

EAST AFR PHOTO
20219

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REL 22 APR 20

82

O.S.G. 242
BORING

1920
6th March

Last previous Paper.
17/12

POWELL WOOD PROCESS.

Trs copy letter from Conservator of forests re--adds that bringing of briquettes by sea from Witu not satisfactory and Uga Rly will be using oil as fuel at early date.

17/12
17/12

I think Mr. Pritchard may have a copy of the welcome, you can say that in forwarding it the O.A.G. states that he does not consider that there will be any opening for the use of briquettes on the U.R., as the O.A.G. So write, referring to 17322 - continuation of the letter of 17312
O.S.G. 26.4.20

Last previous Paper.

17322 of full forest

17322

20219
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BRITISH EAST AFRICA 83
March, 1920.

My Lord,

78539

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of 5th January, enclosing a copy of a further letter from Mr. C. H. Pritchard regarding the introduction of the Powell Wood Process into this Protectorate and in reply, to enclose a copy of the observations of the Conservator of Forests thereon.

Conservator
of Forests
17/2/1920

2. I have only to add that the idea of bringing briquettes by sea from Witu or Kipiki does not seem to be satisfactory, and that experiments with regard to the introduction of oil fuel on the Uganda Railway are now proceeding. Most of the Lake Steamers are now burning oil fuel, and the Uganda Railway is hopeful that the time when this fuel will be used throughout the Railway is not far distant.

[Handwritten signature]

ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

VISCOUNT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., J.P., M.G., &c. &c.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S. W.

NAIROBI.

February, 1918.

No. 23/20

84

Hon'ble

The Ag. Chief Secretary,

Nairobi.

re: Introduction of Lowell Wood processRef. Your No. 20757/16 of the 13th Inst.

I have read Mr. Britchard's letter addressed to Secretary of State, and I am of opinion that there is little to add to the information contained in His Excellency's despatch No. 111 of the 31st January.

2. The destructive distillation of wood opens out a wide field for commercial activity backed up by scientific research; and I am of opinion that the establishment of factories in suitable localities for the production of charcoal, acetic acid etc. will prove remunerative and at the same time be the means of converting large quantities of wood which are at present wasted, into valuable products.

3. The question of the manufacture of briquettes from charcoal dust is now engaging the attention of the Government of India and experiments are being conducted at the Forests and Research Institute; valuable information will be forthcoming as soon as the results of the experiments are made known.

4. The creosote derived from the distillation of hard woods is not suitable for the impregnation of sleepers etc; so far as is at present known it has no great commercial value, but it may be found to be a suitable medium for fixing the charcoal dust in briquettes. The creosote of commerce is derived from the distillation of soft e.g. water-worn woods.

5. The presence of a fungoid disease in the wood of the stripped *Acacia* trees has not been ascertained, but it may be some saprophytic fungus which is certainly an evidence of a disease.

6. The suggestion that the forest should be planted with eucalyptus, I think, is not particularly desirable, but it may be a useful part in the economy of the forest by protecting the forest and gradually reclaiming land from the sea. Moreover the planting of land subject to inundation twice in the course of every 24 hours would not be a commercial proposition except with halophytes e.g. salt resisting plants.

7. The Ukwani Forest has an area of 3000 acres; it is distant some ten miles from Mkomazi the nearest point for water transport and is about twenty miles from Kilindi. The timber in the forest is being exploited by Mr. Kelley, under licence.

2. The burning of lime is a very old trade on
the Coast.

S. Battelle
Conservator of Forests.

29 April 1920

Sir,

In continuation of the letter from this Dept.

of the 23rd of April, I am

pleased to transmit to you, with reference to your letter of the 10th of Dec. last, the

copy of a letter for the Conservator of

Forests in the P.A.P. regarding the proposed

introduction of the

In forwarding this letter, Mr. [unclear] states that he does

not

DRAFT.

(17312)

H. Pritchard Esq.

MINUTE.

(17333)

- Mr. Jeffries 26.4.20.
- Mr. Parkinson 27.4.20.
- Mr. [unclear] 27.4.20.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. H. [unclear]
- Mr. H. [unclear]
- Mr. G. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Lord [unclear]

Handwritten notes and stamps in the bottom left corner, including a date stamp 'APR 29 1920'.

not consider that there will
be any opening for the use
of briquettes on the Uganda
Railway. He adds that
experiments with regard to
the introduction of oil fuel
on the Railway are now
proceeding, that most of
the Lake Steamers are now
burning oil fuel, & that
the Uganda Railway authorities
are hopeful that this time
when this fuel will be used
throughout the Railway
and for electricity.

(signed)
E.H.