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KENYA

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RE-  
PL 27 JAN 26

DATE

26th January 1926.

GROUP, PROF R.S.

PREVIOUS CIRCULATION :-

Mr. *Jeffries*  
Mr. *Bathurst*  
Mr.

FOREST DEPT REPORT 1923.

Last U.S. of S.

Fwd comments. Requests copy of Report when available.

Perm U.S. of S.

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

Previous Paper

MINUTES

*for 57086*  
*2/24*

We have asked the Sec on 57086 for his observations on the recommendation - Professor Troup's Report, on forest policy in general. In this "note" the Professor makes several references to his Report, & although he begins with a jab at the back for Mr. Bathurst, it is evident that he is far from satisfied with the state of affairs; his remarks under "working plans" are pointed, & indicate that the press criticism of the Annual Report was not unwarranted.

9 FEB 1926

*copy made to Sec. long note 10 Feb 26*  
*copy sent to Adm. Sect. - 13 FEB 1926 - 1926*  
*Adm. to Adm. Sect. - 12 MAR 1926*

*2/11/26*  
*2/17/26*

*copy to Sec in end desk in 57086*

Action as proposed, let Mr.

Stanley see pp on his return.

Dr. N. (Coryndon?) continued advice

is in accordance.

W.C.S.

8.2.25

alone

1000

Action as proposed, let be.

Sturley see pp. on his return.

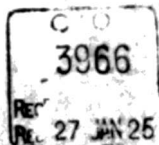
Dr R. Corydon's continued absence  
is inconvenient.

Wes 2.2.25  
alone

Wes  
2

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY,  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

26th. January 1925.



To  
The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
London S.W.1.

Sir,

*lyw*  
With reference to your letter No. 57086/1924, dated the 3rd. January 1925, I have the honour to submit herewith a note dealing with the Annual Report of the Forest Department of Kenya for 1923, and to return the report in question. I shall be glad to have a copy of this report for retention when available.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*RSV rousp.*

COW 30

Annual Report of the Forest Department, Kenya Colony, for 1923.

Although showing considerable progress in many directions, this Report reveals only too clearly the handicap under which the Forest Department has been working owing to paucity of staff. Under the circumstances, if progress in certain respects has been disappointing, it would be unfair to attach blame for this to the Conservator. On the contrary, I know Mr. Battiscombe to be an officer who has the work and interests of his Department very much at heart, and who is thoroughly alive to the need for progress. That he has had to work under great difficulties with a totally inadequate staff is not his fault: indeed the progress which has been made in spite of these difficulties reflects great credit on him and on his staff. With regard to the Report itself, the following points deserve comment:-

Area statements. No forest area statement is given.

It is desirable that a statement of forest areas in each Division should be drawn up and brought up to date each year, any amendments due to acquisition, relinquishment or recomputation during the year being entered. In this statement the forest areas might be classified under some system; for instance areas of reserved and gazetted forests might be shown separately, while forests in native reserves should likewise be distinguished from those in the rest of the Colony.

It would also be advisable to prepare and bring up to date annually area statements showing progress in (1) Demarcation, (2) Surveys, and (3) Working plans (when begun).

Such statements, once started, should give little trouble to bring up to date annually, and they would be of great value in showing the progress made in these important branches of work.

*Mrs M. O. 45613  
24  
water*

Pencil cedar (paras. 28-30). Kenya pencil cedar has now definitely proved its worth, and at least one British firm is manufacturing pencils of high grade from it. Everything now depends on strict grading with the view of preventing the export of any slats but those of best quality. Some inferior slats have already reached this country, and if this continues the industry may suffer irreparably at the outset. In view of the number of different sawmills at work in the Colony, and the lack of expert knowledge on the subject, the question of Government action in respect of grading prior to export is one which should be seriously considered.

Plantations. (paras. 55-71, App. IV). This work proceeds as satisfactorily as staff and labour will permit, but it is much in arrear of the area cleared to date. The extent and cost of this work depends very largely on the number of squatters available, since the cheapest and most effective form of plantation work is that carried out with the aid of temporary agricultural crops. The forest policy of Kenya Colony is therefore closely bound up with the question of a rather inadequate supply of squatters, in which respect the Forest Department is in competition with planters and other private interests. The average cost of planting, Shs 12.58 per acre (as compared with Shs 8.88 per acre last year), is by no means high, even after adding say Shs 10 on account of nursery expenses. If anything, the cost is somewhat lower than that incurred on similar work in Burma, and only 1/5 to 1/10 of the cost of plantation work in Great Britain.

Surveys (paras. 88-96). So far as can be ascertained in the absence of an area statement, a total area of 29,014 acres or 45 sq.m., appears to have been surveyed topographically during the year, as against 318 sq.m.

suggested as an annual average in the 5-year programme of work given on p.18 of my Report on Forestry in Kenya Colony (1922). It is to be regretted that this work is not being pushed on more rapidly in view of the fact that accurate maps of all the more important forest areas are required as a preliminary to the preparation of working plans.

The question of topographical surveys is dealt with in para. 16 of my Report. In my opinion the execution of this work ought to be a function of the Land Survey Department. The present system of spasmodic surveys on different scales by temporary agency under the Forest Department must be unsatisfactory and uneconomical as compared with properly organized work under the technical Department which ought to be responsible for it. In the earlier days of Forest Administration in India the difficulty was met by constituting a special Forest Survey branch of the Survey of India, whose duty was to produce maps of the forest areas of the country. For many years past, however, the Survey Department has fully recognized its obligations in the matter, and now undertakes a regular programme of forest surveys on a scale of 2 in. = 1 m., as part of the general scheme of topographical surveys of the country. Such a procedure is strongly to be recommended for Kenya Colony, since the forest areas are no less important to the general welfare of the Colony than other areas.

Working Plans. The question of forest working plans is dealt with in para. 15 of my Report on Forestry in Kenya Colony. In the present state of forest administration in Kenya Colony this branch of work is second to none in point of urgency; but so far no working plans appear to have been prepared. Considering that 23 different timber firms

were operating during the year over the comparatively small area of accessible forest, and that the demand for pencil cedar as well as for other timbers is likely to increase considerably in the near future, the policy of felling and extracting timber without regard to the capacity of the forest, and without a definite scheme for the maintenance of future supplies, is nothing short of suicidal. The preparation of working plans does not necessarily involve a curtailment of exploitation; it may equally well involve an increase in the quantity of timber worked out, but with an assurance as to the maintenance of future supplies. I know that the Conservator is thoroughly alive to the importance of this question, but he is handicapped by lack of staff and want of maps, and only by making good these deficiencies will it be possible to effect the desired progress.

Financial Results. (paras. 116 and following, and App. VIII). The accounts still show an adverse balance, in the present case amounting to £3,370, but this hardly represents the true state of affairs, since (1) Native Reserve expenditure, of a capital nature, amounts to Shs 19,814, while no revenue is shown from Native Reserves, and (2) issues of produce to Departments are not paid for, resulting in a faulty system of accounting to which I drew attention in para. 47 of my Report on the Forests of Kenya Colony.

As regards Native Reserves, suggestions for accounting are contained in paras. 6-8 of that Report. It is not known to what extent the suggestions have been followed, but presumably the cost of afforestation is being borne by the Forest Department although this work would appear to be of purely local benefit. As a matter of convenience there seems to be no reason why this procedure should not



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be followed provided that the revenue ultimately yielded by the plantation is credited in full to the Forest Department; failing this it will be impossible to assess the financial results of the work with any degree of accuracy.

Staff. The inadequacy of the existing staff has already been alluded to, more particularly in connection with the lack of progress in the preparation of working plans. For this somewhat special branch of work I would suggest the advisability of giving a selected officer a special course of training, with the view of introducing the latest approved methods into Kenya Colony.

Paucity of staff is further noticeable from the fact that two divisions have been without divisional officers during the year. The abandonment of control over the Coast Division in particular must inevitably lead to serious leakage of revenue and disorganization of work, which may take much time and trouble to remedy.

In this connection the importance of an adequate leave reserve does not seem to have been fully realized.

It is to be hoped that with the recent revival of prosperity in Kenya Colony the importance of the forests will be more fully recognized, and that the question of a staff sufficient to maintain and administer these forests in a satisfactory manner will receive the consideration it deserves. Judging from the information given in the Annual Report for 1923, I see no reason to modify the proposals regarding the administrative branch of the Forest Department contained in para. 55 of my Report.

24th. January 1925.

*R. B. Group*

*h* T  
39/6/25 Kemp



DRAFT.

9 Feb 1925

S:

R.S. Troup  
C.I.E. F.R.S.

I am to ask the rest of

MINUTE.

your letter of the 20th of Jan. 1925

Mr. Jewell 5.2.25

thank you for the note which  
I have furnished

Mr. J. J. Phillips 5/2/25

for enclosed in the subject of

Sir J. Sturtevant

the Annual Report of the

Sir O. Davis

Forest Department of Kenya

Sir G. Orinelli

for the year 1923

Sir J. Hesteron Smith

Mr. Phipps

Mr. Phipps

(Signed) W. C. BOTTOMLEY.

*CP required*  
*Mr. Strachey to*  
*See on return*  
*5/2*

Final T Kenya  
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DRAFT.

Si. ~~S3~~ 10 Feb. 1925

Kenya

Confidential

Kenya

MINUTE.

- Mr. Jewell 5.2.25
- Mr. Jeffries 5/2 f
- Mr. J. Shuckburgh
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir B. Grigg
- Sir J. Robertson Smith
- Long
- Mr. Thomas

With ref to my despatch  
No 1312 of the 31st of December.

I have the honour to transmit  
to you, for your information  
& consideration, the accompanying  
a note which has been

furnished by Professor R.S.  
Trong, (F.E. F.R.S.), with  
subject of the Annual Report  
of the Forest Dept. of Kenya for 1923  
(P.O. No. 1) L. S. ARBERY

draft Note  
(cancel on 3966)