

EAST AFR. PROT.  
306 <sup>12</sup>/<sub>13</sub>

C. O.  
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REC?  
PAGE 4 JAN 13

Governor 845  
Belfield

Date.  
1912  
6th December

VISIT TO COAST

Submits remarks as to the township of Mombasa, Kilindini Harbour Works, Customs Accommodation, Rubber Plantations, Mombasa-Malindi Road, Coastal Steamer Communication, Natives of the Hinterland, Consumption of Palm Wine, Coconut Plantations and the ravages of the beetle.

Last previous Paper.  
40552  
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40551

For 425 reminded 3 Sept. 2.

Li. J. Anderson

The fore: seems to be doing what he can to get rid of the coconut beetle. This is important, as there seems to be an immense demand for copra at the present time.

Heck: & say that Mr. Harcourt has read with interest & that he will be glad to know <sup>how</sup> the due course what progress is made with the extermination of the coconut beetle?

H. J. R.

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19. 1. 13

19. 1. 13

Next subsequent Paper  
40552 (Coconut Beetle)

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 845

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

December 5th, 1912.

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RECEIVED 4 JAN 13

Sir, -

I have the honour to report on certain subjects of interest and importance which received my attention during my recent visit to the Coast.

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2. I have already addressed you in my despatch No. 822 of 27th ultimo in regard to the sanitary condition of the township of Mombasa and, pending the detailed recommendations of the departmental expert, who will, I hope, shortly be appointed, have indicated the general lines on which ameliorative effort will in my opinion most advantageously proceed. Isolated experiments will be of but little avail and a comprehensive scheme must be drawn up before we can effect any substantial improvement.

The surface drainage of the town and the  
removal

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

removal of the markets and slaughter houses, which are now most unsuitably placed, will be amongst the first matters to be dealt with.

In the meanwhile instructions for the erection of an Infectious Diseases Hospital have been issued and the work has been taken in hand.

3. While at Mombasa I inspected the Kilindini Harbour Works and was gratified to find a large area available for their future extensions. The Engineer in charge is now taking borings and is preparing a report on the site and form of the new deep-water Pier.

4. I went carefully into the question of Customs accommodation both at Mombasa and Kilindini and am satisfied that the work of the Department will be greatly facilitated by the transfer of the Head Offices to the latter port. Considerable inconvenience is at present experienced in controlling the work from Mombasa, where it is hoped eventually to deal only with the trade from India and the Persian Gulf.

The existing facilities for handling cargo are quite inadequate and considerable congestion results but this can now be remedied in view of the sanction accorded to the measures which I advocated in my despatch No. 678 of September 28th.

5. The rubber plantations which I had the opportunity

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opportunity of seeing did not impress me favourably, except at Kibwezi, where the two local estates are irrigated. Elsewhere the growth was distinctly disappointing.

6. The road between Mombasa and Malindi requires to be put into a proper condition for cycles and pedestrians and I have requested the Director of Public Works to give this matter his early attention. Little or no heavy traffic at present proceeds along it and it is not necessary to make it strong enough to carry carts or waggons. The repairs needed can therefore be carried out at a very small cost.

7. Residents on the coast complain generally of the lack of regular steamer communication between the various intermediate ports. The present service is unsatisfactory, as the firms owning the ships will not arrange for calls unless it suits their convenience. This is however a matter which will regulate itself. As the plantations are brought under cultivation consignments of produce will increase in bulk and cargo will be offered in sufficient quantities to make it worth while for the steamers to put in at stated intervals.

I am further given to understand that the Union Castle Line contemplate the inception of a coastal service but the proposal has not yet taken definite shape.

8. The natives of the hinterland are in a very backward condition and appear disinclined to make any effort for their own advancement. They show no desire for plantation or any other kind of work. They have not been very closely administered hitherto and when an additional officer is stationed amongst them, as proposed in Mr. Bowring's despatch No. 615 of September 5th, an improvement will doubtless be effected.

*Yv*  
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The consumption of and traffic in palm-wine is most deleterious to the moral and physical welfare of these people, apart from the damage done to the trees themselves by the tapping necessary for the acquisition of the liquor, and I am considering measures to restrict the practice within reasonable limits or even possibly prohibit it altogether.

9. The condition of the cocoanut plantations is far from satisfactory. Not only, as I have just remarked, are they weakened by tapping, but they have suffered very severely from the ravages of the beetle. If new plantations are started the young trees will certainly be attacked and I would not therefore recommend Europeans to take up this branch of tropical agriculture until the existing state of affairs is remedied.

I should prefer the native owners themselves  
to

to make some attempt to eradicate this pest and have endeavoured to arouse the interest of the Arab and Swahili Elders with whom I have had interviews on the matter. If no amelioration can be attained in this way it will be necessary to resort to legislation to enforce the destruction of affected trees.

The Director of Agriculture will be requested to send the Plant Instructor from Mazeras Government Farm on periodical tours along the Coast Belt to examine and report on the condition of the Native Plantations and to give all advice and assistance in his power towards the extermination of the cocconut beetle by the inhabitants.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*H. Conway Beckett*

GOVERNOR.

Gov. 306/12  
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E.A.P.

Pr.

DRAFT.

E.A.P.

No. 36

Gov. Belfield.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 10 Jan

Mr. Bottomley 11/2

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

SIR,

15 Jan 1913

I have the honour to  
acknowledge the receipt of

~~your~~ your despatch No.

245 of the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup>, <sup>and to</sup> ~~and~~  
inf. you that I have read with  
~~to inform you that~~ <sup>reporting</sup>  
interest your report on the  
~~on certain subjects of~~  
various matters  
~~interest and importance~~

which received your  
attention during your  
recent visit to the  
Coast, which I have  
read with interest.

I shall be glad  
to know in due course

Ans. 40288

what progress is made  
with the extermination  
of the coconut beetle.

Jr

(Signed) L. HARCOURT