

EAST AFR. PROT.

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Command

Date
1912

Masai

previous Paper

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8006
Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Masai now dwelling in what is known as the Northern Reserve are leaving that reserve northwards; if so, whether this is due to any direct or indirect pressure of the Administration; whether the lands to which they are being driven are almost waterless desert; and whether the Colonial Office is taking any action in the matter. [Tuesday 16th April.]

Mr. G. Fiddes

Answer

? Reply -

In accordance with the agreement of the 26th of April 11, the text of which is given in the Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 5582], a considerable ^{already} number of the Masai have moved, not northwards as stated in the Hon.ble friend's question, but into the country set aside for them to the south & I believe that a few more ^{Southwards} are moving at the present time. I understand that

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subsequent Paper

16499

that no promise of any kind has
been secured by the Administration.
The lands to which they are moving
are not of the kind described by
my Hon. the friend, except that we
on the whole superior to those assigned
to the Northern Reserve. They
also cover a larger area.

H. J. R.

11/11

Ed. 11.4

I cannot find that any hint has been given
that the 'Garden of Eden' may also be
allotted. I am not quite clear ^{if the land} as alluding
to this or to the original extensions of the
Southern Reserve.

E 11.4

W. Pread's word apply adequately
to the extension of the Southern
Reserve apart from the Garden
of Eden.

H. 11.4



Orissa Report, 16 June.

Mr. HARCOURT: In accordance with the agreement of the 29th of April, 1931, the text of which is given in the Parliamentary Paper (C.L. 5584), a considerable number of the Masai have already moved, not northwards as stated in my hon. Friend's question, but into the country set aside for them in the south, and I believe that a few more are moving southwards at the present time. I understand that no pressure of any kind has been exercised by the Administration. The lands to which they are moving are not of the kind described by my hon. Friend, but are on the whole superior to those comprised in the Northern Reserve. They also cover a larger area.

Mr. T. E. HARVEY: In view of the very serious loss of life that occurred during the removal of part of the Masai South, will the right hon. Gentleman give an undertaking that the remainder who are in the Northern territory will not be removed until Parliament has had an opportunity of discussing the matter?

Mr. HARCOURT: Parliament did discuss the matter last autumn, and I do not think there is anything that could be usefully added to the discussion we had then.

Mr. T. E. HARVEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the loss of life that occurred was very serious? Has he not seen a photograph showing skeletons on the roadside along the route which these unfortunate Masai took in moving south?

Mr. HARCOURT: The loss of life was considerably less than that which usually occurs when the Masai move from one part of the country to another. I have seen the photograph. It shows only the skeleton of one woman, and, as the hon. Member must be aware, the Masai do not bury their dead, and it is therefore easy to discover the skeletons of those who die on the road.

Mr. T. E. HARVEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman send for further Papers showing what investigation was made into the loss of life?

Mr. HARCOURT: If there is any further information that can be of use I shall be pleased to give it to the House.

Sir WILLIAM BYLES: Does the right hon. Gentleman expect to have an opportunity of discussing the matter with the Governor of the province?

Mr. HARCOURT: The opportunity has occurred.

Put
Harv
April 27
at once