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COLONIAL
OFFICE

CURTAINMENT OF ANNUAL BLUE-BOOK REPORTS

1919

JUNE

Set previous Paper.

Give list of items to be omitted with
minutes ref.

- ~~House Parliament~~ 10/6/19
- Ex. Committee 10/6/19
- to cover 10.6
- to Affairs 10.6/19
- to Comptroller 10.6.19
- to Finance 10.6.19
- to Justice 10.6.19

See

Col.

10/6/19

to

Subsequent Paper.

5710
3764

JUN 19

CURTAINMENT OF ANNUAL BILLS BOOK PAPERS

Summary of decisions made on Treas/47767/15, Gen.

(Unless marked * these curtailments are intended to be permanent).

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- :::~::~:
- (1) Maps: - To be omitted.
 - (2) Tables of Revenue and Expenditure: - Omit - and simply give the totals for the year under review and the previous year. Any special increase of revenue or expenditure under any important sub-head should of course be noted in subsequent paragraphs.
 - (3) Trade Returns: - Avoid formal tables.
 - (4) Local Property Abstract (Jamaica): - Omit.
 - (5) Shipping Statistics: - Avoid formal tables.
 - (6) List of Legislation: - Omit - noting, perhaps, one or two really important laws.
 - (7) Medical Statistics: - Cut down, if possible.
 - (8) Judicial and Police Statistics: - Cut down, if possible.
 - (9) Vital and Public Health Statistics: - Retain only a summary.
 - (10) Postal and Telegraph Statistics: - Omit.
 - (11) Tabular Statement of Public Works Expenditure: - Omit.

(N.B. It was decided that Colonial Governments should still be allowed to prepare the Reports on the 2nd line, and that the Reports should be cut down here. Thus the same information as before would be available here, and some of it could be eliminated from the Reports as laid before Parliament).

Mr. B. ...
Mr. Fiddian.

The Blue Book Reports for Uganda and Somaliland have now come in. Last year, as you know, instructions were that they were to be cut down as far as possible, but before editing them on the lines of last year, I should be glad to learn whether in view of the armistice and the (apparent) increase in the supplies of paper it is necessary or desirable to prune them so much.

J.R. 24/2/19

W.C.B. 24/2/19

Mr. Fiddian

The documents have been upon us the subject of cutting down the reports.

(1) Essays - see Treasury 775/10 General Circular of 10th October 1918. The request raised the question of essays, not reports, and the excision suggested in the circular was not to be made. The Treasury have indicated the necessary treatment. The Treasury Circular was C.O. 100/11. Note that it referred to other short cuts. The C.O. asked us (1) to omit the contents page, (2) to omit the covering despatch, (3) to omit the title, and to give the list of other published reports.

We agreed to omit (2) which omission was also recommended by the Blue Book Committee and later, on pressure from C.O. we agreed to omit (1).

We have received no information from C.O.

that

that these queries are no longer necessary. But we might ask them now whether it is still necessary, on grounds of economy, to omit the Contents page. We need not raise the question of including the Covering Despatch as this has been condemned by the Blue Book Committee.

I would suggest that for the present Blue Book Reports should be cut down on the lines laid down in minutes of Treasury/4767/15 General and that until we have heard further from S.O. the Contents Page be omitted.

H.F.D. 12/5/19

Mr. Grindle.

I agree.

19/5/19

It is the best advice as special cases and will justify more extensive publication of any information likely to be of use to creditors.

19/5/19

at office.

Mr. Fiddian

Mr. Grindle

This is a reasonable proposal and I think that we should agree to give it a trial, i.e.

(1) Reports not exceeding 12 pages to have no contents page.

(2) When reports exceed 12 pages Stationary Office to be given discretionary power to compress the contents page into the upper half of the first page (of Mr. Strachey's suggestion in marginal minute of 20-2-18 on 8007/18)

? reply agreeing to give the proposal a trial.

(When reply has gone off - this paper and 20492/19 with relevant papers should be circulated to Departments to note).

(Circulated 5 May 1919)

H.F.D. 22/4/19.

I agree

A.F. 23

G.G. 25.4.19.

at once.

MODERN