

EAST AFR. PROT
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Belfield 305
1916
26 May
Last previous Paper.
B/14326

LABOUR FOR MAGIRINI SYNDICATE'S ESTATE

Tracopy of letter from Provincial Commnr
Mombasa to Acting District Commnr, Malindi on
subject.

Mr. Read.
Mr. Hobley is doing all that
can be expected to help this syndicate
? Put by W.S.
27.6.16

Put by

Mr. Steel - Mombasa
You may like to see
with refer to you to Mr. J. Bith
B/14326

H. J. R.
27/6/16

Attn. A.S.M. 27.6

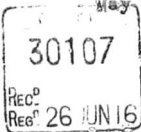
Next subsequent Paper

Done

WEST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.
No. 305.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

May 26th, 1916.



Sir,

B
14006

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 246 of the 31st of March regarding the supply of labour for the Magarini Syndicate's estate and to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed by the Provincial Commissioner, Mombasa, to the Acting District Commissioner, Malindi, on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Connaught

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Provincial Commissioner's Office,

Bombay,

Mar 20th, 1916.

334

30107

Magarini Plantations
Labour Supply.

Sir,

I beg to forward for your information copies of certain correspondence re the Magarini Plantations and the labour supply.

You will note that a new manager, Mr. Ritchie, has been appointed and will doubtless arrive ere long.

He will possibly come to see me here and if so I shall explain the position to him fully. In any case he will certainly see you and I shall be glad if you will give him your advice.

The main points would appear to be as follows:-

- 1) We are not acquainted with Mr. Ritchie's personality and a great deal will depend on this and his ability to promote confidence among the labourers; if he has not been in East Africa before he is not likely to know the language.
- 2) You should meet him at or near Magarini and introduce him to the various headmen and elders and state that it is the wish of Government that they should help the new manager and live on good terms with him.
- 3) Of course he has arrived at a bad moment for labour on account of the continued heavy demands of the Carrier Corps and as you are aware I have recently had a call for another 1000 Girmans and the District Officers there are

busy recruiting to meet that demand.

4) Under the circumstances therefore the best plan will be for the manager to recruit among the Nyika squatters E. of the Baratum line and therefore in your district, he can also recruit from the Taita settlement at Pumwani which adjoins Magarini Estate as long as you arrange to keep count of how many are working for him as the latter people were sent there by order of the G.O.C. and must be kept together. If however a number are able to earn wages it will reduce the cost of their maintenance. You can also assist him by arranging for families who are willing to do so to settle on the estate.

5) Kevyaland Sisal Co. has as you know recently asked to recruit among the squatters referred to in the first part of the last para, and some men may elect to go to Kevyaland if they do so you should not stop them; but generally speaking the labourers on or near an estate will be more likely to accept work near their homes and it is better that they should.

6) There were complaints previously to the effect that the Co. had not provided a water supply on the estate for the labourers you should look up the files on the subject and urge Mr. Mitchis to take measures to remedy this

7) A new manager is generally for some time in the hands of his native headmen to a great extent. You might point out the importance of his having a good stamp of a man who does not bully or illtreat the labour and if he desires help you can probably assist him by selecting local men who understand the people.

You might inquire if he can inform you regarding the intentions of the Co. in respect to the area S. of the River which they wished to acquire for cotton cultivation in lieu of an equal area of indifferent land on their Estate N. of the River which was to be surrendered.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Provincial Commissioner.

Copy for the information of the Hon. Chief Secretary, Nairobi.

SD/- C.W. Hobley,
Provincial Commissioner.

Mombasa, 20.5.19.

busy recruiting to meet that demand.

- 4) Under the circumstances therefore the best plan will be for the manager to recruit among the Nyika squatters E. of the Baratum line and therefore in your district, he can also recruit from the Taita settlement at Pumwani which adjoins Mgarini Estate, as long as you arrange to keep count of how many are working for him as the latter people were sent there by order of the G.O.C. and must be kept together. If however a number are able to earn wages it will reduce the cost of their maintenance. You can also assist him by arranging for families who are willing to do so to settle on the estate.
- 5) Fawcett & Sigal Co. has as you know recently asked to recruit among the squatters referred to in the first part of the last para, and some men may elect to go to Fawcett if they do so you should not stop them; but generally speaking the labourers on or near an estate will be more likely to accept work near their homes and it is better that they should.
- 6) There were complaints previously to the effect that the Co. had not provided a water supply on the estate for the labourers you should look up the files on the subject and urge Mr. Ritchie to take measures to remedy this.
- 7) A new manager is generally for some time in the hands of his native headmen to a great extent. You might point out the importance of his having a good stamp of a man who does not bully or illtreat the labour and if he desires help you can probably assist him by selecting local men who understand the people.

8) You might inquire if he can inform you regarding the intentions of the Co. in respect to the area S. of the River which they wished to acquire for cotton cultivation in lieu of an equal area of indifferent land on their Estate N. of the River which was to be surrendered.

I have, the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Provincial Commissioner.

Copy for the information of the Hon. Chief Secretary, Nairobi.

SS/- C.W. Hobley,
Provincial Commissioner.

Mombasa, 20.5.10.