



Confidential.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 69841/1919 of the 19th December on the subject of the position of Indians in British East Africa.

2. My own view on the Indian question is that all British Colonies and Protectorates in Africa should preserve the same policy towards Asiatics in the several territories. The policy being dictated by the Home Government on lines deemed most advisable after a consideration of the political intention of the British Empire in Africa.

3. I therefore consider the problem of the position of Indians in British East Africa to be one of wider significance than purely local politics, and it is only with a view to indicating the policy best suited to the East Africa Protectorate that I am submitting these comments.

4. The present position in East Africa is that the Indian has lived there and traded on an increasing scale for more than twenty years, that he has large financial interests in the Protectorate and that in the absence of a negro substitute, he has made himself indispensable in the past in the capacity of clerk, draftsman and petty trader. Until the African has been educated up to take his place, the Indian has a position to fill.

5. The successful settlement of some thousands of Europeans has induced a feeling of race antagonism founded mainly on jealousy. The European colonist representing

representing the ideals of Western civilization, } 8  
despises the Indian and the majority of them would  
welcome the total exclusion of Indians from the  
Protectorate. In this I consider that he goes too  
far and that much harm is done by repeated European  
representations on the subject. I believe the  
Indian is still necessary: the Europeans would be  
more wise to admit this and to devote their attention  
to the best manner in which the two communities can  
co-exist without friction. European animosity  
increases Indian agitation and the problem now  
possesses acrimonious features which might, with more  
tact on both sides, have been avoided.

6. I will refer separately to the various  
complaints in the petition.

(a) Representation of Indians.

(i) I am opposed to any measure of elective  
representation of Indians to the Legislative Council.  
Ninety per cent of the Indian population in the  
Protectorate belong to an uneducated class of coolie  
totally unqualified to express any opinion on public  
policy. Concession of the elective principle to  
Indians would open the way for the worst form of  
agitator to find a place in the Legislative Council.  
I consider that the nomination of two Indian members  
is an ample concession for the present.

(ii) The large majority of Indians in the  
Protectorate are equally unfitted to vote on  
Municipal matters.

(iii) I am not opposed to the inclusion of Indian  
members in Commissions of Inquiry wherever Indian  
interests may be concerned.

(b) Land.

(i) I am opposed to the lease of Crown Lands in

the East African highlands to Indians, with the 19  
exception of townships plots in areas set apart for  
Indian occupation. A demand for farms suitable for  
European colonists exists and the area suitable is  
limited. The Crown should, therefore, not lease  
such land to Indians and I am of opinion that the  
subsequent transfer of such land to Indians should  
be prohibited, if the principle of segregation of  
races is definitely accepted. Regulations at present  
exist which render the permission of the Governor-in-  
Council a necessary preliminary to transfer between  
persons of different races, I think that this  
measure should be maintained as long as possible.

(ii) I should prefer to retain available areas in  
the lowlands for eventual allotment to agricultur-  
alists drawn from the native African tribes; but if  
the grant of land to Indians in East Africa is  
considered necessary by the Imperial Government, I  
believe that it would be feasible to demarcate an  
area on the Coast for Indian settlement. This area  
might suitably be found within the mainland  
dominions of His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar.  
Further inland, I suggest that the native of Africa  
has the better claim to all land not set apart for  
European settlement. I deprecate any extension of  
the Indian area near Mporoni alongside of the  
European settlement.

(iii) I have previously expressed the opinion  
that Indian ex-soldier agriculturalists have less  
claim to land in Africa than the native African ex-  
soldier; if we acknowledge such ex-Indian soldier  
claims for services in the Great War, why not admit  
also West African ex-soldiers of the Gold Coast and

Nigeria Regiments who did far more than Indians in the local campaign.

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(c) Segregation of Races.

I consider that this principle, advocated by Professor Simpson, should be acted on where reasonably possible. Eastern and Western civilizations can never intermingle socially and segregation will remove chances of friction from unnecessary contact. But in established towns such as Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa, the principle cannot be fully acted on without expense and offence. In such places, enforcement of the principle should not be made too rigorous at first, but should take the form of gradual pressure when suitable occasions arise.

(d) Differentiations.

(1) I have had no occasion brought to my notice, nor have I observed any case where Indian magistrates or educated gentlemen might beneficially be appointed to the higher ranks in the service. Indian assessors to watch Indian litigation are sufficient provision.

(ii) I do not recommend an extension of the terms of the Medical Practitioners Ordinance to include Indian qualifications as sufficient to entitle an Indian doctor to register. Only the highest professional attainments should be aimed at in a tropical dependency.

(iii) It is in travelling on the Railway and Lake that European and Indian is most bound to come into social contact. This problem has always been debated with bitterness on both sides. Indians are only prohibited from travelling in compartments labelled "Europeans only" and I am unable to regard this as a serious disability. Similar restrictions are necessarily

necessarily placed on Europeans who have not, however, complained that they may not travel in "Non-European" compartments.

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(iv) I should offer no objection to the introduction of a system of trial by jury for Indians if the Chief Justice recommends it.

(e) Education.

I agree that more provision for Indian education is necessary, but this applies equally to Arabs and Natives and in a less degree to Europeans. This matter will be dealt with in connection with the recommendations of the Education Commission whose report has not yet been considered.

(f) Immigration.

Policy governing the immigration of Indians into the East Africa Protectorate must, I think, be dictated by the Imperial Government, but I advocate restriction on Asiatic immigration as the present absence of restriction tends to keep back the African and allows thousands of undesirable Indians to flock into the country.

(g) Marriage.

I prefer to await the Acting Governor's comments on this legal matter which is outside my knowledge.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD NORTHEY

Governor of the East Africa Protectorate.

Confidential

2515  
REC-15 JAN 20

10 January 1919  
22

Sr.

Thank you for the receipt of your letter No 695441 1919 of 10th Dec 1918 in the subject of the position of Indians in British West Africa

2. My own view on the Indian question is that all British Colonies and Protectorates in Africa should pursue the same policy towards Asiatics in the several territories, the policy being dictated by the Home Government on lines deemed most advisable after a consideration of the political situation of the British Empire in Africa.

3. I therefore consider the problem of the position of Indians in British West Africa to be one of wider significance than merely local politics and it is only with a view to this end that I am submitting these conclusions to you.

4. The present position in West Africa is that the Indian has lived there and traded on an increasing scale for more than twenty years, that he has large financial interests in the Protectorates and that in the absence of a negro substitute he has made himself indispensable in the past in the capacity of skilled craftsman and petty trader. Until the African has been educated up to take his place, the Indian has a position to fill.

5. The successful settlement of former bondsmen of Europeans has introduced a feeling of race antagonism, mutual jealousy, and misjudgment, the European demand representing the ideal of western civilization, despising the Indian and the majority of them would witness the total exclusion of Indians from the Protectorate. In this demand that he goes too far and that much harm is done by repeated European representations on the subject I advise the Indian to stand firm and to European would be sure work to admit this and to divert their attention to the best manner in which the two communities can co-exist without friction. European animosity increases Indian agitation and the problems and possess serious serious features which might, with more tact on both sides, have been avoided.

6. I must refer separately to the various complaints in the Protectorates.

(a) Representation of Indians

In my opinion to any measure of elective representation of Indians to the Legislative Council. Ninety per cent. of the Indian population in the Protectorates belong to an uneducated class of coolies totally unqualified to express any opinion on public policy. Concision of the elective principle to Indians would give the way for the worst form of agitator to find a place on the Legislative Council. I consider that the representation of the Indian element is an unjust concession on the part of the Government.

- (ii) The large majority of Indians in the District are equally uneducated to the municipal matters.
- (iii) I am not opposed to the collection of Indian numbers in Commission of Inquiry wherever Indian interests may be concerned.

(6) Land

(i) I am opposed to the sale of Crown lands in the East African highlands to Indians, with the exception of townships for farms suitable for European colonists and these suitable is limited. The Crown should reserve at least such land to Indians and I am of opinion that the subsequent transfer of such land to Indians should be prohibited, if the principle of segregation of races is definitely accepted. Regulations at present exist which render the permission of the Governor-in-Council a necessary preliminary to transfer between persons of different races; I think that this measure should be maintained as long as possible.

(ii) I should prefer to retain available areas in the Highlands for eventual allotment to agriculturalists drawn from the native African tribes; but if the grant of land to Indians in East Africa is considered necessary by the Imperial Government, I believe that it would be feasible to demarcate an area on the Coast for Indian settlement. This area might suitably be placed within the present dominions of the Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar. Further inland, I suggest that the native of Africa has the better claim to the land set out apart for European settlement. I deprecate any extension of the Indian area near Mombasa alongside of the European settlement.

(iii) I have previously expressed the opinion that Indian soldiers in Africa have no claim to land in Africa than the native African soldiers; if we actually look at Indian soldiers' services in the Great War, who set about also West African ex-soldiers of the Gold Coast and Nigeria Republic who did far more than Indians in the local campaign?

(7) Segregation of Races

I consider that the principle advocated by Professor Simpson should be acted on where reasonably possible. Eastern and Western civilization can never intermingle socially and segregation will remove chances of friction from unnecessary contact. But in established towns such as Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa, the principle cannot be fully carried out without expense and offence. In such places, enforcement of the principle should not be made too rigorous at first, but should take the form of gradual process where suitable occasions arise.

(8) Differentiations

I have had at various times brought to my notice, no case is known where Indian minorities or individuals are distinguished in the service. Indian officers & watch Indian litigation are sufficient provision.



(ii) I do not recommend an extension of the terms of the Medical Practitioners Act to include Indian qualifications as sufficient to entitle an Indian doctor to register. Only the highest professional attainments should be aimed at in a tropical dependency.

(iii) It is in travelling on the Railway Road and Lake that European and Indian in most contact to come into social contact. This problem has always been debated with bitterness on both sides. Indians are only prohibited from travelling in compartments labelled "Europeans only" and I am unable to regard this as a serious disability. Similar restrictions are necessarily placed on Europeans who have not, however, complained that they may not travel in "Non-European" compartments.

(iv) I should like to object to the introduction of a system of trial by jury for Indians if the Chief Justice recommends it.

#### (v) Education

I agree that more provision for Indian education is necessary but this applies equally to Arabs and Malays and in a less degree to Europeans. This matter will be dealt with in connection with the recommendations of the Education Commission whose report has not yet been considered.

#### (vi) Immigration

Along with the immigration of Indians into the East Africa Protectorate must I think be declared by the Imperial Government, but I advocate restriction on Asiatic immigration as the present scheme of restriction tends to keep back the European and allow thousands of undesirable Indians to flock into the country.

#### (vii) General

I propose to send in a copy of Governor's comments on the legal matter which I provide my knowledge. I have the honour to be

Yours faithfully  
Edward Watkey

Secretary of P. & A. P.

*30*  
*Ans 4314*

DRAFT.

Street,

23 January, 1920.

Major-General

Sir E. Northey, K.C.M.G., C.B.

MINUTE.

Sir,

- Mr. Parkinson, 19.1.20
- Mr. *Collins*
- Mr. Grindle.
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Col. Amery.
- Lord Milner.

*Handwritten notes and signatures in the left margin, including a large signature that appears to be 'H. G. Fiddes'.*

I am directed to ack. the receipt of your letter of the 10th of January regarding the position of Indians in British East Africa.

Your letter will be brought to the notice of Lord Milner when he returns from Egypt.

I am to take this opportunity of transmitting to you <sup>for your info</sup> a copy of <sup>the report and the</sup> further corres. with the Indians Overseas Association relating to Indian policy in B.E.A. and as the <sup>meeting</sup> occasion of a Deputation of the <sup>from</sup> East Africa Indian National Congress

*Handwritten notes:*  
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1.1. ✓ Jan  
1.2. ✓ Jan  
OVERSEA ASSOC.  
Jan. 1920  
(1920)

to

to this country,

I am, etc.,

(Signed) H. J. REAGAN