

EAST AFR. PROT
UGANDA

41934

44/434

London 27
Commerc

Standard weights & measures

1917

18 Aug.

Sends resolution endorsing resolution of local
Chambers for abolition of local system and
adoption of British system pending introduction
of a uniform Imperial System

Last previous Paper.

31195/12
12
18/8

~~W. G. G. G.~~ W. G. G. G.

Schedule 7. to the E.A.P. Order (in
30546/12) expressly provides for the
retention of the fishi & the kitaba
as measures of capacity. (Schedules
C & 7) The Bluebook also mentions
the Frasila (weight) the Gosta (a weight
used for grain & depending on the particular
kind of grain & therefore rather a measure
of capacity) & the Ngona (The fishi -
Tanzania only) as being "in common
use".

EAP 650
Copr Uganda 262
3 Sept 1917
Cons
15 April 1917
EAP 235
1917

Last subsequent Paper.

6289/12

31195/12
12
18/8
The Uganda Ord^s & Regulations only
Imperial weights & measures & the

Blue book adds none as being in common use

The legalization of the Piki & Kibata
in the E.A.P. was founded on the recommendation
of a local Committee [9072/10]

9. Ack: recd. & say we are bringing their
views to the notice of the local Govt.

Copy to E.A.P. for advice, & ask for info
as to their rights & measures - Uganda &
Kisumu - Check are sent in the Order.

Copy to Uganda for advice, & ask for info
as to their position regarding local
measures, pointing out that they
were expressly excluded from the
Uganda Order.

Inf. each Prot. that I have
written to the other

WLB 27.8.17

55.7.17
at once



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CONVENTION, CANNON, LONDON."

TELEPHONE NO.
7554-5-6 CITY.



1, 2 & 3, OXFORD COURT & 97, CANNON STREET,
LONDON, E.C. 4.

August 18th 1917.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the East African Section of this Chamber, consideration was given to a resolution adopted by the Nairobi Chamber of Commerce in June last in favour of asking the Government of the Protectorate of British East Africa to abolish the present local weight standards in favour of the Imperial standards of avoirdupois.

It was unanimously resolved: -

"THAT this Section supports in principle the resolutions of the Nairobi and Uganda Chambers of Commerce in favour of the discouragement of local systems of weights and measures and the official recognition of the British system pending the adoption of a uniform Imperial system as advocated by the Chambers, and that the Colonial Office be advised accordingly".

In forwarding this endorsing resolution for your consideration, I am to point out that this is not a case where British merchants are unwilling to adapt their business methods to suit the convenience of an old established foreign market. These local standards to which exception is taken, were introduced simultaneously with the British weights and measures and they progressed concurrently with the development of East African trade, and it is believed that the avoirdupois system is generally preferred.

This Chamber is informed that at present the old Arab weight standards and the British standards are in use almost indiscriminately in British East Africa and Uganda. Even the Government Gazette Notices of the two Protectorates quote a given article sometimes in one standard, sometimes in the other. The risk of confusion, especially to non-resident correspondents and Home Principals, is evident in itself, but is the greater when it is appreciated that the Arab standards, although nominally weight, are actually based in some cases upon measurement and various weights thus apply to the same denominator when used for various lines of produce, and even for the same line in various local markets.

For example :-

A Frasila is by Arab law 35 lbs. and this equivalent is adopted by the British Government for all merchandise and produce except Ivory. A Frasila of Ivory is 35 lbs.

A Gisla is by Arab law 360 lbs, but for sesame seed, as an exception, the Gisla is 285 lbs.

The Load is by E.F.A. custom (there being no law re this) 60 lbs. and is supposed to represent a standard native porter's head load, but the actual head load now standardised by the Uganda Government is 56 lbs, and by the Congo Government (just across the Uganda frontier) is 65 lbs.

The situation is, in brief, very much the same as to be found in the London produce markets until very recently, when denominations such as bushel, quarter, etc. varying in avoirdupois for wheat Linseed, etc. etc., were by agreement abolished in favour of the Lb., Cwt., and ton avoirdupois.

I am to express the hope that this matter may receive the early attention of the Secretary of State.

Yours faithfully,

Charles M. ...
Secretary.

MJ en936 S.A.P

U. 35 Sept 1910

Sir, I have the honor to

transmit a copy of the letter received from the Sec. C. Committee, and request that you will furnish me with your observations thereon.

2. In the East Africa Dept. and Museum Order 1912, Schedule F especially, for the retention of the Pishi and the Kitaba as museum of special interest. This would have, as I have been informed, been disposed of in the account of the local committee, with your sanction of 1910.

The Blue Book also mentions the Fasilka (west) the Gula (a vest used for

Ans. 500/10

DRAET.

E.A.P. No 680
Gen. M.G. MINUTE.

B. M. 31.8.17

- M. Grindle.
- M. Lambert.
- M. Road.
- M. G. Fiddes.
- M. I. Steel-Maitland.
- M. Long.

18.8.17

but I have no copy as to the use of other local weights and measures, except those contained in the Blue Book as to the Fasilka, the Gula, and agoma. I shall be glad to receive a further report from you on the subject & on the retention of the

70

representatives of the
Chamber of Commerce
plain and depending on
the particular kind of grain
and their rather a
measure of capacity,
and the Nigoma (7 1/2 bushels
Tanzania etc.) - as being
a Common use.

I shall be obliged if
you will furnish me with
information about their
weights & measures.
(A similar dispatch has been
sent to
Similar communication
to the C. O. M. S. of Uganda
Letter to the U. Protector
in respect of the
that Protectorate.

MS. 41934 E.A.P.
to 3 Sept 17 197

Sir,
I have the honour to
transmit ^{to you for your attention} a copy of a
letter received from the
S. S. London Ch. Commerce
in the subject of the proposed
local weights ^{and measures} Standards
in Uganda and the E.A.
in your Protectorate
to request that you will
furnish me with your
observations thereon.

2. I should be obliged if
you would furnish me with
information as to the position
regarding local ^{weights and measures} balances,
which I would print at
when expressly excluded
from the Uganda Ordinance
of 1917.

DRAFT.
Uganda Protectorate
112 262
Gov. O.M.S.

- MINUTE.
- Mr. Bishop 31/8
- Mr. B. Mackenzie 31/8 7/10
- Mr. G. Fiddes
- Mr. G. Lambart
- Mr. G. Road
- Mr. G. Fiddes
- Mr. G. S. St. Maitland
- Mr. Lang

18.8.17

dispatch to be

3 A Similar communication to this

3 Sept 17

Sir,

I am directed to ack: the
Receipt of your letter of the
18th August on the subject
of the ^{act of} present local weight
and measures ^{of the G.A.P.}
standards of the G.A.P. & Co.

and to inform you that the
views expressed in the London
Charter of Commerce
will be brought before the
of the local interests of the
two Protectorates

DRAFT

The Sec^y
Ch. of Commerce

MINUTE.

Minutes 31st 17
Monday 31st 8th 17 for

- Mr. Grindle.
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Bond.
- Sir G. Piddoe.
- Mr A. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Long.

3245