

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

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REC'D  
PROF 32



31623

Governor 497

Girouard  
Date.

MAI

6 th September

Reports as to movement from the Northern Reserve into the extended Southern Reserve. States cause of check which appears to be temporary. It has been decided to send those checked back to Laikipia and to the land belonging to the E.A. Syndicate. Promises further report after meeting with Northern Chiefs and signatories to the agreement of April last.

Last previous Paper.

209589

W Read.

The land covered by Mr CM's application and the other places mentioned are shown on the map attached to the original of the recent agreement with the Masai, which is placed temporarily immediately below this paper. The Loita plains would seem to be the western extension of the Southern Masai Reserve, which is outlined by a broken green line on the map.

It appears that parties of the Masai proceeding by the more westerly routes found good grazing ground on Mt.

Mr. Anwar to come 18 Oct 1911  
My copy of the paper is 5574/12

(12-112) WILSON-50  
40200 11/10 A.M.W

Next subsequent Paper

32728

land at the top of [unclear] [unclear]  
at the very door of the [unclear] [unclear] and  
killed down here instead of [unclear] on  
to the Reserve. Nothing was done to  
we [unclear] forward into the lands allotted  
to them, their numbers increased [unclear]  
[unclear] came on they fell back in the  
direction from which they had come, on  
to the European farms lying along the  
Railway. They have now been moved  
further north still to the neighbourhood  
of their old Northern Reserve, partly  
on the east side of the East  
Africa Expedition. Sir P. G. [unclear]  
hopes that the [unclear] will be [unclear]  
in a few months.

This is a most unfortunate check  
and it looks very much as if it  
could have been avoided. It appears  
to have no reference to the merits  
of the move but to be due to defective  
machinery in carrying it out. Sir  
P. G. now says that had some  
of the Masai been kept back and [unclear]  
to take a year over the move [unclear] it  
never have been a check. This exp

x possibly  
a [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
desire not to  
hurry [unclear]  
of Sir  
1899

G. [unclear]  
[unclear]

the [unclear] opinion expressed in his  
telegram of the 5th of Sept. (1899) that  
the [unclear] had been pressed to quickly  
But it was Sir P. G. [unclear] who pressed  
the move on the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] were not carried out at all.  
It must be delayed for a year, and that  
if this were done many complications  
would arise.

38

It is not clear how many have  
actually reached the Southern Reserve  
[unclear] Sir P. G. [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] of the Northern Masai  
having now in a [unclear] of the bulk of  
the remainder having fallen back.  
It appears from para. 7 of this despatch  
that most of the signatories of the recent  
agreement have already gone in with  
their flocks or herds.  
[unclear] [unclear] of Mr. Macdonald's report  
some 40,000 to 50,000 head of cattle and  
about 30,000 sheep are reported to be having  
turned back from the Masai. The Northern  
Masai had 80,000 cattle and 1,500,000

steps. But it is not clear that Mr  
Macdonald's statement is meant  
to be exhaustive.  
It is of course the Legislature  
wants to reserve the Northern Reserve.  
He cannot, I think, be permitted lightly  
to go back on the agreement which he  
has solemnly signed after full  
deliberation of, as Sir P. Girouard  
suggests, his motive is personal advantage.

But we can only wait for further  
report with Sir P. Girouard is to send  
the seeing he sign to the agree-  
ment. At present it is impossible to  
decide who, if anyone, will have  
and what is the best thing to do. But  
I think we should at once telegraph  
to the Govt that, pending the final  
closing of this question, no ~~land~~  
~~rights~~ ~~of any kind~~ may be  
granted or promised to Europeans in  
connection with the Northern Reserve.

A

We cannot afford any misunderstanding  
on that point.

Mr. Macdonald.

We can only reserve judgment  
for the present. The rumours alluded to  
to be certainly have formed their way to  
England. The point of pressing importance  
is, I think, that at A in the Bulletin  
I sent - 10th 5th telegraph -  
request for a full of information  
in order to be able to take  
already been taken in this direction.

Yours

H. 4. 10. 11

keep. But it is not clear that Mr. MacDonald's statement is meant to be exhaustive.

It is a matter that requires a good deal of reflection before the Northern Reserve. He cannot, I think, be permitted lightly to go back on the agreement which he has solemnly signed after full deliberation of, as Sir P. Girouard suggests, his motive is personal advantage.

But we can only wait for the further report which Sir P. Girouard is to send after seeing the negotiations to the agreement. At present it is impossible to decide who, if anyone, is to blame, and what is the best thing to do. But I think we should at once telegraph to the Govt. that, pending the final closing of this question, no commitments be undertaken in the shape of concessions, or other specializations of which certain vested trade rights of any kind must be granted or promised to Europeans in connection with the Northern Reserve.

A

It cannot afford any material point

Oct 2

Mr. Harcourt

We can only receive reports for the present. The rumors alleged to have certainly have found their way to England. The point of primary importance is, I think, that at A in the Bulletin of the 22nd and 25th September. I am sorry to hear that the report is so untrue, and that the action has already been taken in its direction.

W. 3

Yes

Oct. 4. 10. 11

sleep But it is not clear that Mr. McDonald's statement is meant to be constructive.  
I think he has not been told what he can do. He cannot be permitted lightly to go back on the agreement which he has solemnly signed after full deliberation. As Sir P. Girouard suggests, his motive is personal advantage.

But we can only wait for the further report which Sir P. Girouard is to send after taking the signatories to the agreement. At present it is impossible to decide who, if anyone is to blame and what is the best thing to do. But I think we should at once telegraph to the Govt. that, pending the final closing of this question, no business is to be conducted in the Northwest, and that no special considerations must be granted or promised to Europeans in connection with the Northern Reserve.

A

We cannot afford any misunderstanding on that point.

Oct 2

Mr. Macdonald.

We can only reserve judgement for the present. The rumours allowed to be current certainly have found their way to England. The point of pressing importance is, I think, not as to whether the matter is true or not, but whether the Government should be told of it. It is a matter which, unless it is already known in the division,

Oct. 3

Yes

Oct. 4. 10. 11

31623



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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

September 6th, 1911.

34307  
(Incls. 2)

Sir,

Mr. Macdonald

Mr. Edmundson

In consequence of the approval contained in your telegram of May 29th 1911 the Masai were informed that the Government had agreed to their moving from the Northern Reserve into an extended Southern Reserve as defined in the agreement entered into with them on 31st last.

The move proceeded along four routes throughout June, July and August. No compulsion of any kind was used, and administrative and veterinary officers were detailed to escort the mobs of cattle across the European lands. During the move it was noticed that the Masai, although on occasions asked to remain upon European lands for a longer period than was actually necessary, refused to do so. This request by Europeans was made.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, B.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

\* No 15016

M... 15305-12

made to enable them to start a trade with the  
people as they went through, and not to  
impede the move, which has received every assist-  
ance in so far as European settlers are concerned.

3. One of the routes, which proceeded by  
Lake Naivasha, went straight into the extended  
Southern Reserve, and all those Masai who travelled  
by this route are now comfortably settled in the  
Loita Plains. The other three routes converged  
on the top of Mau into the land applied for by  
Mr. Powys Cobb. The first Masai to arrive on the  
Plateau went right through to their destination,  
but the succeeding parties, finding the grazing  
ground occupied, and their kine, and decided  
not to push forward into the plateau below. Un-  
fortunately no precautions were taken to prevent  
the loss of the kine, and the result was equal-  
led by a great congestion when the heavy rains, which  
usually fall on the plateau from August  
and September, came. The roads became impassible  
and the people and stock suffered from cold and  
discomfort. They accordingly returned, as reported,  
in a telegram of August 21<sup>st</sup>, to the European  
farms lying between Njora and Elmenteta Stations  
on the plateau.

~~4~~  
~~29874~~

In consequence of this...  
I was informed...  
the necessary...  
of Agriculture...  
N. 30874

officers, to investigate the situation. I am glad to say that in all the reports I have received nothing goes to prove that the move is other than temporarily checked. Undoubtedly, however, it has considerably affected the views of some of the people, and there would appear to be a desire, more particularly on the part of the Chief Legallishu, to return to the North. I think he is largely influenced in this decision by the fact that his own cattle have not yet gone south and that he now realises that the congestion in the North will be entirely relieved. Incidentally I mention at first to the move being approved. I may mention that the Northern Masai were dying of starvation in large numbers and that it was absolutely essential for me to permit them to break the boundaries of their Reserve in the East and South and to proceed on to the European farms and into the country which lies between their Reserve and the Maru country.

5. As it is impossible for the Masai to remain on the European farms near the Railway for any length of time or for them to press forward into the extended Southern Reserve at the present season, I have decided that under the circumstances the best policy to pursue is to send them back to Laikipia and to the land belonging to the East Africa Syndicate adjacent to the former Northern Masai Reserve. This step is now being carried



out, and it is hoped that the move will be resumed in a few months.

6. It is with great regret that I have to report this check, which is undoubtedly due to the fact that when once permission was given to the Masai to move they were allowed to push forward all together instead of proceeding to the extended Southern Reserve in sections. Had we kept back some of the Masai and obliged them to take a year over the move there would never have been a check.

7. I have not yet been able to meet the Northern Chiefs and the signatories to the agreement of April last as most of them have already crossed with their herds and flocks into the extended Southern Reserve, but I hope to do so as soon as we can get into touch with them. After my meeting with them I shall submit a further report.

8. As it has been stated locally that the Masai have lost numbers of people and stock on Mau, and as these rumours may find their way to England, I enclose herewith a copy of a report with enclosure by Mr. A. C. Macdonald, the Director of Agriculture, and Mr. A. E. Atkinson, who volunteered to accompany him and assist. From this report it will be seen that the Masai have suffered

suffered

suffered no great hardships during their stay on the Plateau, and that their losses are not of a serious character. With regard to the corpse which was seen, it should be remembered that the Masai do not bury their dead, and as there are no beasts of prey on Mau it is not surprising that the body of one person should have been found. It is indeed remarkable, considering the number of people and stock that have been living on the land applied for by Mr. Cobb, that more corpses and carcasses were not met with.

*etc*  
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*[Signature]*  
GOVERNOR.

Encl. No.

INCLOSURE

10/27/1911

ELMENTEITA

25th August 1911.

To

The Hon'ble

The Secretary for Native Affairs.

Acting under verbal instructions from His Excellency the Governor, we proceeded from Nairobi on the morning of the 21st of August to Nakuru to meet you and give what assistance we could in connection with the movement of the Masai.

On arrival at Elmenteita we met Mr. Chamberlain who informed us that a number of the Bailiia Masai with some <sup>40,000</sup> forty to fifty thousand head of cattle and about thirty thousand sheep had returned from the Mau (the Promised Land) and were back on his farm.

After discussion with him it was arranged that he should give grazing over 25,000 acres of land on his farm which together with grazing available along the foot-hills of Kuru (Government land) we considered would supply pasture for the stock for from six weeks to two months. This information we communicated by wire to His Excellency the Governor.

On arrival at Nakuru we met yourself, the District Commissioner, the District Veterinary Officer, and later on Mr. Colfinch (the Game Warden) from whom we gathered that the Masai had returned to the Elmenteita Plains owing to the grazing on the Promised Land having become exhausted and also to the fact that a large number of their cattle

and

60

and sheep as also some old men and women and young children had died from exposure and starvation.

After discussion it was arranged that we should proceed to Eimouteita and examine the stock which had returned and then proceed via the Kofill road to the Loita Plains with the view to ascertaining whether grazing was available.

On examination of the stock on the Eimouteita Plains and in the course of enquiry from the Masai in charge we gathered that a large number of them had not passed beyond the slopes immediately above the plains. On receipt of this information we naturally made a comparison between the above mentioned stock and those herds and flocks pointed out to us as having just returned from the Promised Land with the result that little difference in condition could be detected between the two lots. Further, Veterinary Officer Edmundson, who assisted us in the inspection, states (see accompanying report) that the stock was free from disease with the exception of a little scab and foot rot in the sheep. The men, women and children, who accompanied these returned herds and flocks, did not appear to have suffered any severe hardships.

In consequence of our observations on these points which we could not reconcile with the rumours (not statements) circulating in Nakuru and notwithstanding a statement made by Mr. Rodoker (who was sent to report) that all the Masai had moved down to the Eimouteita Plains, we considered it advisable to proceed to the plateau to obtain definite information as to what actually occurred there.

We left in company with Veterinary Officer Edmundson taking the route over which the majority

of the stock had not only travelled to the Plateau but by which they had returned to the Plains. Along this route which passed through forest glades and wood bush to the entrance of the Promised Land we only found one cattle carcass, three cattle skins and seven carcasses of sheep. Immediately after entering the Promised Land the body of a woman was pointed out to us by our Masai guides, this body (Dr. Atkinson's statement) was that of a young woman well nourished who had certainly not succumbed to starvation. Although all the Lomas were situated in the open and on exposed sites this was the only corpse, notwithstanding a very careful inspection, which we could discern. At the same time it is possible and highly probable in view of the large number of men, women and children who had moved up to the Plateau among whom must have been some very old people and very young children, that a few deaths had occurred about which we were unable to obtain direct evidence.

We started from the Elmsaleita Plains in the belief that all the Masai together with their stock had returned but on proceeding some distance into the Promised Land we found that this was not so - that there were still a number of occupied Lomas and during our passage over the land we came across four. The two larger ones, those of Ikemman and Saito were occupied by about sixty and eighty persons respectively while the stock in possession of the occupiers of the four Lomas numbered approximately four and five thousand cattle and ten thousand sheep. The stock we found to be equal in condition to those

inspected

of the stock had not any trace of the horses  
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 Promised Land we only found one cattle carcass,  
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 sixty and eighty persons respectively while the  
 stock in possession of the occupiers of the four  
 Domas numbered approximately four and five  
 thousand cattle and ten thousand sheep. The  
 stock we found to be equal in condition to those

inspected

inspected on the plateau but with staring coats owing no doubt to the cold experienced on the Plateau. A number of carcasses were lying outside the Comas but the deaths did not appear to us to be proportionately greater than is experienced by the farmer in British East Africa.

As regards the men, women and children we were informed that no deaths had taken place either in Legishulan or Saito's Comas and it was particularly noticed that while the old people were in normal condition the children were healthy and well nourished.

On questioning the Masai on the Plateau as to why so many had returned instead of proceeding to the Lower Plains, the replies given were to the effect that they had suffered from the cold and heavy rains and occasional hail-storms and that to proceed to the Lower Plains meant travelling for three days through dense forest.

During the short period of our visit to the Plateau the weather was dry and cold but from what we could ascertain very cold winds and heavy rains and hail-storms were experienced previous to this, and taking into consideration the conditions under which the people were living there is no doubt that the adverse climatic conditions caused extreme discomfort and some hardship. We may here state that these Masai whom we met on the Plateau had been there for about one month.

As regards the grazing, the pasture has been closely cropped but what remains is green and succulent and sufficient to keep stock in a healthy and growing condition.

Although

Although it was stated that the reason for the Masai not proceeding from the Plateau to the Lotta Plains was on account of the dense forest through which they had to pass with their stock, we learnt just before returning from our visit that some two thousand head of cattle had actually passed through the forest but that the road now, owing to recent rains, was practically impassable for further mobs to travel over it. On receipt of this information Mr. Edmundson was instructed to proceed to investigate and also to ascertain the conditions of the grazing below the forest. His report will be submitted direct to you in a few days and it is hoped that the Masai now on the Plateau will for the time being remain where they are.

7

~~Mr. J. G. Macdonald~~

Director of Agriculture

~~Mr. A. L. ...~~ R.C.S.

I.R.C.C.



ENCLOSURE

Promised Land,

Mau,

August 24th, 1911.

To the Hon'ble  
The Director of Agriculture.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in conformance with your instructions I accompanied you and Dr. Atkinson on a tour of inspection of Masai stock on the Elmenteita Plains and the Mau Plateau.

A very large quantity of stock (approximately forty to fifty thousand cattle and 30,000 sheep) were found grazing on the plains of Elmenteita and the foot-hills of Eburu.

Mob after mob were carefully inspected and in none was any disease observed with the exception of a little scab and foot rot amongst the sheep. The condition of the animals was particularly noted and was found to be as good as is usually seen in travelling stock. A few carcasses of sheep were found (7 in all) and of one beast also three fresh cattle skins pegged out in the neighbourhood of our kraal were seen.

The stock on the Mau Plateau (Promised Land) about four to five thousand cattle and 10,000 sheep were also inspected and found free from disease with

similar

similar to those mentioned above.

Here again the condition of the animals was carefully noted and found to be quite as good as that of the animals seen below the only difference remarked being that some of the old cows and cows in milk exhibited staring coats. The condition is as might be expected from the colder climate of the Man and the exposed position of the knails.

In reference to the scab this condition is not unusual as native sheep are seldom entirely free from it.

As regards the foot rot the percentage of affected animals (about 1 per cent) is remarkably small considering that these animals have in certain portions of their journey been obliged to pass over rough land and have been for some weeks been grazing on the plateau which consists to a certain extent of marshy ground.

On the plateau a number of carcasses were seen around the bomas the death rate however judging from the number of carcasses was not more than is common in flocks in my district.

I have etc.,

Sd. R. Edmundson

M.R.C.V.S.

Exp. 31623. Cal.



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