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KENYA

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DIANS OVERSEAS
ASSOCIATION

DATE

9TH JANUARY 1923

CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

POSITION OF INDIANS

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr. Grindle
Sir H. Lambert
Sir H. Read 11/17/23
Sir J. Masterton Smith
Mr. Wood Ormsby - file
Mr. Churchill

Enclosed copy of telegram received from Indian National Congress protesting against proposal hold general election. League Council without expanding franchise to Indians. Requests immediate steps for postponement of elections.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

1762

See return vol 14.

Vol 10. 1. 22 etc

Quoted - 30 January 1923

In view of the attached letter to Mr. Ormsby Gore I have recovered this paper I also annex a draft reply to the letter which you have received from Sir Robert Hamilton on the same question.

In my recollection there has been no understanding to the effect that the question of Indian representation would be finally settled before the new General Election. ^{* See} ~~Steps~~ ^{are} being ~~made~~ ^{taken} to ~~settle~~ ^{settle} this question if possible, but it is not a matter of any importance since the despatch of the 14th of December and the telegram which has just gone to the Governor leave no doubt that the Election must, if necessary, be postponed.

Subsequent Paper

1895 5/1920

* See later minutes Vol 14.

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

postponed.

As all the telegrams which the local Indian Congress have sent refer to an Election in February, we must assume that there is some foundation for their apprehension. I do not understand it. In the absence of any instructions from the Secretary of State, ^{we} we would have expected the Governor to have put off the Election as long as he possibly could rather than to antedate it by six weeks.

I have drafted a reply to the official letter from the Indians Overseas Association, and, it would seem sufficient if, in addition, Mr. Boyd were to write to Mr. Polak on Mr. Ormsby Gore's behalf drawing his attention to the official letter.

W.C.S. 10.1.23

The "understanding" or "head of fault" must be based on the reasons, together of them: (a) & (b) of the 1921 Office of Policy - they attacked. I do not think the claims justified. When the Indians accepted the 1921 representation in Jan. 1922 they had accepted the nature of the

8
that we were bound to follow the policy accepted then before March 1922.

From the C.O. points of view, of course, the point is not material, as the actual compliance of law has been taken into account on these points.

W.C.S. 10.1.23
* J.S.
11/2/23
K.S. 160

President of Council:

Chairman of Executive Committee:
H.H. THE AGA KHAN.
Deputy Chairman:
Sir M. M. BHOWNAGGREE,
K.C.I.E.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

Mr. S. C. BHALAK.

9
1875

10 JAN 23

Indians Overseas Association.

Telegrams: Kaloph, Strand, London.
ables: Kaloph, London.
Telephone: Central 2632.

47-48 Danes Inn House,

265 Strand, London, W.C.2.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

January 9th

1923

Sir,

My Association has just received a telegram from the Eastern Africa Indian National Congress, of which I beg to enclose herewith a copy for the information of the Secretary of State. In view of the Resolution of the Imperial Conference 1921, to which His Majesty's Government are a party, recommending the status of equal citizenship for Indians lawfully resident in His Majesty's overseas territories, and having regard to the proposals which my Committee understands are now under discussion for a settlement of the question of the position of Indians in Kenya upon the basis of the said Resolution, it would appear to be urgently necessary, in order to avoid misunderstanding and unnecessary complications at a critical period of the pending negotiations, to postpone the elections to the Kenya Colony Legislative Council due on February 21st next. My Committee, therefore, respectfully requests that steps may be immediately taken for the postponement of the said elections.

Trusting that this matter may receive the immediate attention of His Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,


Hon. Secretary.

COPY of TELEGRAM to Mr. S. L. POLAK, dated January 5, 1923.
NAIROBI, - from the EASTERN AFRICA INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

KENYA GOVERNMENT HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 21ST WITHOUT EXTENDING FRANCHISE INDIANS. RESPECTFULLY
SUBMIT THIS CONSTITUTES BREACH OF FAITH ON THE PART OF LOCAL AND
IMPERIAL GOVERNMENTS. INTERIM REPRESENTATION ONE SEAT EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL FOUR SEATS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACCEPTED LAST YEAR ON
EXHORTATION FROM INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA
AND ON DISTINCTION UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMON FRANCHISE WOULD BE
EXTENDED TO INDIAN COMMUNITY BEFORE ANOTHER GENERAL ELECTION. LOCAL
GOVERNMENT HAS PRECIPITATED MATTERS. HUMBLY REQUEST DECLARE INDIAN
POLICY EMBODYING PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY OF STATUS AS RESOLVED BY 1921
IMPERIAL CONFERENCE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. INDIAN POPULATION
EXASPERATED FUTILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS.

-----:OO:-----

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Chairman of Executive Committee:

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

H.H. THE AGA KHAN.

Hy. S. L. POLAK.

Deputy Chairman:

Sir M. M. BROWNAGGREE,
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Indians Overseas Association.

Telegrams: Kaloph, Estrand, London

Cables: Kaloph, London.

Telephone: Central 2832.

47-48 Danes Inn House,

265 Strand, London, W.C.2.

PERSONAL.

January 9th

1923.

Dear Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

I have written officially to the Colonial Office to-day to draw your attention to a telegram, of which I believe a copy has been sent direct to the Colonial Office by the Eastern Africa Indian National Congress, protesting against the holding of a General Election for the Kenya Legislative Council next month, whilst negotiations for a settlement are still pending.

I suppose that in the ordinary course a notification for the holding of a General Election has been published in the Government Gazette, but it does seem entirely unreasonable and calculated to incur unnecessary expense and trouble all round to hold a General Election at a time like the present. It is therefore suggested that in some way or another, either by an Order in Council or by an Ordinance passed by a special session of the Legislative Council, the election should be postponed for a reasonable period.

Having regard to the urgency of the matter I do hope that the Colonial Office will act promptly, as delay will only embitter feeling, and may undo much of the good that I hope recent negotiations have succeeded in accomplishing.

With kind regards and wishing you the Compliments of the Season,

Yours sincerely,

Major W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.



I send you herewith copy of
the 2nd Annual Report of the
British Ind. Colonial
Merchants' Assoc.,
Banbury.

THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
British Indian Colonial Merchants'
Association, Bombay,
for the year 1921-1922

Your Committee beg to submit before you the report of the work done by it during the second introductory year of its existence, ending with the 30th September 1922.

At the last Annual General meeting held on the 19th December 1921, the following Office-bearers were duly elected for the year 1921-1922.

President.

The Hon'ble Mr Purshottamdas Thakordas, C. I. E.
M. B. E. I. P.

Vice Presidents.

Sir Hormusji Cawasji Dushaw, Kt, M. V. O., O. B. E.
Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee Esquire.

Hony Secretaries.

Vazirally Bundeally. Esq.
Alladinbhoj Mahomed Esquire.

Hony Treasurer.

Bundeallybhoj Hajibhoj Lalljee. Esq., O. B. E.

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Hon'g Treasurer.

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Hony. Auditor.

Dawoodbhoy Haji Nasurbhoy Esq.

Members of the Managing Committee

- Mr. Bundealibhoy Hajibhoy Lalljee (of Messrs. Hajibhoy Lalljee & Co.)
- Mr. Mathradas Canji, (Messrs. Canji Dwarakdas.)
- Mr. C. M. Patel, (Messrs. Bakuibhai Ambatai & Co.)
- Mr. Nasurbhai Haji Mavji, (Messrs. Nasurbhai Haji Mavji & Co.)
- Mr. Sheralli Tarmahomed, (Messrs. Dawoodali & Co.)
- Mr. Chaturbhuj Chotalal, (Messrs. Chotalal wadilal & Co.)
- Mr. Karmalli Ebrahim, J. P., (Messrs. Kashi Nath D. Khote & Co.)
- Mr. Bundealibhoy Ismail, (Messrs. Bundealli Ismail & Co.)
- Mr. Alladinbhoy Mahomedbhoy (Messrs. Alladinbhoy Mahomedbhoy & Co.)
- Mr. Virchand Panachand, (Messrs. Virchand Panachand & Co.,)
- Mr. A. I. Gabroo,
- Mr. Purshottamdas Liladhar, (in place of Messrs. Ahmed Husein & Co resigned)
- Mr. Dostamahomed Manjibhoy (Messrs. Manjibhai Nathubhai & Co.)
- Mr. Nassurbhai A. Lalljee, (Messrs. Nassurbhai A. Lalljee & Co.)
- Mr. Manilal R. Mehta, (Messrs. Harilal Manilal & Co.,)

During this period the activities of your Committee were mainly restricted to the removing of disadvantages under which our Indian merchants were labouring in their trade connections with the Colonies. The following is a short account of the work done by your Committee in dealing with several subjects.

This was an old problem, which arose out of the war emergencies and everyone thought that an embargo on rice, it would be removed after the war; but wheat & other grains & pulses, in spite of the most favourable surplus amounting to nearly a million tons of grains, the embargo continued. Your Committee wrote to the Government of India as far as the middle of the last year and it continually brought to the notice of the Government the necessity of removing the said restrictions. This question was again raised at the last session of the Legislative Assembly and the Government promised to remove the restrictions in the event of good rains; your Committee supported the resolution by sending a telegram to the Government of India. The said embargo is now removed by the Government.

Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I. C. S., who is appointed as the first Trade-Commissioner for East Africa expressed a desire to meet the members of the Committee, before sailing for East Africa. The meeting came off at the office of our President when the situation regarding the various disabilities and handicaps under which Indian merchants are labouring was clearly put before him.

Hon. Auditor.

Dawoodbhoy Haji Nasurbhoy Esq

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- Mr. Methradas Ganji, (Messrs Ganji Dwarakadas.)
- Mr. C. M. Patel, (Messrs Bskubhsi Ambalal & Co.)
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the peculiar nature of the commercial disabilities which are practically identical with and the outcome of the political condition in the Colony was also brought to his notice, and it was also impressed that the commercial situation would not improve unless there would be an improvement in the political status of Indians there. Mr. Leftwich informed the Committee that the duties of the post restricted his activities to the commercial problems only and he would have no locus stand in dealing with the political problems in the Colony. With the present restrictions to his activities, the Trade-Commissioner is not likely to fulfil all the expectations that may be held of him by Indian merchants in the matter and it is to be hoped that the Government of India would soon see their way to give him powers and duties similar to those of a Consul, who would be in a position to represent the Government of India there in problems commercial as well as political.

This was a most important question dealt with by your Committee during the year under report.

Bombay-Africa
Freight Contract

The freight contract existing between the shippers and the British India

Steam Navigation Company Ltd., on the Bombay Africa line expired on the 28th of February 1922. Many of our members expressed a desire that the Committee should take up on itself to settle the terms and rates of the new Contract to be entered into by the African shippers with the shipping company, in the interest of Indian piecegoods trade and other export trade of this country. Accordingly the Com-

mittee resolved to take up the question and appointed a small sub-committee of the Honble Mr. Purshottamdas Thakordas, Mr. Virchand Parachand, Mr. Darwoodbhai Haji Nassur bhai and Mr. A. J. Gabroo, to settle the terms and rates of the new Contract. Subsequently your Committee wrote a letter to the B I S N. Co., informing them that it would be to the mutual advantage if they could consult the Committee on behalf of the shippers before deciding upon the new terms. The shipping company hesitated to discuss the terms with the Committee.

A general meeting of all the African shippers concerned whether members or non-members of this association considered the situation arisen by the Company's unwillingness to discuss the question with Committee. All the shippers rose to the occasion and it was unanimously resolved at the meeting that no shipper on the African Coast should individually enter into any contract with the shipping company, unless the terms and the rates of the Company were discussed and approved by this association. The decision of this meeting had the desired effect.

The main points of discussion were:-

- 1 Duration of the Contract;
- 2 Manner of giving rebate;
- 3 Fixing of the schedule rates of freight;
- 4 Fixing of the direct or transhipment rates of freight for Burma-Africa or Burma-Bombay-Africa cargo.

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(1) The duration of the former contract was three years, the Committee proposed one year for future contracts, as a compromise two years were fixed to be the duration of the next contract.

(2) Regarding the second point, the practice followed by the shipping company was to pay the rebate due after six months, after keeping six months rebate due in hand; thus large sums were generally locked up with the company for a long time your committee proposed that the company should pay the rebate every three months after keeping only three months due in hand. This was accepted by the shipping company.

(3) The third and main point of discussion was about fixing the standard of basis to calculate the rates of freight in the new contract. After considerable correspondence a somewhat satisfactory basis was arrived at. Various interviews were held between the President and other members of the Association and the shipping company. The former schedule was calculated on the basis of Rs 45/- per ton measurement cargo and Rs 2/8 per bag of grain (Rates for Mombasa); your committee insisted upon the pre-war rates to be calculated on the basis of Rs 22/8 and Rs. -/14 Ans., but it was finally decided to have the schedule drawn up on the basis of Rs. 25/- per ton for measurement cargo and Rs. 1/2 per bag of grain (rates for Mombasa). The rates fixed were to be for both ways, i.e., to and from Africa.

(4) your Committee proposed to omit altogether from the Contract, the inclusion of direct or transhipment shipments from Burma to Africa; but the shipping company not arguing it was agreed to fix the rates for the transhipment shipments from Burma to Africa, via Bombay.

Other points such as Burma rebate, landing charges at African ports were fully discussed and were most amicably settled. The success of the move was due to the most tactful handling of our President, the Hon'ble Mr. Purshottandas Thakordas who guided the tenor of correspondence and discussion at the interviews with the company and its representative. The Committee wish to record their appreciation of the courtesy and patience shown by the British India steam Navigation company and by Mr. Browne in the discussion of the settlement; your Committee thank also those non-member shippers who stood with it and backed it during all these preliminaries.

Another visit of importance by a distinguished gentleman of repute was paid by Sir Visit of Sir Thomas J. Bennett, Member of Parliament. To those who are in touch with the period of the last quarter of the Nineteenth century, Sir Thomas is not a new personality in India, but your Committee, was certainly glad of the opportunity offered to it to interview Sir Thomas. Besides it was of special interest to the Committee

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in view of the splendid work done by Sir Thomas in Parliament in connection with the problem of the once-contemplated transfer of Aden to the Colonial Office. The interview was held on 28th February 1922, at the office of our President, who explained to him the various points of importance which were weighing with the Indian merchants in protesting against the transfer and convinced him of the solidarity of the views of Indian merchants thereon. Sir Thomas after explaining the developments that had taken place in connection with the problem, and the attitude taken up by the India and Colonial Offices, promised to help the association by impressing upon the authorities concerned the views of this association in the matter. For this sympathetic promise of Sir Thomas, your Committee take this opportunity of recording their thanks; they also discussed with Sir Thomas the latest developments in South and East Africa and the situation arisen by the pronouncement made by the then Colonial Secretary in his East African speech.

Our Association was disappointed to see that Mr.

Churchill, the then Secretary of State

Mr. Churchill's
speech at the
East African
Dinner.

for Colonies, pronounced the line of policy to be followed in the Kenya Colony, at the East African Dinner, your Committee decided to express

their views on the policy outlined in the speech. A cable was sent jointly by the Indian Merchants Chamber & Bureau and by your Committee to the Prime Minister and the Viceroy, expressing their

immense disappointment at the pronouncement as it contains direct violation of the promises and pledges of equal citizenship rights for Indians in the Empire. The Government of India intimated to the Committee that they have already expressed their opinion in the matter by a cable to the Secretary of State for India, which expressed a hope that the announcement did not represent the final decision of the Cabinet and would not be endorsed by them.

Your Committee wrote a letter to the Postal authorities to resume the Postal parcel service which was in practice before the war to Darassalem but the Postal authorities in Bombay referred the matter to their head office in Calcutta. After several months another reference to the Department was made in the matter but the department wrote that the service has not yet come in force.

The Committee received a letter from the Secretary, Indian National Association, Zanzibar,

Notice to the Passengers issued by the B.I.S.N.Co. enclosing a copy of a notice issued by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., to the passengers. The notice

was to the effect that the Company was not responsible for the theft or robbery, whether by a person in the employment of the company or by others, for accidents caused etc. The secretary also forwarded copies of the correspondence carried on by that association with the Government of India; your Committee after

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carefully considering the clauses of the said notice, wrote a letter to the shipping company, drawing their attention to the drastic nature of such a notice, and the results accruing therefrom, if it is allowed to go unchallenged. The company replied to them that orders had since been given to withdraw the notice complained of.

Mr. Polak, the Hony Secretary of the Indians Overseas Association, London, visited this country in the month of April 1922. An informal interview was arranged with Mr. Polak when one of the Vice Presidents—Mr. Hoosinbhoj A. Lalljee—and the two Hony Secretaries discussed at length the situation in England with regard to the problems in South and East Africa. Owing to his departure from Bombay for up-country, the Committee could not arrange for a meeting to confer with him. However on his return to Bombay, an opportunity was sought and a joint meeting of the Committee of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association and of our association was called on the 18th July 1922. The Committee had a third interview with him regarding the lines of work to be followed in future in problems concerning the work of this body and especially in connection with the sanction given by the Colonial Office for the segregation in Kampala and the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance in Natal. His visit was of peculiar interest to this association as he was of immense

use to it in carrying on its work in England. He left for England after identifying himself with the object of the Public meeting of the 19th July by delivering two impressive speeches in support of the resolution at the said meeting. The Committee are grateful to Mr. Polak for the services he has been rendering to the cause of India and they express their special thanks to him for the close interchange of views that have been maintained by him between his association and this body.

News reached our Association that three ordinances were passed by the Natal Provincial Council, these acts were detrimental (South Africa) to the prevailing rights of the Indians in that country. They were—

1. The Rural Traders' Licensing Ordinance;
2. The Township Franchise Ordinance;
3. The Durban Land Alienation Ordinance;

The first of these instituted in place of a licensing Officer, a licensing board in rural areas with final powers of decision in all matter relating to the issue of and transfer of licenses thereby depriving Indian traders of their former right of appeal.

The second would prevent Indians in future from acquiring the Municipal or urban franchise.

The third aimed at segregating the Indians in Durban by making it legally impossible for them to buy or occupy municipal land in areas earmarked for the Europeans.

carefully considering the clauses of the said notice, wrote a letter to the shipping company, drawing their attention to the drastic nature of such a notice, and the results accruing therefrom, if it is allowed to go unchallenged. The company replied to them that orders had since been given to withdraw the notice complained of.

Mr. Polak, the Hon'y Secretary of the Indians Overseas Association, London, visited this country in the month of April 1922. An informal interview was arranged with Mr. Polak when one of the Vice Presidents—Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee—and the two Hon'y Secretaries discussed at length the situation in England with regard to the problems in South and East Africa. Owing to his departure from Bombay for up-country, the Committee could not arrange for a meeting to confer with him. However on his return to Bombay, an opportunity was sought and a joint meeting of the Committee of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association and of our association was called on the 18th July, 1922. The Committee had a third interview with him regarding the lines of work to be followed in future in problems concerning the work of this body and especially in connection with the sanction given by the Colonial Office, for the segregation in Kappala and the Durban Land Alienation Ordinances in Natal. His visit was of peculiar interest to this association as he was of immense

use to it in carrying on its work in England. He left for England after identifying himself with the object of the Public meeting of the 19th July by delivering two impressive speeches in support of the resolution at the said meeting. The Committee are grateful to Mr. Polak for the services he has been rendering to the cause of India and they express their special thanks to him for the close interchange of views that have been maintained by him between his association and this body.

News reached our Association that three ordinances were passed by the Natal Provincial Council; these acts were detrimental to the prevailing rights of the Indians in that country. They were—

1. The Rural Traders' Licensing Ordinance;
2. The Township Franchise Ordinance;
3. The Durban Land Alienation Ordinance;

The first of these instituted in place of a licensing Officer, a licensing board in rural areas with final powers of decision in all matters relating to the issue of and transfer of licenses thereby depriving Indian traders of their former right of appeal.

The second would prevent Indians in future from acquiring the Municipal or urban franchise.

The third aimed at segregating the Indians in Durban by making it legally impossible for them to buy or occupy municipal land in areas earmarked for the Europeans.

These bills were passed by the Provincial Councils of Natal in South Africa but wiser counsels seem to have prevailed and they were vetoed down by the higher authorities, with the exception of the third act which still remains on the Statute Book of the country. As the feeling in India on these questions is very strong it is to be hoped that better understanding would prevail between the two Governments and the Government of India would succeed in getting the South African Government to repeal such acts as are prejudicial to the rights and privileges of the Indians.

While the people were generally under the impression that a definite general policy to be followed in the Kenya Colony would be declared by His Majesty's Government, after thoroughly going into the pros and cons of the subject, the Colonial Office sanctioned the enforcement of the segregation scheme in Kampala. Our Association co-operated with other bodies in holding a public meeting in this connection, and strongly protested against the attempts made to lower the status of Indians in the country which they had been instrumental in developing.

The recent happenings in Kampala and Natal viz the passing of the Kampala Segregation scheme and the three Ordinances the Natal Provincial Council, necessitated the urgency of expressing the views of the Indians here. A public meeting was therefore arranged to be held on the 19th July

Public meeting regarding the status of the Indians in E. & S. Africa & Fiji.

1922, at the Excelsior theatre, under the joint auspices of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, the Bombay Presidency Association, the Indian Merchants' Chamber & Bureau, the British Indian Colonial Merchants' Association and the Bombay Presidency Progressive Association. Our representatives, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee supported the resolution regarding East Africa while Mr. A. I. Gabroo seconded one for South Africa. Our association bore the proportionate share of the total expenses incurred by the organising body in holding the meeting.

A letter was received from the Hon'y Secretary of the Mombasa Indian Merchants' Chamber & Bureau drawing the attention of this association to the new practice followed by the B. I. S. N. Co. in discharging it at the Kilindini Custom House instead of discharging it at the Mombasa Custom House, as usual. The new practice naturally put the merchants to inconvenience and to loss incurred owing to the goods being damaged in rainy season. The Committee after making inquiries in the matter wrote to the Mombasa Chamber & Bureau asking them to approach the Port Advisory Committee there which looks after the port affairs.

Our Association was invited by the local Indian Merchants' Chamber & Bureau to a Conference conveyed to express the collective and considered opinion on the Press Communique issued by the Government of

Discharge of cargo at Kilindini Custom House.

Administration of Railways in India.

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India on the recommendations of the Indian Railway Committee regarding the administration for Railways in India. Our Association was represented on the Conference. A copy of the resolutions embodying the opinion of the Conference which were forwarded to the Government of India was received by our Association.

At the instance of one of our members your Committee wrote a letter to the Managing Agents of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., bringing to their notice the great inconvenience caused by an early closing of the African Mails at the G. P. Office on the day of departure of the said mail for Africa. The shipping company wrote to the Postal authorities and got the required change in the closing of the mails to suit the convenience of the shippers. The African mails now close at 12-0 Noon on the day of departure of the Mail.

At the close of the official year, the Committee received a cable from the Hon'ble Secretary of the Mombasa Indian Merchants Chamber & Bureau to the effect that the East African Government proposed to levy an Import Duty of 4⁵/₁₆ d per lb gross weight, on grey piece-goods. That Chamber also sent us certain information regarding this duty and the question is under the consideration of the Committee and will

be taken up along with other duties imposed by the said Government and the Committee are thinking of approaching the Government in this respect soon and they have drawn the attention of the Mill Owners' Association, the Piece-goods Merchants' Association, the Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau as it affects seriously the Indian Piece-Goods Trade.

Your Committee note with pleasure that its worthy President, the Hon'ble Mr. Parshotamdas Thakurdas, C. J. E., M. P. E., to Members

J. P. nominated to be a member of the "Indian Retrenchment Committee". Our Association has every confidence in its President and we are sure that he will try his best to put the finances of the country on a sound footing by his work on the "Retrenchment Committee".

Another note-worthy event was the Knighthood conferred upon one of our Vice-Presidents Sir Hormuji Cawasji Dhabhaw, Kt. M. V. O. O. B. E. His services to the Pioneer of trade and commerce in this rocky land of Aden, are known to everybody and the keen interest he has taken and the zeal with which he worked last year when the question of transfer of Aden to the Colonial Office was under consideration, is vivid in the minds of those who had the opportunity of working with him. The Committee learn with regret the death of Mr. Haji Ilias Haji Abu and Mr. both these gentlemen were members of our Association.

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for the last two years. The Committee offer their condolences to their families in their bereavement.

Before closing this report, we beg to bring to the notice of the members of our Association

Concluding Remarks. the good result arising out of a concerted action. Our members are aware

of the satisfactory termination of our communications with the I. S. N. Company, in respect of the African Freight Contract, when all the African Shippers, whether members or non-members joined together to bring about the desired object. It would be still more advantageous to the merchants having business connection with Africa or other parts of the Empire if they all back up this Association, which is the only one of its kind, by enrolling themselves as its members, and thus make this body representative in all interests possible.

Finally, in submitting this report to the members of the Association, it will not be out of place if the Committee review the financial position of this body during the year under report. The year began with 104 members on the roll, of these 7 members resigned, while 10 members joined the body as new members, closing the year with 97 Inland and 10 Foreign Members making a total of 107 on the roll. The subscription received from the members amounted to Rs. 2,420-15-4/ including interest, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,321-15-3 thus showing deficit of Rs. 1,002-15-0 to be met from the Capital Account; you will thus see that the finances of our Association are in a poor

condition still and the Association must be financially put on sound basis, if it is to carry on its useful work. The Committee draw specially the attention of our East African merchants that they will find from the Report that the Committee have to undertake a great deal of work to remove the grievances of East African merchants and therefore they will support this association with liberal contributions. The Committee are at present running the Association on the most economical lines and every possible item of expenditure is curtailed down to the minimum amount. The office of our association is lodged in the office of Sheth Vazirally Bandedally free of rent, for which the committee express their thanks to him; but even in spite of all these the Association is working under deficit and therefore it must have a permanent fund to ensure an annual income of at least Rs. 3,000/-. The Committee therefore appeal to every member of this body to see that its finances are put on the most satisfactory foundation so that the Committee may go on doing their work without worrying themselves on grounds financial, & looking to the nature of the work which this body has done in past and is expected to do in future. The Committee have every hope that our merchants who have dealings with Africa and other Colonies of the Empire will come

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forward to back the Association which is the only body of its kind in the field. The Committee take this opportunity of assuring of those have not yet joined this body that they will do their best to secure to Indian merchants equal rights and privileges that are accorded to merchants of other nations.

In conclusion, Your Committee thank those that have helped them in the discharge of the duties and hope to see that Indians in the Colonies get equal rights and equal privileges which are the very foundation of the stability of the Commonwealth, of which our country is an equal member.

(Sd.) ALLADIN MAHOMED.

(Sd.) YAZIRALLI BANDEALLY.

22nd. November 1922

Hony. Secretaries.



*Profit & Loss Account of the British Indian Colonial Merchants' Association, Bombay,
for the years 1921-1922*

1. By Annual Subscription of 82 members, (73 Inland members @ Rs. 30/- and 9 Foreign members @ Rs. 18/-)	Rs. 2,352-0-0	1. To Office Establishment (Salaries of the Staff)	Rs. 2,171-0-0
2. By interest on current A/C. with the Tata Ind. Bank Ltd.	Rs. 43-11-0	2. To Office Rent	193-0-0
3. By sundry receipts. (Sale of old news papers)	Rs. 34-4-6	3. To Printing Charge	157-0-0
4. Loans	Rs. 1,092-15-9	4. To Library papers	146-0-0
Total Rs. 3,522-15-3.		5. To meeting charges	166-14-0
		6. To contribution to the Indiang Overseas Assn.	463-9-8
		7. To Postal Charges, cable & Telegram Charges	189-7-0
		8. To Conveyance Charges	10-4-0
		9. To Stationary	29-5-0
		Total	Rs. 3,522-15-3.

This Account has been examined and found correct and in accordance with the Account Books.

(Sd.) DAWOOD RAJH-NASAR.

Hony. Auditor.

(Sd.) ALLADIN MAHOMED.

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President of Council:

Chairman of Executive Committee
H. H. THE AGA KHAN
Deputy Chairman
Sir M. M. BHOWNAGGREG
K. C. I. E.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:
Hy S. L. POLAK.

Indians Overseas Association.

Programs: Kaloph, Strand, London
Bios: Kaloph, London
Telephone: Central 2839

47-48 Danes Inn House,

265 Strand, London, W.C.2.

The Private Secretary to
The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street, S.W.1.

January 9th 1923.

Sir,

My Association has just received a telegram from the Eastern African Indian National Congress, of which I beg to enclose herewith a copy for the information of the Prime Minister. In view of the Resolution of the Imperial Conference 1921, to which His Majesty's Government are a party, recommending the status of equal citizenship for Indians lawfully resident in His Majesty's overseas territories, and having regard to the proposals which my Committee understands are now under discussion for a settlement of the question of the position of Indians in Kenya upon the basis of the said Resolution, it would appear to be urgently necessary, in order to avoid misunderstanding and unnecessary complications at a critical period of the pending negotiations, to postpone the elections to the Kenya Colony Legislative Council, due on February 21st next.

My Committee, therefore, respectfully requests that steps may be immediately taken for the postponement of the said elections.

Trusting that this matter may receive the immediate attention of His Majesty's Government,

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

Hon. Secretary.

COPY of TELEGRAM to Hy. S. L. POLAK, dated January 5, 1923,
 NAIROBI, - from the EASTERN AFRICA INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

KENYA GOVERNMENT HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
 FEBRUARY 21ST WITHOUT EXTENDING FRANCHISE INDIANS. RESPECTFULLY
 SUBMIT THIS CONSTITUTES BREACH OF FAITH ON THE PART OF LOCAL AND
 IMPERIAL GOVERNMENTS. INTERIM REPRESENTATION ONE SEAT EXECUTIVE
 COUNCIL FOUR SEATS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACCEPTED LAST YEAR ON
 EXHORTATION FROM INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA
 AND ON DISTINCTION UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMON FRANCHISE WOULD BE
 EXTENDED TO INDIAN COMMUNITY BEFORE ANOTHER GENERAL ELECTION. LOCAL
 GOVERNMENT HAS PRECIPITATED MATTERS. HUMBLY REQUEST DECLARE INDIAN
 POLICY IMBODYING PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY OF STATUS AS RESOLVED BY 1921
 IMPERIAL CONFERENCE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. INDIAN POPULATION
 ELABORATED FUTILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS.

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1875

C. D.
NO. 10
AN
D. 20

30th Jan. 1923

Sir,

I am v. to express his

regret that it has not been possible to reply at an earlier date to your letter of the 9th of January, regarding the arrangements contemplated for holding a general election for the Legislative Council of Kenya.

2. I am able to inform you that it has been decided to extend the duration of the present Council, for twelve months or such shorter period as the Governor may direct, and His Grace trusts that this arrangement will give the necessary time to examine

DRAFT.

Hon. Sec.
Trans. Bureau
MINUTE.

Mr. ... 29/1/23
Mr.
Mr.
Mr. Davis.
Sir G. Grindle.
Sir H. Read. 29/1/23
Sir J. Masterton Smith 29 wry
Mr. Ormsby Gore. 29
Duke of Devonshire. 29-1

from

• the conclusion of a settlement on
the question of human
relations in the Council.

sgd, H. J. Read

• The conclusion of a settlement on
the question of human
refugees in the Council.

}

Sgd, H. J. Read

*See below
but 29/1/23*

Downing Street,

January, 1923.

DRAFT.

Sir,

I am &c. to acknowledge the

THE HON. SECRETARY,
INDIANS OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION.

receipt of your letter of the 9th of
January regarding the report that the
Kenya Government intend to hold a
General Election for Members of the
Legislative Council on the 21st of
February without the question of the
representation of the Indian community
having first been settled.

MINUTE.

Mr. Bottomley. 10-1-23

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

* Sir H. Road. 11/1/23

* Sir J. Masterton Smith 10.1.

* Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

*for answer
also aff. on 11/1/23*

I am to inform you that His
Grace has not overlooked the fact that
the date on which a General Election
is due is now rapidly approaching, and
that he is already in communication
with the Governor as to the steps to

be

be taken should it prove impossible to
arrive at a settlement of the question
of Indian representation before that date.

He anticipates that it will be possible for
him in a few days to inform you definitely
as to the arrangements which will be made in
this regard.

I am &c .