



C O  
1071

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

261

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

24th November 1911.

NO.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of November 1<sup>st</sup> ult.,  
and your undated telegram in reply, I beg, in  
accordance with the last paragraph of the latter,  
report as follows :

2. In September Mr Humphery, the acting Provincial  
Commissioner of the Ukamba Province, reported that  
there was considerable unrest amongst the Wakamba  
people. It was very difficult to ascertain the  
exact reason for this, though this tribe have been  
subject to hysterical outbreaks from time to time,  
usually following tribal ceremonies and beer drinks.  
The position was accentuated by the difficulties  
which a settler - Mr Langridge - was said to be  
having with a small section of the tribe his farm  
comes in contact with. The Acting Provincial  
Commissioner recommended that, as no troops had  
been seen in these reserves since 1902, it would

have

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

have a quietening effect if a demonstration was made. No opposition of any kind was expected.

3. Although the Wakamba have been many years under administration, they have made little progress in civilisation, nor do they show any particular interest for native administration. The Mission bodies who work amongst them have not effected much. In respect to advancement the Wakamba were unfortunate with the Kavirondo and other tribes.

4. The District Commissioner, Mr. J. V. Kairaba, on October 8th. The Elders were called into the headquarters of the district to see the Acting Provincial Commissioner. There was no serious character existed in the reserve. The Acting Provincial Commissioner reported that we might dismiss from our minds any connection between Mr Langridge and the general unrest in the reserve, the trouble being laid entirely to the door of an evil spirit which takes possession of certain persons and causes unrest. The District Commissioner - Mr Dundas - ascribes the unrest to an epidemic of hysterical mania of a neuro-hystero psychic nature. Several of these outbursts have taken place since we have known the Wakamba, the basis of the obsession being the supposed presence of evil spirits in various people.

To quieten the position Mr Humphery undertook

two patrols through the country, with what he states to have been an excellent effect. After carrying out the two patrols, which met with no opposition whatever, he recommended the return of the force to Nairobi, which took place on October 16th.

6. The position since the visit of the troops has improved, though I have thought it desirable to increase the police force. Demonstrations by the troops have been necessary from time to time in various parts of the Protectorate, and have invariably had a good effect. Such appears to be the result on this occasion.

7. In my report upon the Protectorate I detailed my views with regard to native administration, and my desire to see it gradually strengthened and purified by following as far as possible whatever good it contained. This line of action was heartily supported by the Provincial Commissioners, and has, according to all reports up to date, had good effects. The District Commissioner of the Machakos district is apparently somewhat fearsome of the policy, although he does not put forward any other line of action which would appear workable. I shall take advantage of the return of the Provincial Commissioner - Mr. Hobbly - from leave to have a thorough investigation made as to the conditions of native administration in this reserve, and will

forward


4.

forward his report when it has been received.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,



GOVERNOR.