

1925

E. AFRICA
NYASALAND PROT.

57623

REC'D
23 DEC 25

FROM: GOVERNOR BOWRING

586

DATE

28th November 1925.

493

DEVELOPMENT OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES

Submit copy of my Commission's Report regarding copy of a letter from Dr Sutherland of the British Museum, whom he has con-

MINUTES

as to Inland Fisheries

I have brought the running memorandum up to date and attached it to this paper. The memorandum sent home by the Governor of Uganda in 48963 and by the Governor of Tanganyika in 60522 are of interest in connection with the memorandum in this despatch.

You will see from the previous papers that the Ministry of Agriculture have been asked whether it is possible to obtain the services of an Officer to undertake the survey of the waters of Lake Victoria and that it is proposed that the Governments of Uganda and Tanganyika Territory as well as the Government of Kenya should participate. If such a survey is undertaken you may wish to consider whether the experts should advise as regards Lake Nyasa also. Mr. Morris of the Ministry of Agriculture

rang

Subsequent Paper

MO 951/26

up the other day and I understand that they have
 someone in view and hope very shortly to let us know
 whether he is available.

Wait

W. Allen

18/1/26

The M.A. expert (if appointed)
 has to report on Lake Nyasa
 but also on Lake Tanganyika

For the

W.D. 13/1/26

Summary of correspondence relating to inland
 Fisheries.

14th Aug. 1924.
 42135/24.

(1)
Kenya.

On the 13th November, 1924, the
 Legislative Council passed in favour of a
 survey of the fishing areas and the formation
 of a Fisheries Board, and since result the
 authorities at Cape Town were approached by
 the Colonial Government with a view to
 obtaining expert advice.

Captain Caldwell, the Assistant Game
 Warden, had been instructed to inquire
 in England to take up the question of
 work for improving the fishing industry of
 Lake Victoria.

25 Aug. 1925.
 33919/25.

(2)
East Africa.

Recommendation of the East African
 Commission that the local Governments should
 encourage the fishing industry.

7th Aug. 1925.
 33919/25.

(3)
East Africa.

These recommendations were referred to
 Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland and Tanganyika for
 observations.

3rd July 1925.
 35685/25.

(4)
Kenya.

The Governor reported on interview with
 Mr. Maurice of the Ministry of Fisheries, and
 said that he considered it unnecessary to
 retain the service of an expert for the survey
 only of lake waters.

(5) Kenya

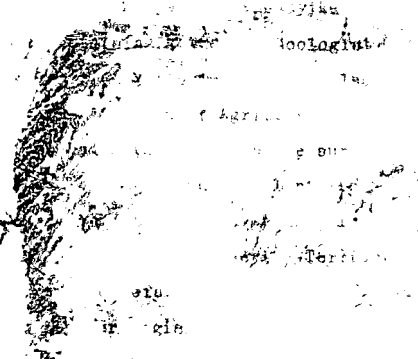
21st Aug. 1925.
35685/25

It was pointed out to the Governor that he did not suggest any alternatives to the engagement of an expert, but that the matter would of course be further considered in accordance with the recommendations of the East Africa Commission.

(6) Uganda

13th Oct. 1925
50432/25

The Governor has received a letter from the East Africa Commission dated 10th Oct. 1925.



11 Oct

14th Oct. 1925
50432/25

with regard to the fisheries of Lake Tanganyika by Dr. Drubl, the German Adviser. In this report he regards the statements in the East Africa Commission's report as somewhat sweeping and says he would be glad to have some indication of the method of encouragement which the Commission had in mind. He suggested that the most practicable step would

would

(7)

13th Oct. 1925.
50432/25

(8) Kenya

would be if a suitable person could be found to start fish curing in a small way, and the instruction of the natives.

The Governor has to obtain information from the British Government as to the possibility of including the Lake areas in the coast survey. He reports the views of the Government of Uganda and in a reply, and proposes to await the reply of the East Africa Commission before making further steps. He would like to see the East Africa Commission's report on the subject of fish curing.

7th Nov. 1925
56287/25

(9) Kenya

The Governor has now been advised by the Union that the survey of the waters of Lake Victoria cannot be included in that of the coastal waters. The Governor therefore concurs in the Uganda proposal in Nov. and enquires whether the services of a scientific officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries can be obtained and if so what financial arrangements the Ministry would suggest.

2nd December, 1925. (10)
58287/25

Kenya

The Ministry of Agriculture asks for advice on the points raised by the Government of Kenya in No. (9) above.

5th November, 1925. (11)
57623/25

Nyasaland

The Governor of Nyasaland forwards a copy of a letter from Dr. Christy of the British Museum dealing with fish in Lake Nyasa, and states that he is

considering

considering the question of exercising some control
over native fishing since there is no close season
and any attempt to develop the industry in the south end
would be attended with grave risk of fishing out the

Nyasaland

57623

436

No. 386

RECEIVED

22 DEC 1925

DEC 22 1925

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ZOMBA,
NYASALAND.

POST OFFICE

25th November, 1925.

Sir,

In reply to your despatch No. 417 of the 7th
August in which you ask for my observations on the remarks
on page 98 of the East African Commission's Report,
relating to the possibility of developing the inland
fisheries of East Africa. I have the honour to refer to your
despatch No. 65 of the 13th March introducing Dr. Gilbert
Christy of the British Museum Nyasaland Expedition, and
to inform you that I have taken advantage of his
presence in Nyasaland to consult him on the subject.
I enclose a copy of a letter from him dealing with fish
in Lake Nyasa.

10th 1925.

2. The fishing season on Lake Nyasa varies
according to the district, though the months of November
to May are generally considered to be the best. During
the rainy season, which extends from December until
March, the fishing in the North end of the Lake from
Kota-Kota to Mwaya is only fair, but from Kota-Kota
southward to Cape Maclear it is good and from the Bar
to Monkey Bay very good. With the exception of the
south end from the Bar to Monkey Bay, where it is fair,
there is practically no fishing during the cold season.

3. I am considering the question of exercising some
control over native fishing, as at present there is no close
season and any attempt at present to develop the industry in
the south end would be attended with grave risk of fishing
out the Lake.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

The Right Honourable
Lieutenant-Colonel L.M.S. Amery, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

GOVERNOR

COPY FROM:— Dr. G. Christy,
Fort Johnsto.
TO:— The Chief Secretary,
Zomba.

497

DATED November 10th, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of October 5th with reference to the possibility of developing the inland fisheries of East Africa. The indefiniteness of the enquiry ~~makes~~ it difficult for me to furnish with any observations likely to be of assistance ~~in~~ applying to the Secretary of State.

I know of no European ~~fish~~ dried or tinned, fish in any quantity or near Lake Nyasa ~~it would not be possible to make~~ any such ventures commercial ~~at~~ for many reasons under present circumstances, chiefly owing to the absence of an active market in the case of fresh fish, the smallness of the native market in the case of dried fish, and in the third case the want of in and out railway transport facilities with the Coast.

Lake Nyasa, though swarming with fish, perhaps 150 different species, as far as I know ~~from~~ a short acquaintance with it, contains only 3 species which are really good eating from the whiteman's point of view, and which are caught by the natives in any large quantities.

One is the little "Seopa" (Engraulicypris sardella), eaten by the natives as a kind of whitebait, occurring in vast surface shoals in the middle and northern portions of the Lake, and caught in close-meshed Seine nets. It is a small round-bodied fish, olive black above, silvery white beneath and from 2 to 5 inches in length. It is full of oil, and might possibly be tinned in oil in the same way as the anchovie if a market could be found, but such an industry could only be carried on during a few months in the year, and the fish would have to be bought from the natives, who cannot catch enough for their own needs.

When in season they are in great demand, and are bought as soon as caught; the Canoes coming in, each with a basket or so of fish, not uncommonly being besieged by half a hundred buyers in the Karonga District.

Another is the "Upassa" (Burillus microlepis) a large and beautiful salmon like fish, excellent eating, silvery white all over and having pink flesh - the mature fish are common in certain parts of the Lake during the rainy season, but are to be found only in some of the streams flowing into the Lake. They are caught in the dragnets during three months in the year, the rest of the year being spent in large baskets of fish at the river mouth. In the river they reside during the time after a time covered with detritus and copypods. The fish could probably be taken to the same that salmon are taken to, but each a fishing industry would vary greatly in its habits with long standing native habits only in part of the month and elsewhere.

The third species (Burillus squamipennis), generally known as "upassa" the commonest one in the lake. It is a small fish, and is the best eating. It is taken in dragnets, baskets, or traps, not by the dozen in barricks across rivers, and river banks, and across the extensive of bays, ponds and lagoons, however small. It is a perch-like fish weighing 3 or 4 pounds, and is in great demand, by both Europeans and natives, selling at 2 or 3 to the penny fresh. It is dried and smoked and sent to all parts of the country, selling there at a penny each. The basket-trap fishing rights are complicated family and personal matters, and could not be interfered with without causing great trouble, and disorganising an important means of living and a food supply of the people.

As regards native inland fishing industries no interference, official or otherwise, could be of any benefit

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