

19221

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WORTHY, SIR, E.

POSITION OF INDIANS.

1920

15th April

Last previous Paper.

Gives recommendations re granting a restricted form of suffrage. Electoral qualifications, knowledge of reading writing and speaking of English language.

J.O.  
18885

Partly

This was left with me by Sir E. Worthy this morning. I said that although knowledge of English should be insisted on in the franchise it was a lot to expect from the voter.

He replied (1) that it was usual to examine the qualifications of voters & candidates, & (2) that a vernacular test was impracticably difficult.

(1) the position is chiefly unusual. As to (2), this is no doubt true, but he should get better articles from franchise on the basis of English education.

C.S. 15.4.20

Next subsequent Paper.

M. J.  
19317

See page 16724/20

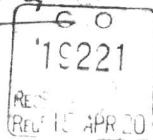
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Partly acc'd 11.5.20

77 Colaba, Mansarovar, S.W.  
15th April, 1920

E. A. P. Indian Policy.

493



My Lord,

Since my recent conversation with Your Lordship on the question of the position of Indians in British East Africa, I have given the matter careful thought, and have the honour to make the following recommendations in the hopes of helping out a very difficult situation.

2. While still adhering to the opinion expressed in para 6. a. i. of my letter of Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, I suggest that, if it is considered necessary to concede some measure of elective representation to the Indians in East Africa, ~~such~~ concession to their aspirations may be made in the form of a restricted suffrage, on an educational qualification, for the election of Indians to Protectorate and Municipal Councils.

3. Whatever electoral powers are given to the Indians must equally be given to Arabs, Somalis, Kavirondo, and other native tribes, who all belong to the country, and are more entitled to have a say in the Government of the Protectorate than the Indians who are immigrants.

4. The language used in the local Councils must be English: the electoral qualifications must therefore include a knowledge of reading, writing, and speaking the English language. This restriction will keep out of the electoral the majority of Indians and others, who are insufficiently educated, and politically quite unqualified to understand what they vote on.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Lordship's Most obedient Servant,

Edward Northey, Major General.  
Governor, East Africa Protectorate