

48-7999/26
Indian Education Poll Tax. 12

1) Govr Grigg, telegram Secret ----- 25th Novr. 1926.

Reports that the Indians are agitating against the proposed new tax, and in circumstances would be glad to learn, by cypher telegram, whether the tax is approved. Strongly urges approval.

As for clearness it seemed desirable to collate the information in the various telegrams. I attach a note.

At X on page 5 I have suggested that if the Secretary of State is not prepared at present to commit himself to the Governor's proposals Mr. Feetham, who is so far as I am aware still in the Colony, might be asked to give an independent report on the matter, if he is willing to do so and the Union Government, who could perhaps be consulted direct by the Governor, have no objection. In view of the Indian question in South Africa, the Union Government might, however, feel some difficulty in agreeing. ? Doms. Office should be consulted.

If this suggestion is approved ? it should first be put to the Governor by telegram for his views, and if he concurs for submission of draft terms of reference which ? should embody the assumption at Ø on page 5 of the note.

As Mr. Feetham is a South African, there is a possibility that the Indians might be prejudiced against him, but in view of his high standing and record such a prejudice would not do their case much good. This point came up in connection with his proposed employment as Chairman of the Local Government Commission - see page 3 of the minutes on 4445/26 Kenya.

If the suggestion is put to the Governor,
 would seem no reason to communicate with the India
 at the present stage, especially as the Government
 has already communicated direct with the Governor.
 There is also the point whether the bill should
 reserved bill under Clause 34 of the Royal Instructions
 member, 1920, but ? this can be left for the local
 ment. The point raised in the last sentence as to
 telegrams becoming public property is being taken
 arately but ? whatever reply is sent to this
 ram should in the circumstances be sent in cypher
 e Governor wishes.

J.N. Allen
 29/11/26

Governor wants to raise £51,000 for European
 education combined. The proportions are,
 £31,000 for European education and £20,000 for
 Indian. The plan is to make the Europeans pay their (£31,000)

by
 liquor consumption tax estimated to bring in a total
 of £32,000, payable by Europeans and Indians alike,
 of which the portion payable by Europeans is
 estimated at £24,000
 domestic servants, payable by Europeans only £7,000
 £31,000

Indians are to provide their £20,000 thus:-
 estimated portion of liquor consumption tax (£32,000) £8,000
 less European share of (£24,000) 12,000
 education "cess", on Indians only £20,000

The Indians object to the "cess" because it ^{is} only levied on Indians.

I have no objection to the enquiry by Mr. Feetham
 proposed by Mr. Allen, but I fear that it would
 not dispose of the argument as to "racial discrimination".

The Governor does not seem to have offered the
 Indians the alternative of cutting out the £12,000
 altogether & saying that if they won't pay then
 the expenditure must be postponed.

We might put the Feetham suggestion to the
 Governor & ask him also if he has considered
 the alternative mentioned above.

J.S.
 29.11.26

2. Gov. Gripp. telegram 29 Nov.
 Transmits message from EA
 Indian National Congress

Sir C. J. Davis

Do you see any objection to
 Mr Feetham being asked for his
 views? I am personally of
 opinion that the question is
 one which Sir C. J. Davis should
 decide for himself, but in
 case the Gov of State decides to
 suggest a reference to me

11700/26
them, I would like to be
able to tell him whether, or
not, you see any objection.

G.H.C.

30.11.26

Sir S. Wilson.

I share your view - in any
case, I personally find it difficult
in approaching the Union fact on the
eve of their own Conference with the
Govt of India.

G.H.C. 1.12.26

Mrs Amosby Jones.

Sec of State.

I think this is a matter
which we must leave to the
Governor, and that he should
be told that if he decides to
proceed through the poll tax
- Indians you will support
him. In telling him this, I think
we might also, as suggested

11700/26
54
By Sir C. Buckley, ask him if he
has considered the alternative
of cutting out the £1,000 and
saying at the same time that if
they won't pay the expenditure must
be postponed.

G.H.C.

1.12.26

Sgt

To ask for Mr Justice Feetham's independent
views as against Sir & Grigg's in
my opinion impracticable in view of
the personal relations between the two
individuals. My regret is that
the European officials won't accept
an increased European poll tax or
"cess". The small share of "direct"
taxation borne by the European community
is always being pointed out, &
while it is true that the Europeans
bear the heaviest share of indirect
taxes on liquor & luxuries, it is
politically unfortunate that they
resist all forms of income or
other direct taxation, while
Native and Indian direct taxation
is making up so large a share
of the revenue of the Colony. I
agree with Sir S. Wilson, but if you
could write privately to Sir & Grigg as to

6
XF 7499

"the impression" that this will
give in Parliament & elsewhere
he might be able to ream
further into L^d Delamere. The
Indians would have no leg
to stand on, in India, or
elsewhere, if the Europeans
would agree to an increased
European poll tax.

lost
12-26
I am sure you will do the best
best on my system?
on 2

275
I gather that in view of the fact
that the Leg Council is to be dissolved
in a fortnight a letter is no good -
my mistake for suggesting it, without
reminiscenting the election - so
the proposed telegram may, indeed?
Wog.
6-12-26

XF 7499 15

3
H.C. 30 Nov. 1921

41. Mr. Lansbury. — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether it is the intention of the government of Kenya to make any increase in the poll tax levied on members of the European and Indian communities in the Colony; and, if so, whether the increase is to be borne equally by the two communities. [Thursday 2nd December.] Labour - Bow & Bromley

For written reply.

Dr. C. Strachey

Has this registered on this
separate sheet in order not to
introduce it in the unamplified
results, as Nov 1 & 2.

opt reply better etc for consen
(in view of this packet
as No 10)
J.M. Allen
1/12/26
D.S. 1/12

J.M. Allen
4 — Gov. tel. 1.12.26.
5 Tel. to Gov. Kanga
Reminds tel. 2.12.26
7 Dec. 1926

KENYA COLONY (POLL TAX).

Mr. LANSBURY asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of the Government of Kenya to make any increase in the poll tax levied on members of the European and Indian communities in the Colony; and, if so, whether the increase is to be borne equally by the two communities?

Mr. AMERY: The Government of Kenya has under consideration proposals for raising additional revenue from each community, European and Indian, to be wholly devoted to education for the benefit of the respective communities. These proposals include a tax on male servants in European employ, in excess of two at the rate of 24s. a year, and a poll tax on Asiatic adults of 20s. on the understanding that the poorer members of the Indian community will be allowed generous exemptions. The Governor has expressed his willingness to consider any suggestions from the Indian community for an alternative to the poll tax which would not fall disproportionately on the other communities.

copy to go Kya 22/12/26 m/s

7 - G.W. Gress 975 - 12 Nov., 1926.

Means by which revenue for education purposes could be found. States go to difficulty in obtaining unanimity between Europeans and Indians and comments on spirit of disagreement. Poll tax seems best solution, but Gress. L.C. has been informed that Govt does not consider itself bound by it.

8 - L of C - 7 Dec., 1926.

Mr. Lansbury, - To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will state what increase in revenue is estimated to accrue from the proposed addition to the poll-tax on the Indian community in Kenya, and from the tax on male servants, in excess of two, in European employ. [Thursday 9th December.] WRITTEN REPLY. L.S. BOW & BRADLEY.

A plan answer was of course given a totally wrong impression & as a written reply is required, I submit draft giving more details than those asked for. No

7 Just received shows that the Govt is proposing to obtain further info as to consumption as shown reports - see (as) 1st Dec. 24 & the press 26/26. If discrepancy only to deal with no 2 & no 7.

Reply attached to No 6

J.W. Allen 21/12/26

9 - Indian Overseas Assn - 8 Dec 21/12
for minutes only see attn 10-16. W. Allen
10 - Questions by R. Hamilton (cont reply) for 13 Dec

Sub. Strachey

as shown

There are still four papers in the file to be disposed of.

No. 10 I submit draft combined reply to the questions for 13th December by Col. Wedgwood, Sir Robert Hamilton and Mr. James Hudson.

No. 2. This is the telegram from the Governor embodying the representations to the Secretary of State from the East African Indian Congress. The Governor has already been informed in a secret telegram that if he ~~proceeds in this way~~ ^{decides to proceed with the poll tax} the Secretary of State will support him, and as in that case legislation will apparently be introduced about the middle of this month, it seems necessary to send some reply, and I have ventured to draft for consent.

No Page 7. - This is an explanatory despatch from the Governor which has been very useful in dealing with the recent question in Parliament, but in view of the telegraphic correspondence it does not seem to call for any direct reply.

No Page 9. A letter from the Indian Overseas Association forwarding a telegram from the Indian Citizen, Membership of Mombasa making representations very similar to those received from the National Congress. This has only just come in and I think action on it

might

be deferred. The form of the reply can be deferred later when a decision has been taken on the outstanding papers on the file.

Nothing has yet been said to the India Office, we have heard nothing from them, but we know from the file that the Governor has had an enquiry from the Government of India direct by telegram.

Therefore, the action proposed is approved? send the India Office in a short draft for information a copy of Governor's despatch (No. 7), his telegram of the 11th November embodying the message from the National Citizens Association (No. 2) and the reply, i.e. the draft herewith.

W. Allen
10/12/26

C.S. [unclear]
P.A. 6
10.12.26
13.12.26

INDIA OFFICE ----- 10.12.26.

Trs copy telegram from the Indian Citizens Association.

See list of minutes, affli No 16

Put J
W. Allen
20/12
at once

9 Free
C.S.
13/12

Yes. P.A. 6
at once proposed in the minutes
13.12.26. W. Allen 13/12/26

12) India Office (Mr R.H.A. Carter E/O) --- 10.12.26.
Raises question of consulting I.O. before replying to telegrams about the Education Case; and asks for information.

P. C. Mackey
J. S. Wilson

See letter from Private Secretary India Office. You will see from my minutes of 26/11/26 a file 26/11 that I recorded the telephone message as it was conveyed to me - it did not include any reference to prior consultation.

But in view of this letter I must raise the question whether the I.O. has seen the telegram now authorised before it goes. If so & as it is desirable to get the tel off as soon as possible I think the best expedient way would be for the P. Sec to send a copy of No 2 in the file to the P. Sec India Office together with a copy of the off tel saying it is proposed to send it unless they see any objection & asking for an Exp. reply. Later this comes can be exp. specially as

From P. Secretary, I.O. — 15 Dec

From I.O. — 15 Dec.

After speaking to Sir C. Strachey I
arranged s.o. with Mr. Kershaw for a discussion
here. A copy of an off. despatch had been
sent off to reach the I.O. before the discussion.
I have sent it under cover to Mr. Walton

J.P. Allen

16/12/26
stace

To India Office — 16 Dec

C. Strachey,

We discussed this matter to-day with Sir
Kershaw and Mr. Walton of the India Office. It
arranged that Mr. Walton should bring over to-
morrow the draft of a reply which the I.O. have pro-
posed to return to the Govt. of India's telegram in
No. 5 from which it is clear that that Govt., not being
fully informed, does not correctly appreciate the posi-
tion. The draft telegram in reply to the message
from the Indian Congress in No. 2 was approved by the
Govt. of S. but in view of the semi-official correspon-
dence with the Private Secretary, India Office, it was
considered necessary to let the I.O. see the draft be-
fore the despatch. This also was discussed at the meet-
ing to-day when the I.O. representatives made it clear
that they did not of course wish even to appear to
interfere with the discretion of the S. of S. as to

H/Am No 24

the

It is addressed

It is merely a
statement of the truism
that any law can be
amended if a good reason
is shown

the reply which should be made to the Congress, but
on the question of principle they suggested that it
might be considered whether it was necessary at this
juncture to telegraph as in the first sentence. You
thought that the first half of the sentence which re-
fers to the question of principle and to uniformity
might be omitted but that if the second part dealing
with the point of racial discrimination were left
out one of the main points represented to the S. of S.
by the Congress would not be dealt with.

It was also suggested that if it were possi-
ble to do so it might be useful to add to the telegram
a sentence suggesting to the Governor that he might
consider the possibility of making it clear that the
Colonial Govt. would, even after the passing of the
legislation, be open to receive proposals from the
Indian community. I put up an alternative draft
accordingly and in order to show clearly how it com-
pares with the original telegram I have revised the
approved draft in red ink. If the revised draft is
approved, I think it would be sufficient to send a
copy to the I.O. if - ~~but~~ it is quite clear that they
don't want to be put in the position of either con-
curring or disagreeing.

There are two other papers in the file to
which reference ought to be made :- No. 9 letter from
the Indians Overseas Association. This encloses a
local protest somewhat similar to the one dealt with
above and the reply should be an acknowledgment and
a reference to the reply given in the recent ques-
tions in the House of Commons (I gather you were in-
clined to think that this might be the best course).
If so, a copy of No. 9 and the reply should go to the

I.O.