

EAST AFR. PROT
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14/11/14

Governor
Belfield

Cont
158

POSITION OF INDIANS

1914

States not aware of any differentiation to the detriment of persons of Indian nationality except in assignment of ownership of farm lands in highlands. Reports must be made for Legislative Council, railway accommodation and preparation of Procedure Code.

L. G. Fildes.

Q: the I.O. the substance of para: 3, 5, + 6 of the depts? - or, we might put by?

A: J.R

10/11/14

Reply enclosed 11/11/14

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

NAIROBI,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

10th October 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL, No. 158.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential despatch of August 10th 1914, dealing with certain questions raised by the Indian Congress recently convened at Bombasa, and to offer reply thereto as follows:-

2. It is my desire that the status of the Indian subjects of His Majesty residing in this Protectorate shall be recognised as being on an equality with that of British subjects of other nationalities, due regard being paid to class and condition, and I am not aware that any differentiation has been made, or now exists, to the detriment of persons of Indian nationality except in respect of the ownership of faram lands in the highlands.

3. The question of the nomination of an Indian unofficial member to the Legislative Council will not be lost sight of. At present there is no member of the Khoja community who would usefully fill such a position, but should it be possible later on to put forward the name of a gentleman

gentleman,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

possessing a competent knowledge of the English language and versed in the public affairs of the country, while at the same time enjoying the confidence of the Indian community and acceptable as their representative, I will see that careful consideration is given to the question of his nomination.

1. As you are aware, I am not personally in favour of such nomination for reasons with which I have already acquainted you. I consider it most improbable that selection of a qualified candidate could at any time be made from among the members of the dominant Indian section, while the choice of any other member of the smaller and more erudite classes would be quite unacceptable to the people who would be supposed to represent.

I have consulted the Acting Commissioner of the possible of providing special accommodation for Indian passengers on the railway, and have arranged that a second class carriage shall be reserved for them on at least one train a week each way. If the experiment is successful, we shall probably be able to provide such accommodation at more frequent intervals when the stress of the present period of emergency is somewhat relaxed.

Compliance with military requirements having caused a shortage in the number of 3rd class vehicles available for public traffic, it is not at present desirable to restrict the use of any such carriage to a particular class of passenger, but when a sufficiency of coaching stock is available a similar experiment will be tried with the lower class.

With reference to the...
 of your despatch, I am informed by the Attorney
 General that he is working through the draft of the
 Civil Procedure Ordinance prepared by the Chief
 Justice as rapidly as other duties upon which he will
 permit that he hopes to have it
 printing in the near future.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

obediently,
 (Signature)