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RECORDED
8 JUN 10

INDIA OFFICE

POSITION OF INDIANS

1920
JUNE

Previous Paper.

Trans extract from Bombay and Madras newspapers re

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Secret

Secy to Govt. Mr. J. Fildes

Pl. no. 20/28532

Lat. 9.6.20.

R. J. S.
11/21/20

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Previous Paper.

28507

... on this subject should be
SECRETARY OF STATE,
DEPT.
INDIA OFFICE,
LONDON.
... number quoted
384.

Reference to previous correspondence : 134

Letter to the India Office of the
from

28143
INDIA OFFICE,
JUN 20 1920

INDIA OFFICE,
June, 1920.

Sir,
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council
to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of
State for the Colonies
of the papers noted below, on the subject of Indians in
East Africa.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

~~W. ROBERTSON~~
F. W. Duke,

Secretary of State,
India Office.

Date: _____ Description: _____

Extract from Report on Bombay newspapers

" " " " Madras "

Instructions on this subject should be referred to—

The Under Secretary of State.

Public Dept.

India Office, London.

and the following number quoted—

7. & P. 3/84.

Reference to previous correspondence: 134

134

Letter to the India Office of the
from

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REC
REF
8 JUN 20

INDIA OFFICE,

June, 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of the papers noted below, on the subject of Indians in East Africa.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. W. Duke.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Date.

Description.

3. 20.

Extract from Report on Bombay newspapers

4. 20.

" " " " " Andhra "

EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON BOMBAY NEWSPAPERS.

DATED APRIL, 1920.

23. Drawing attention to the precarious condition of the Indians in East Africa on account of the demand of the white

the position of Indians in East Africa. Bombay Samachar 21st April. (58).

population there for ousting the Indians, the Bombay Samachar earnestly appeals to the Government of India to make use

of all their influence, directly and indirectly, to put an end to this movement of the whites against the Indians before it is too late and vindicate the rights of the Indians as citizens of the British Empire. The paper proceeds :- We have to warn the Indian public against being indifferent to this question and would remind them of the grave consequences which resulted from their silence in the case of the Transvaal and South Africa. We, therefore call upon the various public bodies to raise a protest against the attitude of the white population of East Africa, while Mr. Andrews is engaged in preparing the report of his investigation into the subject. The prosperity of East Africa is the result of Indian efforts, the fruits of which are now sought to be devoured by the white people. These have now begun to look upon Indians as undesirable neighbours, because they successfully compete with them in trade and other activities, and for this reason they seek to introduce legislation disabling Indians from owning property on the ground of public health, so as to gradually drive them away entirely. The silence of the Indian public and the Indian Government is interpreted by other parts of the Empire as a sign of weakness and is not fitted for the reforms granted to them. It is, therefore, necessary to disillusion them of this false inference in time.

6. The *Despatch*, of the 21st April, writes:—Indians are undergoing only misery in the colonies and their birthright is nowhere safeguarded. When their birthright is

DEBARRAUFAN,
MADRAS,
1st April 1929.

denied to them in their own motherland, how can they expect it in the colonies? The sufferings of the Indians in South Africa and Fiji are widely known and their condition in East Africa is also pitiable. It appears a Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council of East Africa specifying the particular localities that should be occupied by particular classes for residential purposes. It needs no comment as to what kind of people will make status depend on birth. The Indians deem the British to be human beings and not worse. The absurdity of creating differences of status among human beings generally should disappear from the world. Mr. Allidina, a member of the Legislative Council in East Africa, states that when, as is done in other countries, assignments of land are made in East Africa to those that served in the war, no land is given to the Indian soldiers who are told that they will have their land from the Government of India. The propriety of this is not apparent. This should be noted by the Government of India. The whites in East Africa probably deem the Indians to be mere coolies and think that they served in the war for wages! Which Indian can remain without being moved by this curtailment of the rights of the Indians who entered the field of war to sacrifice their lives for the sake of King Emperor? Mr. Allidina says that the whites in East Africa are ever scheming ruin to the Indians there and that, as the former are in the majority in the Legislative Council, the plight of the Indians in East Africa will be reduced to that of those in South Africa, unless an agitation is started in India in the matter. We only hear these words and read them in the papers. What more can we do? Had India been a country enjoying its birthright, will the Indians be treated so disparagingly in the colonies? We, Indians, should first try to acquire *swaraj*. Will those that toil for making money and securing titles and seats on Legislative Councils or the post of a Minister, attend to the sufferings of our people in the colonies? Should not bitter divisions among us disappear at the thought of India's bondage?

DEBARRAUFAN,
MADRAS,
2nd April 1929

The *Despatch*, of the 22nd April, contains a continuation of the article contributed by Mr. C. F. Andrews to the *Young India* of Mr. Gandhi about the condition of Indians in East Africa, referred to in paragraph 6 of Report No. 17 of 1920.

KANTHARAVU,
MADRAS

The *Kantharavu*, of the 20th April, observes:—The fate of the Indians in East Africa is now more or less sealed. The authorities are now free to drive out the Indians at any time they please. They have only to write "deported" on a piece of paper and sign it and it is done. Any disobedience of this order is punished with imprisonment for six months, or a fine of three thousand, or both. There is no such thing as appeal, etc. This marks the close of the first act of their drama of autocracy and also the first interlude regarding their hatred of the Indians