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Arms Traffic in Abyssinia

Sends deep to Adm. Rhabe concerning
report by the Zaphars on the traffic in
arms in Abyssinia and Ogaden

Mr. Fisher
Send date of report
Put by?

H. J. R.
Jr.

Mr. P. Hayward

For by
J. G.

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For by

545

Oct 1910

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the regard of the indigenous Moslem and Indian populations of the coast whose claims naturally require first consideration.

13. Finally, with regard to paragraph 23, Mr. Harcourt is informed that Indians suffering terms of imprisonment have received exactly the same consideration as the natives of the country, whether Christian, Moslem, or pagan. Sir P. Girouard has stated that during his frequent visits to the Prisons he has not on any occasion been approached by any prisoners because there has been a want of consideration of their scruples on the part of the prison officials. He has also stated that the Government of the Protectorate know nothing of the reply which is alleged to have been given by the authorities to the effect that Indians lost their religion on leaving their native land.

I am, etc.,

ports has made the issue of bedding a difficult matter of adjustment with the medical authorities.

11. With regard to paragraph 21 Mr. Harcourt can hold out no hope of any alteration of the existing system of jury panels in British East Africa but the Governor has been directed to enquire into the matter personally, with a view to ascertaining whether, as in the case of native law and custom, it would not be desirable to have for Mahomedan Law Indian assessors when such cases are being considered.

12. With regard to paragraph 22 Mr. Harcourt does not think that the time has arrived for any change in the present system of appointing Justices of the Peace. (but he has directed the Governor to ascertain the requirements in

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section of the town remaining immune. Generally speaking, no restriction whatever has been placed upon Indians of good standing acquiring business sites in Haiproo, but both the lower class Indians and the African natives have been allotted specific quarters for residence and small trading. The medical authorities are of opinion that this measure is essential in the case of the native population and are even more insistent upon its application to the lower class Indians whom they consider to be less careful in observing sanitary precautions or obeying municipal regulations than is the case with the native population.

10. With regard to paragraph 20, Mr. Harcourt understands that it is inaccurate to state that the Protectorate steamers plying upon Lake Victoria Nyanza are

Mr. Harcourt assumes that the reference is to the restriction of Immigration Ordinance of 1908 which is at present in force. By this Ordinance any person without visible means of support, or any person who is likely to become a pauper or a public charge is prohibited from landing without making a deposit. The European has to deposit Rs. 750 (since altered to Rs. 500) a native of Asia or Africa Rs. 50. The object of this deposit is to provide for the repatriation of an individual, should he fail to obtain employment. The Ordinance further prohibits unconditionally the landing of certain persons suffering from such disabilities as idiocy, insanity, leprosy or dangerous contagious disease, etc. There is, however, no discrimination as to race, and your Committee would

appear

appear to be under a misapprehension as to the facts of the case.

8. It is understood that paragraph 18 is based upon a statement of Mr. Jeevanjee, the Indian member of the Legislative Council. It would appear from this statement that no Indian could sell any produce in the Nairobi market without the authority of a European. The facts are as follows:- Ten years ago Mr. Jeevanjee was granted the right to construct a market in Nairobi and it is called to this day the Jeevanjee market. European residents have from time to time raised objections to buying vegetables, milk and dairy produce, from this market as the irrigation is largely carried out by means of water condemned for human use and there is, therefore, a danger of contamination. Their objections are

well

Mr. Harcourt assumes that the reference is to the restriction of Immigration Ordinance of 1906 which is at present in force. By this Ordinance any person without visible means of support or any person who is likely to become a pauper or a public charge is prohibited from landing without making a deposit. The European has to deposit Rs. 750 (since altered to Rs. 570) a native of Asia or Africa Rs. 50. The object of this deposit is to provide for the repatriation of an individual, should he fail to obtain employment. The Ordinance further prohibits unconditionally the landing of certain persons suffering from such disabilities as idiocy, insanity, leprosy or dangerous contagious disease, etc., There is, however, no discrimination as to race, and your Committee would

appear to be under a misapprehension as to the facts of the case.

8. It is understood that paragraph 16 is based upon a statement of Mr. Jeevanjee, the Indian member of the Legislative Council. It would appear from this statement that no Indian could sell any produce in the Nairobi market without the authority of a European. The facts are as follows:- Ten years ago Mr. Jeevanjee was granted the right to construct a market in Nairobi and it is called to this day the Jeevanjee market. European residents have from time to time raised objections to buying vegetables, milk and dairy produce, from this market as the irrigation is largely carried out by means of water condemned for human use and there is, therefore, a danger of contamination. Their objections are

of discussing the matter personally with Sir Percy Girouard, the Governor of the Protectorate, and desires to offer the following comments on the points which appear to him to require notice.

2. With reference to the 4th and 10th paragraphs of your letter there is at present no lack of indigenous labour for the development of public works and the same may be said with regard to private enterprise. Hence there would appear to be no reason for considering the status which might be occupied by indentured labour from India.

3. With regard to the extract from Lord Elgin's despatch quoted in the 7th paragraph of your letter, Mr. Harcourt shares the views of his predecessors as to the desirability of providing for the white population - subject to the protection and requirements of

the indigenous native population - the comparatively small area in the Protectorate which is suitable for European residence and effort, and he is unable to modify the decision which has been arrived at in the matter.

4. Mr. Harcourt cannot accept without qualification the statement made in the 11th paragraph of your letter that East Africa is not nor ever will be a white man's country, and he is not aware that any onerous or odious restrictions have been imposed upon the Indians in the Protectorate.

5. Mr. Harcourt is also unable to accept the statement made in the 12th paragraph of your letter that very few of the European settlers have developed their farms to any degree or that there

on the part of Indian passengers, arrangements have lately been made to provide them with bedding. The continued presence of plague amongst the Indian population at some of the lake ports has also made the issue of bedding a difficult matter of adjustment with the medical authorities.

(21) Although Mr Harcourt can hold out no hope of any alteration of the existing system of jury panels in British East Africa the Governor has been directed to personally enquire into the matter with a view to ascertaining whether, as in the case of native law and custom, it would not be desirable to have for Mohammedan law Indian assessors when such cases are being considered. It is to be remarked that the large indigenous Moslem population has not hitherto been approached by the administration with a view to the establishment of a jury system which, it is understood, is non-existent in India and not entirely in accordance with Moslem law.

(22) With regard to the question of Justice

of the Peace the Secretary of State doubts whether the time has arrived for any change in the present system, but he has directed the Governor to ascertain the requirements in this regard of the indigenous Moslem and Indian populations of the coast whose claims naturally require first consideration.

(23) Mr Harcourt is informed that Indians suffering terms of imprisonment have received exactly the same consideration as the natives of the country, whether Christian, Moslem or pagan. Sir P. Girouard states that during his frequent visits to the prisons he has not on any occasion been approached by any prisoners because there has been a want of consideration of their scruples on the part of the prison officials. He also states that the Government of the Protectorate know nothing of the reply which is alleged to have been given by the authorities

RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

highlands and its suppression involved the Government in an expenditure of ^{less than} more than £20,000. Its introduction was entirely attributed by the medical staff to the Indian population to whom it was mainly confined, the European section of the town remaining free. Generally speaking, no restriction whatever has been placed upon Indians of good standing and habits acquiring business sites in

Mombasa but both the lower class Indian and the African natives have been allotted specific quarters for residence and small trading. The medical authorities are of opinion that this measure is essential in the case of the native population and are even more insistent upon its application to the lower class Indians, whom they consider to be far less careful in observing sanitary precautions which are municipal regulations than is the case with the indigenous population.

(20). It is important to state that the Protectorate

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Protectorate steamers plying upon Lake Victoria Nyanza are in charge of Indians. The whole of the navigating and controlling staff is European, the crew native and a few clerks—mainly German Christians—Indians. With respect to the trade Harcourt is informed that it is erroneous to state that it is the trade of the Indian merchants which makes the continuance of this service economically possible. At least one-third of the trade emanates from German East Africa where it is understood that severe restrictions are imposed upon Indian trading. In the past it has been found that the issue of bedding to Indians has been attended with certain disadvantages as many of these passengers cook and prepare their food upon their berths and cannot be induced to change these habits. Notwithstanding this very inconvenient habit

(18) It is understood that this paragraph is based upon a statement of Mr Jeevanjee, the Indian member of the Legislative Council of the Provinces. It would appear from this statement that no Indian could sell any produce in the Nairobi market without the authority of a European. The facts are as follows: Ten years ago Mr Jeevanjee was granted the right to construct a market in Nairobi and it is called the Jeevanjee market (photo attached). It was the monopoly of Mr Jeevanjee and it is understood that he has made handsome profits from it. European residents have from time to time raised objections to buying vegetables, milk and dairy produce from this market as the irrigation is carried out by means of water condensed for human use there is therefore a danger of contamination. Their objections were well founded and touched for by the medical staff. In 1910 some European farmers in the district

opened

opened a small produce market in Nairobi for the sale of produce to Europeans only (photo attached). It is to this market that objection has been taken but the fact has been suppressed that the bulk of the produce sold in Nairobi is in the hands of Mr Jeevanjee and his countrymen in the Indian market. It is also to be noted that another exclusive market exists in Nairobi - the Native market - to which no objection has been taken. The Committee will, therefore, recognise that it is erroneous to state that Indians are dependent upon the good offices of white men before they can enter the market.

(19) Objection is taken to discrimination with regard to the sale of business sites. Three years ago an outbreak of plague occurred in Nairobi - the first which was witnessed in the

highlands

interests of the four to five million native inhabitants of British East Africa and the four millions inhabiting Uganda whose material progress and civilization are now being mainly effected by the efforts of the European administrative staff aided by a large number of Mission bodies. The interests of these native populations cannot but be the primary care of the Government of the country, and Mr.

Harcourt has learnt with regret that the various missionary bodies are strongly of opinion that the contact of the natives with the unfortunately low caste of Indians entering the country has hindered their advancement towards civilization.

(17) This paragraph and the succeeding ones enter upon details of the disabilities which are alleged to have been imposed upon the Indian community. It is stated that the Emigration Act originally passed with a view to preventing the landing of Europeans with

inadequate

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inadequate funds is now being applied to Indians. Mr. Harcourt assumes that the reference is to the Restriction of Immigration Ordinance of 1907 which is at present in force. By this Ordinance any person without sufficient means of support or any person who is likely to become a pauper or a public charge is prohibited from landing without making a deposit. The European has to deposit Rs. 700 (since altered to Rs. 750), a native of Asia or Africa Rs. 50. The object of this deposit is to provide for the repatriation of an individual should he fail to obtain employment. The Ordinance further prohibits unconditionally the landing of certain persons suffering from such disabilities as idiocy, insanity, leathsome or dangerous contagious disease, &c. There is, however, no discrimination as to race, and your Committee would appear to be under a misapprehension as to the facts of the case.

that India could supply thousands of the most industrious agricultural labourers in the world &c, Mr. Harcourt is informed that, although this gentleman is said to possess many farms and has obtained many contracts, he had taken no steps since the date of the completion of the Uganda Railway to introduce Indian labour but has been content to accept the assistance of the indigenous population. Mr. Harcourt cannot accept the statement that very few of the European settlers have developed their farms in any degree or that there are restrictions on Indian settlement which, if abolished, would change the whole aspect of the Protectorate and a few years from quiescence and stagnation to prosperity and importance. In so far as agricultural development available to Indians is concerned and the Indian member of the Legislative Council has himself admitted that the highlands are unsuitable for agricultural development by Indians - no restriction

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restriction whatever has been placed upon the Indians, who have had ample opportunity upon the coast and in the coastal provinces but appear to have accomplished little or nothing. In so far as legitimate trading is concerned, Mr. Harcourt understands that there are no orders in the whole Protectorate where European trading is permitted and Indian trading restricted, equal rights given to traders of all nationalities.

(13) While admitting that the economic advancement of the Protectorate will in a measure depend upon Indian labour and enterprise Mr. Harcourt sees no ground for doubting that it will depend in a far greater measure on British enterprise and capital aided by native indigenous labour. Throughout the memorial of your Committee Mr. Harcourt notes the complete absence of any reference to the interests

hemp, coffee and many other products, have been mainly carried out by the European population. The experimental condition is now believed to be a thing of the past and it is confidently expected that very material progress will be witnessed within the next few years. - On the other hand the Indian population has had ample opportunity of acquiring lands for tropical agriculture on the coast but appears to have accomplished very little in the way of agricultural development during the last 200 years, although it is understood that during the period of the last 5 years European planters, with the assistance of African labourers who are now readily obtainable from the highlands, have definitely proved the value of such products as, for example, coffee in the coast belt. That Europeans can live comfortably in the highlands is attested by the considerable number of Europeans and their children

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born living in these districts and the very low death rate attended by such a circumstance.

(10) As the indigenous population is at present providing all the labour required by the Protectorate, the question of indentured immigration does not appear to need immediate consideration.

(11) The last ten years of the history of the highlands can scarcely be described as a period of "booming" but rather as one of experiment carried out under circumstances of exceptional difficulty. Mr. Harcourt cannot accept, without qualification the statement that East Africa is not nor ever will be a white man's country, and he is not aware that any onerous or odious restrictions have been imposed upon the Indians in the Protectorate.

(12) With regard to the statement of the Indian member of the Legislative Council that

indentured labour from India - at least for the present.

(7) With regard to the extent of the area free Lord Elgin's despatch, Mr. Harcourt shares the views of his predecessors as to the desirability of preserving for the white population subject to the protection and requirements of the independent native population a comparatively small area in the Highlands which is suitable for the present residence and efforts. All the more so as it is understood that these areas are the only ones suited to the Indian population. This view has been expressed by a member of the Legislative Council, Protectorate of the Highlands.

(8) No claim has been made to the effect of the Highlands for the purpose of European settlement, and it is to be remarked that various native populations estimated variously at over 1,000,000 are in occupation of

of large tracts of the Highlands. The soil is certainly fertile, but it appears to be mainly suited to the products which an ordinary English agriculturist would cultivate in Europe or the South African Colonies. On the other hand both on the coast and in the basin of the Western Lake ~~there is a list of areas~~ more suited to development by means of a more advanced form of agriculture *(British native rights are respected)* and in these areas no restriction has been placed on the cultivation of land by any section of the population. It must be remembered that the Highland farmers were much hampered by the question of development of land questions and the experimental condition of agriculture. *(State of land)* ~~it may be said~~ that a period of 5 years has elapsed since farmers were in a position to forecast the real future of agriculture in the Highlands, and that the valuable experiments which have proved the suitability of wool, ostrichs, sheep, cattle, wheat, oats,

The reason for this is to be found in the fact that the first 300 miles of that Railway passed through country almost devoid of native population and at a time when Great Britain was not in a position to influence the indigenous inhabitants or even to administer them. This position has now completely altered as, with the extension of British administration over the Protectorate, the large native population has gradually become available for labour and there is practically no difficulty at the present time in obtaining British-made articles and native labourers for the railway work on the Uganda Railway of the country.

DRAFT.

Railway are filled entirely by Europeans, but it is correct to state that a large number of Indians are employed as porters, mechanics, guards, platelayers, etc. The large proportion of the educated Indians are not British Indians but Goanese Catholics. The ordinary manual labour employed upon the line is now almost exclusively African. Although, in the past, the presence of the Indian trader has undoubtedly had a great influence upon the cost of living, Mr. Harcourt is informed that this factor is not of such importance to-day.

(4) It has been stated with reference to paragraph (2) that at present there is no lack of indigenous labour for the development of public works and the same may be said with regard to private enterprises. Hence there would appear to be no reason for considering the status which might be occupied by indenter-

in your letter paragraph by paragraph, I
do not point out that the Administration of
the Protectorate has under its care not only
Indians of the Moslem faith but also
a much larger indigenous population which
professes the same religion, and to assure
you that in the former as in the latter case
it will act with the same impartiality
and toleration which have characterized
British Administration in other possessions
of the Crown.

(2) The value of Indian merchants and
traders in the Protectorate is ~~highly~~ re-
cognised and this influence is correctly
attributed to as early a date as the 15th cen-
tury. It is understood that the Indian
community, ~~which~~ from that date until
the importation of large numbers for the
construction of the Uganda Railway, formed
an entirely different community from that
which is to be seen to-day. These ear-
ly merchants have in many cases entirely
lost

lost the use of the Indian language and con-
fine themselves almost exclusively to trading
operations on the Coast. With the construc-
tion of the Railway a large number of
estimated at perhaps 60,000 - of Indians of
an official ^{class} ~~rank~~ entered the
Protectorate, many of whom remained in it and
formed the bulk of the small trading class
which acts as intermediary between the larger
European firms and the native populations.
It is understood that the financial operations
of these small traders are largely dependent
upon the credit which they obtain from the
European merchants. The part which Indian
soldiers played in the pacification of the
Protectorate is ^{also} fairly recognised, but it is to
be remembered that these Forces and ~~also~~ the
more numerous native African troops were in-
variably led by British officers. It is
correct to say that the Uganda Railway was
largely constructed by Indian labourers.

J.O. SAC
38069/0

DOWNING STREET,

January, 1914.

DRAFT

THE HONORARY SECRETARY

TO THE LONDON ALL-INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 26th of October last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to inform you that he has now received a report from the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate upon your letter of the 13th of that month, in which it is alleged that certain disabilities have been imposed of late upon Indians in British East Africa. Mr. Harcourt has also had the advantage of discussing the matter personally with Sir Percy Girouard, the Governor of the Protectorate, who is at present in this country.

H. J. R. 4
Index 4
Collected
to Harcourt
[Signature]

(1) Dealing with the points raised in

be prepared with his
landscape engraver
to send to the
London all. pub.

London League a
copy to their
committee of the

13. 1. 1841.

2. I am to take

the opportunity of

including in and

inserting in the

following copies of

papers relating to

the same subject

G.O. E.A.P.
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The United States

has

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1. Read in

With ref to your

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776/11



Sir Theodor Lewson and, probably, Mirza Ali Abbas
and the Secretary and Assistant-Secretary of the
Judicial and Public Department (Sir Herbert Rusley and
Mr. Eaton).

With the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. T. S.

38059 473

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject the under-mentioned date and number may be quoted, and the reply addressed to
The Under Secretary of State for India
India Office
Whitehall

India Office

13 Dec 10

Whitehall, S.W.

J. & P. 3623

13th

December 1910

Sir,

In continuation of Mr. W. ... of the 24th ultimo on the position of British Indian subjects in the East Africa Protectorate, I am directed by the Earl of Cromer to suggest for the consideration of Mr. Secretary Harcourt that, if he sees no objection, advantage might be taken of the presence of Sir Percy Girouard in England to arrange an inter-departmental conference on the subject at which the Governor might be invited to meet representatives of the Colonial and India Offices.

If Mr. Harcourt agrees, Lord Cromer would nominate as representatives of this Office three Members of the Council of India (Sir James Digges La Touche,

Sir

The Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office

