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P. 3 JAN 20

Indians Congress
Assoc.

Grievances of Indians

1920

7 Jan

Last previous Paper.

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22 copy letter sent to India Office on
24 Dec. 19 protesting agst insulting language
employed in final report of Economic Commission.
Trusts portion will be improved especially
as regards segregation & migration to CA.

begin work for the I.O. board

Col. G. 1. 1920 etc

See 10/15/20/20

all

15.1.20

Next previous Paper.

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President of Council:

Chairman of Executive Committee:
M. H. THE AGA KHAN.

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

Deputy Chairman:
Sir M. M. BHOWNAGREE,
K.C.I.E.

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Indians Overseas Association.

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Telephone: Central 2832

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47-48, Danes Inn House,
265, Strand, London, W.C.2

JAN 20

January 7th.

1920.

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

Sir,

m/
Your letter No. 67820/19, of the 8th ultimo, was considered by the Executive Committee of my Association at its last meeting, and in reply, I was directed to send to you a copy of my Association's further letter on this subject to the India Office, dated December 24th, 1919, for your information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,


Hon. Secretary.

ENCL.

December 24th.

19.

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

S i r ,

In reply to its communication of the 26th ultimo to the Colonial Office on the subject of the position of the Indian Community in British East Africa, my Association has received a reply stating that the Secretary of State ^{for the Colonies} proposed to discuss personally with the Governor of the East African Protectorate questions affecting the Indian Community in East Africa generally. My Association ventures respectfully to hope that the Secretary of State for India will find himself in a position to take advantage of Sir Edward Buxton's presence in England to exchange views with him on this matter of such vital importance to the Indian Community of East Africa and to the Indian people generally, for, in my Association's opinion, the present moment is a critical one, and upon decisions now taken will depend the welfare of Indians in East Africa and, to a great extent, the dignity and status of India. It has been represented to my Association that

it would be desirable to ask the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to receive a private deputation of its members, but, realising how much more powerful in this behalf would be the advocacy of the Secretary of State for India, my association is of opinion that it would, for the moment, best serve Indian interests by leaving the matter in Mr. Montagu's hands.

At the same time, my association desires to draw attention to the malicious and insulting character of the language employed in the final report (part 1) of the Economic Commission appointed by East African Protectorate Government. I especially invite attention to pages 19 to 22. (some from my diary)
 It is a pity that 18 months have been taken by the Commissioners to depart widely from the terms of their reference to make all kinds of abusive and insulting references to Indian civilization, customs and methods of life, without submitting any evidence whatever as to the validity of their views. I need hardly remind you of the immense Imperial disservice done by the use of such language and the propagation of such ideas. Members of my association who have had long experience of the unhappy history of His Majesty's Indian subjects in different parts of the Empire, remember that when an attempt, usually successful, has been made to deprive Indians of rights or to impose upon them certain disabilities, justification has always been sought in a preliminary campaign of abuse and vilifications. My association, therefore, hopes that an opportunity will be sought, in any event, to impress upon the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate, the desirability

of a complete and public official disavowal of the sentiments expressed in the above-mentioned report. At the same time, I would draw your attention to the Commissioner's admission at page 18 of the undesirable consequences in the case of the native population of the adoption of the South African principle of racial segregation. This, in my Association's opinion, is powerful evidence against the attempts to procure the segregation of the Indian population of East Africa.

3. In the respectful opinion of my Association's definite stand should now be made against the very obvious effort that is being made to check and even to terminate Indian emigration into East Africa, whilst, at the same time, there is an undisguised movement, officially countenanced, for the promotion and encouragement of European emigration. No one reading the report of this Commission can come to any other conclusion than that it is sought to convert the East African Protectorate, so far as possible, into another South Africa. The consequences of the success of such a policy would, as you will at once realize, create the utmost alarm and the deepest resentment in India, for His Majesty's Government have not, in this case, the excuse that they are dealing with one who cannot interfere with the decisions of a self-governing dominion. The regard affected by the Commissioners for the welfare of the native population is, in my Association's opinion, merely exercised in order to "camouflage" its intentions in regard to the Indian population. Racial and colour prejudice is not confined to one coloured race alone in practice. It merely happens that at the present time the Indian is the European's more serious competitor, and therefore

me to bear the brunt of the European's trade jealousy. My Association, from very bitter experience, has no illusions whatever as to the ethics of this question, and it is an altogether false analogy to suggest that the East African Protectorate with its small white population, already in a privileged position, should be granted an advance of the status to that of a quasi-Dominion and that this small white population should be privileged above all things to decide upon the character of the immigration into this territory, and, presumably, into adjacent territories in a sense wholly adverse to the rights and claims of India, with its long historical connection, before these lands became a part of the British Empire, with the East African territories. My Association ~~trusts~~ ^{trusts} that you will readily realize that India cannot be a party to, and must with all possible energy oppose, the policy of racial segregation and restriction of emigration aimed especially and directly at Indians.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. L. Plank

Secretary.

7th November, 1919.

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G. B. Tadwalkar Esq.,

Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

I beg to bring to your notice one point in connection with the Supplement to the Petition cabled on 29th October 1919 on behalf of the staff of the military Labour Corps. It is this that the contention appears to be that we are neither civilians nor military and on this plea payments due have been evaded to the Asiatics. So far my knowledge goes no civilian is awarded a Meritorious Service Medal but it is only due to the Military men now by virtue of my good services I was awarded this medal and it has been a great surprise to me, now under these circumstances the payments due to me as a military man could successfully be evaded. Many of my staff were attested and given the equipment and treated as military in the early period of the war. I believe that later on a new policy of excluding local Asiatics in the Military operations was inaugurated and as a result of this we have been called upon to face this situation.

I am sorry that I am writing you these point at the eleventh hour for your consideration and inclusion in the supplementary petition if possible.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

(Signed)

Arthur Joseph.