

CONFIDENTIAL

MARCH 9th, 1924

My Lord,

I have the honour to refer to Confidential Despatch No. 45 of December 1923 on the subject of Indian affairs in East Africa Protectorate and to submit the following remarks on the matters tabulated in Your Confidential Despatch of November 26th.

2. (1) Representation of Indians on the Nairobi Municipal Council.

The constitution of the Nairobi Municipal Council has been varied from time to time and passed through the stages, (inter alia,) quoted in paragraph 8 of the Memorial. These variations have been necessitated by changing local conditions and have been actuated solely with the object of providing the most suitable form of administration. The European members have not been formally elected under any definite system of franchise, but for the last few years Government has agreed to nominate a certain number of European members solely under a system of election arrangements introduced by the Municipal Council.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

VISCOUNT MILNER, B.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c. &c.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

~~Committee~~ Committee itself on lines approved by Government. This became necessary because the unofficial members felt that their hands would be strengthened if they had some sort of mandate from the Townpeople. The elimination of the official element, except for the Chairman, for the 1919 Council was decided upon by me because of the totally unwarranted tendency to accuse Government of attempting to control Municipal affairs by means of the nominated official Members. The position of these Official Members had become impossible and the efficiency of Municipal Administration was suffering very greatly. For the current year I agreed to a further innovation whereby Heads of Departments were permitted to stand for "election" to the Municipal Council provided they had my consent, and subordinate officers were allowed to seek "election" with the consent of the Heads of their Departments. The result was that 2 Government Officials stood for election and were duly elected. I consider this step conducive to harmonious relations between Government and Municipality. I have alluded in my previous despatch to the attempt to extend this system of informal elections to the Asiatic Community, the unsatisfactory results of the attempt and the necessity for cancelling the arrangements. Since then the Indian Association has been invited each year to submit the names of 2 of its members for appointments to the Committee and

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Therefore at present not represented on the Municipal Council. The Memorialists exaggerate when they claim that they pay nearly 86% of the "Municipal taxes". The following table shows the sources of the Municipal Revenue for the half year ended 31st October 1919.

Government	26.8 %
Europeans	30.4 %
Asiatics	34.5 %
Goans	3.7 %
Africans	4.6 %
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3. The existing Municipal Revenue does not include anything in the nature of rates or taxes. Fees are paid for certain services rendered such as water, lighting, and conservancy and charges are made for various licences issued. Now that the Municipal Corporation Ordinance has been applied to the Town, it is hoped that in the near future a proper system of rating will be introduced. This I consider should be accompanied by the recognised and legalised election of members under a ward system. A system of Municipal franchise should be arranged which should be applied universally regardless of race. The safeguard would be certain property and educational qualifications and the division of the Town into wards should be arranged as to afford the Indians ample representation in the areas of the Town in which

Memorial. The "Lowlands" of British East Africa may be divided into the Coast and Lake areas. Practically no land has been alienated by Government in the Coast area for many years past either to Europeans or to Asiatics. As Your Lordship is aware the Coast Land Settlement has not sufficiently progressed to enable such alienation to be made and Government is already committed to large grants of land, as soon as it is made available, to long outstanding concessionaires such as the East Africa Estates and Lord Waleran. As regards the Lake area I am unaware of any large tracts of Crown Land having been alienated in recent years. Your Lordship is aware of the intentions of Government to put up to tender and auction certain areas considered suitable for the cultivation of sugar and that it was not proposed to prevent Asiatics from acquiring those areas.

6. It is true that power of veto has been exercised against suggested transfers from Europeans to Asiatics in what might perhaps be described as the Lake Lowlands but this is because the old official dividing point, viz:- Port Ternan between the European and Asiatic settlement areas is not suitable. An arbitrary boundary here is difficult to fix by a definite point on the Railway and a large area of land to the west of Port Ternan has for several years been occupied by Europeans. The question of revising the dividing line between European and Asiatic holdings has been under consideration for some

... I understand that Your Lordship is considering this matter in consultation with Sir Edward Northey in connection with areas referred to above. I also have the power of veto against a transfer of land to Indians in the Voi area and reported the facts in my Confidential Despatch No.3 of January 7th 1919, but in this instance the new principle of the alienation of a very large tract of land to non-Europeans was involved and I did not feel justified in establishing such a precedent at the time.

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9/3/19

7. (III) Indian Ex-Soldier land settlement Scheme.

This question was dealt with in Your Lordship's cypher telegram of March 2nd 1919 and Sir Edward Northey's reply of March 9th. I have nothing to add and no further suggestions to make on the subject.

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8. (IV) Indian Residential sites in Townships.

It is admitted that there has been considerable delay in the alienation of Township sites for all purposes and to all races, and that this delay has been very wasteful etc. But Your Lordship is aware of the great financial difficulties with which Government has been faced in endeavouring to improve the health and satisfaction of the Medical and Sanitation authorities. There have however quite recently been 2 large sales almost entirely for Asiatics at Kisumu, while we even have considerable sales

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boarding schools while the Indian schools provide for day teachers only. They further ignore the considerably larger salaries required by English teachers as compared with Indians. Nor do the tables of attendance at the Government Indian schools go to show that there is any great demand for education in the higher standards and at a prize-giving in the Nairobi School in December 1914 parents were asked publicly not to withdraw their children until a satisfactory standard of education had been attained. Nevertheless the following figures extracted from the Director of Education's Report for 1918-1919 indicated a decided apathy on the part of Indian parents:-

Standards	Number of Scholars.	
	Nairobi Indian School.	Mombasa Indian School.
Substandards	39	33
I.	33	28
II.	36	25
III.	27	15
IV.	16	10
V.	5	4
VI.	5	5
VII.	0	3
Total	161	123

Great pains have been taken by this Government to provide similar elementary education to that given in Anglo-Vernacular schools in India. The codes of the Education Departments of Bombay and the Punjab were taken as models and curricula for the Urdu and Gujarati Sections of the schools were framed in accordance

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...therewith. On receipt of complaints in late 1933, on being sent to India, were passing into a lower standard because the teaching of the Indian Vernacular was carried in Nairobi only as far as the Second Standard, the late Governor Sir Henry Belfield, gave instructions that Indian vernaculars should be taught throughout the schools. The Head Indian Teacher at Nairobi states that boys proceeding to a school of equal standing in India, pass into the same standard in which they were in Nairobi and often into the standard immediately above. This he attributes to their superior knowledge of the English Language. As regards Indian education at Mombasa the following extract from a letter recently addressed to the Director of Education by the School Committee speaks for itself: "In conclusion, we have to offer to you our best thanks on behalf of our Committee for the sympathetic way in which you have dealt with the matter; for it is obvious that you have taken a lively interest in the education of Indian children - else you would not have taken the trouble of persuading Mr. Desai to withdraw his resignation - and what with the competent and conscientious teachers like Mr. Desai and sympathetic Heads of Departments like your goodself, we feel that the Indian Community in this country have no reason to be uneasy about the education of their children".

11. The statement that the encouragement given by Government to the Mombasa High School, which is being erected at the expense of the Honourable Abdul Rasul Allidina Visram has been negligible, is untrue, and is, I am sure, made without the concurrence