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1907  
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(Subject)

Report on Lake Comoros

at present Paper  
7/15/07

Reports of the ... of ...  
to ... and to the ...  
with ...

(Illustrations)

Report

The ...  
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Consular Office  
No. 18 11 07



June 14th 1907.

WEST AFRICA PHOTOGRAPHIC,  
NO. 222

My Lord,

I have the honour to report the results of my inspection of the work proceeding on the concessions granted to Mr. Muehner and to the Afro American Company. Mr. Muehner who has 10 square miles of fibre land near Voi, commenced work on this area in October last. A clearing has been made, machinery has been erected, and 2 houses and also out-houses built. The engine is 10 horse power and works from an 11 inch, 200 lb. vertical steam boiler. There are about to be replaced by a 20 horse power engine and an American machine similar to the one used at the factory by the Afro American Company, which at last seems to have solved the difficulty of fibre extraction. 100 men were employed at this factory, the Europeans, who are chiefly

employed.

U.S. Principal Secretary of State  
For the Colonial  
Secretary

employed on the machinery being used was 10 per centum, without food, and the Kalaite was 6 with food. Sheds had been erected for the men, they were well cared for and I saw several natives waiting for the chance of being taken on in the evening. The concession abounds in coffee, chiefly the Sanseviera, Chrenberia and Cylindrica. Mr. Huetner's coffee plants had only the large leaves, leaving the central stem and smaller leaves round it. The plants in some, not destroyed. He contemplates clearing a large area for the cultivation of wheat. In the sheds there were some 12 bales of wool, neatly pressed for export.

2. When the New machinery arrives the weight should be one ton or more of wool for the strength of this and the American Company's opposite machines are 1200 lbs. with the fibre in bulk into the central factory.

On the 23rd of December I found considerable development since I last saw it a year or so. Several hundred seedling trees of the Cedra should have been planted and another 10,000 trees were ready for transplantation. The clearing was going on again, 100 men being employed daily on it. Mr. Huetner tells me that the Government has directed him to clear and plant out at the

rate of 80,000 trees per annum. The trees first planted out will be tapped this year, three years after sowing.

At the Afro American Company's possession the new machine, by Messrs. J. H. P. & Co. and Company, is answering well, giving a proportion of fibre to bulk of from 4 to 5 per cent, as compared with from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent from the old machine. 20 men are employed at this factory, and the output is now from 1 to 1 1/2 tons of clean fibre per day, valued in London at from 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 per ton, another set of the same kind had been ordered by the company and will be erected this year.

Above the estate there is a large rubber plantation of 10,000 trees, which is being expanded. The Messrs. P. & Co., the other companies have ordered new labour American machines, and the agents are sending out or waiting to fit them all up.

It is not possible to report that a fair start has been made with the fibre and rubber industries, the discovery of a satisfactory machine for fibre extraction, and the machine which has been obtained by the two companies is what I have referred

sugar well for early and rapid development in the heavy  
bearing areas.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

*Raymond*