

1938

38173/

CO 533/494

38173/

KENYA

Financial & Economic Position
Standing Board of Economic Development.

Previous

1935

Mr. Dawson

29/9

R. 297

98

Subsequent

1939.

297

5/9

309

9/9

Mr. Parkin

8/9

Mr. Dawson

15/9

Mr. Parkin

16.

297

Mr. Parkin

19

Mr. Jeffries

17

Mr. Dawson

20/9

Sir H. Kome

20/9

Sir Duffin

20/9

R. 298.

18/9

R. 297

27/9

309

28/9

Mr. Parkin

28

FILE A.

C. from
Annual

1. Govt. dep. 256
Proposed to appt. Mr R E Houston to be
full time Secretary of Standing Board of
Economic Development on conditions stated
later for early reply.

26.8.38

2

The Standing Board of Economic Development was set up in 1935 on the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee. It was suggested then that a full time Secretary of known ability and experience as an economist should be appointed. The name of Mr. Gurney (who is now in the Secretariat) was mentioned, ^{and} at a salary of £1,000. The value of the Board was, however, viewed with considerable scepticism both by the Governor and by the Secretary of State. It was decided not to appoint a full time Secretary and instead Mr. Liversage, the Agricultural Economist, (he still holds the post) was appointed Secretary.

The Governor now proposes to appoint for one year a full time Secretary at a consolidated salary of £600. The ground given for this recommendation is that at the moment the Board feels that much of its value is lost owing to the lack of a full time officer to make investigations, etc., on its behalf. It would seem, however, that it is at least open to doubt whether this is the true reason for the Board feeling that it is not as valuable as it might be. Apart from the monthly bulletin (copy attached) one does not hear very much of its activities beyond occasional references to its recommendations, and one tends to get the impression that it is useful rather as a forum in which the unofficials may deliver themselves of their views on economic development than as a body which is of very active assistance to Government. The services which the Board render to Government are not enumerated in the despatch and, in the absence

of any indication that the scepticism felt in 1935 has not been justified. it would perhaps be best before coming to a decision to write (semi-officially) to the Governor referring to the 1935 correspondence and asking for further information as to the value of the Board.

Clark White

6.9.38.

I too share the doubts which have been expressed as to the real utility of Kenya's Standing Board of Economic Development. Nevertheless, it has to be borne in mind that the European unofficals in Kenya attach very great importance to this Board of which, they consider, not nearly enough use is made in planning the development of the resources of Kenya.

As evidence of the importance which the Government of Kenya itself attaches to this body, I may mention that in No. 14 on 38297/38 the Governor reported that the Financial Secretary has now been appointed Chairman of the Board, instead of keeping this appointment for the revived Deputy Chief Secretary.

For these reasons I am quite satisfied that the Governor's recommendation that a full time Secretary to the Board should be appointed should be approved. Subject therefore to any observations that Economic Department may have to offer I would propose to approve the Governor's recommendation.

J. J. Pavin

the subject of this meeting, which has two parts:-
1. Ought there to be a full-time Secretary to the Board?
2. ~~Clark~~ If so, ought he to be Mr. Watson?

I am inclined to think that the answer to the first question is "yes". The Board is its present form is not a satisfactory body. In fact I regard it as a sort of steam whistle used as a safety valve. The fact that it serves as a useful outlet for excess supplies of hot air must reconcile us to the fact that the Board, which it emits are more often embarrassing than useful. But something has to be made of the body somehow, & the best way to do it would be to give the Financial Secretary a first assistant as Secretary of the Board so as to make it a more useful instrument. Then perhaps judicious changes may have to be made in the ordinary members.

At the meetings held by the S. of E. in the summer at which Mr. Davis was present, the need for developing ~~the Board~~ machinery in the Colonies for economic planning was emphasized & it was agreed that this was in fact a function of the Govt under the conditions of the world as they are to-day.

In this regard my own view is that the Secretary, ~~ought~~ who need not be a full time man, provided that the rest of his work is paid matters, ought to be not a middle aged unofficial, but one of the better young Secretaries officers who is being trained to deal with economic matters & ultimately to blossom into one of the new style Financial Secretaries, someone of what I might call the Cairns-McLellan school.

This by implication answers the

In fact the way that I look at it is that this is too high a post to be wasted on some one who is going to be of no subsequent use to the Govt.

Not available

a second question in the original
but I think that there are addi-
tional reasons for wanting to
Mr. Horton. I have known his
family for years & know him personally
for some time, & though Mr.
Frieson probably knows him better,
than I do (he should ~~be~~ ~~perhaps~~
be consulted, if Mr. Horton is not
to be ruled out on more general
principles) my own feeling is that
his intellectual capacity is very
ordinary.

He is a coffee planter, & I
should give him full marks
for personality & tact (he headed
that difficult body the Kenya
Coffee Planters' Union with
excellence while Mr. Woolley was
on leave), but I doubt if he
is the right man for this job.

~~He is a coffee planter~~
I have an uncomfortable feeling
that the proposal arises partly
from a desire to give him a fixed
income to supplement the precarious
yield of a coffee estate, & that
it is a bad foundation for filling
a job which may be quite important.

S. L. Frieson
16/9/38

I have written G. M. Frieson.
9/9/38

9/9/38
16/9

2. To L. B. Frieson (16/c minute) - com - 16.9.38.

Call to see Mr.

Clawson

Name

R. E. Norton

Dominion or Colony

—

NATURE OF BUSINESS

App

46 Albion Street,
London. W.2

Date

Mr. Parkin

The paper containing a proposal to make the ~~the~~ paid Secretary of the Kenya Development Board passed through me last week.

He called on me to-day (knowing no one else in the Office) to say that from his point of view an early decision is really rather important.

If he is to get the job, he will have to engage a manager for his estate & make other arrangements. This what I gather involves his staying in this country rather longer than one. On the other hand, if he is not to get the job, he will, I gather, have to go back to Kenya very early in October. The exact time table is a bit vague, but the real point is that he is in a state of some difficulty until he knows where he is.

I discussed the thing generally with him, & thinking out that it was not really my business but that I was aware of the proposal

I said that the matter was not yet decided, but that he should not get the job he must understand that it would have no reflection on him, but merely due to the fact that the job was wanted to give a Civil servant training.

He ~~was~~ ^{enquired} ~~in~~, with becoming modesty, to ~~know~~ whether, if he did get the job (the present proposal is a year's appointment) there was any possibility of his becoming a Civil servant himself. I said I did not know, but that it was not absolutely unheard of for people to go in above the usual age.

As I said in my previous minute, I rather doubt whether he has got the intellectual qualifications for that kind of job, but of course if one tried he did prove to possess one. His practical background might be useful & unusual.

A. J. Thomson
19/9

Mr. Freeston called to-day and said that, in his opinion, there is no doubt that Mr. Norton should get this appointment. The Board of Economic Development has not been a particularly useful body in the past. He regards it as potentially a most useful body but only if it has the active co-operation

of

of the unofficial community. He thinks this is much more likely to be secured if Mr. Norton is appointed Secretary than if the post is regarded as a training ground for a bright young Secretariat officer. Apart from this he regards Mr. Norton as a very able man and well qualified for this appointment. Mr. Freeston also thinks that it would be a great pity if the Governor's recommendation were overruled, because this would be regarded in Kenya as a wholly unnecessary interference from Downing St.

Mr. Freeston further made the point that the appointment is only for a year and, since it is a matter of urgency, there would be no need to delay it by referring it to Appts. Department. I quite agree, but, having regard to X in Mr. Clauson's minute above, it should I suppose be made quite clear to Mr. Norton that his appointment to this post does not give him any special claim for consideration for permanent appointment to the service of the Government of Kenya.

I submit drafts accordingly.

J. J. Parkin
19.9.38.

Appts Dept need not be troubled while the appt. is on this local & temporary basis.

J. J. Parkin
19/9

authority.

But I sh^d. like to make the issue quite clear. Here is one of the first posts of which for want of a better name there might be called a Colonial Economic Administrative Service, this is of staffs in the various Colonial Services corresponding more or less to the Economic Dept. in the C.O. & supplying personnel for such posts as Financial Secretary.

My own feeling is that such posts ought to be filled with regular Civil Servants, otherwise the flow of persons qualified for the higher posts will not be maintained.

I have doubts whether Mr. Norton is fully qualified for this kind of work & he is taking to it a little late in life. But if Mr. Trevelyan is satisfied that he is qualified, I am ~~not~~ not prepared to put my inferior knowledge against his superior.

But in that case I think that we must draw the logical conclusion & contemplate Mr. Norton becoming in due course a regular member of the Service. If he is useful in his particular job he may well be very useful for larger things.

A. L. H. [Signature]

20/9/30

Mr. Trevelyan has come up to say that he has seen Mr. Norton who was ~~very~~ particularly keen for Mr. Trevelyan that it wd. not be given for granted that the Gov's recommendation wd. be opposed. On hearing from Mr. Norton that he was to be offered the app^t subject to the S. G. C.'s approval, Mr. Norton had looked in through to Mr. Trevelyan, by a brief meeting and was. Mr. Trevelyan asked me again to represent his strong view that Mr. Norton's app^t sh^d. be opposed without delay.

J. [Signature]

This must, I think, clearly go to higher
authority.

But I sh^d. like to make the issue
quite clear. There is one of our first
posts of which for want of a better name
I shall call a Colonial
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I have doubts whether Mr. Norton is
fully qualified for this kind of work &
he is taking to it a little late in
life. But if Mr. Preston is satisfied
that he is qualified, I am ~~not~~
not prepared to put my inferior
knowledge against his superior.

But in that case I think that
we must draw the logical conclusion
& contemplate Mr. Norton becoming in
due course a regular member of the
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ular job he may well be very useful
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C. L. H. [Signature]

20/9/52

Mr. Preston has managed to say that he has
seen Mr. Norton who was under particular
beams for Mr. Preston that it is not the
case for grounds that the Govt. communication
and he opposed. On leaving from Kenya that
he was to be offered the app. subject to the
S. G. P.'s approval. Mr. Norton had looked in
Kenya to Kenya, by a boat sailing next week.
Mr. Preston would be again to represent his
strong view that Mr. Norton's app. should
be opposed without delay.

J. J. [Signature]

As I was in at the birth of this Board
I share all the doubts expressed about
its added utility. Its achievements up to
date have not been spectacular, and its
published report was a literary tour de
force on the part of Mr Sandford. It was
a quite delicate move on the part of
Major Grogan to gain political control
of the Government machine on the lines of
the so called "Geddes Committee" in the
days of Sir E. Ashley.

2. But such bodies, unless as often happens
they die of inaction, are politically important
to kill by direct action on the part of the
local Government, and as Mr Drexton
thinks there is a chance of this Board
now developing on more useful lines if
the former proposals are adopted, I feel
we should accept them.

3. From what I have written above it
will be seen that I do not consider
the Board would furnish a good
training ground for the education of
young officers in sound economic theories.
They are more likely to be imbued with
I do not feel able.

Therefore, to resist Mr Norton's appointment
on the grounds advanced by Mr Clouston.

There is, however, sufficient doubt
expressed as to the value of this experiment
and Mr Norton's suitability to make
it desirable that we ^{should} not be
committed to the arrangement for
more than one year, and there
added to the drafts to emphasize
this.

AM.

20.9.38.

Sup. may issue.

J.A. 20/9/

at once.

~~3~~ To Gen. Tel No. 127. 1 Aug - 20.9.38

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

4 To Norton S.O. 22. 9. 38.

~~5~~

R. Norton % to Mrs Clouston.
Ackno No A. Gives address.

23/9/38

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

? This does not need a reply. Mr Norton
is evidently quite clear as to the
Company nature of his appointment.

Clark, White 28/9

G. L. & Clouston J. J. Passin
29/9 28/9
at once

38173/1A/38.

48

C. O.

Mr. Paskin - 19/9/38.

Mr. Joffris 19/9

Mr. Clauson 21/9

Mr. A. J. Dawe.

* Sir H. Moore. 20-9. See minute

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

* Parly. U.S. of S. 20/9

Secretary of State.

For Mr. Clauson's signature.

DOWNING STREET.

22 September, 1938.

2 DRAFTS

C. D.
R 21 SEP
D 2/1

R. E. NORTON, ESQ.

46, Albion St.,

W.2.

My dear Mr. Norton

You will be glad to hear

that the Governor's recommendation that you should be offered the appointment of Secretary to the Standing Board of Economic Development in Kenya has now been approved. The formal arrangements in connection with your appointment will be made in Kenya.

with regard to
the offer of Norton,
for a period of one year

As regards the question

which you raised in the course of our conversation on the 19th, i.e. as to the possibility of your getting a permanent appointment in the Kenya Service later on, I am afraid that

FURTHER ACTION.

while.

while, as I told you, such appointments
are not unheard of, your acceptance of
this temporary appointment should not be
influenced by any expectation of your
eventually getting such a permanent
appointment.

*You will observe that
the present proposal is that
you should be appointed for
one year.*

y. s.

Sept. 27. 1886. Lawson.

16th September, 1938.

Dear Freeston,

You were good enough to say that I could refer to you on any matter on which I felt it desirable to get your advice during the next few weeks. Here is a case on which I think perhaps you would wish to be so consulted.

We have had a despatch from Kenya recommending that there should be a full-time Secretary to the Standing Board of Economic Development, and recommending further that the post should be offered to R. E. Norton on a consolidated salary of £600 a year. Norton is now in England and it is suggested that the appointment should be made with effect from the 1st November.

This recommendation has been referred to Clauson and I enclose a copy of his minute. From the point of view of general principles I am inclined

to

L. B. FREESTON, ESQ., O.B.E.

29
16th September, 1938.

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L. B. FREESTON, ESQ., O.B.E.

to agree with his views, but I know nothing of Norton personally. The point that has occurred to me, however, is that the Board is very much a pet child of the Unofficials and it may be that they might have strong views on the question of the person to be selected as Secretary. I should accordingly be grateful to know whether you think we ought to write on the lines of the first part of Clauson's minute.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. Passin

KENYA
No. 486



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

RECEIVED

26 AUG 1938

26 August, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Standing Board of Economic Development has recently recommended that a full time secretary to the Board should be appointed for a period of a year.

2. This recommendation has been made because the Board feels that much of its value is lost on account of the lack of a full time officer to investigate opportunities, examine in detail projects for new industries (particularly secondary industries) in consultation with the interests concerned and to make reports to the Board in a manner which will help it to come to decision quickly and stimulate private enterprise.

The Governor is strongly of opinion that this recommendation, which is a unanimous one, is deserving of the fullest support and I submit it for your favourable consideration.

3. Subject to your approval, it is proposed that the post should be offered to a Mr. R. E. Norton on a salary of £600 per annum consolidated i.e. without quarters or free medical attention.

Mr. Norton, if selected, would have to work in close touch with Government departments, would be provided with an office in the Secretariat and would find it necessary to do a certain amount of travelling on duty, for which he would be paid motor mileage at the usual rates or given first class railway warrants, as the

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON S.W.

case

Ans (3)

case might be, and travelling allowance. He has expressed his willingness to accept the appointment on these terms if it is offered to him.

4. Mr. Norton, who is well known to the Secretary of the Colonial Empire Marketing Board, has been prominently connected with the work of the Coffee Board of Kenya, of which he acted as Chairman in 1937, and has given convincing evidence of organising ability and judgment. He has considerable local experience both as a coffee planter and in other branches of public life in the Colony. He is at present in England, where his address is 46 Albion Street, London W.2, and proposes to return to the Colony in October.

5. It is proposed that the appointment should be made with effect from the 1st of November. Due provision will be made in a new sub-head under the Miscellaneous Services Head of Estimates.

M

6. I shall be glad to receive your reply to this despatch as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

Adwards

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.