



consult the J.O. on all a currency or  
other questions in Trinidad in future!

Proof? G.G.  
22.20

~~Col. ...~~  
Lord ...

I agree that the corruption  
is not cease. I fear we are concerned.

M. 29. 4

I agree of course they would be the same.  
I think we assumed before the Royal Com  
mission we might at least have been  
informed by the J.O. of its mission to  
take a report about the currency situation.

Jan 27/4

and further agree

W.S.  
28/1/4

Further communication on this subject  
 addressed to—  
 The Under Secretary of State for India,  
 Financial Department,  
 India Office,  
 London, S.W.  
 Following reference is made—  
 F.4322.

INDIA OFFICE,  
 19995  
 WHITEHALL,  
 LONDON, S.W.  
 REC<sup>d</sup>  
 REC<sup>d</sup> 21 APR 20 1920

LONDON, S.W.  
 20 - April 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st March 1920 on the subject of Currency changes in East Africa. Mr. Montagu much regrets that your Department have not seen their way to accepting the very natural suggestion contained in India Office letter of the 12th March that the Colonial Secretary would be good enough to consult this Department before issuing orders on Currency or other questions where the interests of Indians are concerned.

No useful purpose can be served by recrimination as to the past, or importing acrimony into a discussion of a general question of considerable Imperial importance. But in para. 2 of your letter you express surprise that, in view of the importance which the Secretary of State attaches to the development of commercial intercourse between India and East Africa, the Indian Currency Committee did not invite an expression of East African opinion on the questions before the Committee. Mr. Montagu would observe that the Committee controls their own procedure and he is in no way responsible for their choice of witnesses. He would, however, repeat the observation that the enquiry was a matter of public knowledge, and even if the United Kingdom share of the trade with East Africa is in excess of the Indian share, it would have been reasonable

Under Secretary of State,  
 COLONIAL OFFICE.

reasonable if, having regard to the interest of East Africa in the future of the rupee, the Colonial Office had asked to be given the opportunity of expressing their views on the East African aspect of the case, so that if there was any oversight on the Committee's part, it might have been redressed before it was too late.

On the general question of the representation of Indian interests, Mr. Montagu holds that, as Secretary of State for India, he has a responsibility which he cannot escape for the well-being of Indians all over the world. While the Secretary of State for the Colonies is responsible for the welfare of the inhabitants of all parts of the Empire not possessed of self-governing institutions, Mr. Montagu cannot admit that in a Protectorate where Indians are inadequately represented in the Executive or Legislative Councils they are not justified in appealing to the Secretary of State for India when action is taken by the Colonial Office that is detrimental to their interests.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. W. Duke*