

X 10466

KENYA

X 10466
2

1927

1927

Report by Sir E. B. Denham on his Tour
of the Northern Frontier Province

Previous

X 10044 (Tow series)

See X 7133 F (Samburu)

See X 6105 B (Mau Mau)

See X 10041 (Samburu)

See X 10042 (Samburu)

Subsequent

See X 10552/27 K.

(Road Transport Survey)

See X 15313/28 (M.F.P. Tax)

YEA

By Gov. Deaneham ⁵⁸⁴ August 1927

Submits a report on his tour of the Northern
Province Province and comments on the
question of the insulation of cable, the
and water boring experiments. Adds as to
the H.A.H. and in general induction of
the question of
the question of
the question of

my recollections

As Mr. Hamilton leaves us to-morrow

wanted to send by air in case it
it may give a reference for any
alone particularly in the matter
at the end of the trip, which more
particularly so in the case. We can
deal with the case more fully at leisure

To Mr. Hamilton a copy

Yours
E. J. Deaneham

Copy Hamilton

It is a great pity indeed that
the O.A.C. Kenya has visited the NFD
and now releases some of the
difficulties and the

17
17
In the extension of the Six
Cops of 3rd K.A.R. I spoke to
Mr. Benham about the
reduction of the Police, which are
a costly force, and suggested
that a System of Tribal
Retainers and Askari Kasga,
as proposed for Turkana by
Mr. Glenday, might be substituted
for the Police force in the N.F.D
all patrol work and defence
measures being entrusted to
the K.A.R.

Mr. G. is
appreciate some of the difficulties
of travelling in the N.F.D. & therefore
the necessity of improving
communications - It is much
to be hoped that he will visit
Turkana & he will doubtless know
far greater the difficulties

are there -

15.9.27

J. Harbison

See memo: annexed

J.H.H.

20/9/27

Re: memo: the points in which
affect the K.A.R. -

Paragraph 18 See despatch of 9th July

8/24/27 military work
here written after discussion

with Mr. G. Glegg, which is noted that
the 3rd KAR was not to be reduced
below 10 companies for the present

Mr. Benham agrees in view of
suggestion that in consequence of certain
reductions in the Police in the N.F.D.
to the possibility of the reduction in the
formation of a system of Askari Kasga
might be effected. The 3rd KAR
agreed with his views & in the course

we might express general concurrence
with the line which is being taken in
the matter.

Need we commit ourselves
on this? Sufficient to say
that the S.P. is after the
action being taken
A

Paragraph 19 Proposed reduction in
the transport service. In view of the
recommendation of the a Committee
under the B.P.W. are being awaited.
No comment seems required. It is a
matter of fact the strength of organization
in the North Supply & Transport Corps, which
is essential for transport in the
warren areas of Burma has recently
been reviewed.

Paragraph 20 Proposed reduction of ration
allowed from headquarters to sub. P.D. in
amount in 6659/20 ^{with} _{in} Mainland
which shows that free ration for the
sub. P.D. & wife are a legacy from the
war. We have unfortunately tried to fit
the system after the war. The
provision ~~is~~ ^{is} 100,000 does not seem to
be sufficient to cover such to substitute a

locally produced ration + an increase
in pay for a complete ration from
headquarters. We can amount this

generally in the proposals
made that the headquarters authorities
have been to start a process
as a result of the B.P.W. matters & have
been some 10 years ago to say that
the country is one of enormous
potentialities.

Trackets
27/5/27

In the question of location see para 12
& 21 and in the note attached Para 21
does not even make it clear that the
provision suggested in para 12 as an essential
to the acceptance of location ~~is~~ - avoidance
of a demand for corn - will be provided. I
agree with the action suggested by the other
Para 16 shall be communicated to the

interest. Submitted
Secretary 26574/27
We should I think express
the S.P.'s interest in + appreciation of the
situation

Mr. Dumbly gave

I have attached most of
the papers referred to in the
in the [unclear] [unclear]
and confidential [unclear]
concluded in the [unclear]
as they were [unclear]. I should
prefer that they be [unclear] by
it [unclear] so [unclear] with [unclear]
questions.

In complimenting [unclear] in
should say that the S. M. [unclear]
and [unclear] interest [unclear]
communications as to
R.A.R. matters (see [unclear]
[unclear])
to [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] and [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] (including [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear])
and [unclear] to the [unclear] of [unclear]
(see [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear])

And [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear].

V. G. [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

4 OCT 1927

To C.C.R. 13 OCT 1927

Mr. Seal

10 Oct

L. 10466/27 Kenya.

Mr. E. J. Hardee

Mr. C. Strachey

Sir J. Shackburgh

Sir G. Gwynne

Sir D. Ross

Sir E. Wilson

Mr. G. G. G. G.

Lord Lovat

Mr. Amery

Downing Street

13 October, 1927.

DRAFT.

THE SECRETARY,

COMMISSION OF CIVIL RESEARCH.

Sir,

I am directed to request you to inform the Earl of Balfour that in a despatch dated the 19th of August reporting on a recent tour through the Northern Provinces of the Colony, the Acting Governor made the following observations regarding the suitability of the neighbourhood of Meru for experiments in tsetse fly control work:-

"From Garba Tala I proceeded to Meru through some very rich country, watered by a number of streams which should make this

A particularly desirable area for pasturage were it not for the fact that it is largely fly country.

"This would be an admirable area in which to undertake any experiments for clearing an area of fly, as it affords every opportunity for development, and would well repay expenditure incurred on it".

2. I am so glad that, if Lord Balfour sees no objection, the Acting Governor's remarks in this connection might be brought to the notice of the Zetse Fly Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research.

I am, Sir,

(Signed) R. A. WISEMAN.

Mr. Wiseman 3/10/p

X.10466/27 Kenya.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. E. J. Harding.

Mr. C. Strachey.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir S. Wilson.

Mr. Ormsby Gore.

Lord Lovat.

Mr. Amery.

Received 15/10/27
No. 1
(Received in A.F.P.)
2
Downing Street,
4 October, 1927.

DRAFT.

KENYA

NO. 848

Gov. Grigg.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Edward Denham's despatch No. 584 of the 19th of August reporting upon his tour through the Northern Frontier Province during the month of June.

2. I much appreciate this interesting account of the areas visited, and the problems which were discussed during Sir Edward's tour. I shall await with interest further communications with regard to the delimitation of the boundaries of the district, the progress of water

Downing

~~the Province~~
boring the general assistance of animal

husbandry, and the suggested reduction

of rations issued from headquarters to

the K.A.R. and Police. As regards the

question of taxation in the Northern

Province, in his telegram of the 10th

of June Mr. Amery asked that any scheme

of taxation should be referred to him

with details before it was introduced.

I will, therefore, postpone considering

Sir E. Denham's proposal until I have

received the detailed scheme asked for

in the telegram.

3. I note from paragraph 18 with

a view to the reduction of Police Force

that action is being taken to form a

body of men who can take the place of

the Police for such duties as bringing

in absconders, arresting criminals,

serving process, and ordinary estate work.

I also note that steps are actually being

in the Province
boring the general assistance of animal
husbandry and the suggested reduction

in D
of rations issued from headquarters to
the K.A.R. and Police. As regards the

question of taxation in the Northern
Province, in his telegram of the 10th

of June Mr. Amery asked that any scheme
of taxation should be referred to him

with details before it was introduced.
I will, therefore, postpone considering

Sir E. Denham's proposal until I have
received the detailed scheme asked for

in the telegram.

3. I note from paragraph 16 *with*
a view to the reduction of *the* Police Force

that action is being taken to form a
body of men who can take the place of

the Police for such duties as bringing
in absconders, arresting criminals,

serving process, and ordinary estate work.

I also note that steps are actually being

taken

X 16354
77

9

taken to reduce the Police Force, and that
it is expected that considerable saving
can be realised without in any way
diminishing the amount of effective
protection necessary for the tribes within
the Kenya territory.

I have, etc..

(for the Secretary of State)
(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

9

taken to reduce the Police Force, and that
it is expected that considerable saving
can be realised without in any way
diminishing the amount of effective
protection necessary for the tribes within
the Kenya territory.

I have, etc..

(for the Secretary of State)
(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE

NOTES.

(10466).

This is a very interesting despatch, and the following points in particular may be noted. Pages 7 to 10. Samburu.

Some of the questions dealt with here have formed the subject of other correspondence, see 10474/27 to which copies of these despatches might (as there suggested) be attached. There is the further suggestion that the headquarters of the administration should be removed, see page 10, but no comment seems necessary on that point.

Page 13.

The reference to the interview with Harry Thuku is of interest, and might be noted on the relevant papers.

Pages 15, 26 and 27.

These deal with the question of taxation, and the O.A.G. feels very strongly that the tribes can well be called upon to pay tribute, and believes that no resistance to the demand is likely to arise. He therefore trusts that the Secretary of State will be able to give approval to tribute being collected from all the tribes under British rule in the Northern Provinces subject to the approval of the Commissioner, and after reference in each case before tribute is imposed, to the Governor. This question of taxation has however already come up in connection with the re-opening of the Isiolo Quarantine Station, see File L.10354/27. In paragraph 1 of the despatch of the 12th May, 1927, (No.1 on the File) the O.A.G. says that the time had arrived when the inhabitants of the

Northern



*already
done on
the subject
was agreed
with the
Gov.*

northern Frontier Provinces could be called upon to contribute to the cost of administration by the payment of a direct tax on similar lines to that imposed on tribes in other parts of the Colony. It is noted that before such a tax could be collected, opportunity should be given for the disposal of surplus stock, in which case veterinary precautions should be given precedent and it was therefore proposed to re-open the Quarantine Station at Isiclo for this purpose. The despatch also referred to a meeting at Government House on the 6th January, 1927, at which Mr. Bottomley was present. On this Mr. Bottomley stated that his share in the discussion referred to was that he said that taxation of stock should be referred to the Secretary of State for approval, and that he drew attention to the trouble that arose in Somaliland in connection with a similar proposal. In referring to the re-opening of the Quarantine Station the Secretary of State added that any scheme of taxation should be referred to him with details before its implementation. It is noted that the proposal in paragraph 21 of this despatch can be regarded as filling the condition at any rate as regards details, and the reply on this point apparently should be to the effect that the Secretary of State will postpone considering the proposal until he is in receipt of the detailed scheme (referred to in the telegram. (No 302/10554/2))

Pages 19 to 23 are particularly interesting as regards the possibilities of the northern Frontier Provinces. It is understood

understood that there can be no question as to the enormous possibilities which the Province opens up for stock breeding cattle, sheep and goats. The O.A.G. also thinks that much larger areas should be utilised for grazing purposes if boring experiments are undertaken, for which plant has already been acquired. Reference is also made to the possibility of pastoralists becoming successful traders, the first step being the demarcation of the goat. Veterinary matters are dealt with, reference being made to the appointment of the Quarantine Station, and also to the fact that provision is to be made in 1928 with regard to the appointment of a veterinary officer for the Province. The O.A.G. also refers to the increasing demand for meat which is becoming so great that at the present time schemes for meat canning on any large scale would seem to have very little chances of success.

Pages 24 and 25 deal with several matters affecting the K.A.R., and certain arrangements are in contemplation which would result in considerable savings as regards the police.

Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the despatch relate to questions of transport and police, on which I presume Mr. McShane will have observations. As regards the general questions relating to the K.A.R. and police, reference may be made to the record of the discussion with Sir Harding when he was at home, see paragraph 13 of the accompanying note.

(Sd) H. T. Allen

11/9/27

KENYA

No. 584



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

P O
12 SEP 1927
COL. OFFICE

13
18th August, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that in the month of June I made an extensive tour through the Northern Frontier Province, visiting spots which have not been previously visited by any officer administering the Government of Kenya. It has, in fact, only been possible during the last year or two to reach some of the districts visited by motor transport.

I was accompanied by my wife who is certainly one of the first - if not the first - white women to visit some of the country through which we travelled.

2. From Meru I went via Isiolo to Barsaloi, whence I returned to Isiolo and travelled via Arobar's Post to Marsabit. From Marsabit I visited Wajir by the Merti road, and returned from Wajir to Meru via Mdu Gashi and Garba Tula. The distance travelled was just short of a thousand miles.

Sir Edward Northey visited Wajir, I believe, in 1922, but Marsabit and Barsaloi have never been visited by any inspecting officer other than the Senior Commissioner of the Northern Frontier Province and the Inspector General of the King's African Rifles.

3. I feel it may be of interest to you that I should

give

Handwritten: Recd. Post - 4 OCT 1927

give you a detailed account of my tour, which I found very instructive, useful and suggestive. In dealing with the Northern Frontier problems at headquarters it has been necessary to rely very largely upon occasional reports received at long intervals from the District Officers who naturally deal mainly with the actual necessities in their own particular district, or else to depend upon reports by the Military, which are chiefly concerned with the transport, rationing and movement of troops. It has only been since September 1st 1925, that it has been found possible to place a senior administrative officer in charge of the Northern Province, and this has been rendered feasible by improved communication.

I take this opportunity of expressing my satisfaction with the excellent work which is being done by the Senior Commissioner of the Northern Province by Mr. T.D. Butler, and the administrative officers now working under him.

4. The Northern Frontier Province extends over an area of 94,000 square miles, or nearly one-half the total area of Kenya.

In this large area, though no accurate computation is available, the population may be put at 100,000, or very slightly over one person to every square mile. Of the population 99.78% are natives.

I enclose a map which I have had specially prepared showing the districts of the Northern Frontier Province, the approximate positions and numbers of the tribes.

give you a detailed account of my tour, which I found very instructive, useful and suggestive. In dealing with Northern Frontier problems at headquarters it has been necessary to rely very largely upon occasional reports received at long intervals from the District Officers who naturally deal mainly with the actual necessities in their own particular district, or else to depend upon reports by the Military, which are chiefly concerned with the transport, rationing and movement of troops. It has only been since September 1st 1925, that it has been found possible to place a senior administrative officer in charge of the Province, and this has been rendered feasible by improved communication.

I take this opportunity of expressing satisfaction with the excellent work which is being done as Senior Commissioner of the Northern Province by Mr. T.D. Butler, and the administrative officers now working under him.

4. The Northern Frontier Province extends over an area of 94,000 square miles, or nearly one-half the total area of Kenya.

In this large area, though no accurate computation is available, the population may be put at 100,000, or very slightly over one person to every square mile. Of the population 99.78% are natives.

I enclose a map which I have had specially prepared showing the districts of the Northern Frontier Province, the approximate positions and numbers of the tribes.

As is pointed out on the map, the figures can only be regarded as rough estimates, as tribes move over the country seeking water for their stock, and there may consequently be omissions or double enumerations. I would call attention to the descriptions of the area given on the map. It will be seen that some portions are described as "water ground - riding impossible", "long leafy grass", "volcanic rocks", "thick bush", "scattered thorn", "thorn desert", "sharp jagged lava", "waterless, thorn-covered desert", "lava stream desert"; other tracts of land are, however, described as "grass country", "large open plain with trees", "black cotton soil", "white clay", "alluvial plain", "open grazing", "park-like country", "surface water", "grass and scattered bush". These descriptions very accurately describe the country which was traversed by me on this safari.

It will further be noted from the figures given on the map that it is estimated that in this area there are 221,000 cattle, 547,100 sheep and goats, and 596,500 camels. These figures, of course, can only be regarded as approximate and if anything are probably considerably below the mark.

5. The photographs which appear below will give some idea of the type of country traversed and the difficulties experienced by transport.



6. This photograph shows the crossing of the Uaso Nyiro, where the car had to be dragged through the bed of the stream by teams of monkeys.

(Note the cattle watering in the river; these belong to the Samburu and form part of the large herds which congregate at this spot. They were all in excellent condition.)



7. This photograph shows a dried-up sandy river bed; many of these sand-drifts have to be crossed,

often....

Handwritten notes on the left margin, partially obscured.

Handwritten notes at the bottom left margin, including the number '11'.

often necessitating the assistance of animal transport or the manual efforts of the safari to push the car through and out.



III. This photograph shows the car going through thick grass and thorn bush. It will be seen that the grass reaches to the top of the car.



IV. This photograph gives some idea of the type of "road" which is common in the province and which has only been cleared with great difficulty by the efforts of administrative officers. (The steepness of the slope cannot be realized from the photograph and at places cars had to be supported by a number of porters

to get them from rock to rock.)



V. This is a picture of an anthill, a common feature on the plains we traversed.

The country abounds in game and, in the course of our safari, we saw elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, giraffe in large numbers - on one day we counted forty-five from the car - Puchell and Grevy zebra, and nearly every species of antelope found in this country. Game birds, particularly the vulturine guinea fowl, the Greater and Lesser Bustard, spur fowl and sand grouse are found in very great numbers.

Before dealing with the problems of the Northern Frontier as a whole, I will mention the chief points of interest which I met with on my tour at the various stations visited.

Barsaloi is reached from Isidic over a difficult road, a distance of 95 miles, taking ten hours.

VI. The ...

to get them (from rock to rock.)



F. This is a picture of an ashill, a common feature on the plains we traversed.

The country abounds in game and, in the course of our safari, we saw elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, giraffe in large numbers - on one day we counted forty-five from the car - Burchell and Grévy zebra, and nearly every species of antelope found in this country. Game birds, particularly the vulturine guinea fowl, the Greater and Lesser Bustard, spur fowl and sand grouse are found in very great numbers.

6. Before dealing with the problems of the Northern Frontier as a whole, I will mention the chief points of interest which I met with on my tour at the various stations visited.

Barsalei is reached from Isiolo over a difficult road, a distance of 95 miles, taking ten hours.

VF. The ...

II. The photograph below gives some idea of the country through which the road lay, passing as it did through gorges in the hills and with fine views of the Matthews Range during most of our route.



On crossing the Uaso Nyiro I met a number of the Sembaru under their chief Lemondille and discussed various cattle "shauris" with them. They seemed very contented and the chief is a rich man with large herds of cattle.

III. The photograph below depicts the baraza being held with these people.



Barasloi itself is only of importance as a

halting

halting place between Isiolo and Lake Rudolph, which is used as a stage in the journey by the military. It cannot be regarded in any way as a suitable centre for the Samburu District except in so far as it can be reached by road.

The Samburu themselves have their cattle on the Loroki escarpment lying on the N. side of the river where cultivation of crops and vegetables is a little difficult, while a station it is practically impossible to grow anything at all, the ground there being correctly described on the map as "very bare plateau".

The position of the Samburu and the delimitation of their boundaries has been the subject of considerable correspondence. I met the chiefs of the Samburu and held a baraza with the administrative officers and discussed the development of this district. I allude to raising again the question with regard to the boundary for this district and the relative merits of the Kittermaster and Coryndon lines, but I am satisfied that the Samburu should not be moved from the area between the Kittermaster and Coryndon lines until the administrative officer can find good grazing for them elsewhere in the district. It is estimated that they now have 120,000 cattle and that half this number are grazing on and around the Loroki Hills Escarpment.

They have given an earnest of their desire to improve their methods in dealing with their stock by collecting among themselves the sum of £80, which they have deposited at Barsaloi for the establishment of a ghee dairy. They further expressed

vide Secretary of State's despatch No. 1050 of Nov. 5th, 1926.

Handwritten notes: "11/1/27" and "11/1/27"

their willingness to dispose of numbers of their stock if a market could be found for them. They are of course anxious to take their cattle across the Uaso Nyire to obtain fresh pasturage south of the river; such action should not be allowed, for I am satisfied that there is enough grazing for them within their own boundaries. At the same time it must be recognised that within these boundaries these people should be given opportunities to pasture or trade their cattle and that a considerable extent of pasturage must be reserved for them.

VIII. At the beraza, vide photograph below



Turkana from El-Barta were present. These men have come down from the north, and there has been considerable discussion as to whether they should be allowed to remain in this district or be sent back to their own country. The Senior Commissioner considered, and I agree, that they form a useful element in this country, and that there is no objection to their remaining where they are, provided they do not push further south. They have evinced a readiness to work, and enquiries were made by them for relatives of theirs who had gone to work on sisal estates at Kitwea and

to the San. Mountains

Masongoni in the Ukamba province, over 500 miles away.

Both the Samburu and the Turkhans agreed as to the necessity for inoculation of their cattle against pleuro-pneumonia, and expressed themselves as being quite convinced of the efficacy of the treatment, for which the Samburu stated they were quite willing to pay.

This attitude is typical of that adopted by most of the tribes in the Northern Frontier Province, who quite realize that the removal of quarantine restrictions will enable them to find a market for their cattle - a very considerable step in the development of the pastoral race.

It is, I think, clear that the headquarters of the Samburu administration should be moved from Barsaloi to the Loreki Hills area - a site at Nundito near Kisimot and Mashugal on the Loreki Hills has been selected by the administrative officer and a camp started there - but it must be recognized that any move in this direction is likely to postpone the removal of the Samburu from this area.

Steps are now being taken to explore adequately the possibilities of the remainder of the Samburu country but the removal of the Samburu from the area between the Kippimaster and Cozyndon lines must be deferred, as I have pointed out above, until suitable land is found for them elsewhere.

7. From Barsaloi I motored back to Archer's Post, and thence proceeded to Marsabit, a journey of 245 miles, which took the best part of ^{thirteen}fourteen hours.

Marsabit

Marsabit presents a picturesque appearance, situated as it is amidst thickly wooded hills.

Photograph No. 4



XX. The administrative officer's quarters shown in the photograph ^{are} the best of their kind in the Northern Frontier Province - their extension was only approved this year - and form a contrast to the District Commissioner's house at Barsaloi, of which I attach a photograph below.

Photograph No. 5



I insert these photographs as showing the type of house in which officers of the Northern Frontier Province are at present housed. They show the best accommodation available and perhaps the worst. If these stations are to be made permanent, it is essential

essential that further expenditure should be incurred on the housing of administrative officers in this area, and steps are now being taken to put the work in the priority list in the Loan proposals.

X. At Marsabit II, held a baraza of Gabbra and Rendille.



This group was taken at the baraza, which was very well attended.

The discussions dealt principally with the subject of blood-money which had been exacted on account of murders which had taken place in this district where there is always the probability of friction between the Rendille and the Gabbra. It is somewhat significant that one of the headmen of the Rabba section of the Gabbra stated that amongst his people it was the custom at a certain age to wear the hair long and oil it, and urged that, because a man did this, Government must not necessarily assume that he had killed a man or any of the larger game.

It is the custom amongst certain sections of the Gabbra so to wear their hair only when they have performed such a feat.

6. At Marsabit I granted an interview to Harry Zulu - famous on account of the affray connected with his name - in regard to whom I am addressing you in a separate despatch. He expressed himself as prepared to comply with Government instructions and stated that he was well satisfied with the treatment now accorded him, he was obliged to remain in exile.

The District Commissioner is taking an interest in him, and has encouraged him to assist in road work and to accompany him on short inspections, which he does on horseback. There is no question that you thoroughly appreciated the action of Mr. Sharpe, the District Commissioner of Marsabit.

9. I inspected a company of King's African Rifles, 66 strong, who are stationed at Marsabit, and also a police detachment of 40 men. I refer later in this despatch to the position in regard to the military and police in the Northern Frontier Province, vide paragraph 18, infra.

Marsabit is undoubtedly the best situated residential spot in the Northern Frontier Province and it is possible to develop it as a sanatorium for officers stationed in this district, as the temperature varies from about 50 to about 85. There is good water, and flowers, fruit and vegetables grow well.

10. After leaving Marsabit I journeyed towards Wajir, stopping en route at various camps and at Marti, which is a depot for stores for the troops and police at Wajir and Moyale.

Here I inspected a batch of 40 recruits from the Degodia, who were proceeding to Nairobi for their training.

wide
circumstances
the subject of
H. 1000

I may mention that I found at Wajir Degodia who had been recruited for the police and King's African Rifles. As you are aware, the Degodia are mainly refugees from Abyssinia who have now established themselves in the Northern Frontier Province. They are intelligent-looking men, showing a more adventurous spirit than most of the Somali tribes. They appear ready to serve in the King's African Rifles and police and are giving every proof that they are desirous of making their homes in this Colony.

11. At Wajir I found the District Commissioner and two officers of the King's African Rifles and a military force of 79 and a police force of 35.

B. I saw a photograph of the station, which shows the entrance to the fort, which stands out with its glaring white towers conspicuous in a plain of sand and thorn bush.



Here I held a baraza which was well attended by representatives of some of the wildest and least disciplined amongst the Somali tribes. There were spokesmen from the Ogaden, the Ajuran, the Boran,

two sections of the Begodia, the Mahomed Zubeir and Kahr Suleman.

XIII. - I attach a photograph of Imam Mahomed, a notorious chief of the Kahr Suleman, who has in the past occasioned very considerable trouble and bloodshed to Government, in the act of speaking at the baraza.



XIV. I also attach a photograph of a dance held after the baraza which shows the various types represented.



There were a large number of "fuzzy-wuzzies" and wild-looking men from all parts of the Province, but they all appeared generally content and peacefully inclined, at least temporarily!

12. The question of taxation was then discussed. Speakers made it clear, on behalf of their tribes, that they were opposed to any new monetary tax. They urged that being merely a stock-owning community flocks and herds represented their wealth and their currency, and they could not pay a tax in any other form. Though they were obviously not favourably inclined to pay taxation in any form a characteristic not peculiar to the Small in this country! It was quite clear that they recognized the justice of their being called upon to make some contribution towards the cost of government, and that they would be prepared, if necessary, to meet such claims in kind. Such was the attitude which I found to prevail amongst all the tribes in this Province. At one spot, Garra Tala, I was asked why Government had not required tribute to be paid the previous year, the suspicion being expressed that Government was going to require payment in cash and not in kind. The tribute if exacted in the latter form was regarded as reasonable and appeared to be generally accepted. In fact, the impression left upon me throughout the Province was that the tribes were quite willing to pay tribute and were suspicious only of any failure by Government to collect it, an indicating a change, not in policy, but in the form the collection would take.

The other subjects under discussion at the Wajir

caravan were Government's demands for camels, movements of stock, payment of blood-money, and bribed boundaries. Considerable friendliness was shown and the people appeared to be generally well-off and anxious to remain in British territory.

13. From Wajir I travelled to Garba Tula, on the road passing some hundreds of camels, which were generally in a very good condition.

14.

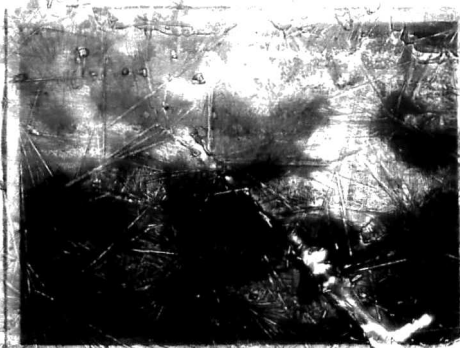


It is said that this is the only district in which camels breed every three years.

At Garba Tula I met Borax and Sakuye, who were chiefly concerned with trade and the establishment of trade centres. A considerable supply of sheep and goats pass down from Wajir to Nyeri, where they find a good market.

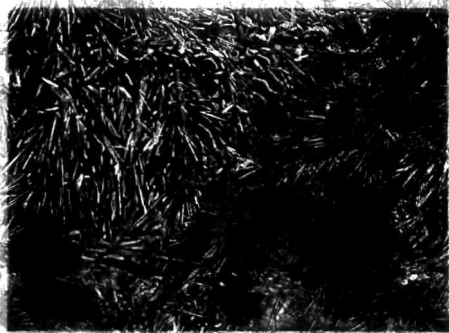
14. The

XVI. The photograph shows herds passed on the road.



It is evident that considerable numbers of herds are passing north through purchase of these animals.

XVII. Pack oxen are also frequently met with on the road.



XVIII. From Garba Pasa I proceeded Peru through some very rich country marked by a number of streams, which should make this a particularly desirable area for pasturage were it not for the fact that it is largely fly country.

This would be an admirable area in which to undertake any experiments for clearing an area of fly, for it affords every opportunity for development, and would well repay expenditure incurred on it.

The return to Meru completed my tour in the Northern Frontier Province.

I held a baraza of the Meru tribe, and annex two photographs showing Meru tribal retainers, and the crowd outside the baraza.

XVII



XVIII



15. I feel convinced that in the Northern Frontier Province Kenya has an asset of great value, though at present it is but little developed and, on account of the heavy military and police expenditure involved in the protection of Kenya from raids from

the north and from Rhysania. This Province is, in fact, today a heavy charge on the revenues of the colony.

There can, however, be no question as to the enormous possibilities which the Northern Frontier Province opens up for stock-breeding, cattle, sheep and goats. There are large areas of veld which are well known to the white man, and also other areas which, though they appear at first desolate and barren, are relieved by patches of green grass and vegetables.

It is, therefore, evident that much larger areas of this Province are well suited for grazing purposes if water-boring plantations are undertaken.

As you are aware, water-boring plantations have been inaugurated in this Province.

A special commission was appointed to examine where it should be first utilized, and the Commission after some time has reported that the first one should be undertaken in the Eastern Districts. It is now possible that other water-boring plantations may be undertaken by private enterprise.

See p. 104-105

The Northern Frontier Province has a strong claim, but there are considerable difficulties in respect of transport.

I hope, however, that something may be done in this direction to secure the use of the machinery in at least certain areas within this Province.

The population, its stock, and its development are all alike only checked by the need for the provision of adequate water supplies.

The return to Meru completed my tour in the Northern Frontier Province.

I held a baraza of the Meru tribe, and annex two photographs showing Meru tribal retainers, and the



XXXX



15. I feel convinced that in the Northern Frontier Province Kenya has an asset of great value, though at present it is but little developed and, on account of the heavy military and police expenditure involved in the protection of Kenya from raids from

the north and from Abyssinia, this Province is, in fact, to-day a heavy charge on the revenues of the Colony.

There can, however, be no question as to the enormous possibilities which the Northern Frontier Province opens up for stock-breeding - cattle, sheep and goats. There are large areas of pasturage which are well known to the tribes which roam over this country with their large herds. There are also other tracts which, though they appear at first desolate and barren, are relieved by patches of green grass and vegetation.

It is, I think, evident that much larger areas of this Province can be utilised for grazing purposes if water boring experiments are undertaken.

As you are aware, water boring plant has not been brought into this Colony.

A special committee was appointed to consider where it should be first utilised, and the recommendation made was that the first use of it should be made in the Sultan Hamud area. It is now possible that experiments in this area may be undertaken by private enterprise.

o/dec 7. 1045 6/17

The Northern Frontier Province has a strong claim, but there are considerable difficulties in respect of transport.

I hope, however, that something may be done in this direction to secure the use of the machinery in at least certain areas within this Province.

Its population, its stock, and its development are all alike only checked by the need for the provision of adequate water supplies.

The figures that I have quoted above show the large numbers of cattle, sheep and goats at present in this area. It is obvious that if any progress is to be made by the district and by the individual it can only be through the realisation of stock into cash and cash into land or trade development.

The history of pastoral peoples has shown that the pastoralist usually becomes a successful trader. The first step is his appreciation of the necessity for the "demonetisation of the goat", that is to say, the disposal of his stock for a form of currency adopted by more civilised people.

When he discovers that the coinage of the country is a medium of exchange and that the sale of cattle will afford him this medium and when he realises that money can purchase, the Somali, like other pastoral people, is very near becoming a trader.

He may utilise the money he so obtains to increase his flocks, but he will do so with the object of getting still more money by breeding and disposing of still more stock.

A limit is then reached and the pastoralist turns his attention to other forms of investment. He may prefer to put his money into trade or into the land.

This is a question of time, but the history of all Somali tribes clearly shows that their bent is towards trade. The first obstacle to the breaking down of the ancient belief in the sanctity of possessions in stock is removed when the value of money is recognised.

The difficulty however lies in the disposal of such stock. The prevalence of cattle disease has rendered quarantine regulations essential and for

many years practically the whole of the Northern Frontier Province has remained in quarantine.

Provision is being made in the Estimates for 1926 for the appointment of a veterinary officer to the Northern Frontier Province.

I was able to report to you by my despatch No. 327 of 15/12/25 that the Veterinary Department were able to advise that cattle might be allowed out of the Northern Frontier Province subject to quarantine at Isiolo. Your approval was granted by your telegram of 15/12/25 to the establishment of a quarantine station at Isiolo.

I inspected the site on my tour. It is excellently situated in all respects and I am glad to be able to report that the Veterinary Department expect to open the station on the 1st of November and are prepared to deal with a stock of 2,000 cattle which should then be collected at the quarantine station for treatment and disposal. It is hoped that, unless any outbreaks of cattle disease intervene, about two thousand cattle will be available every two months for disposal through the Isiolo station.

There is no doubt that the demand for hides from this station will be very large. It is probable that schemes for the manufacture of hides seem to have very little chance of success for the demand from the butchers is so large that it is unlikely that any factory could obtain cattle at any price which would render their business successful.

It is one of the most significant features of the labour problem to-day that meat is becoming practically a staple diet amongst all classes of labour, to the very considerable advantage of employer and employee.

The number of butchers' shops in native villages is very considerable; in two native locations in the town of Nairobi there are eight licensed butchers' shops all doing a very considerable trade. It is a common sight to see natives carrying parcels of meat along the roads.

There is also a large number of butchers' shops for packing purposes. The market has been set up at the main railway station in Nairobi. The Government is desirous of extending operations in this colony.

It is also a common sight to see natives carrying parcels of meat along the roads. It is also given trouble in Kikuyu areas to tether their cattle for sheep and goats in the Ulu, Turkana, and Samburu Reserves.

There is no question about the demand. The problem is how to get the supply on the market without the introduction of cattle diseases into these areas.

There are large tracts of the Northern Frontier Province which, I understand, are very rich in game. The north of Kenya where sheep farming is most successful. I feel that a progressive policy in this area should result in considerable developments in stock and sheep farming.

In addition to the difficulties mentioned above, it is necessary to safeguard these tribesmen from raids which would deprive them of their herds. It is obvious that no tribe is likely to extend its activities even as pastoralists or to invest further money in stock if they have no security against its loss.

from marauding Abyssinians or from tribes in the north.

The protection of the Northern Frontier Province costs this Colony in military expenditure £41,000, including rations and transport, police expenditure £8,328 annually.

18. I am satisfied after my visit to the Province that while the military garrisons remain at their present strength, and it appears from paragraph 3 of your despatch No. 586 of 9/4/27 ^{July 1927} that a reduction below six companies is not at present contemplated, there is no necessity for providing police forces at their present strength. *numbers.*

X. 8134 UAK
11

I discussed this question with the Inspector General of the King's African Rifles when he was last in Nairobi and, while he pressed for the retention of the existing military establishment, he gave it as his opinion that the Police in this Province could be reduced. It is, of course, essential that the military should be used for patrol work and that they should undertake the guards at the stations where they are posted.

I understand from the officer acting as Officer Commanding Troops that there is no objection on the part of the military to perform these duties.

I found in the stations that I visited that the Police are, in many cases, merely duplicating duties already performed by the military. Further, they are a costly force on high pay and expensive rations and are not under regular police officers.

Since my return to Nairobi I have discussed this question with the Acting Officer Commanding Troops, the Senior Commissioner of the Northern Frontier Province and the Acting Commissioner of Police, and agreement

has been reached that considerable reductions can now be made, though the full reductions which I should wish to see must await the formation of a body of men who can take the place of the Police for such duties as bringing in absconders, arresting criminals, serving process, and ordinary safari work.

Mr. Butler believes that it will be possible to train these men from tribes in the Province provided that care is taken to intersperse amongst them men from other tribes. Action is now being taken in this direction, and I anticipate that it will be possible to make a saving in the police estimates of the Northern Frontier Province this year of at least two to three thousand pounds, without in any way diminishing the amount of effective protection necessary for the tribes within the Kenya territory.

19. I was also able to satisfy myself on this tour that considerable economies can be effected in the transport service, and I appointed a committee, under the presidency of the Director of Public Works, to investigate the position and report on economies which can be effected while at the same time to arrange for more effective deliveries of stores and mail.

Mr. Butler has submitted a useful memorandum on the whole question, which is being considered by the committee.

20. A further point which has arisen for consideration has been the supply of rations to the troops and police. I am satisfied that further efforts can be made to provide the meat and medicines required on the spot and that considerable savings in transport can be effected by a reduction in the quantities of rations issued from headquarters - an increase in pay

to enable rations to be supplemented will be more economical than the present system.

A return to the old system under which meat and flour were alone provided by Government while the troops themselves supplemented their rations from their pay has much to commend itself, especially in view of the increase in trade centres, but this is a question which requires further consideration both by the military and the local authorities and I am taking no further action on the subject until I receive a report from both.

I have already referred to the question of taxation in this area. I feel very strongly that the best steps are being taken to enable the tribes to dispose of their cattle they can well be called upon to pay tribute, and I believe that no resistance to such a demand is likely to arise.

The Senior Commissioner agrees with this view and considers that the only sections from whom it may be found difficult to exact the tribute are the Mohamet Zubeir and the Habr Sulaym, but that no trouble need be anticipated provided that the military which are now posted in the areas where these tribes are found are not removed.

In the case of a number of tribes, tribute has been taken in the past, and it was only temporarily abandoned in some instances on account of questions in regard to the legality of the exaction.

The legal position is now clear and the Senior Commissioner is authorised to raise taxation by such means, but action is at present only being taken in respect of those tribes from whom tribute has previously been collected.

I trust that you will be able to give your approval

to tribute being collected from all the tribes under British rule in the Northern Frontier Province, subject to the discretion of the Senior Commissioner and after reference, in each case, before the tribute is imposed, to the Governor.

The fact that many of these tribes have come from Abyssinia, where they pay taxes, into Kenya territory, where they pay none, is both bad for them and also for our Administration.

One check on immigration from Abyssinia should be the imposition of taxation in British territory. Care will, of course, be taken to avoid any hardship or duplication of taxation on Abyssinian subjects.

District Officers may be trusted to exercise their discretion.

I feel sure that the imposition of a moderate tribute combined with the administrative action on the lines I have adumbrated in this despatch will secure successful administration and development of this important area.

I have the honour to be,

Your most humble, obedient servant,

W. D. G. G. G.
ACTING GOVERNOR.

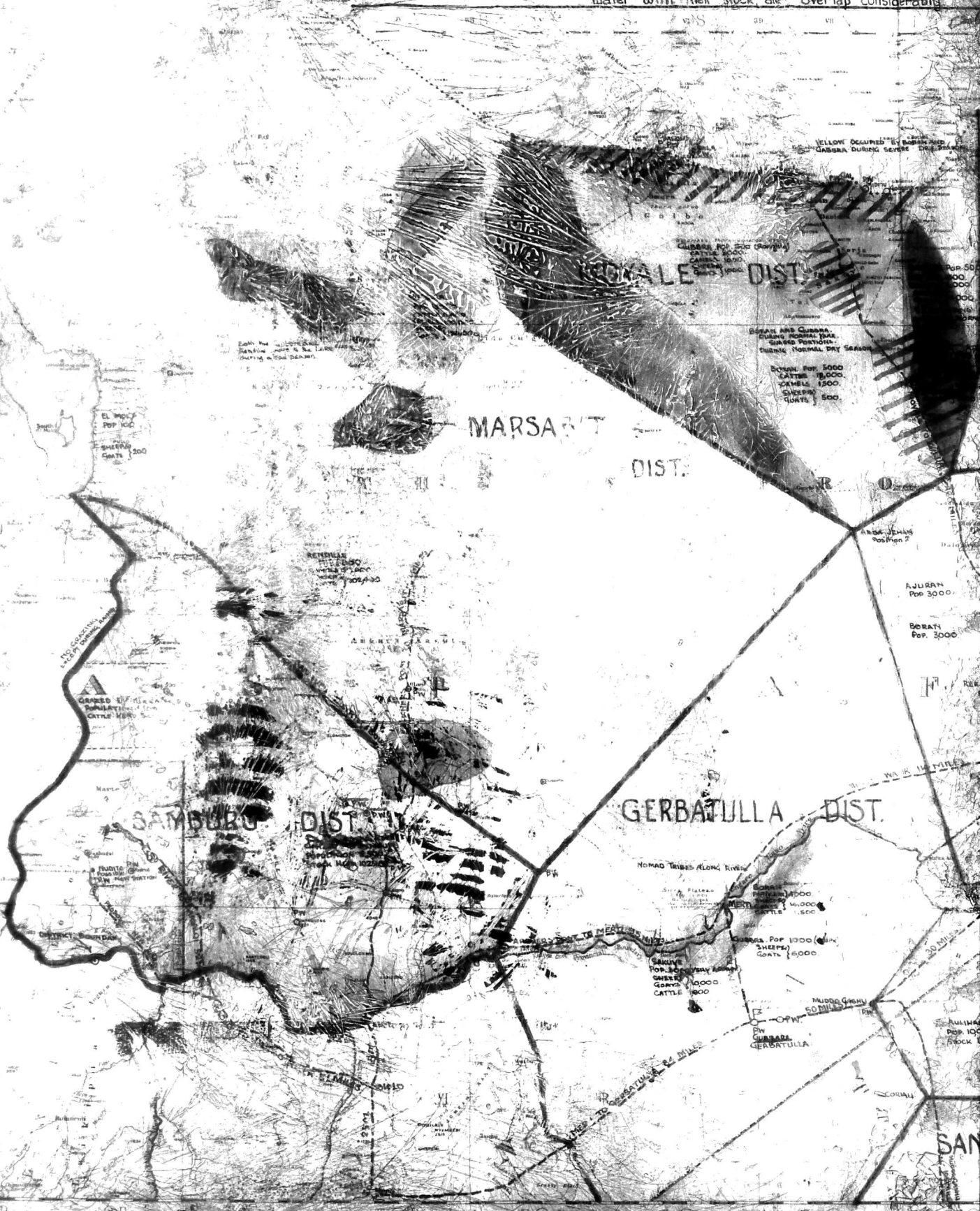
The Right Honourable,
LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON.

DISTRICTS **N**
SHOWING APPROX POSIT
TRIBES AND THEIR

AFRICA 1:1,000,000

Note: All figures are only rough estimates. Tribes have water with their stock and overlap considerably.

MARSABIT



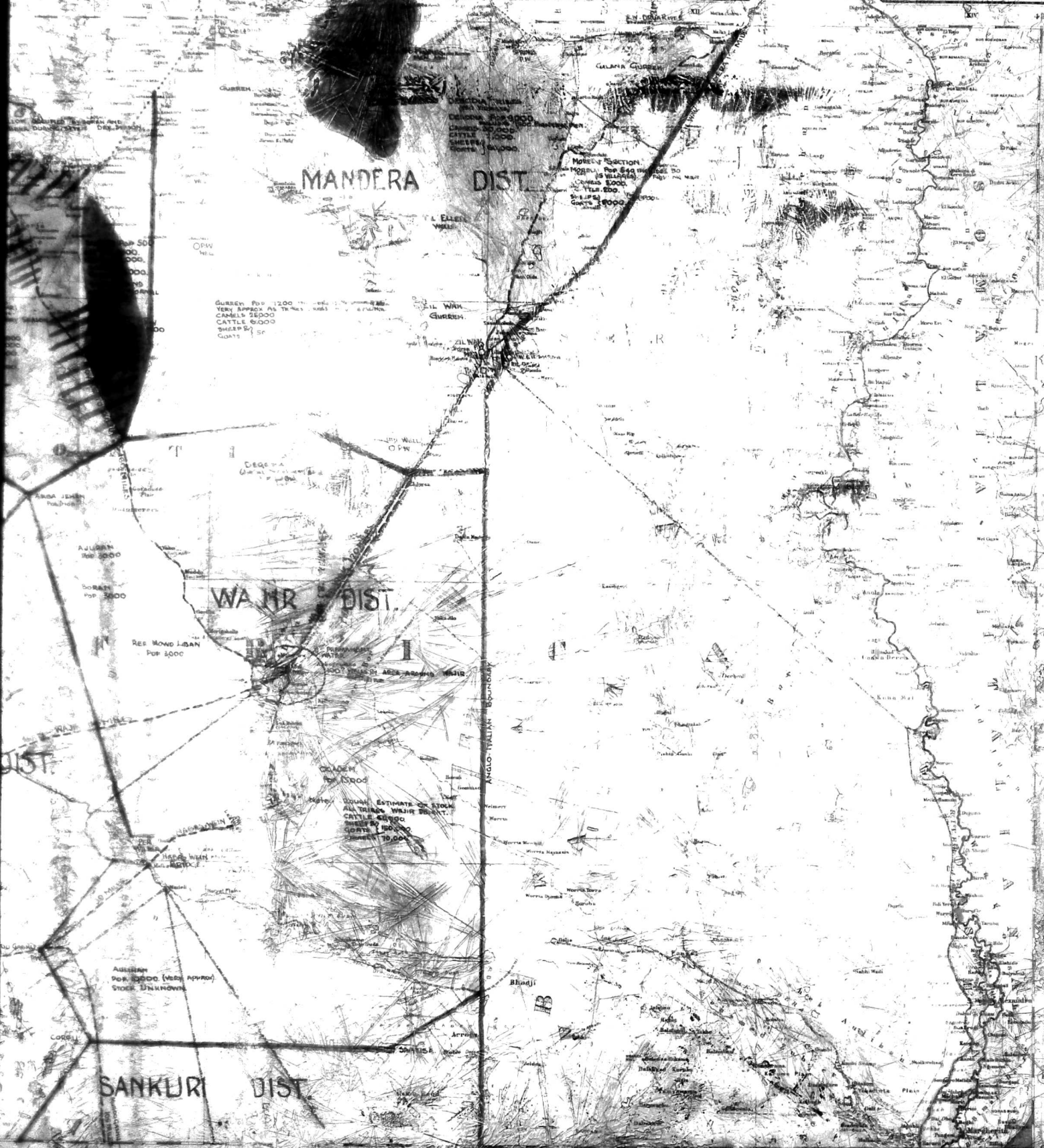
RICTS N.F.P.
 G APPROX POSITION OF
 TRIBES AND THEIR STRENGTH.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
 CO. 53 371
 COPYRIGHT NOTICE: THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON.

50
 EN

ARSABIT
 Tribes have to move to
 flap considerably

NORTH A 37
 & PART OF A-38



MANDERA DIST.

WAHR DIST.

SANKURI DIST.

Note: QUANT. ESTIMATE OF STOCK ALL TRIBES WAHR DIST. CATTLE 65,000 SHEEP 80,000 GOATS 10,000

GURBEN POP 1200
 VERY APPROX AS TRIBES HAVE
 CAMELS 25000
 CATTLE 6000
 SHEEP 50
 GOATS 50

MORSEY SECTION
 POP 500
 CAMELS 5000
 CATTLE 1000
 SHEEP 500
 GOATS 1000

ADURAN POP 2000

SORAB POP 3000

RES MOND LIDAN POP 4000

AUSUBAN POP 10000 (VERY APPROX)
 STOCK UNKNOWN

RICTS. N.F.P.
 APPROX POSITION OF
 TRIBES AND THEIR STRENGTH.

AD OFFICE Reference
C.O. 533 371
 PHOTOGRAPH NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

50
 2075

NORTH A 37
 & PART OF A 38

TRIBES
 Tribes have to move to
 Map considerably

