

1935

1935

38180

KENYA

38180

C0553/461

Manifesto by Kinsman Elected Members of Leg. Council.

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Subsequent

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FILE A.

89.
Leg Council

1. A/Let Secretary 3pm (11.11.18) _____ 27th July
Trans copies of a manifesto by the European Elected Members
of the Leg Council which appeared in the E.A. Standard.

2. C. H. G. Tel _____ 6th Aug
Message for Sir S. Bygonie stating that there is a definite
split between elected members, that Cavendish Bantick, Kukulwood
Liddell Wright left the Council without the concurrence of Lord
F. Scott

~~Extract from the Times of 2nd Aug 18~~
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
" " " " 9th Sept 18

I have had their delight on
Nairobi politics required for the
convenience.

Nº 4 is evidently an attempt
by Lord F. Scott (aided & abetted
by the Times correspondents) to
re-establish himself as the leader
of "the people of the country".

Put by all

~~Extract from the "Times" of 11th Sept 18~~
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
The Governor's letter summarized as Nº 5
was both reasonable & conciliatory; the

29.
Leg Council.

1. H/Secy 3/11 (H. M. M.) _____ 20th July
Trans. copies of a manifesto by the European Elected Members
of the Leg Council which appeared in the E. A. Standard.

2. O. A. G. Tel _____

Message for Sir S. Byrnes stating that there is a definite
split between elected members, that Casendish Bortnick, Kirkwood
Liddell Wright left the Council without the concurrence of Lord
F. Scott.

3. Extract from the Times of 2nd Aug. 11

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

9th Sept. '05

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

I have had these subjected to
Nairobi police review for the
convenience.

No. 4 is evidently an attempt
by Lord F. Scott (and probably
by the Times correspondent) to
re-establish himself as the leader
of "the people of the country".

Put by all

B. F. Martin

4. Extract from the "Times" of 11th Sept. 1905

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12

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The Governor's letter summarized as No. 5
was both reasonable & conciliatory; the

description of it at the end of No 6
is not only a gross impertinence, but
evidence of utter inability to accept
a sane & reasoned view.

As regards the resolution in
No 6, it may well be asked why
a set of people who cannot even
run their own farms at a profit
can hope for greater success in
managing a Colony. The large
majority in favour of devaluation
the currency may change their tune
if the City takes note of the resolution
& decides to put up further money for
the Land Bank & Water Supply.

The Governor was to have received
a further despatch yesterday. If he feels
that the situation is becoming really serious
we shall no doubt get a telegram.

? Pithy

Director
12/9

3

It is somewhat difficult to know where
to begin discussing these questions, and it is still
more difficult to know where to leave off. The
settlers' demands in Kenya must be carefully
differentiated from the proposals - if they can be
called proposals - for "closer union". The two
things are not mutually compatible unless the
principle is accepted that there should be a large
"white dominion" covering Kenya, Uganda, and
Tanganyika, with the Kenya settlers in control. As
regards the question of giving the settlers more
control or a majority in the Kenya Legislature, I
think the matter may be regarded as settled for good
and all by paragraph 75 of the Report of the Joint
Select Committee which runs as follows:-

"The primary obligation to the native
races follows naturally from the acceptance of
the principle of trusteeship, and to this
certain corollaries must be added. The control
of H.M.C. in the U. . . must remain unimpaired.
The conditions in East Africa, where these
widely differing communities exist side by side,
demand the maintenance of an effective power
of intervention by the Crown in all matters of
both legislation and administration. This
power will be exercised by H.M.C. acting
through the Secretary of State. It is clear
that under existing conditions the principles
outlined above can only be effectively
operative if the authority of His Majesty's
Government remains unimpaired."

So long as that considered declaration of both

Houses of Parliament holds the field, any question of giving to European colonists responsibility for the control of their affairs must be regarded as out of the picture.

I wonder whether anybody in Kenya stops to think of what the effect of devaluation as they call it would be. I venture to think that in a very short space of time they would be hopelessly bankrupt and would find themselves unable to get any money from any source whatever. It is rather strange from the point of view of tactics to ask for more money on loan and at the same time to threaten to refuse to pay the interest on it, which is what the thing boils down to.

If we can get Treasury approval there is, I think, no reason why we should not let Kenya raise another half million loan for the Land Bank. Money provided for the Bank does not, in fact, add to the actual burden on the Colony, since the Bank produces the necessary interest and savings fund on the sums advanced to it.

I shall probably receive from the Governor a despatch dealing with the whole political situation, but in conversation the Governor is inclined to make very light of the Kenya politicians. His view is that they have got to say these things to justify their existence but that nobody really takes them seriously and they don't expect to be taken seriously. He can't put that view into

despatches

despatches because the despatches would set out and then the settlers would only be infuriated to find that they were not being taken seriously, even though they had really expected to know that sounds perfectly idiotic to get it in the case.

Point 2 deals with the land and the point is point.

Point 2 simply states the desirability of keeping the farmers on the land. It is no doubt desirable from the farmers' point of view, but from the point of view of world economics it is doubtful how far any Government is justified in using its resources to maintain what is an economically unsound structure.

X
and in Kenya it
hasn't any resources
available without
borrowing.

Point 3 deals with the White Highlands which they want to be safeguarded by an Order-in-Council. This is really a matter which is not important so long as Government's policy does not vary, and if the policy remains unchanged as has been said by secretary of state after secretary of state, the production of order-in-council will make any difference. At the same time settlers will be able to have a grievance if they do not get the particular form of protection which they want. I am sure that the bank will not be able to handle the settlers' case.

Point 4 deals with the control and reconditioning of land with the problem of erosion. There isn't money enough to tackle the problem seriously and I may say that Mr. Holm, the late Director of Agriculture, told me that in his opinion two or three years of normal rains would show that the problem is not so serious as has been

thought in the abnormal conditions of the last few years.

Point 5 reiterates the cry that Government expenditure must be reduced and contains the usual remarks about the extravagant Government machine. It is to be noted that they put down as one of their aims the building up of adequate reserves, and it is a comfort that they at last recognize how desirable this is.

Point 6 reiterates the view that the taxation imposed in 1933 was emergency only and was intended to be purely temporary. This is another matter in which local opinion in Kenya cheerfully ignores facts but it is hardly necessary to elaborate the point here. It will be noted that they want an "energetic solution" of the question of salaries, which means that they want to cut down the pay of their officers. At the same time, the same people will tell you that Kenya wants the best people possible and they do not face the question that men will no longer go to Kenya simply because they are in love with the place.

As regards Railway rates, we here in the C.O. are disposed to support the General Manager who is aiming at a consistent and steady policy of rate reduction on a scientific basis provided that he can get the necessary Reserve Fund to stabilize the Railway's finances. Our difficulty here, as always in connection with the Railway, is the Treasury and the insistence by the Treasury and the Public Account

Advance

Committee on Kenya's being responsible for the original cost of the Railway.

The constitutional advance point has been dealt with above.

Local government is a matter on which their wishes could probably be met to a very great extent were it not for the fact that they don't really mean local government. What I mean is that with things as they are in Kenya they could not raise the necessary finance without heavy contributions from the Central Government so that when they talk about local government they simply mean being given large sums of money to spend on admittedly public services such as roads, water supplies, etc. If they had to rely on their own resources they couldn't do it. I think the general attitude of the patriotic settler is much more akin to that of Major Grogan who bought the swamp in Nairobi for 24,000 and is trying to sell it to the municipality for £200,000.

As regards union of territories, it will be noted that what they now advocate is union between Kenya and Tanganyika, Uganda being left out for the present, though the possibility of Uganda joining is adumbrated.

White settlement on sound and considered lines would no doubt be an advantage, but there is plenty of room for doubt as to what the sound lines are, and there are as many different considerations as there are settlers. My own view, which I know is shared to the full by Colonel Knaggs who represents the settlers in the Trade and Information Office, is that there is no use in anybody going to Kenya in the expectation of making a fortune.

man with an income of £500 or £600 a year can do better on it in Kenya in the way of the amenities of an outdoor life than he could in this country, but such people must go and live in Kenya and not try to maintain an establishment in this country as well.

As regards education, the demand is that all white children should receive primary education at the cost of the State. Unfortunately, the cost of educating the comparatively small number of children is likely to be excessive and I think it is slowly beginning to be recognized that Kenya is not a suitable place in which to bring up European children.

Another plank in the platform is the employment of Kenya's young people in the Government Service. They do recognize that employment should be subject to the condition that the candidates have the necessary qualifications and that is just that. Experience of local Kenyans is not satisfactory and even with the local Civil Service candidates are not forthcoming so that the appointments have to be made from here with the result of much injustice and heartburning.

The next point is putting out public works to tender locally - in other words, to allow the Kenya settler to turn an honest penny at the expense of Government.

There is no need to press for the development of communications in the mining

area

area because the Government is fully alive to this and has succeeded in getting a grant out of the C.D.F. for the purpose of improving the roads.

I don't think that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs makes the extravagant proposals alleged.

16-9-35

The excessive cost of the administration machinery is a serious problem. There is an opportunity of simplification, especially in the case of Robert (Mung) & supported especially by Sir J. Byrne, it is suggested that a Special Commission should be appointed to study the question and the name of Sir Alan Poir is mentioned. I think a copy of this book might be good. There is a possibility in the construction of a road contractor. There is also the case for Sir J. Byrne.

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17/9/35

I should like to discuss the points raised by the Settler.

M.M.

28.9.35

~~Mr. Flood~~

R 297

attach to file when it returns

8

It is a pity that the Manchester Guardian should publish this farrago of misstatements

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A. Coffee, tea and (monthly) send me all products at a profit

B. There are 5, not 31, offices in the Agric. Dept. with salaries of £1000 or over

C. Leave is granted after 4 years to junior, & 3 years to senior, officers

D. Taxation is light compared with U.K. standards - according to an advertisement published by the Kenya Agent in London - the mouthpiece of the settlers.

E. The salary levy is 6% on £1000, & 8% on £2000. There have also been numerous cuts in allowances etc.

? You might have this handy when we meet Mr. Hoey.

J.P. Hunt

18

9

9 Extract from "Morning Post" of 23.10.35

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Pitt

Documents
25/10

16.10.35
26/10

The fundamental misapprehension is in the supposition that the change will mean prosperity. There is probably nothing whatever to prevent Kenya ^{from} selling coffee to Italy, provided the sellers state quite explicitly that they are prepared to accept blocked lire for them with all the disadvantages which that entails. If Kenya was transferred to Italy, the only difference would be that the sellers would have to accept ~~the~~ blocked lire, whether they liked it or not, not only for the goods sold to Italy but also for goods sold to other destinations as well. Would they like that?

M. Thomson
28/10

Oh yes! if they were only recognized as superior beings! Customs would say that "other things"

11/11

28

at once

The points raised in this ~~ff. memo~~ were discussed on several occasions with Mr. Malcolm Macmillan, & were included in the draft Cabinet Memorandum

which is now under S. G. C. C. C.

Pitt

Documents
29/11/35

COPY

RECEIVED
REGY

TELEGRAM from the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 6th August, 1935. Received in the Colonial Office on 6th August, 1935.

Following for Byrne. Begins:- There is a definite split between the elected members. Nearing the end of the Session Cavendish Bentinck, Kirkwood, Riddel and Wright left Council without the concurrence Francis Scott. I believe that their action was a declaration of war against Francis Scott. There has since appeared announcement in the Press that Francis Scott is no longer leader but Chairman, and Cavendish Bentinck no longer Whip but Secretary of Elected Members Organisation.

Copy handed
to Sir J. Byrne
6/8/35

AIR MAIL

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE
No. S. D/Misc.16/2.
AND DATE



**THE SECRETARIAT
NAIROBI
KENYA**

28th July, 1938.

G. O. REGY

The Acting Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and has the honour to transmit for information two copies of a manifesto by the European Elected Members of the Legislative Council which appeared in the East African Standard of today's date.

AIR MAIL

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE
No. S. D/Misc.16/2.
AND DATE



**THE SECRETARIAT
NAIROBI
KENYA**

25th July, 1936.

G. O. REGD

The Acting Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and has the honour to transmit for information two copies of a manifesto by the European Elected Members of the Legislative Council which appeared in the East African Standard of today's date.