98	6	
			2				3								1					1	1						11	1	
			2				1													1							4	-	
			2																								2	-	
			3				2		1			2			1												8	1	
			4				3		1			1			1												8	1	
			6				7					1								1							12	-	
			5				5					1			2					1	1		2				18	1	
			5				6					1			4					1							16	3	
			5				1													1							21	-	
																				1							2	-	
																				1							1	-	
																				1							2	-	
																				1							1	-	
1	-		29	-		1	-		2	-		1	-		5	-		8	1		4	-					98	6	

EUROPEAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

REGISTERED OCCUPATIONS.

APPENDIX I (Continued).

(Abridged)

	Not stated.		Agricultural occupations.		Mining and Quarrying.		Metal Workers.		Textiles.		Wood and Furniture.		Building Trade.		Commerce.		Railway and Govt. employes.		Professional.		Clerical.		Store-keepers.		Miscellaneous.		Total Registered Unemployed			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
<u>Alternative employment desired.</u>																														
Engineering.			1				3														1							5	-	
Building Trade.			1																									1	-	
Motor Drivers.					1																							1	-	
Commercial and Clerical.			1				2		1						2	1						5	4	1				12	5	
Farming - Coffee.			5				1																					5	-	
" - Sisal.							1																					1	-	
" - Stock & Dairying.																												1	-	
" - Cereals.																												-	-	
" - General.			3				1								1							1						6	-	
Miscellaneous.	1		17				21		1		1		5		5		4		2	1		5		3		1		66	1	
	1	-	29	-	1	-	28	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	8	1	4	-	2	1	12	4	4	-	1	-	98	6		
<u>Date of leaving previous employment.</u>																														
Not stated or no previous employment.	1		3										1									1	1						6	-
Prior to 1931.			3				1						1									2							9	-
1931.			2				2										2											11	-	
1932.			4				7		1		1				1	1					1	1						15	2	
January - March 1933.			2				2																					7	-	
April - June 1933.			2				3						1															5	-	
July - September 1933.			4				4						1									2	1	1				14	1	
October - December 1933.			4				6															3						14	-	
January - February 1934.			7		1		3						1		2				1	1		3	1					17	2	
	1	-	29	-	1	-	28	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	8	1	4	-	2	1	12	4	4	-	1	-	98	6		
<u>Destitution.</u>																														
Gets occasional jobs.			3				3										1				1							14	-	
Earning board and lodgings.			4				1															2						9	-	
Pension or small private means.			7				5		1		1		3		2	1	1				1	5	2	1				26	4	
Working for small wage.			7				2								1													5	-	
Living with relatives.	1		2		1		5						2		2							4	2			1		22	2	
No means of support.			6				7		1				2		1		2		1					2				22	-	
	1	-	29	-	1	-	28	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	8	1	4	-	2	1	12	4	4	-	1	-	98	6		
<u>Suitability for Employment.</u>																														
No information available.	1		4										1									1						7	-	
Unsuitable - Physical or mental infirmity.			5				1		1								1											8	-	
" - Criminal.																												1	-	
" - Unreliable.			1				1								1													4	-	
Limited experience.			5		1		3		1						1	1						3	1	1				17	2	
Experienced.			11				19				1		4		5		3		1	1		6	3	2		1		54	4	
Proved satisfactory.			3				4																					7	-	
	1	-	29	-	1	-	28	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	8	1	4	-	2	1	12	4	4	-	1	-	98	6		
<u>Civil Condition.</u>																														
Married.			17				14		1		1		2		4		4				6			2				51	1	
Single.	1		12		1		12		1				3		3				2		6	4	2			1		44	4	
Widowed.							1								1													1	1	
Divorced.							1								1													2	-	
	1	-	29	-	1	-	28	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	8	1	4	-	2	1	12	4	4	-	1	-	98	6		

EUROPEAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

APPENDIX I (Continued).

DESTITUTION.

(Abridged).

Number of Dependents.

None.

1
2
3
4
6
7
9

(Total = 81).

	Gets occasional jobs.		Earning Board and Lodgings.		Pension or small private means.		Working for small wago.		Living with relatives.		No means of support.		Total Registered Unemployed.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	9		8		15	3				21	2				
	1				3	1						16		71	5
	1				3		2		1		3			10	1
	1		1		2						1			5	-
		2			1							1		5	-
					1		1							1	-
					1									3	-
														2	-
												1		1	-
	14	-	9	-	26	4	5	-	22	2	22	-	98	6	

Country of Birth.

British born in United Kingdom.
Irish Free State.
India.
South Africa.
Northern Rhodesia.
Kenya.
Seychelles.
New Zealand.
France.

Foreigners.

South Africa.
Kenya.
Germany.
Greece.
Sweden.

Male. Female.

59 4
4 -
5 1
7 -
1 -
8 1
2 -
1 -
1 -
4 -
3 -
1 -
1 -
1 -

98 6

EUROPEAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

APPENDIX I (Continued).

DESTITUTION.

(Abridged).

Number of Dependents.

None.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
9

(Total = 81).

	Gets occa- sional jobs.		Earning ⁽¹⁾ Board and Lodgings.		Pension or small pri- vate means.		Working for small wago.		Living with relatives.		No means of support.		Total Registered Unemploycd.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
9			6		15	3				21	2			
1					3	1				1				71
1					3		2					3		10
1			1		2							1		5
2					1							1		5
					1									1
					1		1							3
					1									2
												1		1
14			9		26	4	5		22	2	22		98	6

Country of Birth.

British born In United Kingdom.
Irish Free State.
India.
South Africa.
Northern Rhodesia.
Kenya.
Seychelles.
New Zealand.
France.

Foreigners.

South Africa.
Kenya.
Germany.
Greece.
Sweden.

Male. Female.

59	4
4	-
5	1
7	-
1	-
8	1
2	-
1	-
1	-
4	-
3	-
1	-
1	-
1	-
98	6

ASIAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

REGISTERED OCCUPATION.

APPENDIX II.

(Abridged).

	Not stated.	Metal Workers	Electricians.	Leather Workers.	Wood Workers.	Book binders.	Printers.	Brick layers.	Building Trade Overseers.	Masons.	Painters.	Transport.	Commercial.	Govt. & Railway employees.	Personal service.	Clerks.	Miscellaneous.	Total Registered Unemployed.
ASIATIC MALEE.																		
District of Residence.																		
Mombasa.	2	5		1	3	2	2		1	4			1			6	1	20
Nairobi.		12	2		53			1	6	88	15	5		7		28		212
Kiambu.		1							1									1
Fort Hall.																		1
Naivasha.					1					1								1
Nakuru.										2								3
Uasin Gishu.									1									1
	2	18	2	1	37	2	2	1	11	96	15	5	1	8	4	34	1	240
Institution																		
Gets occasional jobs.	1	4	1		16				2	31	6			1	1	3		66
Earns Board and Lodging.	1	1			1			1	2							1		2
Pension or small private means.																		5
Working for small wages.		2			2				1	1		1						-
Living with relatives.		11	1	1	10	2	2		6	64	9	4	1	2		9		18
No means of support.	2	18	2	1	37	2	2	1	11	96	15	5	1	8	4	34	1	240
Suitability for Employment.																		
No information.		1								1								4
Unsuitable - Mentally and																		
Physically infirm.																		
Unreliable.										4						2		7
Limited experience.	1	1			24	1	1		1	7	3					1		1
Experienced.	1	9	2	1	13	1	1		4	58	9	2		2		9		25
Proved satisfactory.	2	18	2	1	37	2	2	1	6	26	3	2	1	4	1	8	1	124
No. of Dependent Children.																		
None.		8	2	1	17	2	1		6	45	12	3		3	3	25	1	131
1	1	1			6			1	2	13	2	1	1	3		5		33
2					6				1	18				1		2		27
3 (Total= 208)		4			3				1	15				2		2		26
4		4			3					5		1						14
5					3				1						1			7
6																2		2
	2	18	2	1	37	2	2	1	11	96	15	5	1	8	4	34	1	240
Country of Birth.																		
India.	2	10	2	1	33	2	2	1	9	96	15	5	1	8	4	34	1	196
Kenya.																		2
Mauritius.																		1
Seychelles.		7			12				2							1		1
Other.		1			2											3		24
	2	18	2	1	37	2	2	1	11	96	15	5	1	8	4	34	1	240

ASIAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

APPENDIX II (Continued).

((Abridged)).

Age Groups.		Date of arrival in Kenya.	
<u>Age.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
15 - 19.	3	1890 - 1899.	12
20 - 24.	31	1900 - 1904.	5
25 - 29.	27	1905 - 1909.	11
30 - 34.	41	1910 - 1914.	17
35 - 39.	40	1915 - 1919.	18
40 - 44.	34	1920 - 1924.	17
45 - 49.	15	1925 - 1929.	102
50 - 54.	16		
55 - 59.	8	1930.	30
60 - 64.	13	1931.	7
65 - 69.	4	1932.	8
70 - 74.	2	1933.	9
75 - 79.	2	1934.	1
80 - 84.	2	Born in Kenya.	1
85 - 89.	1	Not stated.	2
Not stated.	1		
	<u>240</u>		<u>240</u>

ASIAN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.

APPENDIX II (Continued).

(Abridged).

<u>Age Groups.</u>		<u>Date of arrival in Kenya.</u>	
<u>Age.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
15 - 19.	3	1890 - 1899.	12
20 - 24.	31	1900 - 1904.	5
25 - 29.	27	1905 - 1909.	11
30 - 34.	41	1910 - 1914.	17
35 - 39.	40	1915 - 1919.	18
40 - 44.	34	1920 - 1924.	17
45 - 49.	15	1925 - 1929.	102
50 - 54.	16		
55 - 59.	8	1930.	30
60 - 64.	13	1931.	7
65 - 69.	4	1932.	8
70 - 74.	2	1933.	9
75 - 79.	2	1934.	1
80 - 84.	2	Born in Kenya.	1
85 - 89.	1	Not stated.	2
Not stated.	1		
	<hr/> 240		<hr/> 240