

1935

38184

1935

38184

KENYA

C0533/461

Preservation & extension of forest resources

Previous

Subsequent

1936

Reg 297	22/6
Room 309	27/8
The Director	28
S. C. Brindley	29
das Plymouth	30/8
R 299	4/9
R 297	16/2
R. 80	19/2
R. 297	21/2
R. 298	22/10
R 297	

68  
Forestry  
Nominal

1/1/ Governor Wade 248. \_\_\_\_\_ 29 July '35

Trans. a letter from the Kenya Arbor Society enclosing a memo. regarding the preservation & extension of the Colony's forest resources & damage caused thereto by overstocking & fire which occurs thereon.

The Kenya Arbor Society urges that a scheme of re-afforestation and re-conditioning should be put in hand without delay, with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund or from any Fund available for the development of forests in the Colonies.

The memorandum is largely a description of the denuded state of the Colony and contains no definite suggestions for a plan of campaign. The Society alleges that in the native Reserves the small patches of forest that are left are steadily being destroyed. They admit, however, that trees are being planted, notably in the Kikuyu, Kavirondo and Ukamba Reserves. On the other hand, they argue that the value of the new plantations, (wattle and gum) as timber is not great since it is useful only for bark and fuel.

According to the Kenya Forestry Report, 1935, the position in the Native Reserves as a whole, may be said to be improving, and in many, reasonably satisfactory, but the Conservator agrees that in the Teita, Kamisia, Southern Kavirondo and Kissi Reserves, afforestation on a considerable scale is desirable. The Report also conveys a picture of the efforts which are being made by the Forest Department <sup>and</sup> of the local Native/

See page  
21  
Report on  
2321734

64.

Forestry.

Nominal

A/Governor Wade 348.

29 July '35

Trans. a letter from the Kenya Arbor Society enclosing a memo. regarding the preservation & extension of the Colony's forest resources & damage caused thereto by overstocking & furnishes some. thereon.

The Kenya Arbor Society urges that a scheme of re-afforestation and re-conditioning should be put in hand without delay, with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund or from any Fund available for the development of forests in the Colonies.

The memorandum is largely a description of the demoralized state of the Colony and contains no definite suggestions for a plan of campaign. The Society alleges that in the native Reserves the small patches of forest that are left are steadily being destroyed. They admit, however, that trees are being planted, notably in the Kikuyu, Kavirondo and Ukamba Reserves. On the other hand, they argue that the value of the new plantations, (wattle and gum) as timber is not great since it is useful only for bark and fuel.

According to the Kenya Forestry Report, 1935, the position in the Native Reserves as a whole, may be said to be improving, and in many, reasonably satisfactory, but the Conservator agrees that in the Teita, Kamasia, Southern Kavirondo and Kissi Reserves, afforestation on a considerable scale is desirable. The Report also conveys a picture of the efforts which are being made by the Forest Department, <sup>and</sup> of the local

Native/

See page 2 of the Report on 23/7/35

Native Councils to preserve the forest areas in the Reserves.

The Arbor Society's major criticism of the Forestry Department is that exotic trees rather than indigenous species are being planted.

Actually, during 1933, the principal species planted were:-

	Acres.
Pencil cedar	990
Other indigenous timbers (mueri, mukur, muchicho, muringa, mutati, etc.)	274
Exotic softwoods (fast growing cypresses, and pines)	1,040
Exotic hardwoods (various eucalypts, blackwood, etc.)	281
Fuel plantations, (fast growing eucalypts, black wattle, etc.)	1,063
Failures	96
Total	3,744

The acting Governor says that the policy of the Forestry Department in favouring the planting of exotic trees rather than indigenous species is justified by the facts that for fuel supplies only Eucalyptus and wattles are in any way economic, and that there is an inevitable deal wood of good quality which can be grown locally. He will require the Department will be required by the Native Councils to preserve as their standard.

standard planting will be a cheap and of good quality wood. It is desirable, however, that some of the indigenous trees, this cannot be planted in a large area.

The policy of the Department to plant the exotic trees rather than indigenous species is a mistake. The effect of over-stocking are all well known. The Department's policy of planting 3,744 acres of exotics in 1933, and the 1,000 acres approved to provide for the erection of a by-products factory at Ngaitetua first step in tackling the problem of over-stocking in Native Reserves. The scheme is admittedly experimental and if successful, it should be the precursor to the establishment of an industry to absorb the whole of the surplus native cattle.

The re-conditioning of Native Reserves is proceeding as fast as the financial position permits. Measures restricting grazing and the control of grasshoppers in areas proclaimed in process of re-conditioning have been introduced, and we are now waiting for the introduction of legislation for the control of over-stocking within a limited area. The Department's policy is under consideration.

It cannot be denied that there is an urgent need for re-afforestation of the Native Reserves and that the Kenya Government is aware of the situation, but the Department's policy of planting 3,744 acres of exotics in 1933, and the 1,000 acres approved to provide for the erection of a by-products factory at Ngaitetua first step in tackling the problem of over-stocking in Native Reserves is under consideration.

The main reason for the over-stocking of the Native Reserves is the increase in the native population with the high stock market in the West of

native-produced exportable commodities;  
and, in some, a wattle plantation actually  
improves, rather than impoverishes, the  
soil, owing to the process of nitrogen  
fixation.

Mr. Greenwell's reply to this  
petition will do very well, I  
think. We shall no doubt hear  
more on the subject when Major  
Ward returns.

I agree with the draft and should  
be glad to see an application  
to the Colonial Office for a CDF  
grant to carry out the  
work proposed. It is important  
to have a grant of this kind  
to allow the work to be done.

(to be sent by 31st Dec 1935) 4 Oct 1935

3 Major Ward  
20 Warrington  
5 Major Ward  
M. Ward

DEC 10 1935  
J. Ward  
Colonial

1935 Correspondence  
70  
21/10/35  
11/10/35  
12/10/35

PLEASE Please send me a copy of your correspondence  
with Major Ward of the Royal Labor Society. I think  
you please put up a note giving the information for  
which the S. of S. asks in his manuscript note on  
Major Ward's letter of the 19th October.

M. Ward  
14/10/36.

Mr. Dyer

all we have ever had is 50.84/1935 which  
the Society used the 5 of 36

- 1) make a grant from the Colonial Development Fund  
for ~~re-organisation~~ re-organisation
- 2) make a grant from any other source for Colonial  
Development for similar purposes

Neither is a possible solution because the S of S. will  
make grants from the CDF & there is no other fund

as the CDF did make a grant of £25,000 towards  
a geological party to Africa in 1934 & will not  
but problem will be solved if only a small  
grant is made to cover the cost

while the cost of the 1935 was partly covered  
by the Colonial Office & re-organisation the cost remains but  
perhaps we should not ask help from the

(Major Ward's letter of 19th October)

That does not strike be  
when some time to the 20th  
It is placed in near  
to the

Apply of letter to Raja  
Abadi!

INSTRUCED UNDER STATUTE

✓  
K...  
Also ✓  
R...  
ON

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Patron:  
H.E. Sir Joseph Byrne  
O.C.M.O., K.B.E., C.B.  
President:  
F.A. Colyer, Esq.

Hon. General Secretary  
Major E.H. Ward,  
Box 3, Nairobi

United Service Club,

Pall Mall,

London, S.W.1.



2nd September 1936.

E.B. Boyd Esq., C.M.G.,  
Private Secretary to  
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my letter and memorandum of 22nd May 1936, and the reply thereto.

2. Since we received this reply considerable public interest has been aroused in the increasingly urgent problem of the conservation of the natural resources of the Colony, and proposals for further action have been advanced by my Society. With one exception these would not involve any expenditure. The proposals have been laid before the Government of Kenya, who have them under consideration, and we understand have forwarded some of them to the Secretary of State.

3. The Council of my Society have instructed me to ask whether the Secretary of State would be kind enough to grant an interview to myself and my wife (who is the Hon.

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY

Patron:  
H.E. Sir Joseph Byrne  
O.C.M.O. K.B.E., C.B.  
President:  
F.A. Lodge, Esq.  
C.I.R., F.

Hon. General Secretary:  
Major F.H. Ward,  
Box 3, Nairobi

- 2 -

Publications Secretary and a member of the Council) in order that we might present to him certain aspects of the case as it has recently developed, (particularly protection of forests, conservation of water supplies and overstocking) and, we hope, obtain from him the benefit of his views.

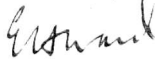
4. I enclose for your information a copy of the Report of the Society for 1935.

5. Perhaps you would be kind enough to write to me, if possible within the next few days, and let me know if there is any chance of an interview before we leave England. We return to Kenya in November, and shall be frequently in London while we are in England.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Hon. General Secretary,  
Kenya Arbor Society.



● KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

**Annual Report**

AND

**Balance Sheet**

for the year 1935.

Printed by  
THE EAST AFRICAN STANDARD LTD  
NAIROBI

## KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

### Patron:

H. F. Southey Esq., C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.B.

### President:

H. Colman Esq., C.M.G., D.S.O.

### Council:

General Secretary (Hon.)—Vice-President:  
E. Lodge, Esq., C.I.F.  
H. B. Sharpe, Esq.  
W. Street, Esq., C.I.F.  
Brig. General A. B. Wainwright, C.M.G., D.S.O.  
Major E. H. Ward  
Mrs. E. H. Ward (Hon. Propaganda Secretary)  
H. E. Welby, Esq.

### Hon. General Secretary and Treasurer:

Major E. H. Ward, P.O. Box 3, Naivasha

## KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

### Report of the Council for the Year 1935

The Society has much to thank its members for the first year of its existence since its revival. Its membership on December 31st was 179.

Towards the end of the year the Nairobi Woods and Gardens Beautifying Association's annual meeting work has now been taken over by the Municipality inaugurated at the Kenya Arbor Society. The remaining members of the former, who were all life members, founding members, became full members of the Kenya Arbor Society.

The following meetings were held during the year—

Council meetings	4
General meetings	7
Local branch meetings—Naivasha	2
Local branch meeting—Thoreson's Falls	1

As many members are unable to attend general meetings, it is hoped that all branches will hold meetings from time to time. Such meetings are a great help to the Council by keeping it informed of local opinion, and by bringing to its notice any questions of particular local interest.

We wish to express our thanks to the "East African Standard" and to the "Kenya Weekly News" for their valuable support, to Dr. Arthur and the Church of Scotland Mission at Kisumu, for translations into native languages of some of the Society's propaganda, and to Mrs. G. Anderson for her very effective drawings. Our thanks are also due to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Kenya for their help and generosity in connexion with the Society's exhibit at the Nairobi Show (last July).

The retirement of Mr. H. E. Welby is a great loss to the Society. His knowledge and advice have both been invaluable to the Council.

The Council has been working throughout the year in close co-operation with the Agricultural and Forest Departments, and wishes to acknowledge the help and support received from Officers of those Departments.

### PROPAGANDA

The Society's propaganda has fallen into four main groups; at the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society Show at Nairobi, articles and photographs in the press; posters in English and in native languages; a competition for schools. At the stall kindly lent to the Society free of charge at the Nairobi Show photographs

to show the evil effects of the lack of burning sites, and that the forest fires were a direct result of the absence of such sites. Many complaints were received and many letters were written. The Forest Department, which was for the first time in the East African Forests, was faced with a series of complaints depending on the quantities of the forest, only three or four competing for attention concerning the quantity of the timber. These attacks were a sad commentary on the neglect of the forest and forest reserves, and the general ignorance of the forest and its value. The prize was awarded to Nakuru, but the work done by St. Andrew's School, Turin, was so good that a special prize was awarded for a photograph of a forest scene, was awarded to the school.

The Forest Department has one society in the country, the Forest Reserve Society, which is the only one of its kind. It is a voluntary organization and consists of small numbers of members who are engaged in the work of forest destruction, cultivation, and protection. It has a number of members of both sexes and is a very active organization.

#### PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES

Among the various methods which have been adopted for the prevention of forest fires, the most important is the prevention of forest fires by the use of firebreaks.

It can be seen from the following table that fires are a very serious problem.

#### Summary of Incidents, Forest Fires

Year	1924	1925	1926	1927
Total No. of Fires	31	27	107	135
Total Area			1,511	1,061
Incidents outside Forests				158
Incidents inside Forests				67
Railway Engines				48
Sawmellers' employees				6
Forest squatters				13
Unknown				4
Total of Incidents				236

The efforts of the Society have been towards helping the Government in the work of forest protection. The Forest Department, however, is handicapped by lack of funds, cannot provide

adequate firebreaks, and is therefore unable to help the Department in forest protection should during the annual burning of the firebreaks take place. It is not possible for the Forest Officer to be present in person to supervise the burning in the enormous area under his charge. Consequently, the procedure not infrequently results in fires spreading into the forest.

At a meeting at Thomson's Falls in October, a resolution was passed asking the Conservator to draw up a scheme for enlisting the help of farmers whose farms adjoin a Forest Reserve, in supervising the burning of firebreaks, and in providing the forest from fire.

The Council realizes that the prevention of fires is a matter which in many cases, lies outside the province of the Forest Department. It is seen from the above table that by far the greatest number of fires can be traced to the honey-lumbers. His illegal occupation is a very lucrative one, and he well knows that the chances of his being arrested while in the forest are extremely small. And when he is arrested, he stands a good chance of being let off with a caution, while if he should be fined a few shillings he can well afford them out of his substantial profits, and if he is given a few days' detention, his activities will not suffer serious interruption.

The penalties provided by the law for the careless use of fire are up to £30 fine or three months' imprisonment, and for damage done by fire in the Forest Reserve, compensation up to five times the value of the actual damage done may be exacted. (Cap. 143, Laws of Kenya). From this one would infer that these offences are regarded as serious ones. Why then are the clear intentions of the law so often ignored? If the penalties laid down were to be enforced, it is safe to assume that the number of fires, from all causes, would be noticeably less.

#### DEMARCATON OF FORESTS

During the period 1925 to 1934 43,857 acres were excised from existing Forest Reserves. A further area of 13,500 acres is to be excised in the re-annexation of the Kenya Land Commission.

Being to the very small area of forest land in Kenya, (2.74 per cent of the total area) the Society considers that there should be some responsible body to look after the interests of the Forests, with power to decide whether any proposed excisions are in the interests of the Colony or not. At present no such body exists, though the Forest Ordinance of 1911 makes provision for a Board of four Forest Commissioners, consisting of the Chief Justice, one official and two members of the public. At present, however, this Board can be appointed,

showing the evil effects of a forest and of denuding stream. The results of forest fires were displayed in a demonstration of soil erosion. The former mainly inquiries were answered and many new ideas were suggested. The school competition which was for the best "Best East Virginia Trees and Forests" was won by a school by appointing in the quantity of the entries. Only three schools were competing, but extremely encouraging in the quality of the contributions. These showed a real understanding of the "best" value of trees and forests as well as great appreciation of the beauty of individual trees. The prize was awarded to Nalton, but the work done by the Andrew's School, Turf, was so good that a special prize in the shape of a framed photograph of a forest scene, was awarded to this school.

At a meeting of the Forest and Game Society and the Agricultural Society, which was held at the Forest Office, the following resolutions were passed: "That the Forest and Game Society in its efforts to protect the forest stock, as opposed to the effects of forest destruction, cultivation on steep slopes, and the loss of numerous numbers of goats and other animals, should..."

### PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES

Among the most serious which have demanded the attention of the Society in its department of the prevention of forest fires has occupied a prominent place.

It can be seen from the following table that fires are a very serious danger.

Summary of the Forest Fires in Kenya

Year	Number of fires	Area burnt (acres)	Value of forest stock destroyed (Kshs.)	Value of forest stock saved (Kshs.)
1920	10	1,000	100,000	100,000
1921	15	1,500	150,000	150,000
1922	20	2,000	200,000	200,000
1923	25	2,500	250,000	250,000
1924	30	3,000	300,000	300,000
1925	35	3,500	350,000	350,000
1926	40	4,000	400,000	400,000
1927	45	4,500	450,000	450,000
1928	50	5,000	500,000	500,000
1929	55	5,500	550,000	550,000
1930	60	6,000	600,000	600,000
1931	65	6,500	650,000	650,000
1932	70	7,000	700,000	700,000
1933	75	7,500	750,000	750,000
1934	80	8,000	800,000	800,000
1935	85	8,500	850,000	850,000
1936	90	9,000	900,000	900,000
1937	95	9,500	950,000	950,000
1938	100	10,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1939	105	10,500	1,050,000	1,050,000
1940	110	11,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
1941	115	11,500	1,150,000	1,150,000
1942	120	12,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
1943	125	12,500	1,250,000	1,250,000
1944	130	13,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
1945	135	13,500	1,350,000	1,350,000
1946	140	14,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
1947	145	14,500	1,450,000	1,450,000
1948	150	15,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
1949	155	15,500	1,550,000	1,550,000
1950	160	16,000	1,600,000	1,600,000
1951	165	16,500	1,650,000	1,650,000
1952	170	17,000	1,700,000	1,700,000
1953	175	17,500	1,750,000	1,750,000
1954	180	18,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
1955	185	18,500	1,850,000	1,850,000
1956	190	19,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
1957	195	19,500	1,950,000	1,950,000
1958	200	20,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
1959	205	20,500	2,050,000	2,050,000
1960	210	21,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
1961	215	21,500	2,150,000	2,150,000
1962	220	22,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
1963	225	22,500	2,250,000	2,250,000
1964	230	23,000	2,300,000	2,300,000
1965	235	23,500	2,350,000	2,350,000
1966	240	24,000	2,400,000	2,400,000
1967	245	24,500	2,450,000	2,450,000
1968	250	25,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
1969	255	25,500	2,550,000	2,550,000
1970	260	26,000	2,600,000	2,600,000
1971	265	26,500	2,650,000	2,650,000
1972	270	27,000	2,700,000	2,700,000
1973	275	27,500	2,750,000	2,750,000
1974	280	28,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
1975	285	28,500	2,850,000	2,850,000
1976	290	29,000	2,900,000	2,900,000
1977	295	29,500	2,950,000	2,950,000
1978	300	30,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
1979	305	30,500	3,050,000	3,050,000
1980	310	31,000	3,100,000	3,100,000
1981	315	31,500	3,150,000	3,150,000
1982	320	32,000	3,200,000	3,200,000
1983	325	32,500	3,250,000	3,250,000
1984	330	33,000	3,300,000	3,300,000
1985	335	33,500	3,350,000	3,350,000
1986	340	34,000	3,400,000	3,400,000
1987	345	34,500	3,450,000	3,450,000
1988	350	35,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
1989	355	35,500	3,550,000	3,550,000
1990	360	36,000	3,600,000	3,600,000
1991	365	36,500	3,650,000	3,650,000
1992	370	37,000	3,700,000	3,700,000
1993	375	37,500	3,750,000	3,750,000
1994	380	38,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
1995	385	38,500	3,850,000	3,850,000
1996	390	39,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
1997	395	39,500	3,950,000	3,950,000
1998	400	40,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
1999	405	40,500	4,050,000	4,050,000
2000	410	41,000	4,100,000	4,100,000
2001	415	41,500	4,150,000	4,150,000
2002	420	42,000	4,200,000	4,200,000
2003	425	42,500	4,250,000	4,250,000
2004	430	43,000	4,300,000	4,300,000
2005	435	43,500	4,350,000	4,350,000
2006	440	44,000	4,400,000	4,400,000
2007	445	44,500	4,450,000	4,450,000
2008	450	45,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
2009	455	45,500	4,550,000	4,550,000
2010	460	46,000	4,600,000	4,600,000
2011	465	46,500	4,650,000	4,650,000
2012	470	47,000	4,700,000	4,700,000
2013	475	47,500	4,750,000	4,750,000
2014	480	48,000	4,800,000	4,800,000
2015	485	48,500	4,850,000	4,850,000
2016	490	49,000	4,900,000	4,900,000
2017	495	49,500	4,950,000	4,950,000
2018	500	50,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
2019	505	50,500	5,050,000	5,050,000
2020	510	51,000	5,100,000	5,100,000

Total 4,600

The efforts of the Society have towards helping the Government. The Forest Department is hampered by lack of funds, cannot place

supervisors, that is, the interested in forest protection should be able to help the Department, especially during the period of the annual burning of the firebreaks. It is not possible for the local Forest Officer to be present to supervise all the burning in the numerous areas under his charge. Consequently, the present arrangements for supervising the burning of firebreaks and in protecting the forest from fire.

At a meeting at Thomson's Falls in October, a resolution was passed asking the Government to draw up a scheme for assisting the help of farmers, whose farms adjoin forest reserves, in supervising the burning of firebreaks and in protecting the forest from fire.

The General Manager of the Forest Department has made the following statement: "It is seen from the above table that by far the greatest number of fires are traced to the honeybees. The average number of bees per acre is one and in each colony the number of bees is very small, one and in each colony are extremely small. And if a bee stands a good chance of being set off with a caution, it should be able to fly away. It can well afford then, if he should be put in a few days' detention, his activities will not suffer serious interruption."

The penalties provided by the law for the "careless use of fire" are up to £20 fine or three months' imprisonment, and for "damage done by fire" in the Forest Reserve, compensation up to five times the value of the property damaged done may be exacted (Cap. 149, Laws of Kenya). It is thus one would infer that these offences are regarded as serious ones. Why then are the clear intentions of the law so often ignored? If the penalties laid down were to be enforced, it is safe to assume that the number of fires from all causes would be noticeably less.

### DEBARCATION OF FORESTERS

During the period 1920 to 1934 45,847 acres were excised from existing Forest Reserves. A further area of 17,000 acres is to be excised in the re-organisation of the Kenya Land Commission.

Being to the very small area of forest land in Kenya, (2.74 per cent of the total area) the Society considers that there should be some responsible body to look after the interests of the Forests, with power to decide whether any proposed excisions are in the interests of the Colony or not. At present no such body exists, though the Forest Ordinance of 1911 makes provision for a Board of four Forest Commissioners, consisting of the Chief Justice, one official and two non-official members. Before, however, this Board can be appointed,

the forests must be proclaimed "demarcated forests," an unfortunate term which leads to much confusion as it is often used as a synonym for "surveyed".

Up till now, none of the gazetted forests in Kenya have been demarcated, in the meaning of the Ordinance, and the Governor has power to allocate or dispose of any land in Forest Reserves. If the Forest Reserves were demarcated, then no extension could take place without the consent of the Governor and should not at least two of the Forest Commissioners.

As a result of a resolution passed at a General Meeting in August, Government has been requested to proclaim as "demarcated forests" all the existing gazetted forests and to accept nominations from the Kenya Arbor Society for at least one member of the Board of Forest Commissioners.

#### FOREST VOTE

The Society protested against the reduction of £4 138 in the Forest vote which was recommended by the Select Committee on Economy. We are glad to state that the Society's was not approved by Government.

#### MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

An announcement was made in the press last April which stated that the Colonial Development Fund was to be increased and that it was proposed to allot a portion of this increase to the development of Empire forestry and agriculture. On the strength of this announcement the Council despatched a memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which attention was drawn to the urgent need for re-afforestation, for protection of existing forests, and for action on a large scale to combat soil erosion and to reduce the numbers of uneconomic stock which are razing the Colonies.

It was pointed out that the productive capacity of the Colony was steadily declining, that deforestation and overstocking had led to soil erosion and diminution of water supplies, and that the fertility of the soil has been severely impaired, and that the amount of land in the Colony that is suitable for cultivation is therefore steadily decreasing.

The reply, which was received in October, drew attention to the sum of £28,500 which had been granted from the Colonial Development Fund for the construction of a fertilizer factory. It further stated that "the Secretary of State has read the memorandum with sympathy but... he is satisfied that the Government of Kenya appreciates the gravity and urgency of preserving and extending the forests of the Colony, and that all such steps are being taken to

improve the position as far as possible within the financial resources available."

The Council cannot agree with the views expressed in the Secretary of State's reply.

#### BAMBOO CONCESSION

The Society has enquired into the proposed Bamboo Concession. The bamboo belt in question extends from the neighbourhood of Kijabe to the Maragoli River and is 85,000 acres in extent. It includes the head-waters of many streams which flow through the Kikuyu reserve and the coffee areas, and therefore plays a most important part in supplying these thickly populated districts with water. If the bamboos did not regenerate very quickly after being cut, the water supplies would undoubtedly suffer; further, no one can possibly forecast to what extent climate and rainfall would be affected by such large-scale clearing.

As to the regeneration, two schools of thought are found. One is confident that the bamboos will reproduce themselves, and quickly; the other believes that they will not, but that as soon as the bamboos are cut down, their places will be taken by impenetrable thickets of brambles and other woody weeds. The present condition of many clearings in the bamboo lands to support this contention.

It is not the policy of the Society to oppose any reasonable and legitimate exploitation of forest resources. But it is bound to regard with anxiety any exploitation which is likely to prejudice the flow of streams, or harmfully affect the climate.

A resolution was passed at a meeting at Naivasha and forwarded to Government, requesting an undertaking that, in the event of the bamboos failing to reproduce themselves, Government would cause the area to be re-afforested with suitable trees. The reply which was received was evasive, and incidentally and unintentionally disclosed the fact that Government itself is not at all certain that the bamboos will regenerate.

#### PROTECTION OF STREAMS.

It is a well known fact that forest and bush in catchment areas and on the banks of streams exercise a most important influence in preventing denudation and controlling floods. The clearance of cover on the banks, on the other hand, leads to erosion and to the rapid runoff of water after even slight rain, thus being sudden floods after rain and the drying up of streams in dry periods.

For a great many years the destruction of forest in catchment areas has been going on in Kenya, and many streams have perennially become seasonal or have ceased to flow.

A strong feeling is growing that it is time that legislation should be invoked to prevent further damage to catchment areas and to protect banks of streams from denudation.

the forests must be "demarcated Forests" (an unfortunate term, which tends to much confusion, as it is often used as a synonym for "surplus")

Up till now, none of the gazetted forests in Kenya have been demarcated - in the meaning of the Ordinance - and the Governor has power to allocate or displace any land in Forest Reserves. If the Forest Reserves were demarcated, then no extension could take place without the consent of the Governor-in-Council and at least two of the Forest Commissioners.

As a result of a resolution passed at a General Meeting in August Government has been requested to proclaim as "demarcated forests" all the existing gazetted forests and to accept nominations from the Kenya Arbor Society for at least one member of the Board of Forest Commissioners.

#### FOREST VOTE

The Society protested against the reduction of £1,158 in the Forest vote, which was recommended by the Select Committee on Economy. We are glad to state that the economy was not approved by Government.

#### MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

An announcement was made in the press last April, which stated that the Colonial Development Fund was to be increased, and that it was proposed to allot a portion of this increase to the development of Empire forestry and agriculture. On the strength of this announcement the Council despatched a memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which attention was drawn to the urgent need for re-afforestation, for protection of existing forests, and for action on a large scale to combat soil erosion and to reduce the numbers of insect-borne stock which are ruining the Colony.

It was pointed out that the productive capacity of the land is steadily declining, that deforestation and overstocking have led to the decreasing and diminution of water supplies, and that the fertility of the soil has been severely impaired, and that the retention of land in the Colony for a suitable agricultural production is steadily decreasing.

The reply, which was received in October, drew attention to the sum of £23,290 which had been granted from the Colonial Development Fund for the construction of a fertilizer factory. It further stated that the Secretary of State has read the memorandum with sympathy, but he is satisfied that the Government of Kenya appreciates the gravity and urgency of preserving and extending the forests of the Colony, and that all such steps are being taken to

improve the prospects and productivity of the financial resources available.

The Council cannot regret the manner in which the Secretary of State's reply.

#### BAMBOO CONCESSION

The Society has enquired into the proposed Bamboo Concession. The bamboo belt in question extends from the neighbourhood of Kijabe to the Maragua River and is 85,000 acres in extent. It includes the head-waters of many streams which flow through the Kikuyu reserve and the coffee areas, and therefore plays a most important part in supplying these thickly populated districts with water. If the bamboos did not regenerate very quickly after being cut, the water supplies would undoubtedly suffer further, no one can possibly forecast to what extent climate and rainfall could be affected by such large scale clearing.

As to the regeneration, two schools of thought are found. One is confident that the bamboos will reproduce themselves, and quickly; the other believes that they will not, but that as soon as the bamboos are cut down, their places will be taken by impenetrable thickets of brambles and other woody weeds. The present condition of many forests in the bamboo lands tends to support this contention.

It is not the policy of the Society to oppose any reasonable and legitimate exploitation of forest resources. But it is bound to regard with anxiety any exploitation which is likely to prejudice the flow of streams, or harmfully affect the climate.

A resolution was passed at a meeting at Naivasha and forwarded to Government, requesting an undertaking that, in the event of the bamboos failing to reproduce themselves, Government would cause the area to be re-afforested with suitable trees. The reply which was received was evasive, and incidentally and unintentionally disclosed the fact that Government itself is not at all certain that the bamboos will regenerate.

#### PROTECTION OF STREAMS

It is a well-known fact that forest and bush in catchment areas and on the banks of streams exercise a most important influence in preventing inundation and controlling floods. The clearance of cover on the banks, on the other hand, leads to erosion and to the rapid run off of water after even the lightest sudden floods, after rain and the drying up of streams, by drought.

For a great many years the construction of dams in catchment areas has been going on in Kenya, and many streams, once perennial, have become seasonal or have ceased to flow.

A strong feeling is growing that it is time that legislation should be invoked to prevent further damage to catchment areas and to protect banks of streams from being washed away.

The question was discussed at a General Meeting in August, and it was agreed that legislation was most necessary. The Council was instructed to work out a practical scheme to lay before the general meeting.

The Council met on 10th October and representatives of the Auckland, Waikato, Forest, Invercargill, and of the Waikato Board were invited to attend.

The Commission's proposal that any scheme should be considered without delay to prohibit the felling of any native forest which would lead to erosion or other damage to the lands of streams. It was felt that the system of felling native forest should be left to Government.

It was further suggested that a large number of small areas should be a priority for re-forestation, in the form of a Land Utilisation Survey. The object of which would be to discover the extent of erosion on Kaitiaki and to initiate systematic anti-erosion measures in all affected areas.

#### DEFERRED FOREST RESERVES

The Commission in its Second Report recommended that the Government should purchase the reserves and the Crown should retain the Forest Act to Forest Reserves.

We urge that the Government should take steps to purchase or reserve native forests which are in the process of being cleared or have already been cleared, as well as the forest lands which are in the process of being cleared, and which are in the process of being cleared.

#### Residual Forest

1. The importance of forests in the country is not to be measured solely or even primarily by the timber which they yield.
2. The percentage of Kaitiaki under forest is insufficient for the timber requirements of a growing and well-developed country, and will soon be unable to meet the growing requirements of timber, fuel, and other forest produce.
3. The areas shown on a paper as forests include many bare spaces, grass glades, etc., which should be converted into real forest.
4. The establishment of a forest is not strong enough to protect the forest effectively.
5. If all forests are worked at a paper loss at present, they will in time if properly maintained and developed, be a valuable source of revenue. Money spent on them now is a sound investment.

6. A stock tax introduced by Lord Mavor would be a great help in keeping the numbers of head of other domestic stock within reasonable limits. These animals do not do the Government does not seem willing to make use of its powers under the Cattle Brands Act of 1906 and the Cattle Branding Act of 1906 to limit the numbers.

7. The cost and expense of the survey should be met by the native stock business, with Government aid.

A copy of a scheme for a Land Utilisation Survey is attached. The scheme has our full support and we urge that it may be carried out without delay.

#### DESTRUCTION OF TREES IN ROAD RESERVES

It has been the practice of the P.W.D. to sign off roads in the road reserve where roads pass through forest areas. It is represented by the Director of Public Works that this practice has been hardly necessary and spoils the countryside. He has been good enough to give instructions that in future no trees are to be cut down other than those which would interfere with the rapid drying up of the road surface.

#### STOCK IN TOWNSHIPS

The prevalence of sheep and other stock in townships has been a serious problem since the war. Numerous and killed by the natives, and many of the sheep are very enormous numbers of native-owned sheep and goats and South Island cattle, far in excess of the number which can be supported by the grazing available.

The presidential plan has now been accepted from those townships. The producers of sheep and cattle have found that the principles of rotational grazing has been applied.

#### TREE PLANTING

The Government has planting schemes which were suggested by a number of the members of the Council in 1906. In January, 1906, was approved by the Government a large number of trees have been planted in townships and in various parts of the country, and the Government has been successful.

The Government has been successful in planting trees in the townships of Thames, Taupo, and Manawatu, and in the purchase of trees.

The Government has tried to encourage the planting of indigenous trees in preference to exotics. It has discouraged the planting of exotics, especially in catchment areas, as these trees rob the soil of moisture.

The question was discussed at a General Meeting in August, and it was agreed that a delegation was most necessary. The Council was instructed to work out a practical scheme to lay before the general meeting.

The Council met in October and representatives of the Agricultural and Forest Departments and other Workers and were invited to be present.

The conclusions arrived at were that a position should be reached without delay to prohibit the cutting of any more wood which would lead to erosion in catchment areas and in the lower part of streams. It was felt that the exact form of such a regulation should be left to Government.

It was further considered that a more practical scheme should be put up by a **strong forestry scheme** in the form of a Land Utilization Survey, the object of which would be to discover the extent of erosion in Kenya and to suggest suitable and practical measures in all affected areas.

#### DELEGATION TO THE AGRI. DEPT.

A delegation in the form of a committee was appointed to meet the Director of Agriculture on 15th October 1941. The following members were present to form the committee:

We urge that a similar plan should be made in the Forest Service or through other agencies which deal with the forest, soil, erosion, erosion and water conservation as the basis for the study of the erosion destruction of forest soils in the high altitude areas.

Consider that

1. The importance of forest soils fertility must not be measured solely on even productivity, but on the long term results.
2. The present policy of Reforestation must be revised so that the local people become a primary factor and will soon be made to understand the advantages of planting on their land and other forest preserves.
3. The areas shown on a paper as forests must be surveyed, spaced, stress areas etc. and should be converted to a real forest.
4. The establishment must be strong enough to protect the forest effectively.
5. If the Government worked on a paper basis at present, they will in time if properly maintained and developed, be a valuable source of revenue. Money spent on them now is a sound investment.

6. A stock tree is considered by Land Managers to be a good indicator in keeping the soil from being washed away. The stock tree is a tree within the stand which is a good example of the growth of the stand. It does not appear to have any special value in the soil. The only value is that it is a good indicator of the growth of the stand.

The cost and value of the stock tree is not known. The value of the stock tree is not known.

A copy of a scheme for a Land Utilization Survey is being prepared. The scheme has our full support and we are doing our best to carry out the scheme.

#### DESTRUCTION OF TREES IN ROAD-BUSINESS AREAS

It has been the practice of the P.W.D. to cut down trees in the road reserve. The road reserve has been cut down and the trees represented by the Director of Public Works and the whole of the reserve was hardly necessary, and most of the trees were cut down. It has been found enough to give instructions that in future no trees are to be cut down other than those which would obstruct the road or be a danger to the road.

#### STOCK TREES IN FORESTS

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest.

The present policy of Reforestation must be revised so that the local people become a primary factor and will soon be made to understand the advantages of planting on their land and other forest preserves.

#### FOREST PLANTING

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to consider the possibility of stock trees in the forest.



## SUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

The Conservator of Forests has given great encouragement to the Society by granting to members a 10 per cent discount on all seeds and seedlings purchased from the Department, provided the purchases are for the members' own use, and not to sell or give away.

## FOREST DESTRUCTION BY SQUATTERS.

The Hon. the Secretary has received a number of letters complaining about forest destruction carried out by uncontrolled squatters, usually on unoccupied farms.

Unfortunately there is no law to prevent such destruction, and if the squatters are working under an agreement the law is powerless to interfere. This subject is receiving the attention of the Society.

## LIST OF MEMBERS.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

- Arthur W. Hill K.C.M.G., Professor R. S. Troup, C.I.E.,  
P.R.N. C.M.G. M.A., D.Sc. F.R.S.  
H. C. Sampson, Esq. C.I.E.

## TEN YEAR MEMBERS.

- Chamberlain, R. Nairobi  
Crump, Col. J. D.S.O., Nairobi  
Davenport, C. T., Kisumu  
Grogan, Major E. S., D.S.O., Nairobi  
Joyce, Mrs. M. F. Kilima Kiu.  
McMillan, Lady, Nairobi  
Playfair, R. W., Lumuru.  
Udall, C., Nairobi.  
Walker, Col. C. W. G., C.M.G., D.S.O., Nairobi

## MEMBERS

- Adams, C. H. Rumuruti  
Albins, J., Njoro.  
Albrechtson, Mrs. S., Nanyuki.  
Aldous, J. F., Fort Ternan.  
Armstrong, A., Rumuruti  
Atkinson, H. B., Londiani  
Aug-rud, E. H. G. Thomson's Falls.  
Augerud, Mrs. F. E., Thomson's Falls.  
Bailey, A. G., Nairobi.  
Bailey, F. W., Nakuru.  
Baird, J. M., Mwingi.  
Baurs, T. M., Nakuru.  
Baurs, Mrs. T. M., Nakuru.  
Barclay, H. B., Mwingi.  
Bargman, H. F., Nairobi  
Barnaclough, F., Thomson's Falls  
Barton-Echett, B., Nairobi  
Barton-Echett, Mrs. B., Nairobi  
Beckley, V. A., Nairobi  
Bent, J., Naivasha  
Bent, Miss J., Naivasha  
Bentley, G., Kitale.  
Billington, W. H., Mwingi.  
Bingley, A. B., Gilgil  
Blood, Miss Wilma, Nyeri  
Blundell, M., Nakuru  
Bowyer, E. J. K., Naivasha  
Boyce, Major F. D., Subukia  
Buxton, Miss Clara, Kedown.  
Carnoldy, S. H., Naivasha  
Castello, J. C., Njoro.  
Gayendish-Bentnick, Major F., Nairobi.  
Cecil, Miss M., London.  
Chaundy, G. H., Kitale  
Claus, Mrs. F. C., Thika  
Coldham, P. S. H., Kimboi  
Colye, Brig. General G. N., Njoro  
Coudrey, Comdr. F. J., Njoro  
Coudrey, Mrs. F. J., Njoro.  
Crawford, F. W. S., Fort Ternan.  
Davis, H. L. G., Ruiri  
Delap, H. A., Thika  
Dent, Capt. R. E., Nairobi  
Dickinson, Mrs. H. C., Nairobi  
Edwards, Major W. G., M.G., Rumuruti.  
Eliot, C. W., Nairobi  
Enderle, H. G., Fort Ternan.  
Erroll, the Earl of, Naivasha  
Evans, Capt. E. A., Nyeri.  
Evans, Mrs. E. A., Nyeri.  
Farrar, J. C., Thika.  
Featherstonhaugh, H. W., Njoro.  
Fraser-Allen, A. H., Ol Kalou.  
Gardner, H. M., Nairobi  
Garratt, G. S., Naivasha  
Giblin-Jones, G. H., Nairobi  
Gillett, J., Nairobi  
Gould, J. B., Nairobi.  
Grahame-Bell, H., Nairobi

## SUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

The Conservator of Forests has given great encouragement to the Society by granting to members a 10 per cent discount on all seeds and seedlings purchased from the Department, provided the purchases are for the members' own use, and not to sell or give away.

## FOREST DESTRUCTION BY SQUATTERS.

The Hon. Gen. Secretary has received a number of letters complaining about forest destruction carried out by uncontrolled squatters, usually on unoccupied farms.

Unfortunately, there is no law to prevent such destruction, and if the squatters are working under an agreement the law is powerless to intervene. This subject is receiving the attention of the Society.

## LIST OF MEMBERS.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Dr Arthur W Hill K.C.M.G., Professor R S Troup C.I.E.  
F.R.S. C.M.G. M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.  
H. C. Sampson, Esq. C.I.E.

## TEN YEAR MEMBERS.

Chamberlain, B. Nairobi  
Crump, Col. J. D.S.O., Nairobi  
Davenport, C. T., Kisumu  
Grogan, Major E. S. D.S.O., Nairobi  
McCullum, Mrs. M. L., Nairobi  
McMillan, Lady, Nairobi.  
Playfair, B. W., Lamuru.  
Dall, C. Nairobi  
Walker, Col. C. W. G., C.M.G., D.S.O., Nairobi.

## MEMBERS

Adams, C. H., Rumuruti  
Abitas, J., Njoro  
Abreghsten, Mrs. S., Ngusoni  
Aldous, J. E., Fort Ternon  
Armstrong, V., Rumuruti  
Atkinson, H. B., London  
Augerud, E. B. G., Thomson's Falls  
Augerud, Mrs. J. E., Thomson's Falls  
Bailey, A. G., Nairobi  
Baillie, F. W., Nakuru  
Band, J. M., Mwingi  
Banks, I. M., Nakuru  
Banks, Mrs. T. M., Nakuru  
Barclay, H. B., Menengon  
Bargman, H. F., Nairobi  
Barraclough, F., Thomson's Falls  
Barton-Bckett, B., Nairobi  
Barton-Bckett, Mrs. B., Nairobi  
Beckley, V. A., Nairobi  
Benn, J., Naivasha  
Benn, Mrs. J., Naivasha  
Bentley, Kitale  
Billington, W. H., Magara  
Bingley, A. B., Gtigi  
Blood, Miss Wilma, Nairobi  
Blundell, M., Nakuru  
Bowyer, E. J. N., Naivasha  
Boyce, Major F. D., Subakin  
Buxton, Miss Cara, Kedowa  
Carrulley, S. H., Naivasha  
Castello, J. C., Njoro  
Cavenish-Bentnick, Major F., Nairobi  
Geoff. Miss M., London  
Cunamy, G. H., Kitale  
Chase, Mrs. F., Thika  
Colburn, P. S. H., Kiunga  
Colville, Brig. General G. S., Njoro  
Coulter, J., Nairobi  
Coulter, Mrs. F. J., Njoro  
Crawford, F. W. S., Fort Ternon  
Davis, H. E., Thika  
Delany, H. A., Thika  
Deut. Capt. R. H., Nairobi  
Dickinson, Mrs. H., Nairobi  
Edwards, Major W. G., M.C., Rumuruti  
Elliott, C. W., Nairobi  
Elliott, H. G., Fort Ternon  
Elliott, the Lady, Naivasha  
Evans, Capt. F. A., Njoro  
Evans, Mrs. E. A., Njoro  
Evans, J. C., Thika  
Featherstone, H. W., Njoro  
Fraser Allen, A. H., Ol Kabou  
Garluer, H. M., Nairobi  
Garratt, G. S., Naivasha  
Gethin-Jones, G. H., Nairobi  
Gillett, J., Nairobi  
Gould, J. B., Nairobi  
Grphame Bell, H., Nairobi

Grant, Major J. C. H., Njoro.  
 Grant, the Hon. Mrs. E. L., Njoro.  
 Gray, J. H., Molo.  
 Grosan, H. K., Nairobi.  
 Hansard, R. L., Njoro.  
 Harrey, H., Eldoret.  
 Hornsted, Dr. H., Naivasha.  
 Henderson, Dr. J. C., Nakuru.  
 Hewitt, J. G., Naivasha.  
 Hilder, C. W., Naivasha.  
 Hodge, S. D. A., Nakuru.  
 Hoey, Mrs. C., Hoey's Bridge.  
 Hoperath, W., Naivasha.  
 Humphreys, J. H., Nairobi.  
 Hunt, J. P., Nairobi.  
 Hunt, Major R. H., Nakuru.  
 Ince Blake, Lady Mabel, Nairobi.  
 Kacharaha Estate, Kiambu.  
 Kesser, Miss A. M., Nairobi.  
 Kinkely, Col. Njoro.  
 Kingsford, I. T., Limuru.  
 Kinnear, G., Nairobi.  
 Lane, C. A. G., Nairobi.  
 Lea, R. O., Naivasha.  
 Lea, Mrs. B. O., Naivasha.  
 Lesirko, Ltd., Ol Kalou.  
 Lidstrom, Mrs. Njoro.  
 Liston-Foulis, Sir Charles, Bart.  
 Fort Ternan.  
 Loch, Miss N. F., Nakuru.  
 Lodge, F., C.F.B., Naivasha.  
 Long, Mrs. E. C., Embu-entota.  
 Low, the Ven. Archbishop W. P., Nairobi.  
 Luvu Watt, W., Kisumu.  
 Mackinnon, F., Hoey's Bridge.  
 Maher, Colin, Nairobi.  
 Maher, Mrs. C., Nairobi.  
 Makolo Estate, Subukia.  
 Marlon, V. R., Naivasha.  
 Miller, J. G., Limuru.  
 Moody, N., Naivasha.  
 Morris, E. G., O.B.E., Nairobi.  
 Munro, W., Kitale.  
 Murton, I., Nairobi.  
 Nakuru Golf Club.  
 Nestor, J., Kipkarren.  
 Newton, J. W., Turko.  
 Njomo, J. N., Naivasha.  
 Njomo, R. J., Naivasha.  
 Norton, R., Kiambu.  
 Norton, Mrs. R., Kiambu.  
 Paterson, A. R. M. B., Nairobi.  
 Payne, F. E., Nairobi.  
 Perry-Smith, Lt.-Col. F., Nairobi.  
 Phillips, P., Nairobi.  
 Pickford, Mrs. W., Naivasha.  
 Price, A. J., Nakuru.  
 Rammell, J. C., Nairobi.  
 Roy, Mervyn S., Naivasha.  
 Richard, Mrs. C. F., Naivasha.  
 Rhodes, Brig. Gen. Sir Godfrey, C.B.E., D.S.O., Nairobi.  
 Roger, H., Eldoret.  
 Sand, A. C., Nairobi.  
 Scott, Lt. Col. Lord Francis, D.S.O., Nairobi.  
 Seth-Smith, D. F., Njoro.  
 Sharpe, H. B., Rumuruti.  
 Shaw, Mrs. B. V., Mombasa.  
 Shaw, Dacre A., Nairobi.  
 Shaw, Mrs. J. C., Nairobi.  
 Shaw, Miss M. Ryle, Nairobi.  
 Sherwen, H., Naivasha.  
 Sherwen, Mrs. H., Naivasha.  
 Sikes, H. L., O.B.E., Nairobi.  
 Silvester, J. M., Nairobi.  
 Simpson, A. J., Nakuru.  
 Simpson, J. H., Molo.  
 Soames, C. T., Molo.  
 Stephen, Miss A., Nairobi.  
 Stephens, J. B., Nairobi.  
 Street, W., O.B.E., Thomson's Falls.  
 Symons, J. H., Eldoret.  
 Tetley, A. E. M., Nairobi.  
 Tillet, E. H., Molo.  
 Tompson, Mrs. Alan, Nairobi.  
 Trent, Mrs. I. M., Ol Kalou.  
 Tryon, Capt. S. M. C., Molo.  
 Tunnel Co., Ltd., Fort Ternan.  
 Turner, H. A., Gilgil.  
 Vernon Wilson, J. J., Fort Ternan.  
 Wainwright, Brig. Gen. A. R., C.M.G., D.S.O., Thomson's Falls.  
 Wainwright, Miss V. M., Thomson's Falls.  
 Walsh, G., C.B.E., Nairobi.  
 Walter, A., Nairobi.

Ward, Capt. R. E., Nairobi.  
 Ward, Major C. H., Naivasha.  
 Ward, Mrs. J. H., Naivasha.  
 Waters, H. B., Nairobi.  
 Watts-Williams, Mrs. M., Nairobi.  
 Waudha, Miss, Molo.  
 Weaver, N., Naivasha.  
 Welby, H. E., Nakuru.  
 Welby, Mrs. H. E., Nakuru.  
 Wheeler, Mrs. H. N., Nairobi.  
 Wimbush, S. H., Nairobi.  
 Wimpington-Ingram, C. A., Thomson's Falls.  
 Wollen, Mrs. M., Kiambu.  
 Wolryche-Walton, J. E., A.A., Bonga.  
 Wright, F. H., Njoro.  
 Wright, K. B., Mombasa.  
 SCHOOLS.  
 Girls' Secondary School, Nairobi.  
 European School, Nakuru.  
 Andrew's School, Tori.

# KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1935

### REVENUE

	Shs	Cts
Balance at Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru	647	98
Petty Cash on hand	5	07
Members' Subscriptions, 1935	460	00
1936	65	00
1937	10	00
Nairobi Roads and Gardens Association	905	00
	87	51
	Shs. 1,705 98	

### EXPENDITURE

	Shs	Cts
Propaganda	503	65
Postages, Printing and Stationery, etc.	203	55
Travel	140	00
Cash in Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru, 31/12/35	691	00
Petty Cash on hand at 31/12/35	47	70
	Shs. 1,765 90	

We have examined the Books and Papers of the Society handed to us by the Hon. Secretary, and have prepared the above Revenue and Expenditure Account thereon.

Nairobi,  
4th February, 1936.

—H. H. H. S. & Co.

2

C. O.

Mr. Grossmith. *29/8/35*

Mr. *Heaton* *28*

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. *29*

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Presid. U.S. of S.

+ Parly. U.S. of S. *30/8/35* *f*

Secretary of State.

DOWNING STREET,

August, 1935.

4 SEP 1935

C.D.  
R 2SEP  
D 4

DRAFT.

Sir,

KENYA

NO. 643

O.A.G.

*64*

I have, etc., to acknowledge

the receipt of your despatch No. 326

of the 29th July, transmitting a letter

*addressed to my predecessor by*

from the Hon. General Secretary of the

Kenya Arbor Society, together with a

copy of a memorandum from the Council

of the Society in which it is urged that

a scheme of re-afforestation and

re-conditioning in the Colony should

be put in hand without delay. In his

letter the Hon. General Secretary asks

that I will consider the possibility

of either (a) making an allocation for

this purpose from the Colonial

Development/

FURTHER ACTION.

Development Fund, or (2) in the event of special funds being available for the development of forests in the Colonies, making an allocation therefrom.

2. I have read the memorandum with sympathy, but at the same time, I am satisfied that the Government of Kenya appreciates the gravity and urgency of preserving and extending the forests of the Colony, and that it is taking all such steps as are possible to improve the position within the financial resources available for that purpose. I accept the views expressed in the fourth and fifth paragraphs of your despatch with regard to the policy of the Forest Department and I shall be obliged if you will cause the Kenya Arbor Society to be informed in this sense, explaining that a grant of £ 23,500 for the purpose of constructing a fertiliser factory has been approved as a first step towards the/

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

16  
the solution of the problem of overstocking.

3. As regards the specific request in the Hon. General Secretary's letter, I would remind you that a condition precedent to a grant from the Colonial Development Fund is an application <sup>supported by</sup> and recommendation from the Colonial Government concerned. There are, of course, <sup>to</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>the</sup> funds at my disposal from which I could ~~recommend~~ <sup>recommend</sup> the allocation of a sum of money allocated <sup>to</sup> an amount for the purpose of a scheme for re-afforestation and re-conditioning in the Colony.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD.

KENYA

NO. 376



SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with a copy of a memorandum from the Council of the Society relative to the preservation and extension of the Colony's forest resources, and to the damage caused to these resources by overstocking.

As regards the problem created by overstocking in native areas, this Government fully realizes its gravity and urgency. In my opinion the first step towards its solution must be the provision of means of absorbing part, at least, of the surplus stock and with this object in view, application was made, in Sir Joseph Byrne's despatch No. 518 of the 18th of October, 1934, for a grant of

Not

23/6/34

£23,590 for the purpose of constructing a fertilizer factory. A report to that effect has been prepared.

From the forest conservation point of view it is considered that legislation forbidding grazing, cultivation or plantation within a limited number of acres of forest, stream and dry spring is desirable and the introduction of such legislation is under consideration. In the meantime steps are being

taken such as the fencing of forest areas, the removal of stock from such areas, and the provision of alternative grazing areas for the stock of the natives living in the vicinity of the forest areas.

Yours faithfully,  
GOVERNMENT OF KENYA  
SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

... the notes of the ...  
 ... have been ...  
 ... in ...  
 ... the desirability of protection  
 of the Colony's forest resources, and its policy in this  
 regard must largely be dictated by financial considerations.

5. I am advised that the policy of the Forest Department  
 in favouring the planting of exotic trees rather than indig-  
 enous species, which the Society regards as being open to  
 criticism, is justified by the facts that for fuel supplies  
 only Eucalyptus and Wattles are in any way economic, and  
 that Cypress is an invaluable deal wood of good quality, which  
 can be grown quickly. The timber which will be required  
 by the natives for domestic purposes as their standard of  
 living rises, will be a cheap wood of good quality and owing  
 to their slow growth this cannot be produced from indigenous  
 trees. It is the case, however, that approximately 50%  
 of the Forest Department's plantations are composed of indig-  
 enous species.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*C. W. ...*  
 ACTING GOVERNOR.



KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Patron:  
H.E. Sir Joseph Byrom,  
C.M.O., K.B.E., C.B.

President:  
Lt. Col. Lord Francis Scott,  
D.S.O.

Hon. General Secretary:  
Major E. H. Ward,  
Box 3, Nairobi.

22nd May 1935.

To The Rt.-Hon. Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, P.C. G.B.E. M.C. M.P.  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose for your consideration a memorandum from the Council of the Kenya Arbor Society, on the subject of re-afforestation and re-conditioning in Kenya Colony.

It will be seen from the memorandum that funds are urgently needed for re-afforestation and re-conditioning, and I am instructed by the Council of my Society to ask that you will be good enough to consider the possibility of either:-

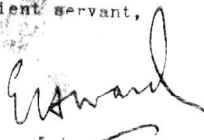
- (1) Making an allocation, for these purposes, from the Colonial Development Fund, or
- (2) In the event of special funds being available for the development of forests in the Colonies, making an allocation therefrom.

It is only because the Council of the Kenya Arbor Society consider the matter to be one of the gravest urgency, that they have instructed me to submit this memorandum to you.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
Hon. Gen. Secretary.

IN KENYA COLONY

Large sums of public money have been expended in the past, and are being expended still, on transport services, credit facilities, and on public works and buildings, presumably upon the assumption that the productive capacity of the Colony will rapidly increase. The productive capacity of the Colony has on the contrary, steadily declined; the expenditure has proved, and is proving unremunerative; and the loan commitments thus become an ever-increasing burden.

Now and why has the Colony's productive capacity declined? The answer is not far to seek. Deforestation and over-stocking have led to soil erosion and diminution of water-supplies, and the fertility of the soil has been gravely impaired. These processes have not come to a halt, but are going with increased effect, and it is impossible to exaggerate the seriousness of the situation. Rivers and springs have dried up, and fertile country has become desert; the amount of land in the Colony that is suitable for cultivation and habitation is yearly decreasing.

Ever since Kenya Colony came under British rule, warnings have been sounded from time to time, but they have been disregarded. In 1900 Sir Harry Johnston, in his report on the forests of British East Africa said:

"Forest destruction is indeed proceeding at a rate which observers of every shade of opinion might be pardoned for regarding as a calamity. The beauty and fertility of the East African highlands are due to their forests."

In 1903 Mr. Justice Gurney said:

".....the ultimate source of water supply is largely dependent on the preservation of the forest land."

In 1922 Professor James Smith, Director of Forests in Kenya Colony, wrote:-

".....from the productive point of view, the best forest area of the Colony has already been purchased to its utmost limit of safety. It may be added here that that limit has already been exceeded in respect of the destruction of forest in which the maintenance of the water supply depends. The fact is now too generally known to require emphasis that forestry in the catchment areas of streams exercises a most important

influence in preventing denudation, and in holding up water in the soil after showers of rain and producing a regular flow from springs. The clearing of forest, on the other hand, results in the erosion of the surface soil and the rapid run-off of water after every shower, producing sudden floods after rain with a corresponding drying up of springs and streams in periods of dry weather. In this respect the forests of Kenya Colony, situated as they are for the most part on hilly country, exercise an important, not to say a vital, influence on the general prosperity of the Colony."

In 1929 Sir Daniel Hall, K.C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., presided over an Agricultural Commission, and there is evidence in the report to show in what light this distinguished authority regarded conditions in Kenya:-

"(Para. 117 and 118).....goats attack shrubs and young trees on the higher land and so destroy the scrub and forest which should regulate the retention of water by the soil and prevent the starting of dangerous erosion. It will be remembered that to the goat more than anything else may be attributed the de-afforestation of Greece and other Mediterranean districts, where the former soil has been completely washed away, creating on the one hand a bare hill-side, and on the other swamps in the valleys. This process is going on in Kenya, and will in the end deprive the native peoples of much of their means of sustenance.

(Para. 121, re Ukamba Reserve).....It is not too much to say that a desert has already been created where grazing formerly was good, and where even cultivation existed, and that the same desert conditions are steadily approaching the land at present carrying stock and cultivation."

The Kenya Land Commission, whose report has recently been issued devotes the whole of one chapter to the problem of over stocking, and in para. 1908 et seq. the members of the Commission say:-

"We believe that Kenya is fortunate to the extent that over stocking is of comparatively recent growth, and we do not consider the damage already done to be irreparable.

This fact is perhaps one of the strongest arguments which can be found in favour of prompt action, while the evil is still capable of being remedied.

.....the problem of over stocking is grave and urgent, and unless immediate and decisive steps are taken to combat this ever-increasing evil, many of the native reserves

will be irretrievably ruined and their inhabitants reduced to a state bordering on starvation. The process of denudation and destruction, once started, continues at an ever-increasing rate as the stock multiply at compound interest, and the longer firm action is delayed the greater will be the difficulty and expense of restoring the country to prosperity."

The opinions of such authorities cannot fail to carry weight, but the results of deforestation and denudation are obvious to-day even to the most unobservant. There is hardly a district in the Colony which has not suffered, and barren hillsides, dried-up watercourses, and starving cattle are, in many places every-day sights. In the dry season, the wind velocities have increased and the soil which has been laid bare, whirled into the air, and dust-storms, often hundreds of feet high, sweep across the country. In the rains, thousands of tons of valuable top soil are washed down the unprotected hillsides, and floods become severe and frequent.

## II

What has been done to preserve and extend the forest and to deal with the urgent problem of over stocking?

The Forest Department came into being in 1902 and since that date has demarcated and gazetted 4,700 sq. miles of forest, and has declared them Forest Reserve. It has endeavoured to protect the forest from fire, by fire-breaks, by patrols, and by a resident labour force. But, hampered by lack of funds, it has only succeeded to a very limited extent. Large acreages of forest are destroyed or damaged yearly in the Forest Reserves; valuable timber is lost to the Colony, and natural re-generation is arrested; this is the case even when area destroyed is actually grass-land (glades, or open-spaces on the forest verge) for if protected from the ravages of fire, this grass-land would in the course of time become forest, and large tracts of land would, without cost to the Colony, become tree-bearing. The Forest Department state that the forest area of the Colony increased annually. This statement is apt to be misleading, for it does not mean that the actual forest area of the Colony is increased, but only that surviving forest areas are brought under control of the Department. It may be noted here that the percentage of forest to the total land area of Kenya is under 3 per cent, a dangerously low figure.

Further, the policy of the Department in favouring the planting of exotic trees rather than indigenous species, is open to criticism. The Colony is rich in timbers suitable for building and furniture making: cedar (*Juniperus procera*), podo (*Podocarpus gracillior*), camphor (*Coccoloba usambarensis*), muringa (*Cordia holstii*), olive (*Olea hookeriana*), are among

the chief, and though they are not quick growing compared to the exotic trees planted by the Forest Department, they are more beneficial to the soil, yield finer timber, and are naturally more suited to the conditions of the country. The internal market for these timbers is an expanding one, and with proper development, an increased export trade could also be built up.

In Native Reserves the small patches of forest that are left are steadily being destroyed. In the European highlands the position though serious is less acute for some farmers are beginning to realise the value of forest on their land, and some replanting is taking place. Trees are also being planted in some Native Reserves, notably those of the Kikuyu, Kavirondo and Ukamba, but as the plantations are almost entirely composed of wattle and gum, their value for the future is not great. Wattle and gum are useful, the first for its bark and value as fuel, and the second as fuel, but they have little value as timber, and it is building and furniture-making timber which, as the African standard of living rises will be needed in the future. In other Native Reserves the picture is an almost entirely dark one, and little or nothing has been done to repair the terrible havoc.

As for the problem of over stocking, efforts to deal with it are so small as to be of no account.

The problem is one of extreme urgency, and it is imperative for the welfare of all communities in Kenya, that a scheme of re-forestation and re-conditioning should be put in hand without delay. To effect this a concerted effort on the part of the Administration, the Forest and Agricultural Departments, is necessary, and the effort, to be successful, will need not only careful organisation, but adequate funds. If such an effort could be brought to a successful issue, much of the damage which has already been done, would be repaired, the general agricultural position would thereby be improved, and sound foundations would be laid for the economic development of the Colony.