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1914

KISMAYU, GOWEN AND FONTE
COMMUNICATIONS ETC

28th July

States harbour at Kismayu needs examination and Admiral commanding station will be consulted. Arrangements made for lengthening pier there. Submits remarks as to river steamers, transmission of stores, Kismayu-Gowen Road, wireless at Kismayu and transport arrangements.

Last previous Paper.

4/22636

Put by

*at once.
to J.R.*

21/8/14

Colonel Hoskins

*to see
M.A. 21.8.14*

Next subsequent Paper.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

~~EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.~~

No. 712



July 28th, 1914.

Sir,

Mr. 2267

In reply to your despatch No. 628 of July 3rd, 1914, paragraph 2, I have the honour to offer the following observations upon the recommendations appended by Colonel Ward to his report on the lines of communication, Marehan Patrol. I have visited Kismayu, Gobwen, and Yonte since that report was written and am therefore now able to comment upon his proposals with the knowledge acquired by personal investigation.

2. I agree that a further examination of the harbour of Kismayu is desirable, and I propose to discuss the matter with the Admiral commanding the station, who will be here next week, and to inquire of him whether it is possible to obtain the services of a surveying vessel for this purpose.

3. I have made arrangements with the Director of Public Works, on the advice of the Port Officer, Mombasa, who accompanied me to Kismayu, for the lengthening

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

* No. 22636

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lengthening and repair of the pier. The question of the installation of a more powerful crane must await the completion of that work, but I doubt whether it will be found to be really necessary.

4. My experience of disembarkation at Kismayu during the South-West monsoon enables me to appreciate the difficulties which Colonel Ward had to encounter. It is desirable that all such work should, if possible, be completed during the North-East monsoon, but this of course was not possible in the case of the recent operations.

5. The present condition of the Protectorate finances would not justify me in advising expenditure upon Government river steamers. A new contract with the Navigation Company for carriage to Serenli was settled with the assistance of the Inspector General and has recently been completed. I see no reason to anticipate that this service will not meet the requirements of the immediate future.

6. Arrangements for the transmission of stores to Kismayu, and thence to Serenli, are in the hands of the military authorities, who may be trusted to so formulate their programme as to avoid the risks arising from seasonal disturbances.

7. The road between Kismayu and Gobwen is being steadily improved under the supervision of the District Commissioner. I motored over it twice without much difficulty and I have impressed upon the Director of Public Works the necessity of pushing on with construction.

8. There is no present urgency about installing a wireless station at Kismayu. The transmission of messages through Giumbo is certainly not free from disadvantage, but the accuracy of transmission will probably improve when the new station at Mombasa is in working order, and consideration of the question of a further installation may well be deferred until we have gained experience under new conditions.

9. The remaining subjects alluded to by Colonel Ward, and relating to transport arrangements between Kismayu, Gobwen, and Yonte, will be matter for consideration by the military authorities when the question of future control has been settled and the wants of the province can be estimated with exactitude. In the meantime existing arrangements appear to be adequate to meet present requirements.

I have the honour to be,

etc

SIR,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Breyer

GOVERNOR.