

DESPATCH

530 (M)

EAST AFR PROT.
No. 31264

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31 AUG 07

No.	
Order	343
1907	
9 Aug.	
in previous Paper.	

(Subject.)

affairs in Reserves

Reports as to present state of

(Minute.)

Mr Ellis.

They seem to have the situation well in hand but it is rather surprising to learn that the Limbua, Buret & Sadi districts, which we have just approved of the establishment of Native Reserves, are those chiefly affected. This scarcity however is wholly unusual, see para 5 of the Govt rep - 25562, & that I don't think there is any necessity to re-examine the location of the reserves.

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alone

31264

Governor's Office,
Nairobi,
30 AUG 07

August 8th 1907.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 245

My Lord,

On the 29th ultimo I proceeded to Kisumu, returning on the 5th instant, and halting on the way at Naivasha and Nakuru.

2. There were several matters requiring consideration, such as the relative claims of Nakuru and Naivasha to such buildings as have been captioned in this year's Budget for the Headquarter Station of the Province, there being a growing tendency to consider that Nakuru will develop more rapidly than Naivasha and prove more suitable as a Provincial centre; the question of water supply for Nakuru and Kisumu and certain matters connected with the boundary of the Masai Reserve. On these points I shall report in due course.

3. But the principal object of my short tour was to ascertain by personal communication with the District

Officers

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, E.C.

Officers, whom I summoned to meet me, the present state of affairs in the Districts of the Kisumu Province where scarcity necessitated the opening of relief operations some months ago. It was anticipated that these operations should have been completed by now, but owing in parts to a greater or less failure of the last season's harvest through drought and in others to the crops not having ripened from an absence of sun owing to protracted late rains, it is still necessary to continue measures of relief in certain parts.

4. The following is the present position:-

KISUMU DISTRICT. Scarcity has ended, and there have been no persons on relief since the end of June. The natives have already reaped one crop of maize of above half the average yield and the potato crop should be ready in about a fortnight.

MUMIAS DISTRICT. No relief was required in this District. But grain was sold to the natives by Government at cost price. They ceased buying grain by the end of May.

KARUNGU DISTRICT. Still 90 persons on relief work. There is slight scarcity but no further apprehension. A harvest of millet slightly above half the average yield has been

reaped

reaped, which will carry the people on till the potato crop is ripe three weeks hence. There has never been severe scarcity and the greatest number of persons on relief works was 110.

NANDI DISTRICT. There are still 400 natives on relief works, employed in making roads, and the district Commissioner reports that relief will have to be continued with reduced numbers for another month, by which time the people will be able to obtain supplies in exchange for goats and cattle from Kabras and Kakymega. The crops will not be ripe for another two months in the northern parts of the Reserve owing to continued cold and wet. There has been distress in this district but the chiefs report comparatively few deaths, which have been principally among the very old and very young of both sexes. The District Commissioner has on hand 200 loads (of 60 pounds) of food, and orders were issued for another 200 loads to be sent to him. Matters are being carefully watched in this district and relief works will be continued so long as the condition of the people renders this necessary.

LUMBWA, BURET AND SOTIK. There is still considerable scarcity

scarcity in these districts owing to the same causes as those operating in the northern parts of the Nandi Reserve, crops unable to ripen from want of sun. Euret and Sotik can hardly be said to have been occupied as yet. They are out-districts of Lumbwa, and a Station is to be established this year in Sotik. There are 450 persons on relief works engaged in making the new Lumbwa-Euret-Sotik road which has now advanced 7 miles from Lumbwa, and about 50 aged or sick are relieved daily. Mr. Welsted is employed on special duty in these districts in connection with relief operations. Captain Mankotes, Assistant District Commissioner, is in Sotik. Work will now proceed at three points on this road, on the continuation 7 miles from Lumbwa, at a central point in Euret, and at the Sotik end, so as to allow of a wide distribution of relief. It is difficult to induce the natives to come in from a greater distance than 7 miles, though the Chiefs have been warned by the District Officers to advise the people to bring in all cases of distress to our Station of Lumbwa or the relief camps. There are 200 loads of food on hand and further supplies have been sent up.

KISII DISTRICT. This district has not felt the scarcity and has been providing food for Kerungi. It will thus be observed that apprehension now only exists so far as the Nandi Reserve and Lumbwa, Buret and Sotik districts are concerned.

5. These have been supplied with food and relief operations will be continued as long as may be necessary, unless the scarcity is prolonged beyond what is anticipated it is considered that the funds already sanctioned for relief operations will suffice.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

Thyobeka