

1922

KENYA

C/O 178  
43537

DATE

28 AUGUST 1922

RE  
PL 31 AUG 22

DECLARATION

SUBJECT

WAR SERVICES OF INDIAN COMMUNITY

Reports fully on and on the award of war privileges.

MINUTES

Mr. Botting

Though the arguments in this despatch may satisfy us that the Indians were treated as well as they deserve, whether they will satisfy the Indians and unless the Indians still the matter up seems to me that we should be clearly advised to let the matter drop.

To make the various points in order.

Office of service.

(A) It is very curious that no record exists of the hospital benefactions which Mr. Jeevanjee claims to have made; and, in replying, as I would propose, to this despatch, that we don't propose to say anything further to the Indians at present, I think that we might say so and tell the Governor that it seems desirable to make further enquiry in case at some future time the point is challenged on the point.

(B). The Maharaja of Gwalior is not a local Indian, and I do not think that the Kenya Indians can take much credit for the Maharaja's munificent benefactions.

The Governor

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Forty-five Indians were conscripted for the East African Mechanical Transport Corps in June 1918, and served for a few months. Apart from these men and the volunteers referred to in C and D, the Indians performed no military service at all.

*Handwritten notes in the right margin, including the phrase "I have to state for..."*

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The Governor's

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(B). The Maharaja of Gwalior is not a local Indian, and I do not think that the Kenya Indians can take much credit for the Maharaja's munificent benefactions.

(C and D.) The Governor's despatch adds little to what we already know. Only 227 volunteers are said to have volunteered for service at the outbreak of the war out of a total Indian population of *(perhaps was 12,000)* 12,000. It was decided to send these volunteers as being of previous experience and of good material for military service. From a political point of view it might have been expedient to consider the case of these volunteers with regard to the existing lack of the amenities under which they were generally living, and with this in view, I do not think that the Government should have expected the people on the spot to have volunteered for service in which they took.

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War

War Privileges.

The Governor states that all Indians qualified for the grant of war gratuities and medals have received them, and that the allegation of preferential treatment of Europeans over Indians is absolutely unfounded. In any case, the Governor observes that the matter was controlled by Army Orders etc., and was not a matter for the War Office to consider for the local authorities.

As regards the case of Asiatic clerks in the East African Coy. Corps, the Military Audit Dept. and the Military Labour Corps, the Governor justifies the refusal of these privileges to them on the ground that they received wages of £10 and allowances which was inclusive of all military privileges, military and civil, and that in fact they were far better off than their civilian colleagues of serving soldiers of a corresponding rank. It is no doubt unfortunate that at an early stage of the campaign the military authorities caused these men to be attested, and it seems to be difficult to ride off on the ground that this was a purely formal matter and did not therefore entitle them to the privileges of attested soldiers but the matter was gone into thoroughly at the time, and it is impossible to go back on this decision now.

Grants of Land.

This undoubtedly is a somewhat difficult question and it is not easy to advise what answer it would be expedient to make on this point if we are again pressed for a reply. After discussion with you I think that the best answer

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As regards the case of Asiatic clerks in the East African Expeditionary Force, the Military Audit Dept. and the Military Labour Dept., the Governor justifies the refusal of these clerks to be treated as soldiers on the ground that they received pay of £100 and allowances which was inclusive of all privileges, military and civil, and that in fact they were far better off than their civilian colleagues or serving soldiers of a corresponding rank. It is no doubt unfortunate that at an early stage of the campaign the military authorities caused these men to be attested, and it seems to be difficult to ride off on the ground that this was a purely formal matter and did not therefore entitle them to the privileges of attested soldiers but the matter was gone into thoroughly at the time, and it is impossible to go back on this decision now.

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reception accorded to Mr Jeevanjee's office.

(2). Assistance as regards hospital accommodation and in other ways by Indians: The first case which came to the knowledge of this Government was the provision made by His Highness the Maharajah Scindia of Dewar, who, in November 1914, most generously offered to maintain a convalescent hospital near Bikaner. This he did, finding a Medical Officer and a staff of the staff and paying all expenses. The Govt. of India took over the Scott Sanatorium near Bikaner, which provided accommodation for 16 European patients, and also a neighbouring Convent and a hospital belonging to the French Mission which was used as a hospital for Indian Officers and men. The Govt. was closed in February, 1915, when the Maharajah conveyed a message of thanks to the Government for his munificent contributions.

(3). Indian efforts of man-power, and contribution to combatant service: It is convenient to treat these questions as one. The Govt. of India attests generally during the war:-

Office ..... 7.  
 Indian ..... 621.  
 Followers ..... 715.

These figures including men under the following categories:-

- (1). Combatants: 60 Indian volunteers were selected for service as a Railway Volunteer Corps in August, 1914, and were disbanded on 30th November, 1914.
- 127 Indian volunteers were attached for service in the Indian Army in the East African Campaign in August, 1914, and were disbanded on 30th November, 1914.
- 200 Indian volunteers with service of 6 months...



(c). Non-combatants viz:- (a). Indians who joined the East African Mechanical Transport Corps in the earlier days of the war and had varying periods of service. They were not numerous; no reliable record could be obtained of their numbers. (b). Those who were conscripted for this Corps in 1918. (c). Clerks in the Military Audit, the East African Pay Corps, and the Military Labour Corps. (d). Followers, e.g., Sweepers.

The Indian Expeditionary Force also, of course, took part in the campaign in its earlier stages.

A number of Indian Uganda Railway servants were granted honorary military rank; very few were in the ranks so that this measure was disciplinary in intent.

As a general offer of service was made by the Indian community, the only movement in this direction being the attestation of the volunteers referred to. Their enlistment was effected to deal with an emergency when it was believed that the Germans might break through our advance lines and march on Nairobi.

On the arrival of the first Brigade of the Indian Expeditionary Force under Brigadier General Stuart, the latter became General Officer Commanding, East Africa and disbanded these two volunteer units who were without previous experience and of unsuitable material for military purposes. They had never been sent to the firing line and General Stuart, an Indian Army Officer of experience, did not consider their services of sufficient value to retain them at a time when every available man was wanted.

(g). Indians conscripted under the Compulsory Service Ordinance. This Ordinance was applied to the Asiatic community in June 1918 with the object of securing the services of motor drivers and mechanics in place of European personnel in the East African

Mechanical Transport Corps. Some forty five Indians were conscripted in this manner in Nairobi and Mombasa and served for a few months each. These men have already been referred to under headings (c) and (d).

4. The complaints of the Delegation in the matter of the award of medals may be replied to in the following manner:

It may be noted that this matter was discussed by the Army Council during the last year. The first place to be given to the various questions asked is that of the medals awarded to the men of the Mechanical Transport Corps.

The great object of the medals is to recognize the services rendered by the men of the Mechanical Transport Corps in the field.

Any Indian who has rendered services in the field and is included in the medal rolls provided that their service is qualified them under Army Orders and Army Council Instructions.

(i). Medal rolls have already been submitted to the Colonial Office in respect of Asiatics who are entitled to medals. Numerous applications for inclusion in the medal rolls are now being received from Asiatics by the War Records Department and their cases are being investigated. Should their service qualify them, the medals will be engraved locally and issued by the War Records Department.

(v). Gratuity was not granted to the Indian volunteers previously mentioned who joined the East African Maxims and Light Volunteer Corps, because their service did not extend to the requisite period, viz. 6 months. The claims of numerous Europeans to gratuity were refused for the same reason.

(vi). Gratuity on the Indian scale was, as I have stated, issued to those who were qualified, e.g. Indians who served the requisite period in the East African Mechanical Transport Corps.

The case of Asiatic clerks in the East African Corps, Military Audit Department, and Indian Cavalry Corps has been previously quoted in the report of Privileges.

Moreover, some of these were Indians, others being Chinese (Portuguese subjects), were engaged as temporary civilian clerks at an inclusive salary, which was considerably higher than that paid to the same type of clerk in the civil service. Considerable discontent was among the latter class during the latter part of the war on this account. Engagement in these cases was temporary for the reason that at different stages of the campaign it was thought that hostilities were shortly to cease, but as the war dragged it was necessary to carry on the military organization from season to season and from year to year. These men were granted a scale of pay higher than the current rate for clerks of this class, on account of the fact that their engagement was temporary and of the difficulty of securing men.

The scale

The scale was, of course, far higher than that of a serving soldier. At one stage the military authorities caused these men to be attested; this was a purely formal matter and it was followed by General Headquarters that it did not entitle them to the privileges of attested soldiers. This Government supported the ruling and it was endorsed by your predecessor; record of this may be found among the files of General Headquarters, East Africa, which were taken to the War Office, a copy of which is in the files.

It is thus clear that these men, at least these clerks received a national pay and allowances, which was inclusive of all the military and civil, and that in fact they were far better off than their civilian colleagues of serving soldiers of corresponding rank.

5. The matter of award of land to discharged Indian soldiers is also raised by the Delegation. In initiating a land settlement scheme for ex-service men, this Government was actuated by two motives, to reward meritorious service and to assist European colonisation in Kenya.

The record of the Indian community in the East African campaign cannot be said to have been highly praiseworthy. The Government and the military authorities, acting on advice from the Intelligence Department, and in consideration of the behaviour in the field of such Indian troops as were employed, at an early stage in the operations considered it inadvisable to employ local Indians in any numbers

in a

in a military capacity. The figures quoted show that in any case there was no great desire to volunteer for active service among the Indian community, which is a large one.

The distrust of the local Indian's loyalty proved so far that a number were subjected to various penalties. British Indians in Germany were particularly suspicious of the British Government's policy in this country and the British Government's policy in this country was interpreted as a policy of exclusion of Indians from the Indian Empire. The British Government's policy in this country was interpreted as a policy of exclusion of Indians from the Indian Empire. The British Government's policy in this country was interpreted as a policy of exclusion of Indians from the Indian Empire.

This report was so encouraging on my arrival that I was prepared to encourage the Indians in the East. However, the scheme was not to be exclusively for the Indians. I reserve these lands for European settlement. Land at the coast has always been available for acquisition by private treaty by Indians. In 1921, as you are aware, I initiated a scheme for allotting coast lands to persons desirous of acquiring them, irrespective of race. Very little advantage was taken of the scheme, the lack of interest on the part of Indians being particularly noticeable.

6. I take this opportunity of expressing my firm conviction that Indian settlement in Kenya is not an ideal to be pursued; the less that Indian methods are engrafted on African development the better for the latter.

latter. I willingly admit that Indians in Kenya exhibit both industry and thrift but these virtues obtain strongly also among Africans; the Sultan, however, steadily sets his face against the raising of the standard of African civilisation and in such a policy lies the chief justification for the colonisation of Africa by other races; in commercial probity and loyalty that his example is definitely

where. Therefore, in the circumstances that already exist it is impossible entirely to ... when the Lowlands are ... most strongly that ... for Indians be ... an Indian settlement scheme, but I go beyond this ... reasons set forth above trust that ... would ... the influx of groups of ... be ... and as soon as made.

7. The particular ... I have ... I think, the content ... of the Indian Delegation that the Indian ... played an equal part with other races in the defence ... that they were unfairly treated by Government in the matter of awards. It is unnecessary for me to repeat details of the services rendered by the European and African inhabitants of this country, since you have in the past been fully informed on the subject, vide my ... of the 27th of October, 1920. It may, however, be fitting to remark that while

African ranks in the King's African Rifles and Police received gratuity at one quarter the rate for British ranks, no gratuity or similar privileges were granted to the thousands of Africans who were recruited for the Military Labour Corps, and that their services were of infinitely greater value in the prosecution of the campaign than any rendered by Indians

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Rowland Northing

G.O.V.E.R.N.M.E.N.T.





the today.

He has no knowledge of any  
such promise - had there  
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have been produced long  
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# DEMOCRAT.

Edited by Sitaram Acharias.

Published every Friday

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MOMBASA FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 1923

Price Cds 50

## STEEP LOW TO CONQUER I

WE have often heard of the saying that 'all is fair in love and war.' Exactly who gave expression to this sentiment and under what circumstances, we do not know. We have not the slightest doubt, however, that it must have had its origin in the medieval ages, in the dark days in England when the people wore tunics like the highlanders of Africa, and had their bodies tattooed. We know now for a fact that both Europeans and Englishmen have forgotten these medieval ethics. In time of war, when an Englishman is let free on parole on his word of honour - he invariably is true to his word; the nation demands that he should be. Likewise, in matters of love also a certain standard of truthfulness and fair-play is being observed. What would the average European look for instance, of one who takes the life of a rival in love in the hope that after his removal he stands a better chance of being accepted by the girl he loves? Would he not consider this a shocking monster? Therefore, all is not fair in love and war.

**B**UT the growth and development of a nation does not of course necessarily mean the growth and development of every individual comprising it. There are bound to be a certain number of 'black sheep' who would not be civilized, and who to-day exhibit the same frame of mind and follow the same school of ethics which characterized their ancestors in the dark ages. True, they no longer wear skins and hides but their mentality is awfully behind

the times they live in. Unfortunately, there are quite a few white people in Kenya who come under this category - the 'Jawn of England' and of Europe, and our Nairobi contemporary, the 'East African Standard' is their weekly outlet piece.

THESE people do have an objection to the abolition of the colonial system. They hate the Indians, they know how to hate, they wish to inquire into their whys and wherefores. We know that people cannot help their likes and dislikes - however irrational they might be. But while we cannot object to their hating us if they must do so, we have nevertheless every right to expect from them a certain amount of fair-play. They wish to see the Indians ousted from Eastern Africa, and we say unto them "Do your worst, and good luck to you". We do not even stipulate that they should stick to what are generally known as constitutional methods in achieving their purpose. They would not be justified in shooting down every Indian man, woman and child - after giving them a fair warning to enable those who cannot face their bullets to leave the country. This may not be constitutional but it would be at least fair, for after all if we wish to have equality with the whites we must be prepared to demonstrate that equality even in the matter of physical force, and in our capacity to suffer and to inflict suffering. Mahatma Gandhi would have us substitute soul force to physical force, but even so the application of force is there in one form or the other. Whether physical force could be successfully combated with soul force is a matter

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LIKEWISE, religion is not a quality but is merely a particular form of belief which has no bearing whatsoever on mundane affairs. We have yet to learn of any religion which teaches immortality, and which exerts its efforts to...

(a) ... (b) ... (c) ... (d) ... (e) ... (f) ... (g) ... (h) ... (i) ... (j) ... (k) ... (l) ... (m) ... (n) ... (o) ... (p) ... (q) ... (r) ... (s) ... (t) ... (u) ... (v) ... (w) ... (x) ... (y) ... (z) ...

MORALITY

State of morality in practice. A man's morality is inferior to that of a woman's. Challenge him to do as she does. ... (a) ... (b) ... (c) ... (d) ... (e) ... (f) ... (g) ... (h) ... (i) ... (j) ... (k) ... (l) ... (m) ... (n) ... (o) ... (p) ... (q) ... (r) ... (s) ... (t) ... (u) ... (v) ... (w) ... (x) ... (y) ... (z) ...

Wife's position in the household. The Indian lady which rears appears in the Standard. This good lady is not to be taken for the Indians must not be on an equal status with Europeans because they marry their girls when very young and keep their women in purdah, an abomination. According to this lady, the average Kanya woman is much happier than her Indian sister, for although both are mere chattels, the former is at least allowed to come out and breathe the fresh air and bask in the sunshine. If it is also illegal for Indian child widows remain the 'common property' of the household for the rest of their lives.

WE are not going to support either the custom of child marriage or of purdah which obtain amongst certain sections of our countrymen. We realize that they are a disgrace to them and it is the business of every patriotic Indian to take steps to put an end to them. We know that both these customs are...

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STANDING GUL. BUT HOW STANDS THE CASE WITH ENGLAND?

It too earth of ... is soaked with the tears of her children. ... the very atmosphere of England is ... by the sob of the unmarried. It is ... vegetation to say that the great majority of Englishwomen have usually one or two "sons" before some one comes along to ... them to the holy altar. We say this in ... dictive spirit only to show that ... sever you put ... as ... the ... in ... the ... are ... in their ... under care ...

WE

... women not to ... skeleton in their family ... These who live in ... cannot afford to ... others. Morality ... The ...

direct to ... and White ... \$20,000 between ... years 1918-19

IF on the ... Mr. Shaw is referring to business ... here again it would be difficult for him to prove that his country an ... the Indians. We ... causing ... to use ... vehicle happen ... side with a view to claim ... few parties concerned or ... Mr. Shaw's national hero ... has proved himself the biggest ... going on earth. In fact pick-pocketing, ... and theft are so common in England ... in Churches you are warned in bold ... "BEWARE OF PICK-POCKETS." A ... of ... beyond ... have a ... various ...

aspects than have ... Mr. H. Ryle Shaw

IN conclusion we would say that we are quite prepared to consider any rational reasons which Mr. Shaw ... put forward as to why the ... have ... rights with Europeans ... the volume of correspondence ... his article appeared in the East African Standard under his signature in ... either a Christian, heathen ... Merc ... of sentimental ... are ... going to help us to find a solution of the ... duty with ... we are faced. Any school ... could ... a temper ... should ... hands off Africa, that Mr. Shaw ... that ...

... the ... of ... care ... all ... under ... slaves ... and ... as the ... right ... leaving the ... the ... of the ... of the ...

"OUR" "YOU" AFFAIRS

Says "East African Standard" ... we have no objection to them (Indians) ... their own concerns ... refuse to allow them ... an equal share in the ... affairs

... absolutely fair and just ... side Kenya, who is not ... it would jump to the ... Kenya Indians must be a ... un-reasonable and greedy lot who want to poke their noses into other people's affairs. The truth of the matter is, however, that our affairs and your affairs are so intimately mixed up and interdependent that it is impossible to separate them. Take the Uganda Railway, for instance, it cannot be exclusively our affair.



of your affair, but a public affair. Are the Indians not entitled to protest if the Railway is run on lines that afford additional comfort to the white passengers and discriminate in their favour at every turn, including admission to platforms, use of refreshment and waiting rooms, and preferential attention to the conveyance of Produce and merchandise belonging to the white? Or again in the matter of educational facilities are we expected to keep quiet when we see that for every shilling spent on that of a European child, three or four times that amount is being spent by a European child? The same remarks apply to water supply, lighting and other amenities which in all of which the Europeans get the lion's share to the detriment of the natives. A complaint of our sister when she says collected from us in the shape of taxes, we deliberately avoid, provides increased amenities of life to the European section of the population. We certainly do not wish to have an equal share in any share at all, in the management of your affairs, and we would thank our contemporary for a laud enumeration and enumeration of what are your and our affairs. If our contemporary is afraid that the Indians, who enfranchised, are going to dictate to the Europeans as regards the mode of their divine worship, the conduct of their clubs and places of entertainment, their balls, dances, marriage, divorces and funerals, etc. etc, we can give the positive assurance that we do not intend to do anything of the kind. These are your own affairs and the Asians do not wish to have any share in the management thereof, but we hope that our contemporary will be sporty enough to admit that it is our affair to see that we get back in service what we have paid out in the shape of taxes.

**CARE BEFORE THE HORSE**

WITH regard to the two 'native' letters published in the 'Standard' and with which we have dealt in our editorial column, our contemporary now states that the originals were in Kannada and what appeared in its columns was only their translation. Like the *holy Roman Empire* which ended in its being neither 'holy,' nor 'Roman,' nor 'Empire,' our contemporary's treatment of the letters being 'representative African opinion' has turned out to be neither 'representative' nor 'African' nor 'opinion.' Before publishing

the letters in question, our contemporary ought to have satisfied itself that there could be found two natives in the country since the day of Lord of Harry Thackeray, whose the epistles could be translated. What must have happened however was that our contemporary first published the letters and rashly and its readers that the originals could be seen in the editorial office and then began to look round for a native who could write even the broken English in which the letters were written, but finding none, it had to say that the letters were received in Kiawahili and were translated into English by the editorial staff of the 'Standard.' If this was so it is possible to imagine the way it would have created the impression that the letters were published in Kiawahili? Surely the managers of the editorial staff of the 'Standard' could write better English than that which characterizes the composition of the letters in question. Let us hope that our contemporary will benefit by the experience, and refrain from putting the cart before the horse in future when it decides to publish letters from 'native' correspondents.

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

SCRIBING the...  
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Observed we went but we things equal...  
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From the 'Critic'—  
 We have every faith in European countries  
 and determination. And we agree with  
 that only European is an...  
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**UNDER** the heading...  
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Cabinet ~~Meeting~~

"We admit the right of Indians to live and  
 move and have their being in this Colony.  
 What we do not admit is their claim to  
 equality."

Salim Road,

**A** bit of Irish if you please! We claim  
 no more than to 'live and move and  
 have our being' the whole dispute being as  
 regards the manner and method of it. We do  
 not propose to live in congested and unhealthy  
 areas while the Europeans have the monopoly  
 of all the healthy ones, and we do not propose  
 to move on the Uganda Railway (half a dozen  
 or more of us packed like sardines in a compart-  
 ment) while the adjoining compartment is occu-  
 pied by one or two Europeans who pay  
 and who sleep there. As we have repeatedly

**NONBASA.**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

To the Editor, E. A. Standard

Dear Sir, I am one of the hated and unwanted Indians of this wretched Colony. I do not belong to the so-called 'forward' (Kalyana) class but to a well-to-do military class who served the British Empire in various capacities. I have worked all through the time of the British Empire in India and I have seen the British Government's policy towards the Indian population of the Colonies. I have seen the British Government's policy towards the Indian population of the Colonies. I have seen the British Government's policy towards the Indian population of the Colonies.

...the claims of the Indian ex-soldiers are... my countrymen are now asked to pick off to British Gales and Honduras and to... to Lord Delamere, the... leader of the European... of the biggest land owners in the country who did nothing during the last war.

My Editor, I am now to... gave the best part of my life in the service of the British Government, but... consideration for the treatment... to be... by my countrymen... the same old feeling of loyalty... to British R.I. as I passed a... of the British... as the... content and... that it would be... to be 'over-pleased' with the... of the British...

Yours faithfully,  
P. O. Box 1000, Nairobi.  
10th Feb 1923.

**Essomally Esmaijees,**

Karachiwala.

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...of the... the up-... less bra... with the comfort and content as appealing to the Regular Force and to their services are wholly and entirely... with these... served for... and when the Indian... in this country, at the end... were... great Officer... has their services... no longer required as... sufficient... that the... should provide the Military... and clerks who were badly wanted... was done.

THE members of our two Companies were very much disappointed on being... but as the authorities did not require services any longer, there was nothing to... At the time of... our... General Officer... that... in the ordinary way, that... in this country... as they do in... in the position to... to the...

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"Times" - 24 March 1963

## Indians in Kenya.

Our Nairobi Correspondent reported on February 23 that a certain Indian journalist named AGARWAL had been arrested on the ground of infamous attacks made in his paper, the *Democrat*, on the British community. Copies of this publication that have now reached London show how thoroughly the arrest was justified. A number of the whites in Kenya are of the opinion that the seizure of Agarwal is a most timely and British journal

affair, no trifling squabble in the outposts. They have reached a stage at which they must deeply affect the future of British interests and native interests throughout Africa. They have also, unfortunately become a central feature of the Indian problem. For the reasons of responsibility that lies upon the British pioneers in Kenya is the greater. They must attempt to solve their problem singlehandedly. It is essential that the masses of their African subjects should be fully known in this regard. They will have an opportunity of presenting all its strength when, in a few weeks, the new constitution comes into effect.

At the same time, the British community in Kenya is not without its own internal problems.

The British settlers will have to face the fact that their experience for the opportunity of all should come to them of thinking in a way only known in Kenya.

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