

EAST AFR. PROT.

C O  
17435N<sup>o</sup> 14435

No. 750

1907

Apr 22

of previous Paper.

Famine in Kisumu

- no more news than was anticipated & action of nearly every district are suffering from scarcity of food. The report by Mr. Holley & report on the relief measures.

(Minutes.)

Mr. P. G. S.

As Mr. Holley says in the last part of his report (p. 7), unless proper measures of relief are organized at once, a famine will set in & the natural fertility of the African in face of unavoidable misfortune greatly increase the chances of <sup>infants</sup> famine.

It is to be noted that the Government has been in the habit of sending through the various <sup>provinces</sup> ~~provinces~~ have already been of assistance.

It is to be noted that the Government has been in the habit of sending through the various <sup>provinces</sup> ~~provinces~~ have already been of assistance.

The statement of Mr. Holley's report, that the matter was first officially brought to the notice of the Administration by a meeting held at the Sub-Commissioner's Office Kisumu March 30:-

The indications of the possibility of the scarcity, which at that time had become an actual fact, should have been noted by the various district officers & reported to the

Subsequent Paper.

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taxes

1876  
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taxes  
The famine actually prevailing was not  
officially reported to the Admin. until  
the meeting at Kharwar on 2nd 30  
1876 - see Hodge's report

1876

Govt for famine

at once.

H. J. R.

1876/5

C. O.  
17435  
REC'D 16 MAY 07

Commissioner's Office,  
Nairobi,

April 22nd 1907

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 150

(Incl. 1)

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication, with reference to my telegrams of 15th and 17th instant, that the famine in the Mombasa Province appears to be more serious than was at first anticipated, and the natives of nearly every district are suffering from the scarcity of food caused by the prolonged drought. As soon as I learnt the real state of affairs I despatched Messrs. Hobley and Ruge to inquire into matters, and I enclose herewith a copy of the report which the former has submitted.

In order to obtain sufficient food for the natives over the next few months until they can reap the grain which will be distributed and planted during the

H. J. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

LONDON, S.W.

during rainy season, various firms have undertaken to supply as much as may be required. The outlay will be to a large extent recoverable from the public works, mainly from the railway, and from the other works already estimated for in the current year's budget. Relief is now being given to many hundreds of Kavirondo and other tribes, and in order to assist the Collector in supervising the distribution of food, I have sanctioned the temporary engagement of the staff recommended by Mr. Hebley.

It is unfortunate that owing to the fear of spreading the sleeping sickness to other parts of the Protectorate the natives of Kisumu are not permitted to go to districts where fly is prevalent. It is consequently not possible

to employ Kavirondo in such districts as Tetta, Kibera, and

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,



Acting Commissioner.

In Despatch No. 159 of *apl.* 22, 1907

O. O.  
17435  
Recd  
16 MAY 07

REPORT ON HAWTHEROPE FAMINE

The matter was first officially brought to the notice of the Government by the Hon. Mr. ... of the ... Province, through the ... Districts, representatives of the Railway, Police, Public Works and Medical Departments ... also representatives of the local community and the ... consisted of the ... of most careful consideration.

The ... of their ... and ... Districts ... the ... was ... fortnight ... the ... districts, the reports ... also the ... and

... assistance for the families of those who had contributed to the Protectorate revenue. It was recommended that food be ... as quickly as possible

... assistance for the families of those who had contributed to the Protectorate revenue. It was recommended that food be ... as quickly as possible possible

possible and the relief works should be started

Upon receipt of the proceedings of this meeting His Excellency Acting Commissioner sent Mr. Bagge and myself to Kisumu to

... the following board was formed to ... examine the various tribal representatives ... Mr. Noble, Acting Deputy Commissioner ... Mr. Bagge, Sub-Commissioner ... Mr. Date, Acting Sub-Commissioner Kisumu Province ... Mr. Stone, Collector Kisumu ... Mr. Partington, Collector Mandi.

- Mr. Noble, Acting Deputy Commissioner
- Mr. Bagge, Sub-Commissioner
- Mr. Date, Acting Sub-Commissioner Kisumu Province
- Mr. Stone, Collector Kisumu
- Mr. Partington, Collector Mandi

The abstract result of the enquiries from the Chiefs is as follows:-

... at Kisumu they had 3 bad seasons ... the people have no food ... will recover ... they have never seen ... the people volunteered ...

... the Kitano of Kani Plains the crops have nearly all failed but if the rains fall properly a small portion of the Kitano crop will recover but it will be two months before this surviving portion is fit for food, they have sold



sold very large numbers of sheep and cattle  
 to the Kikui for food but the Kikui  
 they now must leave their markets as they have  
 very little food left. Food many people have  
 but they are unable to buy it and  
 scarcity is such that the people have sold all  
 their rumpes and have no food in their  
 granaries, they are selling goats and bullocks  
 to the Kikui who have a little spare food  
 but they only get 40 lbs. of grain for an  
 adult bullock, they are willing to work for  
 posho but are left to leave their families  
 starving in the villages so it would be well  
 if they were employed on works as near to their  
 country as possible.

Around Kisumu, there is a great  
 scarcity and all the granaries are empty but  
 if the rains continue a certain percentage of  
 the crops will be saved, the distress is  
 however not so acute as elsewhere as the  
 Kisumu tribes owing to their proximity to the  
 sea can buy their food from the coast, they  
 have money to buy food.

In Mbaraki and the plateau North  
 of Kisumu great scarcity prevails, the crops  
 were half grown when they were destroyed by  
 severe frosts.

The greater portion of Uganda  
 district is practically foodless and is  
 subsisting on the sale of livestock to the  
 Kikui.

Almost simultaneously with our visit of enquiry to Kisumu the rains commenced in that area. On 11th April 1911.

... prepared maps and plans, also for the benefit of the people.

... the state of the country, the fact which set at naught the 17th and 18th of the month.

... recommendations in respect of the ... of the ... a small

... of the ... could be expected ... activity and that only after 2 to 3

... The Board strongly recommended that a ... of ... be sold

... natives who could afford to pay for it ... started to have

... could not afford to pay.

... (1) The ... and on ... the ...

... it would be ...

... from Bukedi and Muriak ...

... (2) The ... and various miscellaneous works for the improve-

ment of the health of Kisumu - the ...

... followed by such a marked effect in the health of Kisumu that its completion is

felt



felt to be most important.

(5) The extension of the road from Jaffna to Alway, besides to South Post, this road is very important, only because of the and its

the settlement of this was a great

The organization recommended as necessary to carry out the relief proposals consisted of one temporary European Officer and one clerk for each District (all locally employed) and one extra European and a couple of extra clerks at the headquarters of the Province to attend to the food distribution. In addition to this it was proposed to employ a few reliable native headmen, conversant with the local dialects to go out among the villages and collect the people.

The financial side of the question was arranged as follows:-

All grain etc. sold was to be credited to the Savings Fund, the average net cost of the grain was to be paid out of the Savings Fund, a small percentage was to be set aside for administrative expenses, the cost of transport of grain, etc. was to be paid out of the Savings Fund, the 1907-8 balance was to be carried forward to the Savings Fund, and the balance was to remain a debit against the Savings Fund.

It was also recommended that as the quality of the grain etc. grown by the natives of the Province is of poor quality and hardly pays for export that at the close of the

present crisis, fresh need of a number of  
be distributed as that intended for the  
staffs reported, on the same regime would  
for the same level, stage four, etc.

Under the present conditions, the  
recommendations were all made that  
the P.W. staff be temporarily increased to  
ensure adequate technical supervision on the  
ground, New Town, etc. also that as in the  
past experience has shown that small-pox is a  
disease which requires a period of isolation  
the medical authorities should temporarily increase  
their staff, have a large supply of lymph  
in readiness against a contingency.

These recommendations having received  
the approval of the Hon. Commissioner's  
support, arrangements were put in hand, orders  
were placed for considerable quantities of food  
stuffs the general aim being that all purchases  
as far as possible should be made within the  
territory.

Arrangements were also made for the  
to the affected area with a proper amount of  
camp equipment etc.

The Public Works staff in Alibon  
has been temporarily strengthened  
and arrangements made for an adequate supply  
of tools for the various works.

These arrangements have of necessity  
been undertaken upon the responsibility of the  
local Administration without lengthy consulta-  
tion with the Central Authority at the Colonial

Colonial Office for past experience in the  
 famine in Orange in 1893 clearly demonstrated  
 that unless adequate measures were quickly  
 organized to bring the Orange and the  
 Orange River basins under the control  
 of the British Government, the  
 Orange River basins would be  
 The Natives and the <sup>valuable</sup> people are  
 generally recognized as the <sup>valuable</sup> best assets  
 of the Protectorate possessed. — as these tribes  
 are the best sources of the country's labour  
 supply. The Natives had accordingly contributed  
 annually in the sum of £100,000 to the  
 Protectorate revenue and the Government  
 entitled to careful consideration of  
 economic and social conditions in  
 of the fact that the Government assumed responsibility  
 of the ~~Protectorate~~ Protectorate power  
 placed with their welfare and civilization.

Windsor, 19th April 1907.

Anthony

oal EAP  
17435

DRAFT

EAP n: 281  
Gov:

MINUTE

- Mr. Lobb 7/5
- Mr. Tread 18
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Linn.
- Sir F. Spaldwood.
- Mr. Churchill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

187

( $\frac{0.001}{12572}$ )

( $\frac{1.000}{12817}$ )

Docod 25562

20  
22

Sir Ind

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your copy of Jackson's report n: 116 of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March and n: 150 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April last, and to transmit to you, for your wife, with reference to my letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, the accompanying copy of your report with the truly relative to a handwritten report upon relief from the various necessary

CO 5717 18 April 22 (13625)

TO 281 17 (13559)

by

serious to cause  
 a considerable number  
 of deaths, ~~and~~ <sup>has been</sup> almost ~~been~~  
 felt in ~~the~~  
 districts ~~to~~  
~~by~~  
 the proposal to  
 expend £5,000 on  
 relief works, was  
 submitted to the Dep<sup>t</sup>  
 by the off<sup>r</sup> Comm<sup>r</sup> in his  
 teleg<sup>m</sup> 2-47.

7. It is ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~present~~  
 that the indications  
 pointing to the imminence  
 of famine in these  
~~unimpaired~~ ~~dist~~  
 will ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~notice~~ <sup>notice</sup> ~~of~~  
 the ~~off<sup>r</sup> Comm<sup>r</sup>~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~dist~~  
 affected, and I  
 shall be glad to  
 learn the reasons of  
 the fact stated - the  
 first para of the off<sup>r</sup>  
 Dep<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>r</sup> report, a  
 copy of which accompanied

New Jacksons Corp No 150 of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
last, viz - that the matter was  
first officially brought to the  
notice of the Admin<sup>n</sup> by a meeting  
held at the Sub-committee Office,  
Birmingham, on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

W. H. H.