

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.  
No. 34853

34853  
Per  
Recd 30 SEP 05

Governor. No.  
Jackson 488

(Subject.)

1905

Information for Settlers.

6 Sept.

Last previous Paper.

In report by Mr. Burton in reply  
to questions raised by the agents of the

26029

(Minutes.)

Copy of despatch to the S.S.O.  
with refs to 26029

at ...  
H. J. R.

3/10

Copy to P. S. 5 Oct 17

Next subsequent Paper

29998

Commissioner's Office

Mombasa

September 6th 1902

34853

INDIA OFFICE, PROTECTORATE.

No. 488

In obedience to instructions contained in your despatch  
 No. 322 of July 26th, I have the honour to transmit herewith  
 a report by Mr. Tinton answering the questions raised in the  
 letter from the Emigrants' Information Office enclosed in  
 the despatch under ref.

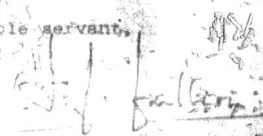
RECEIVED  
by Mr. Tinton.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,



(In the absence of H.M. Commissioner)

H. G. Official Secretary of State

for the Colonies.

Downing Street.

LONDON.

## R E P O R T.

The criticism of the Chairman Emigrants' Information Office is to a certain extent fair but the following facts must be clearly borne in mind:-

(1) We have Settlers who with less than £ 500 are doing quite well, I call this sum however a poor minimum. Sir Charles Elliot thought £ 300 sufficient.

(2) The country is for some things still in the experimental stage but:

(a) Maize, Beans, Potatoes and Oats are profitable crops.

(b) Dairying has been and is very profitable.

(c) Stock rearing is profitable.

(3) On the other hand:

(a) Some Settlers with £ 300 have failed to make any progress.

(b) Some Settlers have suffered from disease in their stock.

(c) Settlers are apt to try all manner of crops which are sure to fail.

(4) Labour:

(a) Labour is unsatisfactory generally but this is partly due to Settlers not having any farming experience and not using implements. At the Farm at Nairobi this year we have always had as much labour as we desired. There is no doubt that labour is becoming better and more men are offering their services. The Local papers have discussed this question and opinion seems to be divided; ill treatment is supposed to be the cause of many Settlers not obtaining labour.

(b) Africa No.2 page 3. "The labour difficulty..... country" This obviously refers only to the Coast. If the whole of this report is read there can be no doubt on this

point. The Coast Native "Wanyika", "Fasong", "Habjoni" do not usually work. In Settlers Prospects I therefore said that for the Coast a capital of £ 750 was necessary. As a matter of fact using only native labour the area of cotton, first year of cultivation, on the Coast is about 300 acres. Now cotton is not a Planter's system of Agriculture, the European must use implements. The labour difficulties would then be much less and the "Wanyika" etc. would do the light harvesting work.

With regard to labour the fact is that the troubles arise to a great extent from the Settlers not using Agricultural methods. I do not see how a farmer with 120 acres of potatoes can expect to rely solely on hand labour. Such a system is not agriculture.

(e) I have said enough to show that the subject of labour is almost inexpressible in definite terms, in fact there is and there is not, a scarcity of labour. The supply of labour depends on the individual temperament of the person requiring labour, on the part of the country where settled, on the reasonable or unreasonable demands made on hand labour by purely manual labour employing farmers, on the action of the Government. Last year the Government sent labourers to Zanzibar, the Boundary Commission had large number of labourers. In this way over 1000 of the best labourers in East Africa were taken from Agriculture. Much could be done by simple regulations to remove the labour difficulty, for example:-

1. there is no need to send men to Zanzibar.
2. What every Agriculturist complains of is this: The Government and Sportsmen withdraw the farm skilled labour by offering higher wages, rice, food etc.

With proper management I do not really believe that there is permanent labour difficulty. The Wanyika tribe

could supply probably 50,000 labourers and this tribe is now taking to labour in ever increasing numbers. The Wanyika could probably supply half of this number but they will not do, and are not suitable for doing, the work of a plough.

(5) The cost of transport is being reduced and roads are being extended. These changes can of course only take place as the number of Settlers increase. The farms in Nairobi district transported potatoes ten miles by porters now carts are generally used. Railway fares are reduced and there is every probability of shipping being made more reasonable.

(6) Locusts have so far done no damage, they have confined their attention to the more barren districts of the Protectorate, they were therefore quite overlooked in Settlers Prospects. Of course a leaflet on locusts and a general description of a country that give very different values to the subject of locusts. After reading the Board of Agricultural leaflet on Sesh one might arrive at the conclusion that England was no place for raising sheep yet in a general Agricultural book Sesh might be omitted.

Now we know more about locusts and many other things than we did when Settlers Prospects was written, but this remark will apply to every pamphlet that is ever written, time will always show where changes have to be made. A new Settlers Prospects would contain mention of locusts.

(7) "The Rainfall at Naivasha made the crops a total failure." Naivasha is not an Agricultural District it is purely grazing and nothing was expected of the crops but it was necessary that the Government farm should prove the failure of crops. In Settlers Prospects there is no word to lead any one to suppose that this district is recommended as a cropping area. The same reasons which make it unsuitable for cultivation recommend it as a wool-producing

-producing district.

(8) "Disease has played havoc all round", this refers only to the Government farm and the reasons for the disease are not inherent properties of the district. The diseases resulted from causes which I think could easily have been avoided had we known the country, and Settlers profiting by our experience need not have the same disasters. For example, scab was introduced from South Africa; it has been eradicated and is not a disease of the country. Heartwater was certainly the result of bringing sheep from the Lake District and is not a disease of the Highlands where stock rearing is recommended. The lake district (Page 6 Settlers' Prospects) is not given a great character for stock rearing. Yet, note, that Lake cattle and sheep left in their own district do not usually die in any great numbers.

Hence I say that "Future settlers can expect to go straight ahead--," always supposing of course that they will be advised, that they will grow the crops which are profitable viz: beans, maize, potatoes, oats, action that they will take advice about buying stock.

(9) It was pointed out that wheat had not done well and it is not one of the crops which can be sown by new Settlers; for one reason unless with the help of machinery thrashing is almost impossible. In America the average yield of wheat was in 1901 15.0 bushels in 1902 14.5 bushels in 1903 12.9 bushels.

I have, in the foregoing, tried to show that in compiling Settlers Prospects the attempt was made only to give a serious and fair view of the country. If I have failed to give a fair view it is because of the difficulty of dealing generally with an extremely varied subject. I quite see that there may be people who do not know Africa and that therefore there should have been a short

introduction dealing with the peculiarities or eccentricities of Africa. In Africa the best man may sink the worst rise to the surface, the rich man to-day the poor man to-morrow. At the same time it must be remembered that the Highlands of British East Africa are distinctly non-African.

The Settlers Prospects printed are practically exhausted; the idea being to make this, at least for some years, an annual publication modified and improved with increasing knowledge. I would therefore suggest that if the Chairman of Emigration Committee will revise the publication to be made at the end of this year that the manuscript should be sent home for printing. Any matter published in a Colony must necessarily be influenced by the surroundings in which it is composed. For example, we see a certain percentage of our Settlers doing well on £ 300 and this probably weighs far more in our estimation than it should do. On the other hand seeing men fail to do any good who started with £ 500, in our small world, may receive undue attention.

(Sd.) Andrew Linton.