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ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NATIVE LABOUR

1920

Previous Paper

36824

Trans Resolution re and requests early assurance that compulsory labour will not be used for private purposes

Mr. Montagu Sir

There is becoming almost widespread

? view - say that they are under a misapprehension in

thinking that there is any intention on the part of the

Govt. of Kenya (late East)

to introduce now or at any time compulsory labour

for non-native farmers to

private undertakings.

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London Missionary Society,

KING'S COURT,

48, BROADWAY,

WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1
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26th July 1920.

His Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

My Lord,

Native Labour in British East Africa.

I am instructed by the Directors of the London Missionary Society to transmit to you a Resolution on the subject of Native Labour in British East Africa, a copy of which you will find at the foot of this letter. The Directors will be glad to hear that you have been able to take effective steps to prevent the compulsory use of native labour for private profit, and they will be much relieved if you can send them, at an early date, an assurance to this effect.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

F. H. Hawthorne

Foreign Secretary,
London Missionary Society.

RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTORS.

THAT the Directors of the London Missionary Society have had under consideration a recent Memorandum on policy with regard to native labour issued by the Governor of British East Africa, and the accompanying circular by the chief Native Commissioner. They regard with much concern and alarm the proposals in the circular for obtaining native labour for non-native farms and private undertakings, which appear to them to involve a form of compulsion which is greatly to be deprecated. In the opinion of the Directors it is vital to the work of Missionary Societies that all authority over subject races under British rule should be exercised in accordance with Christian principles and standards, and should not directly or indirectly countenance compulsory native labour for private profit. The Directors view with great anxiety the proposals above referred to, which appear to them to involve a departure from the policy of His Majesty's Government that it is a trustee of native interests and governs for the benefit of the population as a whole, and they respectfully request the Secretary of State for the Colonies to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the compulsory use of native labour for private profit.

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