

KENYA

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23 FEB 1926

DATE

117 29th January 1926.

EMPTY
NOTE

GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

Encloses copy memorandum by the D.P.W and states that the opportunity will be taken of the visit of Mr Wayland to survey the main railway line, to discuss the lines on which -- should be established.

Wayland

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MINUTES

1. We may wait for Mr Wayland's views. Mr's picture has supporting the suggestion that the geologist should be under the D.P.W., and Mr. S. (who is a water specialist) ... enough of a geologist himself ... unsuitable as the advertisement ... chief of a geological section
2. I doubt if we can give any support to the suggestion that the ... Govt should assist in the research ... It would be difficult to ... these research by any, and there is no special feature (except in ... making by anything else ...

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and to certify that they are from the
State of New York
at Albany
25th Feb.

The signatures attached
to the above are those of the
Members of the Assembly
in New York
1854

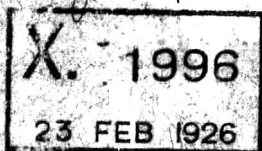


GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

KENYA.

No: 117

29th January 1926



Sir,

With reference to your despatch No.957 of the 26th of September last, I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of a minute by the Director of Public Works on the subject of geological research in Kenya.

2. By arrangement with the Governor of Uganda, the services of Mr. E.J.Wayland, the Government Geologist of that Protectorate, are being loaned for a geological survey along the main Railway line in Kenya with the primary object of finding suitable materials for carrying into effect the building programme contemplated by this Colony.

Mr. Wayland's services will be available for a month during March and April and it is hoped that this survey will lead to beneficial results. Opportunity will be taken of his visit to discuss with him the lines on which a geological research in this Colony should be established in the future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. A. S. [Signature]

for GOVERNOR.

Absent on duty.

HONOURABLE

COL. L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, L O N D O N, S.W.1

Memorandum by
Director of
Public Works

29/1/26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
HEAD OFFICE,
NAIROBI.

20th. November, 1928.

Ref. No. 2669

The Hon. Colonial Secretary:

Nairobi.

GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN KENYA.
Ref. your No. 1/1928/21/3 dated 24.10.28.
.....

I regret the delay in replying to your above-quoted letter.

2. I am strongly of the opinion that the time for the inauguration of geological research in this Colony out of public funds is long overdue. There has been an unfortunate tendency in the past only to finance services, which might be expected to yield immediate economic results, while postponing those which, though desirable, cannot be shown either to be essential to immediate development or to increase revenue. It is satisfactory to note that there are signs of a broader view being taken by the public of the necessity for research, if the Colony is to progress along normal lines.

3. The objects, which would be aimed at if a properly organised Geological Research Department were established, may be regarded as being of two kinds, viz:- (a) primarily economic; (b) primarily scientific.

4. With regard to the former, there are certain areas of this Colony which especially deserve examination to determine the presence or otherwise of certain minerals of economic value, which from the nature of the formations might occur. On the other hand, there are many extensive areas, which may be ruled out as unworthy of examination from that point of view. There are a few known mineralized zones which require detailed mapping. One of the chief activities should be the examination and assaying of specimens sent in by prospectors, and visits to the places whence the specimens emanated, when preliminary examination justified that course. It is important that an examination should be made of the only zone in the Colony where there is any chance of coal existing in seams, even though the chance is not high. A thorough investigation by a geologist might result in the Company, which has recently been prospecting, diverting its energies to localities, where there is at least some possibility of success. There is an immense field for research and experiment in respect of the location and use of brick, tile and pottery clays, and hydraulic limestone. The only really good bricks so far turned out are those from Makupa, while all tiles made are indifferent in quality and high in price. If it is decided to inaugurate water boring in this Colony as an activity of Government, geological investigation would be valuable. For the

/Investigation

- 3 -

investigation of certain mineral occurrences, being
is also essential before a reliable report can be
prepared.

4. The scientific results of geological
investigation in a country are primarily of value
from the considerations that they yield thereby
clues to knowledge of the earth's history, and
enable the geological survey of Africa to be pushed
a step further. The results are also of value to
the Colony itself from several standpoints, although
perhaps not immediately apparent from the economic
view point. For this reason, I am inclined to
advocate that the financial assistance of the Imperial
Government might be solicited for such activities
of a Geological Research Department as:-

- (1) Regional Geological Survey.
- (2) Installation and Observation of Seismographs.
- (3) Gravity Determinations.
- (4) Hydrogeographical Investigations.
- (5) Investigation of Rift Valley Tectonics.

for the results of such work would be of importance
to the whole civilized world.

5. After careful consideration, I feel that
the most economical and satisfactory method of
organization, if it were decided to inaugurate
geological research, would be to attach the activity
as a sub-Department to the Public Works Department,
in much the same way as the former Government
Transport Department is now organized as a Branch of

/this Department.

this Department, as the Veterinary Department is attached to the Department of Agriculture, and the Survey Department to the Department of Lands.

7. The chief reasons for the above method are the following:-

- (1) Many of the activities would be closely allied to some of those of this Department, especially with regard to materials for constructional work, water supplies, etc.
- (2) Economy would result from the use of the existing organization in respect of administration, accounts, stores, labour, etc.
- (3) Use could be made of the Executive Staff of Divisions in respect of transport, labour, equipment, payments, etc.
- (4) A good deal of research work (not from the economic standpoint) has already been done by myself, although time has not yet permitted of the results being sufficiently co-ordinated for publication.
- (5) ^{It may be observed that} The Investigation Department of South Africa has a Zoologist attached to it.

8. The annual cost of a Zoological Research Department would be dependent on the extent to which the various activities are prosecuted. There would also be certain capital expenditure on offices, laboratory and equipment. The Zoological Survey

Department of Uganda is fairly well staffed and equipped, and has done most useful work. Its annual cost is about \$7,500. In Nyasaland, where the activity is carried on on a very small scale, the annual cost is about \$2,500.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

HLS/DC