

EAST AFR PROT.
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W.N.

Depy
Govr
Sowing 784
Date
1912
9th November
Last previous Paper.

RAILWAY LANDIES AND HUTS AT KISUMU

Reports as to present unsatisfactory state of affairs. There is a constant danger from plague. Submits proposals for removal from present site to a new one. Encloses plan Estimates total cost at £10,000. Considers may be charged against loan as a railway improvement. Trusts proposals will be approved. Sends indents for materials to avoid delay.

The Road

The tracing referred to in para. 10 appears to be the sum-plant to which a list of houses is attached. The landies (or most of them) which are condemned are those marked S.5-50 near the middle of the plan, viz. upon the area hatched in red is that on which it is proposed to build the new one.

There seems to be no room for doubt as to the desirability of getting rid of these landies. They were condemned by H. G. B. Williams in 1907 (see "Railway Town" in h. 31 of report in W/8360/07). The immediate point is whether they come within the terms of the £500,000 loan, or rather the E.A.P. £875,000 of it. See P. Girouard's memo. of 20. VI. 12 sent to Treasury on 19. VII. 12 (marked in green) proposed £60,000 for "sidings, quarries, crossing stations &c". The reference is to

879 } 19 Dec 1912
 Copy, unless orig. Ca.

Next subsequent Paper
Govr
190648

None to guarantee do not discharge duties
for India & other quarters.

I think therefore that we could safely approve,
but as it is presumably for Mr Taylor to take
care that the money is spent to the best
advantage it would be well to have his assurance.

? Telegraph Jamaica Row

for

March 1950

unqualified
You had stated of 9 Nov 1949 15th Nov

Recd
Cash
1.3

to find to know whether General Morgan

combilam
Grows with charging out against loan previously

against item of £60,000 for other quarters. See
Tables of 150 funds attached to my despatch of 10 July 1948

Recd
2/8/50

at
1/2

at mee
H. J. R
7/XII

C
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64
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

November 9th 1912.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 784



Sir,

I have the honour to report that the extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs in connection with the Uganda Railway landies and huts at Kisumu has been engaging the attention of the local Government for some considerable time.

2. These buildings are in the centre of the township, in close proximity to the Railway Station, and only a few yards distant from the main road connecting the station with the European residences in the town.

3. They are inhabited by the Indian and native employees in the service of the Railway, a notoriously unsanitary class of people with a miscellaneous entourage including numerous native women. They are built on stone and mud plinths which are now rat-infested, and are moreover quite insufficient to accommodate the workmen employed. The result is that owing to the present overcrowded and unhealthy condition of these landies outbreaks of plague are of frequent occurrence and constitute a standing

menace

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Tracing

Indents
No. 580

menace to the well-being of the township.

4. The normal state of affairs in Kisumu is that for about nine months out of the twelve each year, at any rate since 1908, the town has been subjected to quarantine restrictions. From 1908 to the present time there have been altogether 244 cases of plague, with 196 deaths, and there is no doubt that but for the strictest sanitary precautions and the unceasing vigilance of the Medical Department the various outbreaks would have assumed even more alarming proportions. From figures supplied, it would appear that the area occupied by the buildings in question is the main focus of infection in each case and renders us liable at any time to the necessity of having to restrict the train service, if not to discontinue it entirely.

5. The question of the complete removal of the landies and their erection on a new site has been under discussion for some time, but has never matured owing to lack of funds wherewith to effect the removal.

6. It has now, however, been found necessary to provide additional accommodation for extra artisans, who are shortly to be employed at Kisumu: and, at the same time, the Manager reports that, under any circumstances, it will be imperative to replace the present buildings in the course of the next two or three years.

7. I have, therefore, come to the opinion that it would be a mistake to incur any fresh expenditure on the present site, and that we should avail ourselves of this opportunity of removing

(3)

removing what can only be regarded as a danger to the public health.

8. A Committee consisting of the Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza, the Principal Medical Officer and the Director of Public Works was, a short time ago, instructed to submit proposals for the entire removal of the existing landies and accompanying huts, and their re-erection on a new site.

9. The Committee was unanimously of opinion that if only in the interests of health the removal should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity. I myself have discussed the subject with the Provincial Commissioner and entirely agree with the opinion expressed by the Committee. As long as the landies remain on the present site there will be the constant risk of being obliged to close down or restrict the Railway train service owing to the danger of infection among the Railway Staff.

10. In this connection I attach a tracing shewing the site of the present buildings and that to which it is proposed they should be removed.

11. It is estimated that to replace the existing landies by new ones of the approved rat-proof type on the new site would cost £5,000: that the new landies which, as shewn above, will be necessary in any case, would cost £4,000: and that new huts for native employees would cost £1,000: making a total of £10,000.

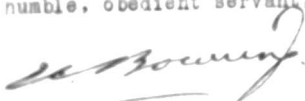
12. This amount, I consider, might very fairly be charged to loan funds, as there can be no doubt that the removal of the buildings referred to constitutes an undoubted improvement to the working facilities of the line, and I accordingly have the honour to ask your permission to take the matter in hand at once.

13. I trust you will agree with me as to the urgency of the proposals I have made: and, in order that there may be no unnecessary delay I am forwarding herewith indents for the material required, as I am advised that it will probably be a matter of seven to nine months before they can be met.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



In the absence of the
GOVERNOR.