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DESPATCH

EAST AFR PROT
No. 3241

CO
3241
REC'D
DEC 29 1905

File 680
1905
Dec 29

(Subject.)

Sanitary condition of Malindi

at present Paper.
24

2. memo by Director of Agriculture says - Conditions of life at Malindi have been considerably improved, but the country has acquired the reputation of being unhealthy.

(Minutes.)

Put by

at once

A. J. R.

29/11

1000

at present Paper.

3241
REC: 29 JAN 1906

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
Mombasa,

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 680.

December 24th 1905.

(Incls: 1.)

My Lord,

With reference to Mr Secretary Lyttelton's despatch No. 50, of the 9th ultimo enclosing recommendations made by Dr. Davidson for rendering more sanitary the house lately occupied by Mr. Peifers at Makindu, I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum on the subject by Mr Linton, Director of Agriculture, from which Your Lordship will observe that the conditions of life at Makindu have been considerably improved since Mr Peifer resides there, and that steps are being taken to improve them still further.

I would add however that Makindu in common with the surrounding country has acquired the reputation

Principal Secretary of State

of

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London.

of being distinctly unhealthy and I cannot altogether

endorse Mr Linton's remarks on this head.

I have the honour to be

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

Wm Pitt Rivers

COPY.

Nairobi, Recd

December 20th 1908

Dec 29 1908

H. M. Commissioner,

Observations on Dr. Davidson's recommendations with regard to Makindu farm house.

I am not at all sure that the present Makindu house is specially unhealthy - at least there is no definite proof that it is unhealthy and I think that the following points have not been brought to the notice of Dr. Davidson:

1. Mr. Peffers "roughed" the most deadly part of East Africa - the Tana River - for about a year.
2. Consequently even at Malvasha he developed fever.
3. In starting a new station the Superintendent has no comforts. Mr. Peffers lived in a corrugated iron shed in which the heat was often unbearable. Mr. Peffers could easily have thatched the roof and been more comfortable.
4. The bush has been cleared away from the neighbourhood of the house.
5. The river bed has been cleared and as the current is swift I do not see how the river can be a suitable place for mosquitoes breeding.
6. The house is mosquito proof.
7. I have frequently lived for three days at a time at the Makindu farm but I was never troubled by mosquitoes; no net was ever used and I did not contract fever.
8. Mr. Stevens, who relieved Mr. Peffers, has been at Makindu four months but has not had fever.
9. Mr. Stevens reports that during his four months management only one labourer has had fever.
10. I do not think that Mr. Peffers' labourers suffered altogether from fever. Of seven I personally saw examined only

only one had any fever. The fever among the labourers was only cured when I issued orders that when men were unable to work they were to get rations but no pay. Certainly some men I sent down from the high Kikuyu country suffered very severely at Makindu.

11. Mr. Paffers had fever very frequently but he took no care of himself and lived under the most trying conditions and considering the experience of others who have lived at Makindu I do not think that the evidence that the place is unhealthy is in the last conclusive.

12. The finished mosquito proof stone house was never occupied by Mr. Paffers; the river has been cleared and the bush cut down since Mr. Paffers left Makindu.

13. The country from Makindu to Voi is generally known to be unhealthy, so a certain amount of fever is always to be expected, but this country has not so far proved more unhealthy than the Coast. As all agriculture has to be done by irrigation it is of course quite impossible to move the house away from water.

14. For the last four months the labourers have been as little sick as would be expected here of this country with the same number of men, but we will continue to clear off the bush and improve the surroundings of the Makindu house.

15. If an outbreak of fever is reported I shall remove the native camp to a greater distance. Before doing so however I shall take the advice of the Principal Medical Officer.

Sd/- Andrew Linton.

Director of Agriculture.

The Director of Agriculture.

In Obedience,
J. B. ...
Department of Agriculture