

1924
~~1923~~

KENYA

14

3817

C. O.
7115
13 FEB 24

DATE

12TH FEBRUARY 1924

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REGULATION

Bo. Stanley

NATIVE LABOURERS REGISTRATION ORDC
MASTERS AND SERVANTS ORDC

of S. 14/2/24

*229. Mr. Morel.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the recent declaration of His Majesty's Government that the administration of the Colony of Kenya shall be based upon the principle of trusteeship for the Native population, he will consider the repeal of the Registration of Labourers Act, which requires of the adult male inhabitants of the Colony the possession of identification papers, failure to carry which by day or by night is treated as a crime involving arrest and imprisonment, and which the chief Native Commissioner has reported is detested by the Native population; and will he take steps to rescind the clause in the Masters and Servants Ordinance which makes desertion from the European planter or farmer a criminal offence cognisable by the police. [Monday 18th February.]

MINUTES

local reply

This is to some extent a repetition of the question on 37745/23. The advantages claimed for registration are detailed in para. 1 of Governor's despatch on 57873/23 and on pages 97-98 of the Native Affairs Dept. report 1922 (63164/23).

Briefly they are that registration has stabilized the free labour market by introducing discipline and enabling the enforcement of contracts to the advantage of employers and employees, has diminished crime by rendering more easy the apprehension of wrong doers, has facilitated the collection of revenue by providing a means of

So. 87873/23

copy of a Gov. L. 24/2/24

Subsequent Paper

So. 98/10617/24

S 975

I agree to the proposal
ready but you may care
to note A overleaf, as
it might be useful in
South American

A
1872

Official Report

18 February 1936.

Mr. MOORE asked the Secretary of
State for the Colonies whether in view of
the fact that a large number of the Majesty's
subjects in the Colonies are engaged in the
production of goods for export, and the
importance of maintaining the high level of
production, he will consider the repeal of
the Registration of Labourers Act, which
requires of the adult male inhabitants of
the Colony the possession of a passport which
contains particulars of their employment.
The Commission has reported that the
repeal of the Act is desirable, and while the
Commissioner has reported as
opposed by the native population and
will be taking steps to regard the Clause
of the Masters and Servants Ordinance
which makes it a criminal offence
for a master to employ a person
unless he is a registered labourer.

Mr. THOMAS: The Commission has
advised last August against the repeal of the
Registration Ordinance. The Commission, the
Masters and Servants Ordinance. He is
regarding the repeal of the Clause in the
Masters and Servants Ordinance which
makes it a criminal offence for a
master to employ a person unless he is a
registered labourer. The registration
Ordinance would be necessary as a
passport or certificate of identity and a record
of employment. As such it will be of
equal value to native workers and to their
employers.

M/3 for LF 1872

Lead

S. J. S.
I agree to the document
ready but you may care
to note A. unless, as
it might be useful in
Sub-Committee
A.
15/2

Official Report
18 February 1924.

Mr. MOREL asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the recent declaration of His Majesty's Government that the administration of the Colony of Kenya shall be based upon the principle of trusteeship for the native population, he will consider the repeal of the Registration of Labourers Act, which requires of the adult male inhabitants of the Colony the possession of identification papers, failure to carry which by day or by night is treated as a crime involving arrest and imprisonment, and which the chief Native Commissioner has reported is detested by the native population, and will he take steps to rescind the Clause in the Masters and Servants Ordinance which makes desertion from the European planter or farmer a criminal offence cognisable by the police?

Mr. THOMAS: The Governor was consulted last August about the Native Registration Ordinance and the Clause in the Masters and Servants Ordinance. He is considering the repeal of the Clause in the Masters and Servants Ordinance to which my hon. Friend refers. The registration certificate would remain only as a passport or certificate of identity and a record of employment. As such it will be of equal value to native workers and to their employers.

M/3 5/for. LF ✓
Wed 19.2.24

DRAFT. reply to

Mr. Morel

MINUTE.

Mr. Calder 14.2.24

Mr. Bottrill 14.2.24

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read. 14/2/24

Sir J. Masterion Smith.

Lord Arnold C. 15/2

Mr. Wood.

Mr. Thomas

Mr. Churchill

(for comment)

The Governor was consulted last August about the Native Registration Ordinance and the clause in the Master and

Servants Ordinance. He reports that registration in many ways

works directly to the benefit of the natives, an increasing

number of whom are beginning to realize its advantages. He is,

considering the ~~proposals~~ ^{proposals} to repeal