

1925

E. AFRICA

DATE

15th September 1925.

C.G.C.
42093

16 SEP 25

SHARPE: SIR ALFRED.

CIRCULATION --

Mr.

My.

Mr.

Ass't. U.S. of S.

PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS.
WEIGHT OF TUSKS EXPORTED.

States views on subject.

Perm: U.S. of S.

Parib: U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

Lee 4/9/17

[Signature]
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 brought
 Oct 6/17

Subsequent Paper

Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

505



ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB,

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

Sept. 15. 1925.

I have the honour to inform you that, having received the enclosed letter from Mr. Chalmers Mitchell with its enclosures, - I now state as requested by him, my views on the subject of restriction of weight of ivory tusks for transit export from Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland: -

I understand paragraph 1 of the Colonial Office letter N^o. 31015/1925 of 14 August 1925, to mean that the maximum weight per tusk should, in East Kenya, Uganda, the Sudan & Tanganyika, be put at

(1)

ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB,

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

22 lbs. - which, for those countries appears to me to be reasonable. but that in ~~Northern Rhodesia~~ and Nyasaland the ^{minimum} weight per head should be put at 11 lbs.

I am in accord with the views taken I think by the Colonial Office) that the minimum weights in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland should be lower than in the other territories above named for the reasons stated in paragraph 2 of the Colonial Office letter, but I think that the reduction of minimum weight to 11 lbs per head is perhaps too great.

It is quite true that elephants

ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB,

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland carry smaller ivory than in the other territories further north. Shot for many years in Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and the Belgian Congo, also in Tanganyika territory (the French Southern portion) and can say from experience that whereas in the two first named countries elephants with large tusks of say 40 lbs & over are few, - in the Congo there are many with 80 lbs, 90 lbs and 100 lbs. - and no doubt also these big weights are still fairly plentiful in Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, & the Sudan.

I would suggest that if the minimum weight per tusk in the more northern territories

Zoological Society of London

SECRETARY,
P. C. M. MITCHELL, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.

REGENT'S PARK,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"ZOOLOGICAL-PHONE-LONDON."

COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
"THE SECRETARY."

PLEASE QUOTE FOLLOWING REFERENCE

P.C.M.

London. N.W.8.

TELEPHONE NO.
HAMPSTEAD 8024.

Sept. 14 1925

Alfred Sharpe K.C.B.G.

Stephen's Club

Mr Alfred,

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office and reply connected by Hobley and myself.
I hope that you do not mind our use of your name. Naturally we may give quite different advice from ours, but we trust we are not far out.

yours very truly

P. Chalmers Mitchell

No. 31015/1925.

Downing Street,

14 August, 1925.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Amery to inform you that, in connection with measures which it has been proposed to take for the protection of elephants, it has been contended that the minimum weight allowable for tusks on export from Africa, which has been generally taken at 44 lbs. the pair, should be reduced to half that weight in the case of tusks exported from Northern Rhodesia on the ground that elephants in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland carry much lighter tusks than elephants elsewhere.

2. The purpose of the imposition of a minimum weight limit is to prevent the export of immature ivory, but it is stated that full-grown elephants in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland rarely have tusks weighing as much as 44 lbs. so that it would be incorrect to assume that any lower weight is evidence of immaturity.

3. I am to enquire whether you are in a position

to

SECRETARY,

THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Copy

511

P.C.M.

14th September 1928.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,

Your letter No. 31015/1928. re African Ivory.

We are not prepared to accept the contention that the minimum weight allowable for tusks on export from Africa should be reduced to 22 lbs. the pair in the case of tusks exported from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. We venture to suggest, however, that you should consult Sir Alfred Sharpe on this question, as he has unrivalled knowledge of the elephants of the regions in question and last travelled through the country a little over a year ago.

In our opinion agreement among the local governments of our Colonies and Dependencies in Africa with regard to a minimum weight of tusks is essential in order to prevent the export of immature ivory and consequent slaughter of young animals.

The test in fixing this weight should be the maximum weight of a pair of sow elephant tusks. If a few bulls are shot before they reach old age, no great harm is done; but for the preservation of the species, preservation of the cows is vital.

In Rhodesia and Nyasaland a pair of sow tusks of 44 lbs. would be a rarity; but so far as our information goes, mature bull elephants would normally carry a pair of tusks far in excess of 44 lbs. although the average weight would doubtless be less than further north in Tanganyika or Kenya. But it is quite conceivable that the rather indiscriminate slaughter which has taken place in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland during the last thirty years may have killed off all the mature elephants.

Our opinion in short is that a reduction in the export

weight

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

weight would be followed by the destruction of cow elephants.

Yours very faithfully,

P.C.-m

Secretary.

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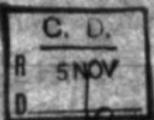
erson Smith.

Br.

by Gore.

Br.

rg.



DRAFT.

- 7 NOV 1925

Alfred Shryne
RCMGS, B.B.

Sir

I am etc thank
you for your letter of the
15th of September and with
regard to the restoration of
weight of iron rods for
expt from East Africa, which
has been of great assistance
in the consideration of this
difficult question. FREDK N. GREEN

(Signed)

The Company's various proposals and for the preparation of revised drafts in the form required by the local laws. M.Rif. for this purpose they will furnish two further facsimile prints of the three leases, showing as in the copies enclosed with their letter, the amendments made ^{suggested} up to date. All been before the Govt. accordingly.

We may also add any remarks which Dr. Bushe may have to make on the amendments mentioned in (1) above.

When the further facsimile prints have been received we can send off a copy of their letter & reply to the Governor, & mark it he will now have the revised draft prepared & submit them with his comments on the Company's amendments which were referred to him in the draft on 35724. (792 of 19 August), which have now been provisionally embodied in the draft now enclosed. - drawing his attention to the further suggested amendment to S(6) of the ~~Lease~~^{of} lease; referring to previous correspondence with draft of 1 October or 35684/1925, awaiting his views on the Company's