

1921

KENYA

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D.A.G.
TOTLEYCONF
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DATE

8TH AUGUST 1921

44768
Ref 7 12721

CIRCULATION:—

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Grindle

SUBJECT

BAMBOO CONCESSIONS

Reports as to areas of bamboo suitable for manufacture of the KENYA paper. Attached are maps showing areas of bamboo in KENYA until about 1900. It is suggested that a survey should be made.

Subsequent Paper

Mo
4688b

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No 9^o of

1821

A

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

NAIROBI.

July, 22nd. 1921.

No. 162/2,

The Hon'ble

The Ag. Colonial Department

5. I am sanguine that the supplies of raw material in the country are sufficient to meet the demands of a very large industry for the manufacture of paper-pulp and the obvious advantages that would accrue to the Colony from the establishment of such an industry would be such that no effort should be spared to mitigate the many disadvantages with which it would have to contend as compared with other countries far more favourably situated as regards costs of transport etc.

6. I received a copy of replies to the questionnaire sent to you by the Secretary of State for Native Affairs; I regret the delay, but I had to wait for my return to India in order to receive the correct weightage.

Yours sincerely
R. S. Dyer
Secretary of Native Affairs.

Enclosed to A

EAST AFRICAN BAMBOO.
(*Arundinaria elatior*).

Ref. Report by Director, Imperial Institute
 dated 26 January, 1921:

All figures of areas and distances mentioned below are estimated and are not based on the results of actual surveys.

(1) (a) The total area of Bamboos forest in the Colony is estimated as being 800,000 acres.

(b) In particular there is no reliable account of areas of bamboo forest which have been calculated but such areas are considerable.

(c) "The descriptions of areas of bamboo included in the 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 maps of the S.E.A.C. Survey (Formerly Dept. of Geodesy) do not include the bamboo forests in the Forest Reserves or in the Crown Lands."

(d) It is estimated that it is estimated that there are about 40,000 acres of bamboo forest included in the 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 maps.

(e) The bamboo forest on an aggregate of 37,000 acres was mapped on the 1:250,000 map of July 1920 and not been taken up to that date. It is possible that some additional areas may be mapped in the future but therefore it is not estimated that the area will be increased by more than one or two per cent. The Forest Department has no plans for reforestation, which they appear to say will only affect the bamboo in the Coast and Sheldona & surrounding areas.

(f) In the under-lying narrative above, the 70,000 acres on the Crown Government cannot be justified as being suitable for bamboo forest.

(g) In view of the access of the line of the Uganda Railway to the Aberdare mountains and the fact, indicated on the map of the Mau Forest, that the northern slopes of the Mau Forest are very favourable for establishment of the whole of the bamboo could be established on a large scale. There are no good rivers the Fjords and the Rivers which could be used for water supply; there are extensive supplies of wood-which will assist the bamboo forest and a factory site would be selected probably not more than one or seven miles from the railway line.

(h) A small area of 1000 to 1500 sq. miles on the slopes of Mount Elgon Mountain of excellent bamboo that would be about 20 to 30 miles from the railway at Kaimosi.

(i) The proposed extension of the railway to the Usambara Plateau will lay any large areas of bamboo forest other than that contained in the Royal Etd. forests.

(j) In the event of a railway being constructed to Nyeri & West Kenya, large areas of bamboo on the Eastern slopes of the Aberdare and the Western & South Western slopes of Mount Kenya could be tapped by light railways without great difficulty.

No bamboo forest could be said to be within easy access of this proposed extension.

(4) The bamboo forests on the South Eastern, Eastern & Northern slopes of Mount Kenya, on Elgon and on the Northern part of the Aberdare Range must be classed as inaccessible



It has been found very difficult to obtain weights of weight of dry culms owing to the difficulty in extent of diameter. The weights vary in inverse proportion to the diameter of the culms per cubic foot; the weight per cubic foot of culms of culms with a mean diameter of 11 to 25 inches and varying in length from 19 to 22 feet would be 25 lbs. The average would be to take the weight of the culms per dry culm or 110 culms.

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TOTAL EXPOSURES -