

1922

KENYA

83

FROM
for Hokey 958

DATE
17 July

40189
1-4500

FOR CIRCULATION:-
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr. Grindle
Sir H. Lambert
Sir E. Ross
Sir J. Macdonald
Mr. Wood
Mr. Churchill

SUBJECT
*Indians
Grant of municipal franchise*

*Reports further on position. See no reason
to modify view that matter must await
until the order question of general franchise
is settled*

Previous Paper

96/39993

MINUTES

*It is noted that some form of
municipal franchise shall follow the general order.*

*copy of 31873 on with 50
p. 200 copy of the minutes
of 3182) LF
Oct. 16 1922*

*at once
H. J. S.*

*Mr. Wood to see on
return 15/8/22*

*copy to Hokey
copy to Beech
copy to R. Brown
18 July 1922*

Subsequent Paper

96/412

*see 905
47/10*

KENYA

NO958.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

7th July, 1962.

40189

Sir,

With reference to the letter of the 23rd of July forwarded at the request of the Director

Assistant Secretary to the Government of Kenya

in connection with the proposed

appointment of a person to the post of

Assistant Secretary to the Government of Kenya

the subject of the letter is

that the person named in the letter

is a person of high standing in the

community and is well qualified for

the post of Assistant Secretary to the

Government of Kenya and it is

recommended that he should be

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR JOHN CHURCHILL, G.C.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA,

10, WHITE HALL, LONDON, W.1.

KENYA
NO958.

[Handwritten signature]



81
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

17th July, 1922.

40189

S.O.
31873

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 221 of 1st July forwarded at the request of the Indian Association, Nairobi, relating chiefly to the question of municipal franchise for Indians, I have the honour to invite your attention also to my despatch No. 705 of 1st June on the same subject.

S.O.
31824

2. The telegram does not represent the true facts of the case. Although I have been unable to induce the Municipal Council to follow my advice in this matter, I have issued no direct instructions on the subject, and the attitude of disobedience reflected in the telegram has no existence in reality. On my return from England in 1920, I arranged a meeting of representatives of the Municipal Council and the Indian Community putting to them suggestions for a basis of agreement which might prove acceptable, including a proposal for the adoption in Nairobi of the ward system. No agreement was come to and in May, 1921, I attempted to arrange a further conference. The views of the respective bodies were diametrically opposed and the meeting did not take place. I succeeded however in December last in inducing representatives -

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON CHURCHILL, F.O., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

representatives to meet. A lengthy discussion ensued but no common ground of agreement was reached.

4. As I informed you previously, the Municipal Council then recommended to Government that no steps in the matter of municipal franchise for Indians should be taken until the wider questions of general franchise were settled, on the ground that any change of policy in the matter would prejudice, or at any rate affect the major. As I was not at first convinced as to the soundness of this view, I requested the Council to reconsider the matter.

5. They did so and were unable to vary their recommendation. After careful consideration and discussion with the Executive Council, in view of the strength of the opinion on this subject on the part of a responsible body representative of the European community of Nairobi, I formed the conclusion that their advice was sound and worthy of adoption.

6. In spite of the strong opposition which this decision has called forth from the Indian political element I see no reason to modify Government's attitude.

7. It is the case that lack of funds has militated severely against the repair and development of Township amenities, but I have no reason to consider that the Indian population has suffered from this cause any more than the European, nor can it be assumed that greater Asiatic representation on the Municipal Council would have led to any improvement of these conditions in the Asiatic quarters owing to the same disability.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your humble, obedient servant,
Edward M. Atkey
GOVERNOR.