

EAST AFR. PROT.
No 38708

38708

28 J. 08

Director: No. 488

(Subject.)

1908

Plague at Kisumu
Sanitary measures

28 Sept.

as previous Paper.

Sends proposals submitted by Gov. Council with
plans by L.M.S. Requests covering provision
of extra £1000 from Vote for Epidemics

7/8360

37411

(Minutes.)

Approved
at once
X J R
23/x

Copy 5351 of Oct.

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

REC'D
12703

September 29th 1921

23 OCT 08

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 485

(Incl. 2)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of certain proposals submitted by the Provincial Commissioner, Kisumu, for the better sanitation of that town, together with a Memorandum by the Principal Medical Officer.

Mr. Ainsworth
Aug. 25th

Col. Will
Sept. 4th


2. In view of the extreme importance of the matter and the necessity of taking all possible steps for the eradication of the plague, I have sanctioned the expenditure of a sum of £200 from the Vote allowed for Epidemics on the more urgent suggestions.

3. I trust that under the circumstances Your Lordship will approve of my action.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,



H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

KISUMU.

25th August, 1908.

38708
23 OCT 08

INCLOSURE 13/

By Dispatch No. 113 of Sept. 25 1908

No. 2010/188/XV.

Your Honour,

I have the honour to inform you that in conjunction with Dr. Haran I have gone very particularly into the question of dealing with the present position here occasioned by the continual recurrence of plague cases in the Township area. These outbreaks not only cause very considerable local inconvenience and dislocation of trade they also tend to endanger the communication with Uganda and German East Africa.

The present position here is severely aggravated by the fact that the Township area is thickly covered by native huts, in which live native employees of the Railway, the Public Works Department, Bazaar traders, small Swahili and Somali traders and other miscellaneous concerns, all intermingled with unemployed natives and native women. Added to the foregoing we have an extremely undesirable element in the shape of the Panjabi small trader who lives in small buildings and outhouses of the wide streets of the Indian Bazaar.

We are of the opinion that so long as the present condition of affairs exists we shall have to face the possibility of recurrence of plague and consequent quarantine

His Honour THE LAND GOVERNOR,
East Africa Protectorate,

RAILWAY

quarantine, together with the danger of ...
 the local ... in itself is of
 vital importance to local interests and which has a
 serious effect on the revenue of the Province, (we have
 commenced the Hut Tax collection and natives are com-
 plaining that they are unable to obtain money because of
 the quarantine).

We consider that the present very unsatisfactory
 condition of affairs might be considerably ameliorated
 under the following proposed improvements. Some of
 these improvements we can give effect to locally without
 any necessity of appealing for assistance either in the
 way of His Excellency's orders, or of a money grant, and
 in so far as we are able to do anything I am having it
 done. I detail herein the various recommendations and
 at the same time shew what is being done or what requires
 to be done in the matter:-

Recommendations.

1. Petty traders both Indian, Swahili, Somali and
 Baluchi to remove to Old Kisumu, and there be
 granted plots for trading purposes.
 (This is being done. The small traders have peti-
 tioned me to allow them to open up shops in Old
 Kisumu and I am arranging accordingly. This move
 will cost the Government nothing, while it will tend
 to restore trade).
2. Swahili cultivators to remain on their farms
 outside Kisumu.
 (This is being done and such people will eventually
 carry on their trade either with Old Kisumu or Port
 Florence without remaining in the area).

3. Somali cattle traders to be encouraged to construct a separate location outside the area at a sufficient distance to minimize interference with their trade in times of epidemic disease.

(The I. C. C. being able to give effect to without any trouble or expense).

4. Khasi lane (one of the side streets in the Indian Bazaar).

Mr. Huron considers this a very insanitary area due principally to the faulty construction of buildings and the removal of the buildings.

(The present occupants of the buildings are tenants and traders. The present occupants will be Old Kisumu of their own free will enlarged from quarantine. The buildings however, will remain and there is no

thing to prevent the landlord from letting the shops, I expect, however, that with the bulk of the trade located at Old Kisumu and within the limits of the native market here that there will be little demand for these shops as

5. Native market will remain where it is but natives coming to work will produce to be discouraged in every way from remaining over night in the area.

Sanitation. Labour stations to be established and maintained by Kisumu under permanent sanction for the reception of all natives working in the area. The departments principally concerned are:

- (1) The Municipal. For Station Roads, Township purposes etc.
- (2) The Uganda Railway.
- (3) The Public Works.

With regard to the Administration we have considered

(4)
the greater part of a ...
...
... in ... two weeks ...

As regards the Uganda Railway they have
no such locations available at present, the result
on the Manager's view regarding the necessity of doing
something in this connection he will issue instructions
accordingly. His main reason to deal with
the Railway apply to the Public Works Department,
and the Commissioner of Public Works should arrange
for locations for the native labour employed by his
department.

The areas shown on the survey plan of Kisumu
as available for native locations can in many cases
be used for these permanent locations. In some
cases existing huts will require to be removed to
allow of the locations being established, and to do
this some amount of compensation will be necessary.
Unfortunately the number of huts is considerable
on some of the plots.

The principal idea in establishing permanent
locations is so that they can be controlled and
regularly inspected and are non-receptacles of casual
natives prevented from living there. (A notable
feature during the last two outbreaks of plague
here being that in cases where locations have been
isolated from constant intrusion by casual natives
and have been subjected to proper medical and in-
spective, practically no plague has occurred).

Plots for native locations for the Railway and
Public Works Department can be assigned to these
departments on application.

7. The Railway to construct separate locations for
...
...
...

sailors and firemen on the ships, their families to reside in the Landing, and so not be subjected to the danger of contact with other natives in the area.

8. The Railway to properly fence in all the existing Landings so as to prevent the constant entrance of beasts into the Landings.

9. The Public Works Department to have proper and decent quarters erected for their carpenters, masons &c., the same to be outside the bazaar area. (some of their men at present live in the bazaar).

10. Post Office and Medical Departments to have proper quarters built for their messengers, messengers, Hospital Assistants, dressers, &c. At present several of these find accommodation in the bazaar, or anywhere else that is available.

11. Customs department to have quarters built for their askari and boatmen who at present reside anywhere.

12. Unemployed natives (not including those bringing in trade) to be kept out of the Township area. (this is being done).

13. Natives other than those in locations 10, to be discouraged from building villages in the Township area.

14. The Boudanza villagers south of the Barnabip to remain where they are and to be considered as a Boudanza location.

15. The Township area to be generally defined, and to be properly defined by marks. (a surveyor will be necessary to undertake the definition of limits. The Administration will erect cairns and posts to mark the area).

16. All available areas not considered suitable for building

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Buildings or locations to be leased out for cultivation.

(this can be done in conjunction with the survey work)

17. The Police Department to arrange for a compound for the wives, women and children of the men.

generally the foregoing will mean

- (1) The concentration of the petty alien traders outside the actual Township area.
- (2) The concentration and better control of all labour employed in the area.
- (3) A more compact and better defined area as a Township.
- (4) Should disease break out in the area we shall be better able to confine and control it while minimizing the risk of spread of infection, and the minimizing of danger of infection spreading to the ships or railway.

I would respectfully ask that this matter be given immediate attention as all matters are urgent.

I anticipate that in the case of some of the native villages etc. will require to pay compensation, but at the outside I estimate such compensation will not exceed £ 500.

I leave the honours to be.

Your Honour's

Very truly

Yours

Very truly

38708

03 OCT 08

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INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 483 of Sept. 26 1908

MEMORANDUM.

The general scheme as suggested by the Provincial Commissioner is in my opinion sound and practicable.

The removal of all petty traders would probably ultimately solve the problem of the Indian Bazaar because, with the exception of 2 or 3 Indian and Chinese shopkeepers, all the traders are small men and their business is entirely with the native. The position of old Kisumu is much more favourable to native trade than the present township, nearly all the native market produce passes through it, and for these reasons I think the small traders will only be anxious to establish themselves at old Kisumu.

The scheme involves the establishment of another bazaar and there will be two bazaars to deal with instead of one. This, however, would not be a serious drawback if we avoid the mistakes made at the inception of the present bazaar, give good sized plots and make it a sine qua non that the buildings are properly constructed. But these petty traders have all been hard hit during the past two years and are extremely poor, they have not the means of erecting the kind of building which would be passed as satisfactory. For this reason I would strongly advocate their tenancy at old Kisumu being of the most temporary kind to begin with, say monthly only, and defer granting leases till their circumstances improve and they are in a position to build specified requirements

Konzi Lane, the area referred to in the Provincial Commissioner's

Comptroller's letter, item 4, should be pulled down, but after the [unclear] of the present [unclear] there may be some difficulty in getting others and the [unclear] if [unclear] [unclear] may be removed by the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] of [unclear].

Native Market. - [unclear] It would probably assist in clearing natives who [unclear] to deal at [unclear] of the area if an early closing hour were fixed, say 4 P.M.

Labour Locations. These are very desirable and would have the effect of going away to a certain extent with the villages which surround the township and are at present a source of danger to the public health. They would be under control and in the event of an outbreak of epidemic disease could be easily isolated.

Quarters should be provided for all the employees of the different Government Depts. At present artisans, clerks, [unclear], etc. live scattered about the bazaar and villages and are constantly moving from one place to another thus being liable to infection.

In addition to fencing, strict supervision would be necessary to prevent [unclear] persons living in the [unclear] and [unclear].

The taxabits [unclear] is certainly too large at present and could with advantage be reduced to about half its size.

On the whole the scheme would render efficient supervision easier and reduce the risk of spreading infection. It would be possible to confine infection to an area and so obviate the necessity of stopping trade throughout the whole township on the outbreak of infectious diseases such as plague.

Sd/- J. WILL.

Principal Medical Officer.

1908.

DRAFT

EARL NO 535

gov
Sadler

28 Oct '08

MINUTE. 23/10

- Mr. Noall 26/10
- Mr. Ellis
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Antrobia
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- The Earl of Crowe

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 427 of the 25th of Sept. & to inform you that I approve the expenditure of the sum of £2000 from the Vote for Expenditure on the improvement of the sanitation of Kenilworth with a view to the eradication of the