

EAST AFR. PROT

10435

10/1/35

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INDIA OFFICE

CURRENCY.

1920

26th Feb'y

Last previous Paper.

10434

Requests advance copies of any public notifications Presumes that new coin have distinctive features to obviate risk of infiltration into India. Gives suggestions re design

Sir H. Read.

I submit draft after a talk with Mr. Ezechiel.

Mr. Ezechiel

has had to leave for the moment to verify the facts (re design) with the Chief of Dept. He will be able to do so - as they will be present.

W. C. C.

28/2/20

Subsequent Paper

10418

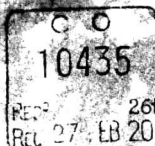
Any further communication on this subject
should be addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
Financial Department,
India Office,
London, S.W.

and the following reference quoted—

F. 2401.

INDIA OFFICE,



WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.

26th February 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to say that his attention has been drawn to the notice that appeared in the Press on the 13th Instant regarding changes in the currency system of British East Africa.

In view of the intimate connection that has for many years existed between the currency systems of India and East Africa, it would be convenient if you would be good enough to forward to this Office in advance of publication when possible 3 copies of any public Notifications that may be made in future regarding changes in the East African system.

As regards the notice referred to, the Secretary of State observes that it is proposed to mint a new Rupee for East Africa sufficiently resembling the old Rupee to make it acceptable to the Native population. With a view to obviating the risk of infiltration into India of a coin, bearing the designation of rupee and of like or bullion content than the Indian rupee, it is presumed that the new coin will embody some distinctive features which make it readily recognizable as different from the Indian Rupee. The Secretary of State would be glad if he could be favoured with your observations on this point. He considers that the obverse of the coin should be no less readily distinguishable than the reverse, which would presumably bear the words East Africa in place of India. If the obverse bears the King's

effigy

The Under Secretary of State,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

effigy he suggests that a totally new design should be prepared for submission to His Majesty and that a wide departure from the design of the effigy on the Indian rupee should be aimed at. Mr. Secretary Montagu need not enlarge upon the very serious currency disorders which would result in India if through similarity of design any large quantity of East African light rupees passed into circulation in India. He would accordingly be glad to be favoured with an opportunity of seeing the new design before it is submitted for His Majesty's approval.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frank Lucas

Ind.

Downing Street,

18 February, 1920.

DRAFT.

The Secretary,

INDIA OFFICE.

(Financial Dept.)

MINUTE.

Sir,

I am directed to ack. the receipt of your letter of the 26th of February, No. F.2401 and to request you to inform Mr. Secretary Montagu that his desire to be furnished with three copies of any public notifications which may be made in regard to changes in the E.African currency system will be borne in mind. When possible the copies will be sent in advance of publication, but it will be realised that circumstances may arise when there will not be sufficient time for this to be done.

2. The design which has been approved for the new coinage will, it is considered, prevent any confusion between it and the Indian coinage arising in the event of any E.African coins entering India. The reverse of the coin will be entirely

different

W. Bottomley, 28/2/20 *fs*

Grindle.

H. Lambert.

H. Read.

G. Fiddes.

Col. Amery.

Lord Milner.

different as they will not only bear
the words "East Africa" but will also
bear the distinguishing badge of the
E.A.P. (a lion in a ~~desert~~ ^{landscape with mountains in the background}), which appears on
the present E.African subsidiary silver coins.

As regards the obverse, the King's effigy
differs ~~from~~ ^{only very slightly from} that on the Indian rupee, ~~etc.~~

~~In the nature of the crown and of the Order's
word, while the inscription is in Latin instead
of English as is the case with the Indian rupee.~~

3. In these circumstances it ~~does not appear~~ ^{is presumed that it will}

~~to~~ ^{not} be necessary to ~~consult~~ ^{consult} Mr. Montagu with the
designs, especially as it is a matter of great
urgency that the preparation of the dies should
be proceeded with at the earliest possible date.

I am, etc.,

(Sd) H. G. ...