

E. AFRICA
TANGANYIKA

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COLONIAL

53

POSITION OF INDIANS

1920

13th July

next previous Paper.

Letter from Lord Islington and minutes thereon as to possibility of forming a permanent advisory council to advise S.ofS. and watch interests of various races

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Registered for record.

Part 1 of 16.7.20

subsequent Paper.

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promote the interests of their respective clients is incomplete, since it does not show who the clients are. The assumption that we have no interest in the natives in East Africa was resented when made by Mr. Montagu. Lord Islington would appear to go further (since he holds that the Secretary of State needs special advice in native matters), and to assume that we care for no one but the European. There are some Europeans in East Africa who would think us very successful in dissembling our love.

In the next sentence, as I understand it, Lord Islington extends the scope of the proposed Council. It is not only to be consulted by the Departments concerned, but it is to give each race an opportunity to urge its claims; i.e. local associations, etc., are either to have direct access to the Council or the right to insist on reference of its claims to the Council.

The proposal affects the position of a Governor materially. He would no longer be the principal adviser of the Secretary of State, if he were forced to carry out the instructions of the Secretary of State through a Council, consisting of members who are destitute of the local knowledge which he possesses and have necessarily no acquaintance with what the general interests of the Protectorate demand. Whether the advice of the Council is based on the compromise of equal count of interested votes, it would in either case suffer from detachment from the actual administration.

The South African Bill and General Montagu's speech deserve more study than there is time for before Wednesday. But a purely local measure, designed in the interests of the local population in a particular Dominion, cannot reasonably be quoted in analogy with a

proposal affecting the relations of different constituent parts of the Empire. It would be possible to adopt the Union scheme for the East Africa Protectorate, so as to strengthen the hands of the Native Affairs Department in the local Council and local public opinion, but that is a different matter.

For such matters as Lord Islington has in view there is in the ultimate resort a Council already existing - the Cabinet. For matters which do not involve important questions of policy there is the possibility of closer touch with other Departments. These East African Indian questions have not lent themselves to formal discussions with the India Office, while on other points (such as currency) I think that other heads of departments here and there that the India Office have shown no inclination either to consult or to inform.

Local 13.2.20

would add that a Committee, constituted as proposed, would not really be an opportunity for each race and every interest to urge its claims. It is proposed to appoint a representative of the European settlers or traders, or one who would represent the interests of the European settlers or traders (say) in the Tanganyika Territory, and the representative of the native populations of these vast territories by a single "representative" of the native community - say that community formed a homogeneous body - which is a necessity. The existence of this Council would not make it necessary for the Government to seek the advice of the members of the Council. It is not difficult for him to participate in the reference to the members of the Council. These matters are concerned. This is impossible, but there is nothing in it. This is a matter of course.

accustomed to dealing with a number of races,
and so is the India Office. The only race in
which Lord Blythton is interested is the
and as regards the real native problems in the
countries concerned it is difficult to see what
assistance the I.O.S. could get from the
I.O.S. or Indian Council representatives on the
Committee;

C.S.
13/10/20

Safely. The scheme appears
to be quite unworkable.

H. J. R.
13/10/20

Source

13/10/20
13/10/20

10th, July, 1920.

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My dear Milner,

It may be convenient to you to know of a proposal that I shall make in the course of my speech on Wednesday next in regard to British East Africa and the adjoining countries. I send it to you for what it is worth, because it may enable you to give a more considered reply to it than would otherwise be the case if I sprung it on you without notice. I need not weary you with the various reasons that have influenced me regarding it, as I am sure they will be apparent to you.

Briefly my suggestion is this :- That there should be established a permanent standing Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of the Colonial Office, Foreign Office, India Office, one of the Indian members of the India Council, and a representative - nominated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies - for the Native Community in East Africa. This Committee should have referred to it all status, franchise etc.; all proposals that may arise in regard to the Indian Community; Legislation dealing with Land Tenure where such may affect one or the other of the races; proposals in regard to segregation; all schemes connected with the provision of Native labour. The Committee would be Advisory not Executive; would send its reports from time to time to the head of the department concerned, and would be authorised to issue an annual report of its work and decisions, to Parliament. The problems arising in these countries are so complex, and affect the interests and feelings of so many races, that it seems difficult to expect any one department of the State, working by itself on them, to bring about a solution satisfactory to all. The present practise of two of the great Departments - the Colonial Office and India Office - being forced to wrestle with each other to promote the interests of their respective clients is, I am sure you

will admit, highly unsatisfactory from an Imperial point of view. A Committee such as the one I have indicated, constituted as it would be, would afford an opportunity for each race, and every interest, to urge its claim and should result, in most instances, in reaching a decision fairly acceptable to all. It would be of assistance to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be furnished from time to time with reports drawn from a source such as this, and dealing with problems intensely difficult and delicate.

I hope that the above brief outline will, at any rate, give you sufficient material to enable you to consider whether such an idea would conduce to smoother working in these territories, where there exists so many turbulent elements. In this connection I would refer you to the Native Affairs Bill recently introduced by Smuts, and his speech on its second reading in the Union House of Assembly, on May 25th.

Yours sincerely,

Kingston

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