

38184

38184

C0533/473
KENYA

4

PRESERVATION & EXTENSION OF FOREST RESOURCES

~ PREVENTION OF SOIL EROSION.

Previous

R. 285 24/2
R. 287 3/5

1935

M^o 85
S. 3/5
M. 2

Subsequent

SEE 38174/1
R. 286

S. 6
R. 297 11/5

1937 (S.F.)

20 12/5
295 17/5

R. 297

11/12/36

R. 297

19/11

R. 80

23/11

R. 297

25/11

R. 285

27/11

R. 285

28/11

R. 287

10

M. 285

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M. 285

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M. 285

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M. 285

14/12

M. 285

14

R. 297

17/12

R. 297

23/12

R. 297

M. Stockdale
C
Sir C. Bottomley

N^{os} 1-9

Major and Mrs. E.H. Ward called on me, as foreshadowed in the attached correspondence, and talked for well over an hour at a time when I was particularly busy. They wished to urge upon us here the importance not of their society, about which they were quite sensible, but about doing something at large about Kenya's forest and erosion. Their trouble was that they were quite unable to get anything out of the people in Kenya and when they called upon the Secretaries were always very polite but pushed them off with references to "The Colonial Office". They said they did not quite know why, because they did not want to urge the expenditure of any money but merely to suggest that the adoption of measures which would improve the situation without expense to Government. To this I said, of course, that the only reason why Kenya would wish to consult the Secretary of State would be if there were any question of policy or expenditure involved and that in any case the place to get people interested in their movement was in Kenya and not here. This puzzled them.

They enquired as to the position of the Resident Native Labourers Ordinance and I told them. They said they were pleased, because this was an important factor in their policy since it would enable communities to reduce the number of goats. On this they said that goats were no longer quite as popular as they had been and that the younger generation of Kikuyu no longer regarded the goat as currency. The older men, however, were still obstinate but the stock of goats was diminishing.

part from this they thought a good
could be done by arranging for some
rotation of grazing. They said that in the
Samburu country a surprising change had been
brought about by this simple method and places
which had been derelict were now covered with
grass. They regard as just
as important as trees, though they would
naturally prefer to see more trees growing.
On this point they said that one of
the troubles about people were always
hitchhiking at the forest reserve and the Forest
Department was sometimes ready to yield to
pressure. They were greatly pleased by a
statement of the Secretary of State's in the
House of Commons when, in connection with the
question of the highlands, he pointed out that
of the 16,000 square miles 3,950 was Forest
Reserve which, said he, must remain inviolate
for ever. Major Harland and his wife had fastened
upon this as a pledge or instruction or
something that the Forest Reserve was to
remain absolutely inviolate though it might be
expanded. I had to call their attention to
the context in which the phrase was used and
to tell them that they must not read into it
any such pledge or undertaking, that the
Secretary of State was engaged in pointing out
that all the 16,000 square miles was not being
left from the native and handed over to the
brutal settler, and that he would hate to have
anything more read into his remark.

They were anxious that something should
be done about grass burning which they said was always
deleterious and frequently resulted in burning large
pieces of forest. They were keen that natural
regeneration should be fostered and they said that if
something was not done the whole of Kenya would be
washed away. (I refrained from expressing my natural
hope that the quicker it was washed away the better,
along with everybody in it.)

They struck me as earnest enthusiasts, very
nice people with a good object thoroughly before their
eyes. I told them that as far as we were concerned
when talking about the importance of forests and the
need for checking erosion, they were preaching to the
thoroughly converted and said it was really up to them
to excite public opinion in Kenya. They said that
what they really aimed at was getting District Officers
to impress upon the native population the great
importance of watching and preventing erosion and
planting trees where they could. Some District
Officers were very good in this matter but others were
quite apathetic. They also asked whether the cadets
were instructed in the importance of this factor while
they were at the universities. I said I was sure
they were, since no sane lecturer on agriculture or
forestry could omit a point of such importance, and I
also referred them to paragraph 301 of Sir Alan Pim's
Report where he stresses the great importance of
forestry and of enlisting private enterprise to help.
I can quite understand their being regarded
as cranks but I think they are good cranks, and a

*I have ascertained
since that they are*

J.

little encouragement in their very praiseworthy
voluntary efforts could do no harm. Draft
herewith to Mr. Wade.

J. E. O. Troup

26.10.36.

Mr Flood

Lord De la Warr saw Major & Mrs.
Ward for 1/2 hr. this morning. He
thinks it would be a good thing
if you would write to Mr. Wade
as in your draft. Major & Mrs.
Ward stated that the subject
of tree conservation had never been
on the agenda for the Governors'
Conference, & Lord De la Warr
asked me to suggest that, unless
you can verify that it has been
considered at the G.C., you might
ask Mr. Wade whether the statement
is true.

J. E. O. Troup
5.11.36

10. To R. de W. Wade - (4/0) - 9 NOV 1936

11 Professor Troup
Enquires whether he can be put in touch with Mr. Wade.
C.O. staff in view to put the case for the Kenya Arbor Society's
Major Furse.

You may like to see the correspondence in
the file herewith.

Major and Mrs. Ward are a perfect nuisance
and they have been wasting my time and Lord De La Warr's
and the time of anybody else that they can get hold
of by talking for hours and hours. We know perfectly
well that their objects are laudable and that Government
ought to do all it can to encourage them. Unfortunately
the Government of Kenya has got no money, and in the
absence of money it is difficult to know what help
Government can give. The objection to the reduction
of the Forest Reserve would, I think, not be nearly
so great if it were not proposed to give the land
to natives, and in any case the recommendations of the
Land Commission must be implemented.

I think we might reply to Professor Troup
to the effect that Major Ward and his wife have been
seeing people in the Colonial Office, including Lord
De La Warr, and that we are fully alive to their aims
and objects and to the importance of their work and
of the desirability of encouraging them; but that
the difficulty is that Kenya has got no money to spend
on any object, however desirable. And advise Sir A. to
be guarded and to keep out of it. You might send the contents
from my letter to Mr. Wade - the usual bit J. E. O. Troup

14-11

12 To Prof. Troup (11/11/36) 14-11-36

R. E. O. Troup
1296-72

13. Wade (S/o to Mr. Flood) 19-11-36

Attaches copy of Circular he has sent to everybody in the Administration and comments on action which Govt. are already taking, stating that there is no factor with or ill-feeling for the Works.

Mr. Flood

You may like to see this & perhaps tell it to Professor Troup. Then please pass on to Mr. Pedler for Lord De la Warr to see.

The remark about medical leishmaniasis versus agriculture reminds me of what a friend once said to me in the West Coast (we were looking at an area with several mines in it in a large valley)

The Doctor's ideal tropical bungalow is a mosquito proof house, on the top of a smooth concrete mound the top of the Great Pyramid, the whole surrounded by a moat 440 yards wide full of kessars with no trees, grass or shrubs, rolling middle. After, there is even a machine for spraying within half a mile of the shore.

There is much more to this. The devastation of the U.S. by the West is largely helped by swamp drainage which also goes to help out the ruinous floods of the Mississippi. You cannot have it all ways.

J. S. W. Hood

Mr. Flood

I apologise to not doing this quicker; but the Dept has been full of things to read & some days.

It tells them all told Professor Troup much with you for the letter h: w: despatched; if I have it cut out when you have come I want to him.

R. S. Troup

2/12/36

Mr Flood

had De la Warr has seen no. 13, and made some marginal comments

J.S.W. Hood 11.12.36

Mr Pedler

The joke is, I have no doubt, the literal truth. Modern & anti mosquito work demands canalizing & connecting all streams & water courses & giving no room for water to lie about. Agricultural and erosion work demands water lying about & soil not too much drained, otherwise water runs off slowly. The two conflict.

I have no idea what the legislative project was. If it is called impossible in Kenya it probably was.

J.S.W. Hood

had De la Warr has seen

X is not a copy of the contract.

J.S.W. Hood 14.12

To Prof. Troup. (P.S.) (Postmark from 13) 10 Dec 36

15. EXTRACT FROM PERSONAL LETTER TO MAJOR K. B. S. TROUP, DATED 13.12.36.

Handwritten C.M.S.

Handwritten R.S.T.

16 [unclear] (P.S.) 19 Dec 36

Handwritten 12/12/36

I have acknowledged the receipt,
expressing my own sympathy with their objects.
It will be noted that their main campaign is
against the goats and in this I think they
are wise. What they have to do is to get
people interested and make people realise the
value of forests. But so long as the Kenya
unofficials attack the Forest Department, they
will have an uphill task.

J. I. W. Ward

4.5.1937

Dear Mr. Ward, I visited the woods where
I was in Kenya and met a number of the
members of the Arbor Society. They are all
very keen and the Society will accomplish
good work if the members - either collectively
or individually - do not divide it.

J. I. W. Ward

5/5

That's the danger of course. But as long as they will have to
work up their own.

J. I. W.

Sir C. G. G. G.

you may like to see the report.

J. I. W. Ward

Dear Sir with interest.
As to X - with all his accounts,
the St. George's Park managed it - so
far as planting was concerned,
it all stands.

W. S. S. 27/5/37

18
To Maj. G. Ward. (Trans) 4. May. 37

4th May, 1937.

Dear Major Ward,

My thanks indeed for your letter and the report of your Society which I am putting on record here and will bring to the notice of those higher up. I am not a bit surprised to learn that you have a large official following, and if I were in Kenya I should certainly have enrolled among them, and I think that I would not be among the twenty-seven who have not paid their subscription. There can be no doubt in any thinking man's mind of the value of the work which you are doing and of the vast importance of the object which you have before you. Of course, in some places there are always liable to be two opinions about any particular course. For instance, grass burning is at times an evil. On the other hand, there are places where grass burning is recommended under control as a precautionary measure against tsetse flies and there is room for two opinions. Further, in the neighbourhood of towns you

are

MAJOR R. H. WARD.

are bound to come up against the medical department, which, in the interests of public health insists upon drastic clearing and the drainage of any water courses which may be about. Such drainage may, if not carefully watched, lead to ~~contamination~~ ^{disease} and cause trouble. So it is not too easy, but I can assure you that so far as we are concerned your activities are looked upon with full sympathy. Of course what you have to do is to educate public opinion so far as there is a public opinion in ~~some~~ ^{some} and fourthly, to be able to deal with the European population, by ~~the~~ ^{the} necessary endeavouring to find or create, and then educate a public opinion among the native population will be a tough problem. Yet without it there is always the danger of a collapse, whatever government may do. So it is no light task that you have set before you. Good luck to you in it.

Yours sincerely,

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

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

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

RECEIVED
13 MAY 1937
H/O
C.O. REGD

5/4/37

Dear Mr Flood

I am sending you a copy of the
Annual Report of the Society for 1936
which may be of interest to you

You will see that the list of members
contains a large number of officials, as well
as landowners. Perhaps you will be surprised
to hear that we all work together very
successfully, & often drink together afterwards.

Yours sincerely

Edward

5/4/37

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Annual Report

AND

Balance Sheet

for the year 1936.



Printed by
THE EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, LTD
NAIROBI.

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

AIMS

1. To safeguard existing forests in Kenya.
2. To encourage afforestation and tree-planting.
3. To take practical measures to prevent erosion, and to repair past damage from this cause.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1936.

During the year the Society gained 95 new members, bringing the total on December 31st up to 261. We much regret to have to report the deaths of three members, Miss Cara Buxton, Mr. W. J. W. Baker, and Sir Charles Liston Foulis Bart.

Ten members have resigned, and 27 members have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1936.

The Society feels that it can justly claim some share of the responsibility for the great increase in the interest shown in forest protection, tree planting, and in soil and water conservation in general, in which the year has been marked.

Two public meetings were held during the year, one at Nairobi on January 31st, and another at Naivasha on March 11th. The principal speaker at both these meetings was Mr. Colin Maher, of the Department of Agriculture. He warned his audiences of the dangers of desiccation and emphasised the need for a widespread campaign for the protection of Kenya's natural resources.

At the Nairobi meeting Mr. J. G. Hopkins referred to the problem of overstocking in the Kikuyu Reserve. The system of paying for wives in stock was largely responsible for this problem. He stated that the Local Native Councils at Kiambu had just passed a unanimous resolution that dowries should be paid in future on a cash basis.

Majors and Mrs. Ward were absent from the Colony from August 1st till December 13th, on a visit to Europe. During their absence, the Hon. Secretaries' work was carried out by Mr. P. Lodge, C.I.E., assisted by Mr. J. N. Nummo, and the Council wishes to thank these gentlemen very warmly for their work.

The Council wishes to record its gratitude to the Soil Conservation Service, Washington, U.S.A.; to the Forest Preserve Association of New York State; to the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Melbourne; to the Department of Agriculture, New South Wales; to the Men of the Trees, Palestine; and to the Forest Research Institute, Zurich; for very interesting and helpful literature which these organisations have kindly supplied.

The Council also acknowledges with thanks the support given to the Society by the "East African Standard" and the "Kenya Weekly News."

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Patron:

H.E. Sir Joseph Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

President:

P. Lodge, Esq., C.I.E., J.P.

Vice-President:

Commander E. J. Coudrey, D.S.O.

Council:

The Hon. Mrs. F. E. Grant.

J. G. Hewett, Esq.

S. O. V. Hodge, Esq.

H. B. Sharpe, Esq.

W. Street, Esq., O.B.E.

Brig. General A. R. Wainwright, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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

Hon. Publications Secretary.

Mrs. F. H. Ward.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1936.

This was held at Nakuru on February 29th. Commander F. J. Coudrey was in the chair. The principal subject on the agenda was "Goats. Suggested measures to deal with the menace."

Major E. H. Ward said that some of the more advanced tribes, particularly the Kikuyu, were beginning to realise that increased production of crops was incompatible with the keeping of herds of goats. They also realised that goats were a useless form of currency. But at present natives in the Reserves had no difficulty in finding a home for their surplus goats on European farms; this toleration shown to these destructive animals by some farmers was delaying the demonetisation of the goat.

Mr. J. E. A. Wolryche Whitmore said that a lead from District Councils, to discourage the keeping of goats on farms, would help. He proposed the following resolution which was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting supports the Council of the Society in its propaganda against goats, and urges all farmers to banish all goats from their farms, where necessary substituting a limited number of sheep."

A letter was sent to all District Councils inviting their support in the campaign against goats. Uasin Gishu and Nyanza District Councils wholeheartedly proffered their active support, and it is hoped that other District Councils will follow their example.

PROPAGANDA.

The Society has continued to publish and distribute posters and pamphlets in English and in native languages, dealing with forest protection, tree-planting and the prevention of erosion. These subjects have also been kept alive in the press by articles written by members.

R. A. & H. Snow. The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Show at Nakuru in July afforded an opportunity for making the work of the Society known, and at the stall, generously lent free of charge by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, many new members were enrolled, and many enquiries answered. The centre of interest at the exhibit was a collection of photographs of soil erosion in America and Australia, and the thanks of the Council are due to Mrs. Elspeth Huxley, Sir David Rivett, and Mr. F. N. Ratcliff, for these very interesting photographs.

SCHOOLS.

The Society's Shield, won by the European School, Nakuru, for the best "Book of East African Trees and Forests" was presented to the School on Empire Day, by Commander F. J. Coudrey. Major Ward gave a short address on the need for planting trees, after which the School Scouts and Guides planted a number of indigenous trees in the grounds. Similar tree-planting ceremonies were carried out at many other schools, European, Asian and African. The Council would

like to record its thanks to Mr. D. A. Kerr for his kindness in designing and carving the shield, to the Conservator of Forests for the trees supplied free to Government Schools, and to the Director of Education for the help of his Department.

The competition for this year is an essay on "The Life History of a Tree."

BOOK OF KENYA TREES AND FORESTS.

A circular was sent out to all members in June inviting them to contribute photographs for the making of a book of photographs of Kenya trees and forests, which the Society hopes to publish.

It is hoped that members will do their best to make early publication possible by sending suitable photographs. These should show good specimens of individual trees or groups of trees. Prints should be on glazed paper, and the name of the tree or trees depicted should be stated.

We wish to acknowledge with thanks photographs received from the following:

H. Grahame-Bell, Esq.
J. F. F. Barnes, Esq.
R. M. Graham, Esq.
Mrs. Elspeth Huxley.
Professor R. S. Troup.

EXCISIONS FROM FOREST RESERVES.

During the year further small excisions from the forest reserves were made, and the land excised was put up to auction without any conditions, as to protection of forest and water supplies. Some of these excisions took place in spite of protests from many farmers in the district.

The Society has continued its efforts to persuade the Government to give greater security to the Forest Reserves, either by demarcation (Cap. 149, Laws of Kenya), or in some other way. H.E. the Governor was good enough to arrange a conference in Nairobi last May between the Heads of Departments and three members of the Council of the Society to discuss this and other questions. As a result of the Conference, the Colonial Secretary stated that instructions would be given that:

- (a) All proposals for the excision of forest areas should be submitted to the Governor-in-Council.
- (b) All proposed excisions of forest areas should be notified in the Official Gazette for 3 months before action was taken.

The Council have pointed out to Government that in their opinion it is very necessary to set up a Board of Forest Commissioners to hear objections to proposed excisions. Without such a Board there is a grave risk of objections being brushed aside, as they have been in the past. The Government, however, consider that the arrangements for hearing objections are adequate.

The Council have also advocated that all areas in Forests, the clearing of which would be liable to affect the flow of streams or to cause erosion, should be proclaimed "Protection Forests." In these areas no clear felling should be allowed and no excisions should be permitted.

In reply to this proposal the Colonial Secretary states—

"So far as Forest Reserves are concerned, the practice recommended is, of course, a part of proper forest management and observed by the Forest Department." This statement is, unfortunately, not borne out by facts.

GRASSLAND BURNING IN FOREST RESERVES

The Council views with dismay the accidental burning of young trees (and sometimes of forest as well) which frequently occurs during the annual glade-burning which is carried out by the Forest Department. The effect of this burning is to enlarge the glades at the expense of the forest. While realising the difficulties of the Department in their lack of responsible persons to supervise the burning, and the fact that the period during which burning can be carried out is a very short one, we cannot help feeling that more might be done to bring home to Forest squatters a greater sense of responsibility, and that more use might be made of the services of Hon. Forest Officers.

Now that the Forest Department has a surplus, we consider that this surplus should be placed at the disposal of the Department. It could then cut lines round the edge of the glades prior to burning which would make the burning easier to control.

We have suggested that a start should be made in afforesting a few of these glades, and that forest squatters should cultivate them for their shambas instead of being given "uneconomic" forest to clear. This uneconomic forest is often of great value for water conservation purposes, and there seems to be no justification for clearing it when there is so much grassland available for afforestation.

FOREST FIRES.

The number of fires recorded in the Forest Reserves during 1936 was considerably less than that in any of the five previous years.

The decrease was mainly due to the early rains, and it would be a grave mistake to suppose that the risks from fire in a dry year have been substantially diminished, or that efforts to minimise these risks can be relaxed.

The Forest Department have been active both in increasing the numbers of, and in maintaining, firelines, but the careless honey-hunter and traveller, and the itinerant squatter on farms adjoining Forest Reserves, still continue to be sources of great danger to the forest.

FORESTS ON ALIENATED LAND.

Many complaints of the destruction of forest on alienated land are received, and investigation has shown that these complaints are not unfounded.

Sometimes the destruction is caused by those farmers who regard forest on their land solely from the point of view of immediate cash possibilities, and who fell timber ruthlessly with no thought of replanting.

At other times, the destruction is the outcome of the activities of squatters, who clear areas of forest for their shambas. Very often the forest thus destroyed is on a steep slope, and constitutes part of the catchment-area of a stream, and the removal of vegetal cover results in a diminution of the flow of the stream.

It is encouraging to observe that public opinion is strengthening against these harmful practices, and that the demand for legislation to ensure a degree of protection for forest on private land, is growing.

GRASS-BURNING.

The evil effects of frequent grass-burning have been constantly stressed by the Society in its propaganda.

We receive a number of letters asking for the Society's help in endeavouring to put a stop to the annual grass fires which often sweep unchecked over large areas of country, destroying trees and impoverishing the soil.

The practice of grass-burning can be controlled in many reserves by energetic administrative action, as the powers to do so exist. But in the absence of a lead from Government, these powers are not always made use of, and, where grass-burning is uncontrolled, progressive deterioration of the land is taking place.

The most difficult problem is that of grass-burning on private land. There is a great deal of apathy in the matter, and much misunderstanding. Some farmers do not discriminate between the occasional and useful, burning of rank grass, and the frequent burning over the same ground, which can do nothing but harm. The latter is usually done by squatters to get new grass for their stock, and is carried out without any supervision by the landowner.

The Society continues to emphasise the necessity for firebreaks, and to urge that grass-burning should only be done with discretion, and under strict control.

As the question is a controversial one, it is interesting to note the views of the Committee on veld burning appointed by the British Empire Forestry Conference of 1935. "Fire has an unfavourable effect on the moisture content of the country and from this point of view all grass-burning may be considered detrimental. Where grassland is the climax type, excessive burning can do nothing but harm, and will result in a deteriorated and woody pasture hastening the onset of erosion."

PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

In the Society's Annual Report for 1935 reference was made to the question of legislation for the protection of cover on mountain slopes and in catchment areas.

The Council have been urging upon Government the necessity for legislation in order to protect the Colony's diminishing water supplies. This important question has now been under consideration by Government for about a year.

LAND UTILISATION SURVEY.

The land utilisation survey, mentioned in the last Annual Report, was referred to the Standing Board of Economic Development at the end of 1935. At the request of the Board, a questionnaire dated 30th March, 1936 was sent to all Provincial Commissioners and District Officers asking for information about deforestation and soil erosion in their districts, and we understand a mass of information has now been collected.

The multirarious duties of the Board, however, prevent their giving the subject the immediate attention which is called for.

The Council have therefore requested Government to appoint a special Board whose sole duty would be to deal with these questions.

REPORT OF SIR ALAN PIM.

In the last Annual Report, an account was given of the Kenya Arbor Society's delegates' interview with Sir Alan Pim.

The Council is much encouraged by the stress which is laid in the Report on the necessity for a far-sighted Government, and the urgency of accelerated reforestation and of measures to check erosion. For the benefit of those who are not conversant with the Report, the paragraphs bearing on these subjects are quoted.

Para. 300. "While forests may ultimately yield a large profit as they do in India, the test to be applied to the accuracy of the department is not mainly, or even primarily, that of profit, but of the staff required for the work which is essential in the interests of the country, both the present interests and those of the future."

After emphasising the urgent need of accelerated reforestation in such areas as Machakos, Kaimosi, South Kavirondo, and Kisii, and the necessity of demarcating the Masai forests (as some of the Kikuyu are filtering into the area), he says:—"Considering the vital importance to the future of the country of a consistent and far-seeing forest policy, I do not recommend any further reduction of staff, either superior or subordinate."

The Conservator of Forests points out that the sanctioned expenditure is the lowest since 1926, and has only been made possible by restricting development, by leaving large areas inadequately protected, and as a result of the reduction in trade. As trade improves and population grows it will be necessary to increase the number of Assistant Foresters and of Forest Guards. Also to make additional provision for reforestation and nurseries if the department is to take its due share in controlling erosion."

Para 301. "It may, however, be well to lay stress on one point. There are few departments of Government which can receive as much help from members of the general public as that connected with the

administration of the forests. Replanting in particular can be widely promoted by enlisting private enterprise and assisting any efforts made in that direction. In Kenya there are certainly many farmers who both could, and probably would, do more in that direction if they were certain of the best methods to be applied in their special conditions; the Arbor Society is evidence of this interest."

Dealing with Soil Conservation, para 242-3, Sir Alan Pim, after stressing the fact that the fundamental problems include the maintenance of soil fertility, and the checking of erosion says:—"Remedial measures are being taken in some areas, but there exists a danger of the question being relegated to one of secondary importance owing to the efforts at present being made towards an increase of area under Native grown crops."

Para. 243. "To summarize the position, the Plant Industry Section is engaged in the Native Reserves in introducing new crops and extending the area under existing crops, in the introduction of new varieties of maize, millets, sorghums, and beans and in the marketing of agricultural produce generally, but the question of conservation and improvement of the soil has yet to be taken up seriously."

MAJOR AND MRS. WARD'S VISIT TO EUROPE.

(By Mrs. E. H. Ward.)

SWITZERLAND.

We visited Switzerland in August, and through the kindness of Herr Burger, Director, and Herr Meyer, Assistant Director of the Swiss Forestry Research Institute at Zurich, were enabled to see something of the Swiss forests and forestry methods. These gentlemen very kindly showed us forests in the neighbourhood of Zurich, and pointed out to us how the whole of Swiss forestry practice derived from one basic principle, that of preserving soil cover. From the observance of this principle spring the Swiss methods of selection as opposed to clear felling, and of encouraging natural regeneration of forests, rather than the making of plantations.

We should like to take this opportunity of recording our indebtedness to Herr Burger and Herr Meyer for their kindness.

It is interesting to note that no less than 25 per cent. of Switzerland is under forest.

LONDON.

While we were in London we had interviews with Lord De La Warr, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and with permanent officials at the Colonial Office. We stressed the need for swift and effective Government intervention to save Kenya from the effects of denudation of cover and the consequent soil erosion.

We also brought these problems to the notice of Mr. Charles Roden Buxton of the Labour Party Office, and of Sir John Harris, Secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, and discussed them with Sir Daniel Hall and Professor R. S. Tropé.

Through the kindness of Lt.-General Sir William Furse, Chairman of the East Africa Group of the Overseas League and of Mr. C.

W. Hobley, a meeting was held at the Headquarters of the League on November 19th. Sir William Furse was in the chair, Major E. H. Ward was the first speaker, his subject was "The Perils of Soil Erosion"; he was followed by Mr. Gillman, Major Cavendish-Bentnick, Mrs. Elspeth Huxley (who spoke on the terrible effects of soil erosion in the United States), Dr. Taylor, (the American Agricultural Attaché), Professor Troup, and Mr. Stockdale (Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office). Two of the speeches were illustrated by lantern slides.

The meeting was very well attended, and we hope that it will have helped to arouse interest at home on one of Kenya's most urgent problems.

We wish to express our thanks to Colonel C. F. Knaggs and to Major C. H. Dale of the East African Dependencies Office, for their unflinching help to us while we were in England.

MEMBERS' WORK

This report would not be complete without reference to the practical work carried out by a large number of members—too numerous to mention individually—in planting trees, for windbreaks, shade, fuel, and other purposes, and in terracing and other works to combat erosion. Their achievements stand as examples of what can be accomplished by determination and energy, very often at surprisingly small cost.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Lieut.-General Sir William Furse, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Sir A. Daniel Hall, K.C.B., F.R.S.
 Sir Arthur W. Hill, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.
 C. W. Hobley, Esq., C.M.G.
 H. C. Sampson, Esq., C.I.E.
 Professor R. S. Troup, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.A., F.R.S.

TEN-YEAR MEMBERS.

Chamberlain, R., Nairobi.	McMillan, Lady, Nairobi.
Crump, Col. J., D.S.O., Nairobi.	Playfair, R. W., Limuru.
Davenport, C. T., Kisumu.	Udall, C., Nairobi.
Grogan, Major E. S., D.S.O., Nairobi.	Walker, Col. C. W. G., C.M.G., D.S.O., London.

Joseph Mrs. M. E. Ulu.

MEMBERS.

Adams, C. H., Rumuruti.	Benn, J., Naivasha.
Adams, J., Nairobi.	Benn, Miss J., Naivasha.
Albrechtsen, Mrs. S., Naivasha.	Bentley, O., Kitale.
Aldous, J. F., Fort Ternan.	Berg, H. von, Naivasha.
Anderson, Major Sinclair, Endebees.	Bernard, Mrs. H. F., Timau.
Armstrong, A., Rumuruti.	Bingley, A. R., Gilgil.
Atkinson, H. B., Londiani.	Blodg, Miss Wilma, Nairobi.
Augeraud, E. H. G., Thomson's Falls.	Blundell, M., Nakuru.
Augeraud, Mrs. F. E., Thomson's Falls.	Boyer, E. J. N., Naivasha.
Bailey, A. G., Kapenguria.	Boyce, Major E. D., Nakuru.
Baillie, F. W., Nakuru.	Bradbury, Major A. R., Kabete.
Baker, G. Sandbach, Thomson's Falls.	Brodhurst, Mrs. E., Turbo.
Ball, R. S., Njoro.	Burnier, H. E., Kitale.
Bampfyde, The Hon. Arthur, Nairobi.	Buxton, Mrs. Clarence, Narok.
Banks, T. M., Nakuru.	Caddick, Major C. J., Sotik.
Banks, Mrs. T. M., Nakuru.	Carnelley, S. H., Naivasha.
Bass, H. B., Menengai.	Carter, Capt. B. S., Thika.
Bargman, H. F., Nairobi.	Carter, Mrs. B. S., Thika.
Barraclough, E., Thomson's Falls.	Carter, Comdr. W. J., Lugari.
Barton-Eckett, B., Nairobi.	Carlin, S., Lumbwa.
Barton-Eckett, Mrs. B., Nairobi.	Casling, Miss K., Nyeri.
Baynes, Major G., Narro Moru.	Castello, J. C., Njoro.
Beeckley, V. A., M.C., M.A., Nairobi.	Cavendish-Bentnick, Major E., Nairobi.
	Chaundy, G. H., Kapenguria.
	Clause, Mrs. F. C., Thika.
	Coldham, P. S. H., Kiambu.
	Coltart, H., Njoro.

Colville, Brig.-General, G. N., Njoro.
 Cooper, A. M., Elburgon.
 Cooper, Mrs. A. M., Elburgon.
 Cooper, Eisdell, Koru.
 Cornforth, Capt. J. C., Makuyu.
 Coudrey, Comdr. F. J., D.S.C., Njoro.
 Coudrey, Mrs. F. J., Njoro.
 Craiswick, C. T., Nakuru.
 Crates, A. A., Nakuru.
 Crawford, F. W. S., Fort Ternan.
 Cusack, J. W., Rumuruti.
 David, C. J. E., Nakuru.
 Davis, H. L. G., Ruiru.
 Delap, H. A., Thika.
 Dent, Capt. R. E., Mombasa.
 Dickson, Mrs. H. C., Nairobi.
 Durston, E. R., Makuyu.
 Eason, Mrs. E. M., Njoro.
 Edwards, Mrs. O. I., Ruiru.
 Edwards, Major W. G., M.C., Rumuruti.
 Elliot, C. W., Laikipia.
 Elmer, Mrs. L. A., Kitale.
 Enderle, H. O., Fort Ternan.
 Elliott, the Earl of, Naivasha.
 Evans, Capt. E. A., Nyeri.
 Evans Bros., Nyeri.
 Evans Bros., Kitale.
 Evans, J. D., Sotik.
 Evans, L. F., Makuyu.
 Everard, J. C., Thika.
 Fernside, Mrs. G., Naivasha.
 Featherstonehaugh, H. W., Njoro.
 Fraser-Alen, A. H., Ol Kalou.
 Furse, D. G. R., Molo.
 Gardner, H. M., Nairobi.
 Garratt, G. S., Naivasha.
 Gethin-Jones, G. H., Nairobi.
 Gillott, The Rev. J., Nairobi.
 Goodwyn, Miss D. Z., Nakuru.
 Gorringe, L., Nairobi.
 Gould, J. B., Nairobi.
 Graham, Capt. N., Nairobi.
 Grahame Bell, H., Nairobi.
 Grant, Major J. C. H., Njoro.

Grant, the Hon. Mrs. E. L., Njoro.
 Gray, J. H., Molo.
 Gregory-Smith, Capt. H. G., Meru.
 Grogan, H. K., Nairobi.
 Hansard, R. L., Njoro.
 Harries, Cecil, Ruiru.
 Harries, C. W. P., Ruiru.
 Harvey, H., Eburru.
 Heape, R. M., Endebess.
 Hemsted, Dr. H., Naivasha.
 Hemsted, F. R., Londiani.
 Henderson, Dr. F. L., Nakuru.
 Hewitt, J. G., Naivasha.
 Hill, Major B. H., Cherangani.
 Hill, Mrs. J. K., Gilgil.
 Hill, Mervyn, Nairobi.
 Hillyer, C. W., Naivasha.
 Hodge, S. O. V., Nakuru.
 Hoey, Mrs. C., Hoey's Bridge.
 Hopcraft, W., Naivasha.
 Hopkins, J. G., Kiambu.
 Howard, G. R. P., Limuru.
 Hudson, Canon, W., Limuru.
 Hughes, H. F., Thomson's Falls.
 Huxley, Mrs. Elspeth, London.
 Ireland Bros., Nakuru.
 Jackson, Major R. H., Nakuru.
 Jennings, F. C., Meru.
 Jex-Blake, Lady Muriel, Nairobi.
 Joyce, Major E. de V., Ulu.
 Kacharoba Estate, Kiambu.
 Keyser, Miss A. M., Nairobi.
 Kilkelly, Col., Njoro.
 Kiningsford Estate, Makuyu.
 Kingsford, L. T., Limuru.
 Kinnear, G., Nairobi.
 Koster, Hans A., Rongai.
 Lane, C. A. G., Nairobi.
 Latham, G. C., Fleet, Hants.
 Lea, B. O., Naivasha.
 Lea, Mrs. B. O., Naivasha.
 Leakey, D., Nairobi.
 Leakey, Mrs. D.
 Lee, N. H., Naivasha.
 Lesirko Ltd., Ol Kalou.
 Lindstrom, Mrs., Njoro.

Lloyd, F. D., Makuyu.
 Loch, Miss N. F., Nakuru.
 Lodge, F., C.I.E., Naivasha.
 Low, the Ven. W. P., Nakuru.
 Lyne Watt, W., Kisumu.
 Maher, Colin, Nairobi.
 Maher, Mrs. C., Nairobi.
 Maryolo Estate, Subukia.
 Mardon, V. R., Naivasha.
 Mews, Mrs. E. A., Molo.
 Miller, L. G., Limuru.
 Moody, N., Naivasha.
 Morris, E. G., O.B.E., Nairobi.
 Mukahy Morgan, Mrs. B. M., Kitale.
 Murphy, Mrs., Kabaret.
 Murton, I., Rongai.
 Nakuru Golf Club.
 Nestor, R. L., Kipkarren.
 Newton, J. W., Turbo.
 Nimmo, J. N., Naivasha.
 Nimmo, R. J., Naivasha.
 Norton, R., Kiambu.
 Norton, Mrs. R., Kiambu.
 Paterson, A. R., M.B., Nairobi.
 Payne, F. E., Nanyuki.
 Pearson, T. C., Eldama Ravine.
 Percy-Smith, Lt.-Col. E., Nanyuki.
 Phillips, P., Nairobi.
 Pickford, Mrs. W., Naivasha.
 Pim, Col. E. H., Bedford, Cherangani.
 Pim, F., Bedford, Cherangani.
 Poppleton, W. J., Makuyu.
 Poppleton, Mrs. W. J., Makuyu.
 Price, A. J., Nakuru.
 Radford, L. J., Naivasha.
 Rammell, J. C., Nairobi.
 Ray, Mervyn S., Naivasha.
 Repton, Mrs. G., Thika.
 Reynard, A. F., London.
 Reynard, Mrs. C. E., Naivasha.
 Rhodes, Brig.-Gen. Sir Godfrey, C.B.E., D.S.O., Nairobi.
 Röger, H., Eldoret.
 Romer, G., Naivasha.
 Russell, D. O., Kipkarren.
 Ryan, B., Thomson's Falls.

Sands & Co., Nairobi.
 Santamoro Estate, Makuyu.
 Schmidborn, K. H., Kitale.
 Sequeira, C., Makuyu.
 Seth-Smith, D. F., Njoro.
 Sharpe, H. B., Rumuruti.
 Shaw, Mrs. B. V., Palestine.
 Shaw, Dacre A., Nairobi.
 Shaw, Miss M. Ryle, Nairobi.
 Sherwen, H., Naivasha.
 Sherwen, Mrs. H., Naivasha.
 Silvester, J. H., Nairobi.
 Simpson, A. J., Nakuru.
 Simpson, J. H., Molo.
 Soames, C. I., Molo.
 Stephen, Miss A., Nairobi.
 Stephens, J. R., Nairobi.
 Street, W., O.B.E., Thomson's Falls.
 Stooke, G., Beresford, Nairobi.
 Stronach, J. C., Nairobi.
 Swan, W., C.I.E., Kitale.
 Symons, J. H., Eldoret.
 Taylor, Miss M. C., Naivasha.
 Tetley, A. E. M., Nairobi.
 Tillet, E. H., Molo.
 Todd, C. T., Timau.
 Tompson, Mrs. Alan, Nairobi.
 Trent, Mrs. I. M., Ol Kalou.
 Tryon, Capt. S., M.C., Molo.
 Tuerck, Baron, Njoro.
 Tunnel Co., Ltd., Fort Ternan.
 Turner, H. A., Gilgil.
 Valpy, J. A., Kitale.
 Vaughan-Philpott, Capt. D. A., Kitale.
 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., O.B.E., Nairobi.
 Ward, Comdr. E. C., Subukia.
 Ward, Major E. H., Naivasha.
 Ward, Mrs. E. H., Naivasha.
 Waters, H. B., Nairobi.

Watkins, C. G., Kipkabus.
 Watson A. M., Thomson's Falls.
 Watson, Miss A. M., Nakuru.
 Watts Williams, Mrs. M., Nakuru.
 Waudby, Mrs., Mau Summit.
 Weaver, N., Naivasha.
 Wetherall, Lt.-Col. M. C., Naivasha
 Wheeler, Mrs. H. N., Nanyuki.
 Wilkey, Mrs. W., London.
 Wilson, Capt. F. O'B., C.M.G.,
 D.S.O., Ulu.
 Winbush, S. H., Nairobi.
 Winckler, Count von Tiele,
 Lumbwa.
 Winnington-Ingram, C. A.,
 Thomson's Falls.

Wisdom, R. H. W., Nairobi.
 Wolfe, H., Nairobi.
 Wollen, Mrs. M., Kiambu.
 Wolryche Whitmore, J. E. A.,
 Rongai.
 Wright, E. H., Njoro.
 Wright K. E., Mombasa.

SCHOOLS.

Girls' Secondary School, Nairobi.
 European School, Nakuru.
 St. Andrew's School, Turu.
 Jeanes School.
 Kenya Lone Girl Guide.

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1936.

	Shs.	Cts.	Shs.	Cts.
Balance at Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru, as at 1/1/36	691	03		
Petty Cash on hand as at 1/1/36	47	70		
Members' Subscriptions			738	73
1936			1,031	60
1937			73	00
1938			5	00
Sale of Booklets			112	60
			236	65
			Shs. 2,060	98

	Shs.	Cts.	Shs.	Cts.
Propaganda			1,437	62
Postages, Printing, and Stationery			230	02
Government Publications			20	70
General Expenses				
Audit	27	50		
Arbor Shield	59	00		
Tree Grant	20	00		
Bank Charges	5	60		
Cash at Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru, as at 31/12/36			407	28
Petty Cash on Hand as at 31/12/36			67	26
			474	54
			Shs. 2,060	98

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 therefrom.

For and on behalf of
 BEALES & CO. LTD.,
 WILFRID C. WRIGHT.

Nairobi, 28th February, 1937.

Air Mail.

Downing Street.

19th December, 1931.

Dear Wade,

Thank you very much for your most amusing letter of the 12th of November about the Paris. I can quite understand what you say about the medical exhibit at the Agricultural Show, and I remember a chap in the Gold Coast telling me his view of the ideal tropical house for one man from the doctor's point of view (he was not a doctor). It ran as

"The doctor's ideal tropical bungalow is a mosquito-proof mast-erb, built on the top of a smooth mound of concrete, the size and shape of the great pyramid of Cheops; the whole being surrounded by a moat 40 yards wide and kept full of kerosene - the ground for the space of half a mile all round being kept perfectly smooth and denuded of every tree, grass or shrub".

The Wards also went off and saw Professor Troup who wrote a letter to Furse saying that he had had an interview with the Wards and had promised

promised to do what he could to interest the Colonial Office in some of the more important matters with which the Society is concerned. We told Group that we were fully alive to the Wards and their Society, and later on we sent him a copy of most of your letter to me. He has now replied to the following effect:-

"Many thanks for your letter with information about Major and Mrs. Ward. By the time I had finished with them I had come to very much the same conclusion. You can, of course, rely on my discretion".

This shows, I think, that the poor professor has suffered just as much as the rest of us from that charming but insistent pair.

By the time you get this I suppose you will be Acting Governor, and I can truthfully say that I pray that you will not have too rough a time of it. Of course, apart from the budget question which now seems in a fair way of settlement, there will be a sort of lull pending the arrival of the new Governor.

All good wishes for Christmas and 1937.

Yours sincerely,

19
Extract from a personal letter to
Major Furse from Professor R. S. Troup,
dated 12th December, 1936.

"....."

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th with
information about Major & Mrs. Ward. By the time I
had finished with them I had come to very much the same
conclusion. You can, of course, rely on my
discretion.

....."

AIR MAIL

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE
NO. 8 AG/1 25/1/5
AND DATE



THE SECRETARIAT
NAIROBI
KENYA

to 13

19th November 1956

Dear Flood,

10

I thank you for your letter of the 9th November on the subject of a visit from Major and Mrs. Ward who took up well over an hour of your valuable time. They have also taken up well over an hour of my valuable time and of the valuable time of every senior officer of Government known to me.

Their aims are viewed with sympathy but their methods with disapprobation.

I simply cannot think what they meant by saying to you that every time they approached anybody they were fobbed off with the statement that the Colonial Office has to be consulted. I cannot remember myself ever saying anything of the sort. The fact is they belong to the leisured classes and, as one of them at least is bursting with energy, they have to make themselves a nuisance to everybody else. They will not understand that the Conservator of Forests conserves his trees or that the Director of Agriculture has any affection for his land.

The truth is that there is hardly a department of this Government that is not concerning itself very actively with the problem of soil erosion. The Administration, the Public Works Department, the Medical Department, the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments, the Forest Department and the Department of Education all overlap each other in their enthusiasm to do their own and everybody else's business in this matter.

Not far from the Agricultural Office there was a first class medical exhibit showing how to drain swamps for the confusion of the mosquitoes. Next door there was an extremely good agricultural exhibit showing how to avoid soil erosion.

I understand that the medical exhibit would have

14
Amed 16

*But we had had
increased my confidence
in this effort
D.*

eroded all the soil anywhere near it in the shortest possible space of time while the agricultural exhibit would have been the happiest home that any mosquito ever imagined. And so we go on :

To show you that I myself have not been inactive in the matter I attach a copy of a Circular which I issued to everybody in the Administration. As a result of that Circular I got somewhere about 1/2 ton of information which is at present being analysed and coordinated and will, I hope, eventually be issued in some sort of tabloid shape.

In the meantime a very great deal is being done to preserve trees and to reafforest denuded areas, incidentally it was one of the activities of the Administration that excited my own very particular interest when I was a District Commissioner and I can claim with some justification to have reafforested pretty nearly the whole of my district of South Nyeri. In addition the sources of streams are being preserved and protected. In Native Reserves many areas of considerable extent are being reconitioned. All sorts of grasses are being planted and all sorts of trenches are being dug.

I hope you will gather from the above that the Wards are not the only people in Kenya interested in trees and in the preservation of the soil. They may perhaps claim that they themselves have done a good deal to galvanise Government into activity. Somebody out here always claims to have done that whenever Government does anything.

Quite seriously I really do not know what is troubling them. On one occasion, so far as I remember, they wanted me to introduce some entirely impossible legislation and they may have been disappointed at my refusal but I cannot think that I should have dragged

*to our agree
but this
is not a
D.*

you into the discussion nor could I have been so
evilly disposed as to suggest that they should call
on you at the Colonial Office.

However, as I said at the beginning, we all
view their aims with completest sympathy and there is
no friction or ill-feeling.

Yours sincerely,

A. Wade

J.E.W. Flood Esq, C.M.G.

30th March, 1975.

To all Provincial Commissioners and
Officers-in-Charge, (with sufficient copies
for all District Commissioners).

SOIL EROSION:

The problem of soil erosion is engaging the attention of the Standing Board of Economic Development. For the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the subject and supplying the information requested below, officers are referred to the Bulletin on Soil Erosion by V. A. Beckley, the Senior Agricultural Chemist, of which they have received copies. In addition I attach the following memoranda by M. Colin Maher, Agricultural Officer, and by the Department of Agriculture respectively:-

- (a) Soil erosion, deforestation and a land utilisation survey.
- (b) Steps taken to combat soil erosion in Kenya Colony.

2. The Board will be grateful for the following information:-

- (a) In what districts and parts of districts in your Province/Extra-Provincial District is erosion most pronounced? Please state the degree to which the following kinds of erosion are taking place in your Province/District using the terms (a) in initial stages; (b) moderately advanced; (c) bad; (d) very bad:-
 - (1) gully erosion.
 - (2) sheet erosion.
- (b) To what causes is the erosion mainly attributable?
- (c) Is erosion in your opinion rapidly increasing and, if so, in what areas is the increase most noticeable, and what are the chief reasons for the increase?
- (d) What steps, if any, have been taken or are now being taken to arrest erosion?
- (e) What are your recommendations for dealing with the problem?
- (f) What steps, if any, have been taken in your District for:-
 - (1) protection of forest, or afforestation in catchment areas;
 - (2) protection of forest or afforestation on steep mountain slopes;
 - (3) protection of riverine forest or afforestation of stream banks;
 - (4) planting of plantations for building timber and firewood, or for other purposes;
 - (5) planting of wind breaks, especially as a large co-operative scheme.
- (g) What is the position as regards over-stocking in your district?

(h) That is the position as regards water supply for (a) people, (b) stock, and how far could the position be improved by:-

- (1) the affording of greater protection to streams and catchment areas,
- (2) the provision of bore holes,
- (3) the provision of dams?

3. Have/you any further comments on the situation not covered by the above?

4. Please send your report when ready to:-

V. Liversage, Esq.,
 Secretary,
 Standing Board of Economic Development,
 P. O. Box 238,
 NAIROBI.

W. de V. NAIR.
 COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Copies to:-

The Hon: Director of Agriculture,
 NAIROBI.

The Conservator of Forests,
 NAIROBI. (With sufficient copies for all
 Forest Officers.)

For information.

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

12
25
2, Richmond Terrace,

Whitehall, S.W.1.

19th November, 1936.

My dear Troup,

You will remember that I told you on Saturday that I had sent on your letter of the 9th of November about the Kenya "Arbor Society" to the East African Department here. I have now heard from them about it and learn that Major and Mrs. Hard have already seen several people in the Colonial Office, including Lord De La Warr, and have exhaustively explained their views. Our people are fully alive to the aims and objects of the Society, to the importance of their work, and the desirability of encouraging it. The difficulty is that Kenya is hopelessly short of money, even for most desirable objects.

From what I have heard it seems that the Ward's enthusiasm is such that it would be advisable to be rather careful as to the extent to which you allow them to involve you in these matters. You may be interested to see in confidence the following extracts from a letter recently

PROFESSOR R.S. TROUP, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S.

recently written from this office to the Colonial Secretary, Nairobi. After describing a visit from Major and Mrs. Ward the writer goes on to say -

"...I said that as far as policy was concerned everybody would agree with them as to the great importance of preventing the erosion of Kenya and to that end of planting more trees, maintaining Forest Reserves and doing what was possible to regenerate forests and plant more where required. But, said I, efforts to that end must be made in Kenya....

...Knowing what I do of the opinions of the Secretary of State and his adviser: here I think he would certainly say that they should be supported to the limit of what is possible....

(Later) They have seen Lord De La Warr and he agrees to this letter. He thinks the question of tree conservation and soil erosion is one which might be brought up at the Governor's Conference. I can't find that it ever was and the Wards swore it hasn't. No doubt it is considered by the Directors of Agriculture at their gatherings but perhaps a discussion by Governors would do no harm."

I think this will show you that their case is fully appreciated. I doubt whether there is anything else which can usefully be done.

Yours ever,

(Sd) R. D. Furse.



SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

9th Nov. 1936.

My dear Purse,

I have, as you know, been interested in East African forests, since I visited and reported on Kenya and Uganda in 1921. During my visit to Kenya, and also to Tanganyika last year, I was particularly struck with the interest in forest conservation shown by the settlers. In Kenya this has taken practical shape in the formation last year of an "Arbor Society" (something of a misnomer) whose objects are "(a) to safeguard existing forests in Kenya, (b) to encourage afforestation, especially in catchment areas, (c) to take practical measures to prevent erosion and to repair past damage from this cause." The Society, whose Patron is the Governor, and whose President is Lord Francis Scott, had a membership of 179 at the end of 1935. The members include not only settlers but also a number of officials, including members of the Forest Department.

The first annual report of the Society, for 1935, shows the keen interest taken in all questions bearing on forest conservation, but also displays frank disappointment at the lack of success in certain directions. In particular, attention is called to the fact that during the period 1929 to

1934, 45,857 acres were excised from existing forest reserves, and that a further area of 13,000 acres is to be excised on the recommendation of the Kenya Land Commission. The Society views with alarm this large reduction of forest area in a country with only 2.74 per cent. of forest land. There are other important matters in the report to which I need not refer here.

I have recently had an interview with the Hon. Secretary of the Society, Major E.H. Ward, and his wife, who is Hon. Propaganda Secretary. We discussed possible measures for improving matters, and I promised to do what I could to interest the Colonial Office in some of the more important matters with which the Society is concerned. My object in writing, therefore, is to ask if you will be so good as to put me in touch with someone in the Colonial Office to whom I can represent matters personally. If you can do so it will be a great advantage if you can be present as well, in view of your personal acquaintance with the Colony and your interest in forest questions.

I may add that the Arber Society is in no way antagonistic to the Forest Department; on the contrary, it is out to help the Department in every way possible, and could, I think, be of great service in this direction.

Yours sincerely,

R. S. P. Group

Major R. D. Purse, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Colonial Office,
2 Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

C. O.

Mr. Flood 26/10/36

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

Semi-official for Mr. Flood's signature.

Downing Street,

Nov.

DRAFT

A. DE V. WADE, M.P., ...

They were quite interesting, though

quite brief, but seemed genuinely

shocked when I told them that what

they had to do was to take up these

things in hand, were the Govt. of

that Colony belonged. They said

that every time they approached

anybody they were robbed off with

the statement that "Oh, the

Colonial Office has to be consulted

whereas, said they, they did not

wish to make any proposals involving

FURTHER ACTION.

R afterwards

Govt. expenditure or any change of policy.

I said that as far as policy was concerned everybody would agree with them as to the great importance of preventing the erosion of Kenya and to that end of planting more trees, maintaining Forest Reserves and doing what was possible to regenerate forests and plant more where required. But, said I, efforts to that end must be made in Kenya.

It appeared that what they were after was that District Officers (they said that a good many did, but not all) should lose no opportunity of impressing upon the native population, and the European too for the matter of that, the need for watching and checking erosion in every way, and the desirability of planting more trees in suitable places.

I therefore pass this on to you to show what you are likely to get when they return. In view of paragraph 301 of Pim's Report I do not see how Govt. can avoid making some friendly gesture towards them. They say they do not ask for money,

C. D.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Perm. U.S. of S.
- Party. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

realising that there isn't any, nor do they ask for more than benevolent support in their task. Knowing what I do of the opinions of the Secretary of State and his advisers here I think he would certainly say that they should be supported to the limit of what is possible.

I asked Cavendish-Bentinck about them and he described them as "nice cranks", which I think is not altogether fair. They are nice, certainly, and enthusiasts, but I would not call them cranks. Anyhow you have enough to worry you. Stockdale tells me he saw them & wrote to Watson and they
Yours sincerely,
are coming to see Lord De la War

Yours sincerely

tree conservation

(Later) They have seen Lord De la War and he agrees to this letter. He thinks the question of soil erosion is one which might be brought up at the Governor's Conference. I can't find that

No doubt it is considered by
the Directors of Agriculture at their
gatherings but perhaps a discussion
by Governor ^{would} ~~should~~ do no harm.

Yours sincerely

31
UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

PALL MALL, S W 1

25 10 36

Dear Mr Piddler

Thank you very much
for your letter of 23 Oct.
It is very kind of Lord
De la Warr to give us
an interview.

30 a.m. on Thursday Nov. 11
will be very convenient.

Yours sincerely

Edward

Mr Stockdale

Please see attached
letter. Do you know
anything about
Mr & Mrs Ward?

Redd
23.10.36

Hi [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear] the word are [unclear]
and the letter is the same
purposeful character.
[unclear] is then my letter of
Sept 1936 - one addressed in
[unclear] of [unclear], [unclear]
[unclear]
23/10

Behind the Chair.

House of Commons

DR. T. DRUMMOND SHELS, M.C., M.P.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
INDIA OFFICE.

BU 5/11

33

8

23rd October, 1936.

Dear Major Ward,

Lord De La Warr has heard about you and your work from Mr. McLoughall and from Mr. Stockdale. He would be very glad if you and Mrs. Lord could call on him and would suggest 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 5th, here in the Colonial Office, if this is convenient for you.

Yours sincerely,

Major E. H. Ward.

11/20/8

23rd October,

Dear Major Ward,

Lord De La Warr has asked about you and your
work from Mr. McDougall and Mr. Shuttle.

TELEGRAMS
 11, LYNWOOD ROAD, LONDON
 TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 7711

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,
 PALM MALL, S W 1

22 Oct 1936

Dear Sir

I hear through Mr F. L. McDougall that Lord De la Warr is interested in the subject of soil erosion in Kenya. Mr McDougall spoke to him last month about the work of the Kenya Arbor Society, which my wife and I represent, and he was then, I believe, kind enough to say that he would give us an interview.

We have been away from London and have now returned & saw Mr McDougall today. He told us that he was writing to Lord De la Warr about the possibility of an interview. We shall very much appreciate it if Lord De la Warr will grant us one. We shall be in London till November 20th when we leave for Kenya.

The Private Secretary to
 Under Secretary of State for
 The Colonies

Yours faithfully

Edward
 (Major)

AUSTRALIA HOUSE

STRAND

LONDON W C 2

22nd. October, 1936.

Dear Buck

You will remember that, in September, I wrote and spoke to you on the telephone about a Major and Mrs. E.H. Ward, from Kenya, who are greatly interested in erosion problems and, according to Elspeth Huxley, have done very good work. You then said that you would be glad to see them.

Major and Mrs. Ward called on me this morning and they are most anxious to have an interview with you. Since the problem of erosion is of far wider interest than Kenya, I expect that you will be interested. I told them that I would write to you again and that they should write to your Private Secretary asking for an interview. I think it would be well worth your while to see them. I should judge that Mrs. Ward is the more active spirit.

Yours ever
hac

The Rt. Hon. Earl De la Warr,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.



His Majesty's Eastern African Dependencies

CMD/DKH.

COMMISSIONER FOR

KENYA.

NORTHERN RHODESIA,
NYASALAND, TANGANYIKA
UGANDA, ZANZIBAR.

TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9701/2/3

CABLES: EAMATTERS, LONDON.

TELEGRAMS: EAMATTERS, RAND, LONDON.

TRADE & INFORMATION OFFICE

*Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Square,
(ENTRANCE IN THE STRAND)*

London, W.C.2.

ALSO OFFICES OF

KENYA AGENT.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
KENYA & UGANDA RAILWAYS
AND HARBOUR

ANY COMMUNICATION RESPECTING THIS
LETTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE
DEPT. CONCERNED AND NOT
TO INDIVIDUALS BY NAME.

16th October, 1936.

9219/36

Dear Flood,

Many thanks for your letter of
the 16th October, with reference to Major and
Mrs. E.S. Ward, and I will drop them a note
accordingly, suggesting that they call upon you.

I will naturally mention your
remarks about Friday afternoons and Thursday
the 22nd.

Yours sincerely,

Commissioner.

J.E.W. Flood, Esq., C.M.G.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

15th October, 1936.

Dear Dale,

Your letter to Sir Cecil Bottomley
 No. 9120/36 about Major B-H Ward. We are trying to
 arrange for Major Ward to have an interview with the
 Secretary of State if Mr. Ormsby Gore can manage to
 fit him in. But this is to say that I shall be very
 glad to see him and his wife if they will call on me
 any time that suits them (Friday afternoons are bad
 days for me as I am frequently out, but any other day
 would suit).

Yours sincerely,

I have just heard the S. of S. cannot manage

*See floor
Down and
use them
6/11/30
1930*



His Majesty's Eastern African Dependencies

CHD/DKH.

COMMISSIONER FOR
KENYA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND, TANGANYIKA
UGANDA, ZANZIBAR

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TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 5701/2/3
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9120/36

ALSO OFFICES OF
KENYA AGENT.
LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
KENYA & UGANDA RAILWAYS
AND HARBOUR

ANY COMMUNICATION RESPECTING THIS
OFFICE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE
DEPT CONCERNED AND NOT
TO INDIVIDUALS BY NAME

14th October, 1930.

Dear Sir Cecil,

Further to my letter of even date, at the same interview which I had with Mr. Bargman, just as he was leaving he asked me whether it would be possible for you to arrange an interview for Major and Mrs. E.H. Ford of 7, Park Place, St. James's, S.W.1. with yourself or some other senior in the Colonial Office.

Mr. Bargman was a bit vague as to why they wanted to see anyone in the Colonial Office, and the only thing he mentioned they were interested in was the Arbor Society.

However, I promised him I would raise the question with you in order to see if anything could be arranged.

Yours sincerely,

~~Commissioner.~~

Sir Cecil Bottomley, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

39

8th September, 1956.

Dear Waters,

I had a visit today from Major E.H. Ward and his wife, representing the Kenya Arbor Society. Previous to the visit they had sent me a copy of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for 1955.

They had apparently seen copies of my article on Soil Erosion in the Empire Cotton Growing Review for January 1955 and of the paper which I prepared for the Imperial Forestry Conference in South Africa last autumn. They were particularly desirous of securing a greater co-ordination between the Administrative, Forestry and Agricultural Departments on the subject of soil erosion and I said that whilst I felt that considerable and praiseworthy progress was being made with soil erosion in Kenya I would write to tell you of their call here.

They both thought that a greater measure of propoganda would be useful and suggested a series of

simple

H. B. WATERS, ESQ.,

simple leaflets. I drew their attention to Beckley's excellent Bulletin but they felt that this was too long for the ordinary reader and that more in the nature of propaganda leaflets should be considered as far as soil erosion was concerned. You have probably heard all this before, but I do feel that I must pass it on as there is no doubt that this question of soil erosion in East Africa is a very serious one and that there is so much to be done and so few resources that when one finds keen unofficial interests taking up the matter they should be encouraged so as to arouse a sound public opinion.

The discussion also turned on matters relating to forestry and goats but I need not refer to those matters here. In regard to the report itself, however, I did suggest that it might be useful if it contained in future a brief account of what the unofficial members of the Society were doing on the lands which they owned or controlled.

Yours sincerely,

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Patron:
H.E. Sir Joseph Byroc.
G.C.M.G., K.R.E., C.B.
President:
F.A. Lodge, Esq.
C.I.E., I.P.

40
Hon. General Secretary:
Major E.H. Ward,
Box 3, Nairobi.

United Service Club
Palmsall. 5 Sept. 1936

Dear Mr Stockdale

As you have been kind enough to arrange for us to come & see you on Monday, I am enclosing a copy of my Society's Annual Report for 1935, in order to give you some idea of what we are working for.

Yours sincerely

Edward

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Annual Report

AND

Balance Sheet

for the year 1935.

Printed by
THE EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, LTD.
NAIROBI.

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Report of the Council for the year 1935.

The Society has made steady progress in 1935, the first year of its existence since its revival. Its membership on December 31st was 179.

Towards the end of the year, the "Nairobi Roads and Gardens Beautifying Association," whose excellent work has now been taken over by the Municipality, amalgamated with the Kenya Arbor Society. The remaining members of the former, who were all life members, (amounting 8) have become ten-year members of the Kenya Arbor Society.

The following meetings were held during the year—

Council meetings	4
General meetings	2
Local branch meetings—Naiyasha	4
Local branch meeting—Thomson'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 Kikuyu, 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 connection 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 these 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

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

Patron:

H.E. Sir Joseph Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

President:

Lt. Colonel Lord Francis Scott, D.S.O.

Council:

Commander F. J. Coudrey (Vice-President).

F. Lodge, Esq., G.I.E.

H. B. Shoupe, Esq.

W. Street, Esq., O.B.E.

Brig. General A. R. 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, Naiyasha.

showing the evil effects of erosion, and of denuding stream banks, and of forest fires, were displayed; a demonstration of soil erosion was given; many enquiries were answered, and many new members enrolled. The school competition which was for the best Book of East African Trees and Forests to be made by a school, was disappointing in the quantity of the entries, only three schools competing, but extremely encouraging in the quality of the contributions. These showed a real understanding of the indirect value of trees and forests, as well as great appreciation of the beauty of individual trees. The prize was awarded to Nakuru, but the work done by St. Andrew's School, Turi, was so good that a special prize, in the shape of a framed photograph of a forest scene, was awarded to this school.

A story in Swatoh has been published by the Society, in the form of an illustrated booklet, which tells of the beneficial effects of forest protection, terracing, and the keeping of small numbers of economic stock, as opposed to the evil effects of forest destruction, cultivation on steep slopes, and the keeping of enormous numbers of goats and other un-economic stock.

PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES

Among the many subjects which have demanded the attention of the Society in 1935, the question 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 menace.

Summary of Recorded Forest Fires

	1934	1932	1933	1934
Total Numbers	36	29	46	195
Origin of fires	Total No 1931-1934			
Honey hunters and travellers	138			
From outside Forest Reserves	63			
Railway Engines	48			
Saw-millers' employees	46			
Forest squatters	44			
Unknown	37			
Total (4 years)	376			

The efforts of the Society have been, and continue to be, directed towards helping the Government to deal with this very urgent problem.

The Forest Department, hampered by shortage of Foresters and by lack of funds, cannot place the large areas of forest under its charge

in an adequate state of defence against fire, and it is therefore imperative that everyone interested in forest protection should do their utmost to help the Department, especially during the period when the annual burning of the firebreaks takes place. It is not possible for the local Forest Officer to be present in person to supervise all the burning in the enormous area under his charge. Consequently much of the burning has to be left to Forest squatters, and this 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 protecting the forest from fire.

The Council realises 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-hunter. His illegal occupation is a very lucrative one, and he well knows that the chances of his being arrested while in the pursuit of it are extremely small. And if 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 estimated damage done may be exacted. (Cap. 149, 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.

DEMARICATION OF FORESTS.

During the period 1929 to 1934 45,857 acres were excised from existing Forest Reserves. A further area of 13,500 acres is to be excised on the recommendation of the Kenya Land Commission.

Owing 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 unofficial members. Before, however, this Board can be appointed,

showing the evil effects of erosion, and of denuding stream banks, and of forest fires, were displayed; a demonstration of soil erosion was given; many enquiries were answered, and many new members enrolled. The school competition, which was for the best "Book of East African Trees and Forests" to be made by a school, was disappointing in the quantity of the entries, only three schools competing, but extremely encouraging in the quality of the contributions. These showed a real understanding of the indirect value of trees and forests, as well as great appreciation of the beauty of individual trees. The prize was awarded to Nakuru, but the work done by St. Andrew's School, Paris, was so good that a special prize in the shape of a framed photograph of a forest scene, was awarded to this school.

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

Summary of Recorded Forest Fires.

	1931	1932	1933	1934
Total Numbers	36	29	416	105
Origin of fires	Total No.			
	1931-1934			
Honey-hunters and travellers	138			
From outside Forest Reserves	63			
Railway Engines	38			
Saw-millers employes	46			
Forest squatters	44			
Unknown	37			
Total (4 years)	376			

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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 alienate or dispose of any land in Forest Reserves. If the Forest Reserves were demarcated, then no excision 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

The Society protested against the reduction of £4,158 in the Forest vote, which was recommended by the Select Committee on Economy. We are glad to state that this 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 uneconomic stock which are ruining the Colony.

It was pointed out that the productive capacity of the Colony was steadily declining; that deforestation and overstocking have led to soil erosion and diminution of water supplies, and that the fertility of the soil has been gravely impaired; and that the actual area of land in the Colony that is suitable for cultivation or pasture, is yearly decreasing.

The reply, which was received in October, drew attention to the sum of £23,500 which had been granted from the Colonial Development Fund for the construction of a fertiliser 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 are possible within the financial resources available."

The Council cannot agree with the view 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 Maragua River and is 85,000 acres in extent. It includes the headwaters 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 bamboo 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 bamboos 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 Nairobi 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 run-off of water after every shower, producing 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, 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 denudation.

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 in October and representatives of the Agricultural and Forest Departments and of the Water Board were invited to be present.

The conclusions arrived at were that legislation should be enacted without delay to prohibit deforestation or any action which would lead to erosion in catchment areas and on the banks of streams. It was felt that the exact form which such legislation should take should be left to Government.

It was further considered that this legislation should be followed up by a more far-reaching scheme in the form of a Land Utilisation Survey, the object of which would be to discover the extent of erosion in Kenya and to initiate systematic anti-erosion measures in all affected areas.

DELEGATION TO SIR ALAN PIM

A delegation from the Society was received by Sir Alan Pim at Naivasha on December 17th, and the following memorandum was presented to him:—

We urge that no cuts should be made in the Forest services or in any other services which deal with the allied problems of soil erosion and water conservation, as the position, due chiefly to the destruction of forest and to overstocking, is extremely serious.

We consider that:—

1. The importance of forests to the country must not be measured solely, or even principally, by immediate financial results.
2. The percentage of Kenya under forest is insufficient for the healthy development of agriculture, and will soon be unable to meet the growing local demand for timber, fuel, and other forest produce.
3. The areas shown on paper as forests include many bare spaces, grass glades etc., which should be converted into real forest.
4. The establishment is not strong enough to protect the forest effectively.
5. Even if 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 (advocated by Lord Moyne) would be a great help in keeping the numbers of goats and other uneconomic stock within reasonable limits, more especially as the Government does not appear willing to make use of its powers under the Crop Production and Livestock Ordinance (No. 3 of 1926) to limit the numbers.

The cost and expediency of the wholesale inoculation of native stock requires careful examination.

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 cut down all trees in the road reserve, where roads pass through forest areas. It was represented to the Director of Public Works that this wholesale clearance was hardly necessary, and spoil 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 denudation and deterioration of certain townships, due to overstocking, has become a most serious problem. Naivasha and Gilgil have been most unfortunate in this respect, carrying enormous numbers of native-owned sheep and goats and Somali-owned cattle, far in excess of the numbers which could be supported by the grazing available.

The pestilential goat has now been banished from these townships; the numbers of sheep and cattle have been limited, and the principle of rotational grazing has been adopted.

TREE PLANTING

The Jubilee tree-planting scheme, which was suggested by a member of the Society at the annual general meeting in January, 1935, was approved by Government and a large number of trees have been planted in townships and in native reserves in commemoration of H.M.'s Jubilee.

The Society assisted six townships, Naivasha, Njoro, Londiani, Thomson's Falls, Rumuruti, and Maralal with grants towards the purchase of trees.

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

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:

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

TEN YEAR MEMBERS:

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

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KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

1935

Annual Report

AND

Balance Sheet

for the year 1935.



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NAIROBI.

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Id. Colonel Lord Francis D.S.O.

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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 made steady progress in 1935, the first year of its existence since its revival. Its membership on December 31st was 179.

Towards the end of the year, the "Nairobi Roads and Gardens Beautifying Association," whose excellent work has now been taken over by the Municipality, amalgamated with the Kenya Arbor Society. The remaining members of the former, who were all life members, (numbering 8) have become ten-year members of the Kenya Arbor Society.

The following meetings were held during the year:—

Council meetings	...	4
General meetings	...	2
Local branch meetings—Naivasha	...	2
Local branch meeting—Thomson'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 Kikuyu, 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 these 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

showing the evil effects of erosion, and of denuding stream banks, and of forest fires, were displayed; a demonstration of soil erosion was given; many enquiries were answered, and many new members enrolled. The school competition, which was for the best "Book of East African Trees and Forests" to be made by a school, was disappointing in the quantity of the entries, only three schools competing, but extremely encouraging in the quality of the contributions. These showed a real understanding of the indirect value of trees and forests, as well as great appreciation of the beauty of individual trees. The prize was awarded to Nakuru, but the work done by St. Andrew's School, Turu, was so good that a special prize, in the shape of a framed photograph of a forest scene, was awarded to this school.

A story in Swahili has been published by the Society, in the form of an illustrated booklet, which tells of the beneficial effects of forest protection, terracing, and the keeping of small numbers of economic stock, as opposed to the evil effects of forest destruction, cultivation on steep slopes, and the keeping of enormous numbers of goats and other uneconomic stock.

PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES.

Among the many subjects which have demanded the attention of the Society in 1933, the question 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 menace.

Summary of Recorded Forest Fires.

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Total Numbers	36	20	116	195
Origin of fires.			Total No. 1931-1934	
Honey-hunters and travellers				188
From outside Forest Reserves				63
Railway Engines				48
Saw-millers' employes				46
Forest squatters				44
Unknown				37
Total (4 years)				376

The efforts of the Society have been, and continue to be, directed towards helping the Government to deal with this very urgent problem.

The Forest Department, hampered by shortage of Foresters and by lack of funds, cannot place the large areas of forest under its charge

in an adequate state of defence against fire, and it is therefore imperative that everyone interested in forest protection should do their utmost to help the Department, especially during the period when the annual burning of the firebreaks takes place. It is not possible for the local Forest Officer to be present in person to supervise all the burning in the enormous area under his charge. Consequently much of the burning has to be left to Forest squatters, and this 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 protecting the forest from fire.

The Council realises 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-hunter. His illegal occupation is a very incense one, and he well knows that the chances of his being arrested while in the pursuit of it are extremely small. And if 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 penalty 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 estimated damage done may be exacted. (Cap. 149, 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 1929 to 1934 45,857 acres were excised from existing Forest Reserves. A further area of 11,500 acres is to be excised on the recommendation of the Kenya Land Commission.

Owing 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 unofficial 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 alienate or dispose of any land in Forest Reserves. If the Forest Reserves were demarcated, then no excision 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 24,158 in the Forest vote, which was recommended by the Select Committee on Economy. We are glad to state that this 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 uneconomic stock which are ruining the Colony.

It was pointed out that the productive capacity of the Colony was steadily declining, that deforestation and overstocking have led to soil erosion and diminution of water-supplies, and that the fertility of the soil has been gravely impaired, and that the actual area of land in the Colony that is suitable for cultivation or pasture, is yearly decreasing.

The reply, which was received in October, drew attention to the sum of £23,500 which had been granted from the Colonial Development Fund for the construction of a fertiliser 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 view 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 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 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 bamboos 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 Mwasaba 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 run-off of water after every shower, producing 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, 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 denudation.

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 in October and representatives of the Agricultural and Forest Departments and of the Water Board were invited to be present.

The conclusions arrived at were that legislation should be enacted without delay to prohibit deforestation or any action which would lead to erosion in catchment areas and on the banks of streams. It was felt that the exact form which such legislation should take should be left to Government.

It was further considered that this legislation should be followed up by a more far-reaching scheme in the form of a Land Utilisation Survey, the object of which would be to discover the extent of erosion in Kenya and to initiate systematic anti-erosion measures in all affected areas.

DELEGATION BY SIR ALAN POU

A delegation from the Society was received by Sir Alan Pou at Naivasha on December 17th, and the following memorandum was presented to him—

We urge that no cuts should be made in the Forest services or in any other services which deal with the allied problems of soil erosion and water conservation, as the position, due chiefly to the destruction of forest and to overstocking, is extremely serious.

We consider that—

1. The importance of forests to the country must not be measured solely or even principally, by immediate financial results.
2. The percentage of Kenya under forest is insufficient for the healthy development of agriculture, and will soon be unable to meet the growing local demand for timber, fuel, and other forest produce.
3. The areas shown on paper as forests include many bare spaces, grass glades, etc., which should be converted into real forest.
4. The establishment is not strong enough to protect the forest effectively.
5. Even if 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 (advocated by Lord Moyne) would be a great help in keeping the numbers of goats and other uneconomic stock within reasonable limits, more especially as the Government does not appear willing to make use of its powers under the Crop Production and Livestock Ordinance (No. 3 of 1926) to limit the numbers.

7. The cost and expediency of the wholesale inoculation of native stock requires careful examination.

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 cut down all trees in the road reserve, where roads pass through forest areas. It was represented to the Director of Public Works that this wholesale clearance was hardly necessary, and spoilt 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 denudation and dessication of certain townships, due to overstocking, has become a most serious problem. Naivasha and Gilgil have been most unfortunate in this respect, carrying enormous numbers of native-owned sheep and goats and Somali-owned cattle, far in excess of the numbers which could be supported by the grazing available.

The pestilential goat has now been banished from these townships; the numbers of sheep and cattle have been limited, and the principle of rotational grazing has been adopted.

TREE PLANTING

The Jubilee tree-planting scheme, which was suggested by a member of the Society at the annual general meeting in January, 1935, was approved by Government and a large number of trees have been planted in townships and in native reserves in commemoration of H.M.'s Jubilee.

The Society assisted six townships, Naivasha, Njoro, Londiani, Thomson's Falls, Rumuruti and Marsalal with grants towards the purchase of trees.

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

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.

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 Price, A. J., Nakuru.
 Rammell, J. C., Nairobi.
 Ray, Mervyn S., Naivasha.
 Reynard, Mrs. C. E., Naivasha.
 Rhodes, Brig.-Gen. Sir Godfrey,
 C.B.E., D.S.O., Nairobi.
 Röger, H., Eldoret.
 Sands & Co., Nairobi.
 Scott, Lt.-Col. Lord Emeric,
 D.S.O., Rongai.
 Seth-Smith, D. F., Njoro.
 Sharpe, H. B., Bumuruji.
 Shaw, Mrs. B., Mombasa.
 Shaw, Laure A., Nairobi.
 Shaw, Mrs. J. C., Nairobi.
 Shaw, Miss M. Ryle, Nairobi.
 Sherwen, H., Naivasha.
 Sherwen, Mrs. H., Naivasha.
 Sikes, H. L., C.B.E., Nairobi.
 Silvester, F. M., Nairobi.
 Simpson, A. J., Nakuru.
 Simpson, J. H., Molo.
 Sonnes, 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.
 Tillett, 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, Comdr. E. C., Subukia.
 Ward, Major E. H., Naivasha.
 Ward, Mrs. E. H., Naivasha.
 Waters, H. B., Nairobi.
 Watts Williams, Mrs. M., Nakuru.
 Waudby, Mrs., Mau Summit.
 Weaver, N., Naivasha.
 Wheeler, H. E., Nakuru.
 Wheeler, Mrs. H. E., Nakuru.
 Wheeler, Mrs. H. N., Nanyuki.
 Wimbush, S. H., Nairobi.
 Winnington-Ingram, C. A.,
 Thomson's Falls.
 Wollen, Mrs. M., Kiambu.
 Wolryche Whitmore, J. E. A.,
 Rongai.
 Wright, E. H., Njoro.
 Wright, K. E., Mombasa.
 SCHOOLS.
 Girls' Secondary School, Nairobi.
 European School, Nakuru.
 Andrew's School, Turi

KENYA ARBOR SOCIETY.

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

REVENUE	Shs. Cts.	Shs. Cts.	Shs. Cts.
Balance at Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru	647 98		568 65
Petty Cash on hand	15 00		268 55
Members Subscriptions, 1935	400 00	603 98	140 00
1936	55 04		
1937	119 69		
Nairobi, Bonds and Gardens Association	535 00		798 73
	767 71		
	Shs. 1,765 03		Shs. 1,705 08

EXPENDITURE

Propaganda	661 03
Postages, Printing and Stationery, etc.	47 70
Tree Grants	...
Cash in Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd., Nakuru, 31/12 35	...
Petty Cash on hand at 31 12 35	...

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

Nairobi,
31st February, 1936.

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