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NAIROBI STREET LIGHTING

The Nairobi Municipal Committee have reducted that the cost will make an annual contribution towards the cost. Executive Council consider some contribution should be made is making enquiries before making any recommendation as to amount. Raises question of inter at on the advance of \$1.600 made to the Municipality and asks also if decision to trust this amount as an advance cannot be reconsidered.

W Poute

I do not think that we can look at this proposal.

I have never heard of any municipality where such a thing is done. The usual practice is for the Government to pay to the municipality a lump sum in lieu of rates in consideration for services rendered. It is now proposed, see Minutes on 19768—II that the Government of the Fast Africa Protectorate should make to the Municipality of Nairobi a fixed annual grant proportionate to the financial burdens of which the Government is relieved by the Municipality. In fixing the amount of the annual grant such service as lighting the streets in the front of Covernment buildings should be taken into account but I submit that no separata sussidy should be made on account of lighting.

As regards the remarket of the cost of lighting contrally, I should have thought that this chould have been not out of the general false (which should to ingressed if necessary

relation to the

necessary to meet this charge; and not by means of a special lighting rate, as appears to be proposed. The question of treating the 1500, the coat of installation, as an advance must be considered in connexion with the general question of the terms to be granted to the Municipal Committee of Nairobi, the discussion of which me propose to take up with Sir P. Girouard as soon as the assessment which are now bear prepared by Mr. Tennahill are ready.

Jan S. f. miles as the how his presting can positioning in assured apart from the per de Ministra Mainoti in faminal, which has now been outstand ing for a Las see 19708 " in buille Lines with his P. J. is amusen with the formal funtin of the municipality. We have and amount a time talls showed metter with he P. P. Dien le stat the + Jak

In & Felder 5 W Belfield In Danial to allerted Esterne statistics regarding the setelle value of Namon but to Tile regains 6 weeken so & deput his figures. W. Bulfield . Lot like the notte & stand over milet is can book at the matter with on inf the only that the Adjult will look not the matter on his aniel is the Printer? in above Grs. 16 S-R

Them private there popon his love had no opportunity of discussing the sufficient the P. Gironard. I was the Kin 10 trues of Kee portion will her total are with the auromati has been Congletes. As & the bes Tanna lite may be able to very squeezinity a titum ty quordi da

ONERNMENT HOUSE, NAPROBI. BRITISH EAST AFFIC

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

May 6th 1912.

No. 120

Sir.

I have the honour to inform you that in have been approached by the Nairobi Municipal Committee with a request that the Government will make some annual contribution to the cost of lighting the streets of the township.

- 2. The total cost for lighting is at present £864 per annum, and the proportion payable by us, based on the frontage of Government property abutting on the lighted streets, would amount to £240 per annum.
- 3. The Executive Council, to whom I have referred the matter, is unanimously of the opinion that it is only right and proper that some contribution should be made in respect of such property.
- 4. At present nothing is paid directly towards the cost of lighting by any residents, the cost being partly defrayed from Municipal revenue and partly from accumulated balances in the hands of the Committee. The latter have

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, 3.W.

now represented that they can no longer afford to draw on their balances in order to make good the deficit on their annual budget, caused to a great extent by the cost of lighting the town, and wish to impose a lighting rate on all nonofficial landbuners or residents. They do not however feel justified in calling upon the nonofficials to contribute unless some grant is made by Government in respect of the large amount of property which it owns within the township limits.

- 5. I am not satisfied that the figure of £240, which has been suggested by an interdepartmental committee as a fair subsidy from
 Government, is justified, and I am therefore
 calling for additional information before submitting a definite recommendation as to the
 amount to be contributed. This information,
 which will in all probability lead to a recommendation based on the assessment of the town after
 deducting the value of Covernment offices and
 land reserved for similar purposes, may take
 some little time to elucidate, and I am therefore submitting for your consideration the
 reneral question as to whether or not Covernment
 should find part of the cost of lighting Nairobi.
- 6. In connection with this question I have the honour to refer to your despatch No.632 of October 28th 1911 in which reference is made to the £1,600 originally advanced by the Covernment for the cest of installation. I note that the

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Treasury request that interest may be paid by the Municipality on any outstanding portion of this £1,600 advance. I would point out that no previous reference was made to the payment of interest by the Municipality and when the proposal was submitted to that body it was merely stated that the £1,600 would be considered to be an advance to them. I trust therefore that the question of interest may be waived.

- 7. With reference to the capital outlay also it appears to me that the £1,600 referred to represents a very small proportion of the capital expenditure undertaken by Government within the township of Nairobi. Roads, drainage and other public works have hitherto been defrayed from the Public Works Vote, and there has been no question of the expenditure involved being refunded when the Municipality becomes ask self-supporting. I would therefore whether the decision to treat the cost of installation as an advance cannot be re-considered.
- 8. The township cannot at present be deemed self-supporting, although it receives no direct contribution from Government. The Police, Town Magistrate, Medical Officer of Health, and other officials whose salaries might fairly be considered a charge upon Municipal funds, are, and must for some time continue to be, paid by Government. Similarly, the maintenance of roads and other public works are charged against the Protectorate Budget as a whole.
 - 9. I do not think it will be possible in the

main future to impose rates within the township which would be sufficient to cover all legitimate Municipal expenditure. The township is, as you are aware, scattered over a very large area in prepartion to the number of the inhabitants, and the cost of administration is therefore very high. I think that for some years to come the best, we can use for is that inhabitants of the

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Your hum! ! , obedient servant.

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ACTING GOVERNOR.

near future to impose rates within the township which would be sufficient to nover all legitimate Municipal expenditure. The township is, as you are aware, scattered over a very Targe area in proportion to the number of the inhabitants. and the cost of administration is therefore very high. I think that for some years to come the best we can hope for is that inhabitants of the town will be able to contribute to a certain limited extent, in the form of rates or special taxes, towards the cost of the Municipality, but that it will be incumbent on Government to continue to maintain and pay for a portion of the cost of management which might, in a differently situated township, be defrayed by the ratepayers.

> I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant.

ACTING GOVERNOR.

26 Boarry

1711 bas aug Dr DRAFT. Sir thave a toach the receipt of your deap No 320 of the OA GMINUTE. Mr. Erning that the Tovernor ark and the bounder Mr. Read Sir G. Fiddes. Sir H. Just. Sir J. Anderson Lord Emmott. principal Comme for an Mr. Harcourt. annual confliction to the of of light of the secrets of the Counselfe, as he arrival 1 North methodo