

1938

38297

C0533/498
KENYA

38297

SECRETARIAT STAFF

VACANCY FOR CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER

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1. GOV. KENYAConf.47..... 3.3.38.

Recs. Mr. E.B. Hosking for post of Chief Native Commissioner, rendered vacant by retirement of Mr. H. R. Montgomery, and gives reasons therefor.

In Sir C. Bottomley's letter to Sir R. Brooke-Popham of the 20th October, 1937 (at 1 on the -/37 file), it was anticipated that should ~~he~~ ^{the Gov.} wish to recommend one of his own officers for the post of Chief Native Commissioner his choice might fall on Mr. Hosking. Mr. Hosking's appointment is now very strongly recommended in preference both to more senior officers in the Kenya Administration and to possible candidates from outside.

Decision whether to accept this recommendation or instead to ~~press~~ for the introduction of new blood, for which the Secretary of State considered this to be a suitable occasion in his minute of 13.10.37. on the -/37 file, is complicated by uncertainty over the exact scope of the duties of the new N.C. in the re-organized Secretariat, consideration of which is proceeding on 38297/38 (attached). Sir Alan Pim recommended the creation of a Secretary for Native Affairs with a salary of £1,750 and executive functions greater than those of the C.N.C. The Governor's latest proposals, which have not been accepted and which are found to involve some difficulties, include the retention of the present functions and salary of the C.N.C.; and it is to this salary - namely £1,450 - that the Governor now recommends Mr. Hosking's appointment.

Should a compromise be evolved in the next few months between Sir Alan Pim's and the Governor's re-organisation proposals of such a kind

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that a change in the salary and duties of the C.N.C. is involved, Mr. Hosking's appointment in the conditions now ruling might prove embarrassing, ^{save} it is not impossible that he would not be considered as well suited to the new as he is to the present post. For the moment it would therefore ? be best to suggest to the Governor that Mr. Hosking continue acting as C.N.C. pending a decision on the re-organisation proposals.

Costley White

17.3.38.

I do not think that there is anything in Mr. Costley White's point at 'X' above, as Mr. Hosking would be admirably qualified for this appointment whether it is to remain simply that of Chief Native Commissioner or is to become Secretary for Native Affairs.

In my view, therefore, the question whether consideration of the selection of someone to fill this vacancy should be held up pending a decision on the future status of the post depends solely on the question whether it is desired to pursue the proposal to bring in someone from outside. In that event it would clearly be desirable to defer action until we know exactly what the duties and salary of the post

post are to be. If, however, it were decided to accept the Governor's recommendation of Mr. Hosking approval could be given without prejudice to the ultimate decision on the status and duties of the post.

On the question whether the Governor's recommendation should be accepted, I would draw attention to his semi-official letter of the 2nd of November (No. 2 on -/37) in which he observed that in a short time he would be having a new Colonial Secretary and a new Financial Secretary "both coming from outside the Colony", and that it would make things extremely difficult for him if the new C.N.C. came from outside also.

In support of the Governor's recommendation it may be mentioned that we are aware that Mr. Hosking is very popular indeed with both the official and unofficial communities in Kenya and that Lord Francis Scott has expressed himself in favour of Mr. Hosking's appointment.

J.P. ...
21.3.38

What it comes to is that it was put to the Governor in (1) on -/37 that the Secretary of State thought that new blood should be brought in in default of a very strong desire on the Governor's part for a local man, and the Governor now makes it clear that he has a strong desire to appoint a local man.

As Mr. Hosking's candidature is so emphatically supported by the Governor and also appears to be acceptable to Lord Francis Scott, I imagine that the best course would be to approve his promotion.

It will be seen from (5) in 38297 below that Sir A. Wade has written to me saying that the Governor means also to recommend a local man (Mr. Beresford Steoke) for the post of Deputy Colonial Secretary if that post is created. "I quite realise," he writes, "that there may be a number of good candidates deserving of promotion who might be thought to have a good claim, but our Governor has not yet been here for a year, I shall be departing to my well-earned rest in the near future, and I do think that it is most desirable that we should have a Deputy C.S. who knows a good deal about the Colony". They evidently want the blood transfusion to be in moderate doses.

A. J. Wade

21.3.38.

~~Handwritten scribble~~
I think his Hosking's appointment should be approved.

C. J. Leppin
22/3/38

(I have returned this file to him Dave)
C.J.

Looking at this question from a purely ideal point of view I should have liked to bring in a man well versed in the methods of Native Administration as practiced in Nigeria, T.T. or Uganda. But as things are, I doubt whether it would be wise to overrule the Gov. And after all it is a matter of whether Hosking were not a good man. I only wish he could go & have a look at the way in which things are run elsewhere.

That can be arranged later if he will give up some leave to

A. J. Wade
22.3.38

Sir C. Robinson
I think A. J. Wade's points are conclusive.
? Appon.

W. S.
23.3.38

Sec. of State

I recommend that you accept

the Governor's proposal that
M. Hocking should be
appointed C.V.C. (at
present with salary of
\$1450).

adsl
24.3.38

Then it must be clear
that by [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] x
are to [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]

x / have [unclear]
to [unclear] of
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
Pl. 24.3.38.

M. Hocking

I think that the Sjs had
better than the [unclear] [unclear].
Nothing is said in the [unclear].
on the point raised in this
minute of 24 March - i.e.
that the new (at. Soc. (when
the vacancy occurs) should -
like the new Fin. Sec. - come
from outside. Would
we Sjs. wish this
communicated to the Gov.
Semi-officially when a
despatch issues?

adsl
24.3.38

The Sjs has
appears to [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
it used to [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

at the same time it was the Gov's [unclear]
to [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

G. Gray
28/3/38

adsl
24.3.38
Have written [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] 24.3.38

- 2 To Kenya - Conf⁽¹⁾ (I am) — 4/4/38
- 3 To Sir L Bruce Popham F.O. — 4/4/38

Inform [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] — Yes
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Sir G. Tomkinson to see No 2

G.P.P.
24.4.38

Clarke White
5/4

4 To ea
~~adsl~~

8 - APR 1938

5. Sir R. Brooke-Popham. 5-5-38
Answers contain questions in no. 1 on
1934 file.

This letter has nothing to do with the
subject matter of this file (vacancy for
CVC) but as there are a lot of minutes
on the -/3 file which are relevant (they
are now marked blue marginally) it
is perhaps best to deal with the matter
here.

The two subjects of (a) language
qualification of D.O.s and (b) travelling
by Leg Co members for Native Tribes,
should be card-indexed.

As regard languages Sir R. Brooke-Popham
points out that in the case of senior officers
frequent changes of district & transfer of
language are avoided as much as
possible. This would seem to be about
as much as can be done.

As regard travelling it is merely stated
that Mr. Montgomery is now doing quite
a lot. The suggestion in the last para
of (1) on -/3, that an extra allowance should
be made to enable Mr. Montgomery, & Dr
Wilson (the other member for Native Tribes)
to travel, is passed over. Perhaps
this is because of the extra cost; but
it might be useful to know the reason.
It is for a case whether this point should
be taken up.

I should be inclined
to ? P. A. D. D. Ave
27/5

This has been
circulating with
38297/38 (see for D/A. etc)

cc Admin
Language
leg Co

For - especially in view of the last para
of this previous letter (no. 2 on -/3). We
may be sure that this point will not
be overlooked.

W.L.D.
28/5 ant.

Clasat -
only page

2192.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

5th May 1938.

Dear Bottomley,

1 on 1937 file

A long time ago, namely the 20th October, you wrote to me on the subject of the replacement of Montgomery, and in the latter part of your letter you referred to two other points, one of which was the question of languages. I ought to have answered this long ago.

2. Actually, under the existing regulations, all Administrative Officers are required to take both (a) the Higher Standard Swahili examination between the third and tenth years of service, and (b) a vernacular examination before the expiry of the sixth year of service. In practice some latitude is allowed, and if officers pass the Higher Standard Swahili examination in the sixth year of service they are allowed up to the tenth year before passing the vernacular examination, but this does meet the point that officers are required to speak one other language besides Swahili.

3. In practice, senior officers are kept in one district or province for a large proportion of their service. For instance, to take a few names:-

Hopkins.....

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

Hopkins has been nearly all his service in the Central Province, either at Kiambu, Meru or Fort Hall.

Thompson has been in Turkana for years.

Davenport has been more or less of a fixture in Nyanza.

4. With regard to travelling, Montgomery is, as you know, now one of the members for Native Interests, and is doing a good deal of travelling.

Yours sincerely,

R. S. S. Popham

SIR G. C. BOTTOLEY, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.
LONDON.

Kenya

4

C.O.

Mr. Fth. gold. 6/4

Mr. Whitcombe. 7/4

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

LS

8 April 1937

Gentlemen,

DRAFT.

I am ill to inform you

that he has approved the promotion

of Mr. G.B. Hosking, O.B.E., Senior

District Commissioner, ~~Kenya~~ ^{Head of} to ^{be} ^{of}

Chief Native Commissioner, ^{Kenya,} with effect

from the 21st of December 1937.

There is a vacancy caused by ^{the} ^{2. The}

vacancy of the ^{position}

The C.A. for the Colonies.

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy for 54467 E.A.

2) The salary of the post is at the
rate of £ 1450 p.a.

I am etc.

(Signed) A. J. DAWE.

Downing Street.

4th April, 1938.

Sir Robert Brooke Popham

A despatch is going to you by this mail approving your recommendation that Hosking should be appointed Chief Native Commissioner. When Mr. Ormsby Gore saw the draft of the despatch he said that he wished it to be made clear that the new Chief Secretary, when Wade goes, should be appointed from outside Kenya, as the new Financial Secretary has already been.

No. 2 in
38247/1/37

I do not think that there is any doubt what is in your mind on that point as in your letter of November 2nd you reminded me that in fifteen months you would have a new Colonial Secretary and a new Financial Secretary both coming from outside the Colony. But at all events this will make it clear that there is no difference of view on that point.

Yours sincerely

Wade

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL

SIR ROBERT BROOKE-POPHAM, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G.,
D.S.O., A.F.C.

C. O.

Mr. Paskin. 26/3/38

Mr. Dawe

No. 3

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. 29.3

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

X Perms. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

X Secretary of State.



4 March 1938
April

DRAFT.

KENYA.

CONFIDENTIAL. (2)

GOVERNOR.

Sir C. Parkinson
wishes to see this dft.

(I assume that this is intended. Mr. Montgomery retired on 20/12)

UP
in work

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch No. 47 of the 3rd of March and to inform you that, ~~after careful consideration~~, I am prepared to accept your recommendation that Mr. E.B. Hosking, O.B.E. should be selected for the post of Chief Native Commissioner, which has been rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. H.R. Montgomery, C.M.G. I

accordingly approve Mr. Hosking's appointment to this post with effect from the 21st of December, 1937.

2. I need hardly say that any hesitation that I may have felt in accepting your recommendation was not due to any doubt as to Mr. Hosking's qualifications for this appointment,

but

FURTHER ACTION
My 50. letter (written) to
Soby the same in mail
with
25/3
Note on Mr.
Hosking's
file
Sir G. Tomlinson
see later.

but rather to the consideration that, *despite them,*
(in the) general interests of the Colony,
~~nevertheless, the~~ *There might have been a case, for*
~~might have been better served by~~ the selection of

an officer with a wide experience of native
Colonies or Protectorates.
administration in ~~some other~~ *Dependency*

But
~~present circumstances, however,~~ I accept your view

that it would be preferable for you to have the
services of an officer who is already well
acquainted with the *special* problems of the Colony, and I
have every confidence that Mr. Hosking will be a
most valuable member of your Executive Council.

3. I approve your recommendation that the
salary of the post should remain at £1,450, subject,
however, to any modification that may be necessary as
a result of the eventual decision *respecting* ~~on the subject of~~ the
re-organisation of the Secretariat.

I have, etc.

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

*I suggest that an opportunity
should be made later on for him
to visit some of the other African
Dependencies in East, and possibly also
in West Africa to see something of their
methods of native administration.*

AIR MAIL

KENYA

NO. 47

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED

8 MAR 1938

C. O. REG



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

NAIROBI

KENYA

2nd March, 1938

Sir,

(1) on 23/23/34

I have the honour to refer to Sir Joseph Byrne's Confidential Despatch of the 20th December, 1934, and to recommend Mr. E. B. Hosking, O.B.E., for the post of Chief Native Commissioner rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. H. R. Montgomery, C.M.G. I recommend that the salary attached to this post should be £1,450, vide paragraph 11 of my despatch No. 82 of the 11th February, 1938.

(3) on 38297/38

2. Mr. Hosking's record of service is as follows:-

Entered the Service in 1914. As an Administrative Officer he was stationed at Mombasa, Machakos, Kiambu, Kakamega, Marakwet, Naivasha, Kisii, and Nairobi. Since the 1st January, 1933, he has been alternately Acting Commissioner for Local Government, Lands and Settlement, and seconded as Commissioner of Mines, until the 22nd September last, when he became Acting Chief Native Commissioner, in which post he has acted to my complete satisfaction.

2

3./

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

3. He has thus had a very wide experience of the Natives of this Colony, not only in their Reserves but also under the conditions obtaining in townships, on farms, and in the mines. I am advised that in every one of the posts which Mr. Hosking has occupied, he has shown himself to be a man of conspicuous ability and efficiency, and my own observation extending over nearly a year, during which I have closely watched his work, confirms this record. Quite apart from his varied experience of native life, he has proved himself to be an able and valuable member of my Executive Council.

4. I realise that this appointment, if it is approved, will mean promotion over the heads of other officers, but in my opinion the essential consideration is the selection of the best officer qualified, without undue attention to seniority, and I should not like his selection to be held to be a reflection on those whom he will pass over.

5. In particular, I have given very careful thought to the claims of Mr. La Fontaine, who is the senior of the Provincial Commissioners and who has acted on several occasions as Chief Native Commissioner. He is a loyal and conscientious officer of very considerable attainments, and I think he might do well in some territory where the difficulties are not so great as in Kenya, but I do not consider that he has the personality and gifts of leadership which are essential to the satisfactory performance of the duties involved in the post of Chief Native Commissioner in this Colony.

In particular, my main reason for preferring Mr. Hosking to him is that the former will be the more valuable on my Executive Council.

6. Other officers who are senior to Mr. Hosking are Mr. Boulderson, Mr. Glenday, Mr. Fazan, and Mr. Thompson. Mr. Boulderson is a satisfactory Provincial Commissioner, but not one of outstanding ability or personality; Mr. Glenday is quite outstanding as an officer in the field but is not particularly suited for the duties of Chief Native Commissioner, which involve work on Legislative and Executive Councils; my reasons for not selecting Mr. Fazan or Mr. Thompson will be apparent from their Confidential Reports.

7. Finally, I feel sure that you will agree that for this particular post it is most desirable that I should have an officer well acquainted with the problems of this Colony and its peoples and that, therefore, a suitable candidate from this Colony is preferable to one, however able, from elsewhere. As to the suitability of Mr. Hosking I have no doubts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

R Brooke-Popham

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,

G O V E R N O R .