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Foreign

1910

11 Feb.

Affairs in France & Africa

Handwritten notes in French, possibly discussing political or administrative matters.

Mr. D. D. ...

W/I
P. 14

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the word "L'Assemblée" and other illegible text.

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 4300/10.

and address
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper

Foreign Office,
February 11, 1910

Refers to previous letter

Description of Inclosure

Name and Date	Subject
Mr. A.C. Grant Duff (Dresden) No. 10 Jan. 29, 1910.	Unsatisfactory condition of affairs in German East Africa.

(Similar letter sent to HM Agent, Colonial Office)

January 28th, 1910.

The unsatisfactory state of affairs in East Africa

In the memorial for the years 1908-1909 on the development of German East Africa it is stated (as an excuse for the somewhat lamentable result of commercial development) that "The foreign Trade Figures do not give a correct idea, as far as they have been received up to the close of the year ending the 31st of December 1909, while as regards important products, - for instance cotton, (the crop of the year under review) for the most part only appeared in the last Quarter of 1909-1909 and further because the consumption in the Protectorate has increased considerably "to us the meaning appears to be rather small, but this much we know, and that is, that the Government is very anxious to put just as good a face as possible on the matter as is also clear from the fact that they repeatedly lay stress on the "commercial crisis in the world's market". It is only remarkable that the crisis had not affected the other colonies,

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colonies, and has not prevented them from developing considerably; while the trade of East Africa has come to a standstill during the last three years (or as the Memorial so nicely puts it) has remained "steady". It may be pertinently remarked in this connexion that if steadiness we understand a uniform development during a succession of years. However this cannot be said of East Africa. For while during the period 1902-1906 the commercial turn-over of the colony increased from year to year from 41 to 5 millions, the increase in the last year and the previous year amounts only to M. 150,000 and M. 200,000 respectively. Besides we must not forget that in the figures of the last years a considerable amount is included as Rail-way material, and thus the real net commercial turn-over is in reality still smaller. East Africa, a Colony, which beyond all other tropical colonies is so amply supplied with railways and which already has a relatively considerable length of lines in working order should properly have shown in the last

two years a brisker development of trade in comparison with the former years. Probably this would have been the case if the pitiful policy pursued had not thrown all kinds of impediments in the way of development of trade. We may consider Mr. Bernburg's policy as regards the natives from any point of view we choose, but fundamentally the policy in question is purely theoretical in its nature, for he is after all not good a man of business to allow views to assume a practical shape which could only retard the development of commercial life. We are told a drastic example of this the other day, Bernburg was greatly interested in an enterprise which under the circumstances will be prejudicial to the affairs of a certain category of coloured people. Nevertheless Bernburg has given every encouragement; on the other hand Governor von Hechenberg has, it is said, been very much upset by the whole affair. And that is the salient point in the whole inquiry as to cause of the stagnation of trade. The confidence in the future of

the colonies under a Governor who favours the coloured population and who finds European immigration troublesome cannot be very great, and in consequence of this erroneous policy business life must suffer and more especially the business of trade. The European planting industry has developed tolerably well in spite of the policy of Herr von Rechenberg and his one sided partiality for negro labour, a proof of the energy and industry of the European settlers. Finally Herr von Rechenberg has apparently tried his best to keep European settlers at a distance while he raises no objection if hundreds of Indians without means overrun the colony like locusts from month to month. Under these circumstances the Governor is rightly of opinion that Europeans have no prospects of settling on the East Africa. But if this is the case he ought not to allow Dernburg to praise him as a friend of immigration, as the for- mer did in the Budget Committee and he ought not to admit that he sanctioned a Propaganda in the

Memorial

Memorial on the Kilimandjaro Railway in favour of the settlers. That Herr von Rechenberg is in reality opposed to colonization clearly appears from recent letters from East Africa. It is therein stated on the best authority that Herr von Rechenberg urgently advised two persons who were anxious to settle in East Africa, and who could have given every assistance as regards birth education and fortune, to go to South West Africa, as more could be done there. This is only one of the many cases though it happens, as far as is known, to be the latest. In view of the attitude of the head of the Colonial Government, Dernburg will not take it amiss if we regard the newly aroused ardour for colonization with some degree of scepticism. Of what use to us are the most beautiful Memorials, if the acts of the Governor are diametrically opposed to what is stated therein? How to give two more illustrations of the way in which Herr von Rechenberg injures German prestige to please the coloured population. The "Deutsch-Ostaf. Zg." reports that the

Festivities

festivities at the departure of the cruiser "Bussard" were of a hearty, happy, and harmonious character. Still some astonishment was excited by the fact that Governor von Rechenberg who had accepted an invitation that afternoon at the house of a well known Arab where he partook of champagne, cold meats etc., was not present at the celebration at the leave taking of the "Bussard." It was considered as a matter of course, that the Governor would not absent himself from the fête, which was held in honor of a man of war which had specially distinguished itself during the German East Africa insurrection. However, articles from the same paper state that an Arab who on account of disrespect to a German was fined 50 rупees, referred to the Governor, to testify in his absence, whereupon the latter wrote to the local magistrate's that although the verdict had been given, the case should be again reviewed. Fortunately the local magistrate who presided at the trial did not allow himself to be affected by this case.

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refused to hear a fresh witness whom the native had brought up, as the first black witness that he had brought up testified against him, and confirmed the verdict of the first trial. The Governor is thus quite ready to receive immediately the assertion of a common Coote, a coloured man, who has insulted a German, coram publico, and who had been punished by the magistrate, who deals with cases involving natives more leniently than the judgment given by a German official. There are dozens of such cases as we have already in the past mentioned. As the roads were broken up, it is to be feared that the natives and the other coloured races in view of the Governor's attitude are becoming more and more alienated and harder than ever before. A merchant who has just returned from East Africa, has told me some interesting facts in regard to this. A number of old and experienced East Africans who are ardent and sincere supporters of colonisation have told me that in view of the native and coloured policy of the

Governor,

Governor, new immigrants had better be dissuaded from coming out. Well, the Governor has, as has been related, given us in this respect a characteristic example of his self-confidence. If we try to picture to ourselves the sketch given at the opening of this article of the trade results of the bath tub system, we must certainly admit that pessimism is only too well justified. If the Government is really in earnest about colonization, it will in that case not intrust the task of organising colonization to a Governor who is a declared opponent of this form of colonization, but even apart from this, in view of the notorious stagnation of commercial life, it is right, that in some way or other confidence in the Government should be restored and that the current of commercial life should flow freely. If railways remain without effect, the lock out is indeed a bad one.