

EAST AFR. PROT

19754

REC'D APR 15

19754

Bowring
for Govr 230

1915

24th March

Last previous Paper.

Gov
19013/11

ELECTRIC LIGHT IN OFFICIAL BUNGALOWS
AT NAIROBI AND MOMBASA

For reasons given recommends abolition of charge of 5% on installations. States supply in Nairobi for last three months has been disgraceful. Promises further despatch as to this.

Concur in the proposed abolition of the 5% charge, but say that amounts will of course continue to be paid for & recovered by the occupier, as settled by Gov 11/11 + our reply.

at once.
B. J. R.
N/E/15

Sub? 312. Omer's 15

Next subsequent Paper

G.O.
19754

GOVERNMENT HOUSE 20 APR 15

NAIROBI,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 230

March 24th 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the question of the payment of 5% by officials in Nairobi and Mombasa on the cost of the installation of electric light in their bungalows. Considerable correspondence on this subject took place in 1908 and succeeding years ending with your despatch No. 329 of June 19th 1911.

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2. Having recently had occasion to examine the system on which this payment is made I have come to the conclusion that the trouble and inconvenience caused by its collection are greater than the sum involved warrants.

3. It is obvious that demands for payment can only be made annually and it frequently happens that in the course of the year quarters may have been occupied by more than one officer, owing to transfers or leave arrangements. In other cases 2 or more officers share a house and it is sometimes difficult

to

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

to apportion the cost of installation between them, particularly when one of them does not wish to make use of it.

4. During the whole or part of a year an officer may discontinue the use of some or all of the lights, whereas his predecessor or successor, as the case may be, may avail himself of the entire installation.

5. It may be argued that such difficulties can be overcome and a proportionate charge made, and this is doubtless the case. The revenue, however, derived last year from this source was £91 only, while the cost of collection to the Public Works Department alone was estimated at between £60 and £70. Further expense in collection is also incurred at the Treasury, as at all other offices with which correspondence takes place, and there is little doubt that the labour necessitated by the collection of this revenue since 1909 has resulted in considerable loss to the Government.

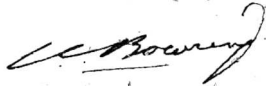
6. I venture to bring the matter forward more particularly at the present time owing to the disgraceful - the epithet may seem strong but it is abundantly justified - service which the Nairobi Company has for the last three months supplied to consumers. It has been noticeable for some years back at this season that the current has been insufficient, yet no precautions have been taken or efforts made to supplement the supply with the result that recently it has been practically useless for illuminating purposes. I do not wish to imply that at ordinary times the light is good. On the contrary failures occur

occur throughout the year, but just now the lamps are practically non-existent for five nights per week. The matter is in the hands of the Attorney General and I hope shortly to address you on the general question. Meanwhile I consider it an opportune moment for abolishing the charge on installations which, as I have stated, is troublesome to collect and in present circumstances seems scarcely justified.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



Draft approved by the
GOVERNOR.

Gov 19752/1915

E.A.P.

U. S. MAY 5

[Handwritten signature]

6 May 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 230 of the 24th March and to inform you that I concur in your proposal to abolish the charge of 5 percent on the cost of the installation of electric light in the bungalows of officials in Karachi and Mombasa.

The lamps will, of course, continue to be paid for and renewed by the occupiers as proposed

DRAFT.

E.A.P., No. 322

Jr. Mr. Stobellfield.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 3/5/15

Mr. Nottingham 4.5.15

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

in Sir P. ...
252 of the 17th May 1911 &

approved in my reply, No

[19023/1911]

329 of the 19th June 1911.

L

(Signed) L. HARCOURT.