

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

October 31st 1913.

No. 850

RICA PROTECTORATE

477

Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 725 of the 3rd of September on the subject of the extermination of the cocomut beetle.

2. When I first took up this subject at the Coast ten months ago, I told the heads of the Arab community in Membaca and at Malindi that the apparent neglect of the occount plantations and the consequent decline of the copra industry could not be allowed to continue, but that before taking action to effect improvement by legislation I proposed to give the owners of plantations reasonable time to do the work themselves, attithat I intended to assist them in this by sending an officer of the Agricultural Department to indicate the lines on which they should proceed.

3. However, as it is apparent that no ameliorative action is being taken or can be expected from the native owners, I propose to proceed to legislation by means of a Bill which will impose upon the owners of plantations the obligation to take such precaution ary measures as may be prescribed, will provide

penalties

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

penalties for non-compliance, and will authorize the recovery from offenders of the cost of doing the work which they have neglected to carry out themselves.

4. To this end I have caused a small Committee to be appointed, consisting of the Provincial Commissioner of Seyidie, the Director of Agriculture and the Assistant Liwali of Mombasa, who after full imquiry have been requested to report as to the provisions which are recommended for inclusion in the Bill.

the matter, but I have thought it acvisable to make you acquainted with the reasons why the handling of the subject has taken time, and to indicate the nature of the action which I am now taking.

I have the honour to be,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Deput COVERNOR.

Con instruction of

SAME YELLS

for 40285/1913 Draft. 2 May 1914. Eas with reference to your M SOO despatch, xo 830, of the 3/4 for Sir H. & Belfield ... of October, I have the ANS 22/571914 Monour to inform you that W. Bottomby 12 engune of you are now after to furnish a puther report on the argust The extermination of the Evernut latte. Bigned) L. HAROUIRT.