

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 8431

C. O.

8431

Per P. 9 M. 02

Governor. No.

85

(Subject.)

1908

Tours in Protectorate.

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Report

Last previous Paper

(Minutes.)

Mr. Anderson.
Heck. - say that Lieut Elgin has
read with interest & has noted with
pleasure the satisfactory state of affairs
in the Nandi reserve.

H. J. R.

15/3

W. H. G. 28

1/11 30.3

Satisfactory 1/14

Ans. 166. 6. 1/11

Next subsequent Paper.

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

February 14th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 85

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9 11 08

My Lord,

I recently made a tour from Londiani through the Ruina Station to the Uasin Gishu Plateau, crossing the plateau and returning via Algabiet and the Nandi Reserve.

2. I confess to some disappointment with the Uasin Gishu plateau about which so much has been said; the name seems to have caught on locally somewhat as the term "hinterland" came into vogue some years ago, and I doubtless owns something of its reputation to the attention that was paid to it in connection with the proposed Jewish settlement. It lies between the Mau and Elgeyo Hills on the East and Kabras and the lower slopes of Elgon on the West; on the North it is bounded by the Elgeyo Hills and the Nzoï River extending to the South to Lumbwa and the Nandi Reserve. Viewed from a distance it gives the appearance of a widespread open plain without a feature to mark the surface; a closer acquaintance, however, soon reveals undulating ground, small hills and valleys and depressions. The grazing is excellent and the soil and conditions should be suitable for the production of wheat, but there is not a tree on the plateau and the distances between water are at places considerable.

H. M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

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We had to carry firewood to the Sirgoit Rock from the last camp, and settlers on the plateau would have to depend for timber, until trees are planted, on the forests clothing the slopes of the Mau and Elgeyo Hills. It is at present, too, not easy of access, lying as it does six days' march from the Ravine, which is connected with the Railway at Lodiiani by an indifferent road at a further distance of 22 miles.

5. We took the Wuidorobo path through the forests, which is a day shorter than the track the carts would have to use; this path would be quite impossible for goods traffic at any time of the year and would be difficult for foot passengers except during the dry season when we used it, even then there was considerable difficulty in getting mules and donkeys along owing to the thick brushwood and swamps.

4. Our route took us through the Lingham and Grogan forest concession and although I did not pass through what are reputed to be the best parts of the forest, I saw quite enough to realize the great value of the timber contained in the concession.

5. I was much impressed with the Nandi Reserve and with the tribes generally. The soil in the agricultural parts is exceptionally fertile, the country is well diversified with hill and dale, water and wood are plentiful, and there is ample grazing. The tribe number about 40,000 souls and own about 17,000 head of cattle.

6. The forest patches contain rubber and various gum producing trees; attention is being paid to these gums, the collection of which may prove of importance commercially.

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commercially. The collection of beeswax is an industry which has lately been started and now some 600 lbs. are exported monthly from the Reserve during the five months of the year, from October to February, when the hives are taken.

7. The Nandi have certainly settled down in the most exemplary manner, their behaviour and attitude towards the Administration being all that could be desired. Cultivation is increasing rapidly and the people are anxious to produce more payable crops than the country grains to which they are accustomed. The long eared rust-proof wheat has been tried with success and arrangements are being made to supply the natives with seed for general distribution. The question of the cultivation of this cereal was discussed with the chiefs, and samples of wheat grown in the country were shown to the assembled natives, who at once recognized its superiority over their little black grain locally known as "Wimbi". The Nandi system of cultivation is superior to any I have seen yet in East Africa. The soil is cut, for a depth of 8 to 8 inches in clods some two feet square. These are collected in heaps and burnt with the grass and roots adhering to them, the ashes, which burn a brick red, are then spread over the fields for manure.

8. Arab Cheno, the leading chief, is a man of marked energy and intelligence. He has taken entirely to European dress and he and another chief have built themselves iron and wooden houses close to the old Nandi Station. During the present year, the first of the incidence of the tax, the Nandi have paid close

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upon Rs.25,000 as hut tax, and I was agreeably surprised to hear that the Nandi chiefs have subscribed amongst themselves the sum of £.60/- from the commission payable to them for the collection of the tax for the importation of 12 rams for breeding purposes from South Africa.

9. The Indian traders settled in the Reserve tell me that the demand for cotton goods is steadily increasing, and I observed that many of the 400 or 500 natives who met me at the Station were using cotton goods in some form or other; unfortunately it was all "American"; altogether these people give signs of progress for which I was not prepared to credit them before I visited the country.

10. On my return I stopped at Kisumu to see the Provincial Commissioner and the Officer Commanding Troops, who had just returned from the Kisi Expedition, with regard to the settlement of the Kisi country, in connection with which I shall shortly submit my report to Your Lordship.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

W. G. Bull

For CAP
8431

574 C.D.
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Just

April 20th

DRAFT

EAP no 106
For
L. J. Hays Saddle Co

MINUTE.

- Mr. Bottonly 2/4
- Mr. Read 1102 2/4
- Mr. Juss.
- Mr. Antrabus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Lucas.
- Mr. F. Hopwood.
- Mr. Churchill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

Sir,
I have the hon. back
the rest of your despatch
of the 14th of Feb. and
to inform you that I have
read with interest your
report on your recent tour
to the ~~North~~ Basin Goshen
Plains and have noted
with pleasure the satisfactory
state of affairs in the
hands of the

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