

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.

CO
37570

No. 37570

Recd
15 OCT 08

Detachment No.
Cable 468

(Subject)

1908

Educational of Ghanese

in Gambia

Sept 17

Last previous Paper

37569

Reports reception of Ghanese deputation of ideas request for the building of a school house. He proposed to financially consider proposal but requests that an officer be sent from London to examine a general scheme of education for the land.

(Minutes)

See on 39583

Last subsequent Paper

39583

2699

Governor's Office,

37570
15 DEC 08

Nairobi,

September 17th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 488

My Lord,

I received yesterday a deputation of the Goanese Community who came to see me on the question of the Education of the Goanese children in Nairobi.

2. A certain number of the Goanese children, whose parents are in the employ of the Railway, attend the mixed school, the late Railway School; it would be possible to extend this school so as to provide for the rest of the Goanese Community, but the influx of the large number of Goanese children would be sure to result in the European children, whose parents are able to pay the small fees charged, leaving the school.

3. The deputation pointed out that there are now some 40 children of their Community in Nairobi who are of an age to attend school and that in the absence of local educational facilities they have to send their children to be educated in India, which is expensive besides entailing separation from their families.

4. The Goanese are a large and influential Community in East Africa, they own a number of shops and stores and supply most of the clerical staff of

our

H.H. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, E.C. 4.

(2)

our Government Departments. It is becoming more difficult to get good clerks from India at the rates we have been accustomed to pay, and I think that, apart from the claims the Goanese have to look for educational facilities in the country in which they are domiciled, it will be distinctly to our advantage to keep their children in the Protectorate, where they can be trained to fill the vacancies in the Clerical Staff when old enough to join it.

5. The deputation told me the Goanese hoped to be able to raise amongst them a sum of between Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000 towards the building of a school house at Nairobi if Government would contribute about the same amount. The fees would average Rs. 4 per annum, and besides the Nairobi children there would be others wishing to join the school from Mombasa and Kisumu, and up to Entebbe. Such would number an additional 20; and the Goanese in Nairobi would arrange for the boarding of outside children. A European Master and an Assistant Goanese Master would be required, whose salaries would almost be met by the fees.

6. I am prepared to favourably consider the proposal which will be gone into more in detail by the School Committee and funds are available this year, under School Building Grants, to meet the contribution suggested. The school would, of course, be a Government School and educate at first up to the 4th Indian Standard.

7. The whole question of Education of the children of

(5)

of Europeans, Goanese, Asiatics, Arabs and Natives is so important and is so difficult to deal with without expert advice that I have ventured to-day to telegraph and ask Your Lordship to approach the India Office with a view to an officer of the Bombay Educational Department being deputed to Nairobi to advise me on a general scheme of education for the Protectorate - we have none of us any practical experience of dealing with educational questions - and I look upon the deputation of such an officer as I propose, well acquainted with the practical working of an educational system in the East, as of very great importance, and I trust that the India Office will be able to spare his services at once. The expenses will be met from the Educational Vote for the present year, which I am unable to spend in full until the various problems connected with Education in East Africa are brought nearer to a solution than they are at present.

8. I suggest an officer from the Bombay Educational Department because that Presidency is more intimately connected with East Africa, our Goanese and most of our Asiatic traders coming from that part of India.

9. My latest despatches on the subject of Education are Nos. 412 and 467 of the 19th ultimo and 15th instant respectively.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

W. J. ...

30/11/47

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