

1925

E. AFRICA

43573
23 SEP 25

WINKLIN, W.H.
(D.O.T.)

DATE

28th August 1925.

CIRCULATION —

Edin

MEMO. ON E.A.COMMISSION'S REPORT.

U.S. of S.

Fwded memo drawn up by Assn. of E.A.Chambers of Commerce as a basis for discussion of the report.

U.S. of S.

U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

See 6.6.8009

This is the basis of discussion. We must wait and see what the conference brought forth.

Note in our last meeting for minute book, & reply

W.S. ...

14.8.25

at ...

Put May 2

- Mr. Strachan 2/10*
- Mr. ... 8/10*
- ... 30/10*
- ... 12/11*
- ... 1/12*
- ...*

10.7.25

Subsequent Paper

Block ... 8/10
Wagon ...

C. O. 303
43573

23 SEP 20

25th September, 1925

Dear Colonel Franklin,

Mr. Ormsby Gore asks me to thank you for your letter dated the 28th of August with the memorandum of the Executive of the Association of East African Chambers of Commerce in regard to the Report of the East Africa Commission; he is having it put on record.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary.

COLONEL W.H. FRANKLIN, C.B.E., D.S.O.

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE

(DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLIGENCE)

35, OLD QUEEN STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

28th August, 1925.



Dear Ormsby-Gore,

You may care to see the memorandum which was drawn up by the Executive of the Association of East African Chambers of Commerce as a basis for the discussion on your East African Report, at their last Half-Yearly Meeting.

I do not know whether you have seen this, because it was not published in the press, and I therefore sent it to you.

Yours sincerely,

Lieut. Col. The Hon. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.

COLONIAL OFFICE.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION
REPORT

The able Summary made by Sir Sydney Henn of the Report of the East African Commission is probably the best means of focusing the recommendations made by the Commission.

In the first place, the Commission recommend regular Conferences of Governors, Directors of Education and Directors of Agriculture, to deal with various questions in the absence of any scheme of federation, but, while the Association of East African Chambers of Commerce heartily approve of this recommendation, they note that there is no definite recommendation upon the question of a full East African Customs Union under one general Administration. The Association feel that unless with the inception of a full Customs Union there is one general Administration difficulties in interpretations of a general Customs Ordinance are bound to arise. They recommend the Secretary of State to agree to the inception of both ideas at the same time.

The Association heartily welcome the recommendation as to the unification of all Commercial Laws and suggest that this matter should be pressed by the East African Governments as early as possible, as the principle is in direct accord with the scheme of group legislation adopted by The Imperial Economic Conference in 1923.

The Association note the recommendations of the Commission as regards a Transport loan of some ten million pounds and, while pointing out that the bulk of this loan would doubtless be spent in Tanganyika Territory, consider that the relative merits of foreseen railway extensions should be fully examined. For instance, while it is doubtful whether a line from The Central Tanganyika Railway to Lake Nyasa would, as the Commission suggest, also serve Northern Nyasaland and North Eastern Rhodesia, undoubtedly it would open up a large area in the South Western corner of Tanganyika where there is at present a large amount of native produce grown which cannot be got away for export, and where there are Highlands eminently suitable for White settlement, and, besides, there are other important works to be done which, so far as can be foreseen, would pay almost from their completion, namely, a road bridge over the Nile at Jinja and an extension of the Turbo-Mbulamuti Railway to Kampala and thence towards Lake Albert.

The Association regard it as of the highest importance that these heavy capital projects should be examined carefully in the light of the possibility of over-capitalisation, and recommend that such transport works should be definitely divided into two headings, namely, (a) where works would pay almost from their completion, and (b) where works are to develop potentialities and where assistance in the provision of interest should be granted by the Imperial Government for a longer period than that contemplated.

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In regard to Labour, the Association support the Commission's finding that recruitment is a matter for the employers and that the Government's only function is benevolent supervision in the interest of the native, but at the same time, the Association do most heartily support the view of the Commission that the native must be taught by every legitimate means to become either a producer on his own account or an employee.

In regard to native development, the Association have always advocated expenditure on educational and medical services, but they are convinced that the most careful exploration of this question is necessary in order to avoid the evils of over-taxation in young Countries.

As regards Scientific Research, the Association are definitely of the opinion that the resources of the East African Dependencies are limited as regards supply of finance, and they trust that the establishment of an Imperial Development Board, as foreshadowed by Lord Balfour in the House of Lords, means that the Imperial Treasury will bear their share of the burden. The Association would point out in this connection that the United Kingdom stands to benefit by such work almost as much as the Colonies.

The Association have always considered the exploration of the Economic possibilities of East Africa as of the highest importance and, while welcoming the establishment of the Imperial Development Board as mentioned above, would point out that in the opinion of the Association the work of that Board could be largely facilitated by the establishment of a subsidiary Board in each Dependency charged with the duty of advising on matters of transport facilities, improvement of marketing arrangements, improvement of crop qualities and yields and Scientific and Economic Research. It may be mentioned in parenthesis that this idea has already been adopted in some measure by the Government of the Tanganyika Territory.
