

EAST AFR. PROT.

C. O.
40524

REC^d
Ref 23 DEC 12

40524

167

813

912

November

Previous Paper.

5786

MUMIAS STATION

Sends reports by the P.M.O. and Director of P.W. Circumstances do not appear to warrant the removal of the station and as it is eminently suitable from the administrative point of view trusts that its retention will be sanctioned. Promises further deep, as to cost of carrying out P.M.O.'s recommendations. Asks if he may proceed with completion of new goal. Requests reply by telegram.

Mr. G. Fiddes

With regard to the completion of the new goal, I think that we might telegraph at once authorising its completion, as the cost of the work involved must be small. It appears from Mr. Armitage's report in Form 15786 that all the stone required for the building has been collected free of cost, & in para: 10 of his report enclosed in this despatch he gives reasons for completing the work.

With regard, however, to the general question of retaining Mumias as a station, I do not feel at all convinced by the

Subsequent Paper

309

the present deep: Mr. Amwell seems to
speak with two voices. Compare, for instance,
the marked passage in the middle of p. 2
of his report w. 15786 with para: 16 of his
report in the present deep: I think that
we had better refer the paper to the special
Medical & Sanitary Com^{tee} & fortify ourselves with
an expression of their opinion.

The total expense for the erection of a
new station is only estimated at £4,000 &
we must, in any case, spend money on the
present station to make it more healthy.

? Add to the text proposed above
that the S. R. is addressing the Com^{tee}
further by deep: with regard to the
General question of the retention of the
site - & when we do so, inquire with
reference to para: 9 of Mr. Amwell's deep
whether a reconnaissance survey for a
railway is being made, as it is very
desirable that the ~~station~~ ^{new station} should be
the new station. If decided upon, it should be
as close as possible to the track of
the future railway.

H. J. R.

31/II

It certainly seems like an unhealthy
site, but might prove as proposed.

— But the Medical Com^{tee} would help
as much by denouncing the site, which may
layman do to the audience before us:
The difficulty is to find an alternative site.

[This might also be discussed
with O'Keefe on his arrival] P.S. 31.12 165

Same above
U. 31.12

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

November 21st 1912.

No. 813



169

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 327 of the 7th of June respecting the abandonment of Mumias Station, and to express my regret that it has remained so long unanswered.

2. On receipt of your despatch, instructions were issued to the Principal Medical Officer to proceed to Mumias with the Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza, and the Director of Public Works, and to furnish reports on suitable alternative sites, with a statement of the approximate cost of moving the station.

3. From the reports submitted by the two former officers, copies of which I enclose, it will be seen that the adoption of a new site is considered unnecessary. The Principal Medical Officer has submitted certain recommendations for the improvement of the present station, and Mr. Ainsworth is of opinion that occasional transfers of the officers at Mumias to the new station which it is proposed to establish on the slopes of Mount Elgon will be sufficient to maintain the general health of the Staff in a satisfactory condition.

The

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE.

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

*40524
15-11-12*

*Dr. Milne
Oct. 3rd*

*Ainsworth
Oct. 7th*

*Plan
of
6/12*

The circumstances do not, therefore, appear to warrant the removal of the Station, and as the present site is eminently suitable from an administrative point of view, I trust that you will sanction its retention. 170

4. The Director of Public Works has been requested to furnish an estimate of the expenditure which will be involved by the execution of the Principal Medical Officer's recommendations. As however the Engineer in the District is engaged on other urgent work he has not yet been able to visit Mumias, and the delay in answering your despatch has occurred in consequence. The estimate will be forwarded to you immediately on receipt. The total expenditure for the erection of a new Station is estimated at £4,100.

5. I have the honour to enquire whether in view of the above remarks I may authorise the completion of the new gaol now partially erected at Mumias, and as the matter is of considerable urgency I should be glad if you would communicate your decision by telegraph.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alauy Beyid

GOVERNOR.

INCLOSURE
 In Despatch No. 813 of 21. XI. 1913



F. M. O.'s OFFICE
 NAIROBI,

3rd October 1913.

171

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in company with the Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza, and the Director of Public Works, I inspected Mumias Station with a view to the consideration of its abandonment, in accordance with the instruction conveyed to me in your No. 694, dated July 10th 1913.

Altogether I spent three weeks in the district, six days of which I resided in the Station. As the heavy rains were on in a year of exceptional humidity, I was enabled to see Mumias at its worst.

The township is situated on one of the flat swelling irregular ridges which are such a marked feature of the landscape, between two large rivers - the Nzola and the Muzuni, - three miles apart.

Mumias Ridge - and such others I had an opportunity of considering - are composed of an impervious subsoil, ironstone or granite with clay in the valleys. This is covered with a varying depth of rich soil, which in the rains becomes a veritable sponge. The constant seepage from this sponge is apparent on the lower slopes of the ridges, and wherever an outcrop

The Hon. Ag. Chief Secretary

to the Government,

thro' the Provincial Commissioner,

Nyanza Province.

of ironstone or clay occurs. The average yearly rainfall at Mumias is over 70 inches. Mr. Watkins, the Acting District Commissioner, as a result of his observations, informed me that there was little doubt that the valley of the Nzoia had a peculiar attraction for all rainstorms in the vicinity. Certainly from my almost daily experience of rain during the three weeks tour up and down the Nzoia valley, I can confirm his theory that the thunderstorms and cloud bursts coming off Mount Elgon all naturally gravitated down this channel.

Thus, it was apparent that the chief disadvantages of the station site depended on its being situated in

- (1) an exceptionally local rainy area,
- (2) on a water logged soil - with,
- (3) mosquitoes in consequence.

Under such conditions it is not to be wondered at that this northern portion of the Nyanza Province is more malarious than the rest. As no medical officer has been stationed in Mumias since, I think, 1890, statistical returns are imperfect, as those furnished by the Compounder are not reliable.

Since 1898 there have been five deaths, three of which may be attributable to residence in the district. Four of the five were due to Black Water fever. The largest number of Black Water fever cases (from three to nine per annum) comes from the Coast belt and the Nyanza Province, but, relative to the white popula-

tion of the two provinces, the proportion is higher in Nyanza.

On financial grounds alone there is one factor that should be weighed before an unhealthy station is abandoned for another site, and that is, the possibility of improvements being effected as to bring it up to a sanitary standard, at a margin of cost less than what it would take to found a new station.

This is just what I think can be done for Mumbias.

On the other hand, I only had an opportunity of considering one other site, ten miles away from Mumbias, and the topographical conditions there were identically the same as on the Mumbias ridge, and it may be taken that the substitution of one ridge for another is not going to better matters very much.

I am quite clear in my own mind that there is no necessity to abandon Mumbias Station on account of excessive unhealthiness; but I do consider that its retention will involve

- (1) a through scheme of subsoil drainage,
- (2) the adoption of a sealed plan for the laying out of the town with proper segregation of the natives,
- (3) protection of the water supply,
- (4) institution of a small sanitary service,
- (5) the imposition and enforcement of all buildings and sanitary rules,
- and (6) last but not least an improved type of officials' dwelling houses.

It is somewhat discouraging to see what is con-

sidered adequate for a man to make his home in.

Time did not permit me to explore the County on the Kakomga side, but I understand for administrative reasons a selection here would not be desirable.

In conclusion, I would like to testify to the zeal shown in the care of their Station by successive District Officers, evidenced by the state of the roads, ditches, the extent of bush clearing, and the large acreage kept under sweet potatoes, the drainage of the swamps, and the laying out of the town. These efforts, ^{supplemented} by more exact and scientific methods, and the expenditure of half the money requisite to found a new township, would, in my opinion, go a long way towards removing the ill under which ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{country} suffers. I regard the site as admirably adapted for an experiment to show how much could be done to render it mosquito free.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. H. C.

Principal Medical Officer.

INCLOSURE No. 2

In Despatch No. 813 of 21.11.1912

C. O.
40524

REC'D
REQ 23 DEC 12

Kisumu,

Nyanza Province,

7th October, 1912.

173

Sir,

Reference No. S. 884 of the 18th July,
1912, re Mumiis Station.

I have the honour to report that in accordance with His Excellency's instructions I left Kisumu on the 15th August last in company with the Principal Medical Officer and the Director of Public Works, and during our stay at the Station, the general conditions were given every attention.

1. I attach hereto the Principal Medical Officer's report on the general conditions.

2. I have not received a report from the Director of Public Works.

3. From the point of view of Administration, Mumiis is a very convenient centre for dealing with the North Kavirondo district, and I know of no other point in the district which is better situated to meet this aspect of the requirements. The establishment of the Station has naturally caused it to become a centre aimed at by the various roads and tracks constructed in the country.

4. A fairly concentrated Station has been established to which, however, additions in the way of increased accommodation for officers is still necessary; also additional office accommodation is required. The existing gael accommodation was condemned some time ago, and as a consequence a new building has been sanctioned and has been commenced. Owing, however, to the causes which have resulted in the Principal Medical

HONOURABLE
THE CHIEF SECRETARY,
NAIROBI.

dical

(8)
Medical Officer's and this report the work on the building has been suspended when about one quarter completed.

6. The existing Station buildings are as follows:-

- (i) Residence for the District Commissioner. (This house needs raising some three or four feet. This work has been estimated for in the draft Estimates for 1918-14.)
- (ii) Two houses for Assistant District Commissioners. (Both of these buildings are inadequate, and at least one new house is necessary and has been estimated for.)
- (iii) Three houses for Clerical and Sub-Medical staff.
- (iv) One house now occupied by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. 178
- (v) One general store.
- (vi) Offices (not large enough and an extension for Court work is necessary. This is proposed to provide by converting the existing prison when the new prison is completed into a Court house.)
- (vii) Ammunition store.
- (viii) Post Office and quarters for Postmaster.
- (ix) Native Hospital and Dispensary.

In addition to what I have notified above, it will be necessary to provide a Police Office, and, if a Medical Officer is posted to the Station, a house for a Medical Officer. A few other minor works, already included in the Estimates, are also necessary particularly a protecting wall for the water supply.

7. As regards vested commercial interests the position is as follows:-

For years a temporary Trading bazaar has existed. A site for a permanent bazaar was surveyed nearly three years ago, and the plots disposed of. Owing, however, to the Medical Officer subsequently fearing that the creation of shops, &c., on the new site would contaminate, the water supply building on the plots was not proceeded with, and eventually a new bazaar site was selected and surveyed into plots. These plots have not yet been disposed of and so the matter stands at present. There are, therefore, no permanent commercial interests for consideration. *Muzias*

Medical Officer's and this report the work on the building has been suspended when about one quarter completed.

6. The existing Station buildings are as follows:-

- (i) Residence for the District Commissioner. (This house needs raising some three or four feet. This work has been estimated for in the draft Estimates for 1913-14.)
- (ii) Two houses for Assistant District Commissioners. (Both of these buildings are inadequate, and at least one new house is necessary and has been estimated for.)
- (iii) Three houses for Clerical and Sub-Medical staff.
- (iv) One house now occupied by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.
- (v) One general store.
- (vi) Offices (not large enough and an extension for Court work is necessary. This is proposed to provide by converting the existing prison when the new prison is completed into a Court house.)
- (vii) Ammunition store.
- (viii) Post Office and quarters for Postmaster.
- (ix) Native Hospital and Dispensary.

176

In addition to what I have notified above, it will be necessary to provide a Police Office, and, if a Medical Officer is posted to the Station, a house for a Medical Officer. A few other minor works, already included in the Estimates, are also necessary particularly a protecting wall for the water supply.

7. As regards vested commercial interests the position is as follows:-

For years a temporary Trading bazaar has existed. A site for a permanent bazaar was surveyed nearly three years ago, and the plots disposed of. Owing, however, to the Medical Officer subsequently fearing that the creation of shops, &c., on the new site would contaminate, the water supply building on the plots was not proceeded with, and eventually a new bazaar site was selected and surveyed into plots. These plots have not yet been disposed of and so the matter stands at present. There are, therefore, no permanent commercial interests for consideration. *Mumina*

Mumias has become a centre for trade. The removal of the Station, if such action is decided upon, need not necessarily interfere with any commercial prosperity.

The traders are, however, most anxious to have matters settled as regards a permanent bazaar site as all the existing shops and stores are of a purely temporary nature.

8. Personally I cannot realize that sufficient reasons exist or have been brought forward up to date for the removal of the Station.

9. There is, however, one matter that should be considered and that is the possible existence in the near future of a Railway from Kisumu through the North Kavirondo district. I have no idea at present as to the route such a line would follow. I understand that a preliminary investigation or a reconnaissance survey is being made. If Mumias should happen to be located at some distance from the proposed line of Railway, it might be necessary to reconsider the whole position from this point of view alone. On the other hand should the proposed line run to or near Mumias, this fact would to my mind point to the undoubted retention and further development of the Station. Pending information on this point, it might be advantageous to defer a final decision one way or another. I would, however, urge that the necessary information be obtained without any undue or unnecessary delay.

10. I would, however, like to suggest that even pending a final decision, the new gael buildings which have been commenced and considerably advanced be completed; they are urgently required. The material is all on the spot, and even though removal of the Station should be finally decided upon, it will mean that we shall be at Mumias for another three or four years during which time the inconveniences attending the present inadequate and condemned gael accommodation will be very considerable.

I would like to point out with regard to the health of staff employed at Mumias that I consider the present staff overworked. The district is a large and populous one, and its present Administration is a tax on the endurance of three officers. There is a population of close upon 50,000 people in the district, and constant visits are necessary. Increasing trade and revenue demand constant attention to duties. Officers who are normally entitled to 14 days leave a year pay the penalty of indulging in such leave by the necessity of having to make up for their absence. The ever increasing prosperity of all these districts demands increased duties for the staff generally.

178

It is proposed to establish next year a sub-district station on the Elgon Slopes at an altitude of about 6,000 feet provided the staff in North Kavirondo is maintained at four officers. I am of the opinion that by working changes between the two stations, the general health should be satisfactory.

I am of the opinion that a Medical Officer should be permanently stationed in the North Kavirondo district.

I consider that all the residences in Mumias should be raised off the ground.

I attach a general plan of Mumias which I have had prepared showing the Station, the new site for the bazaar, and general features. Any necessary remarks are added on the plan.

The more healthy areas of the North Kavirondo district are as follows:-

Kakemaga marked "A" on map attached

The South-Eastern slopes } marked B
of Elgon } -----

These places, are, however, not central enough for general Administration work. Of the remaining areas there is not

is not, in my opinion, sufficient merits in their favour to make it worth while considering them as sites worth involving us in the removal of an existing Station.

17. I have estimated for a small Conservancy staff and necessary equipment for 1913-1914.

18. I think that continued cultivation of the swampy mullaha near the Station on the lines now being conducted will tend to still further reduce the mosquito evil.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

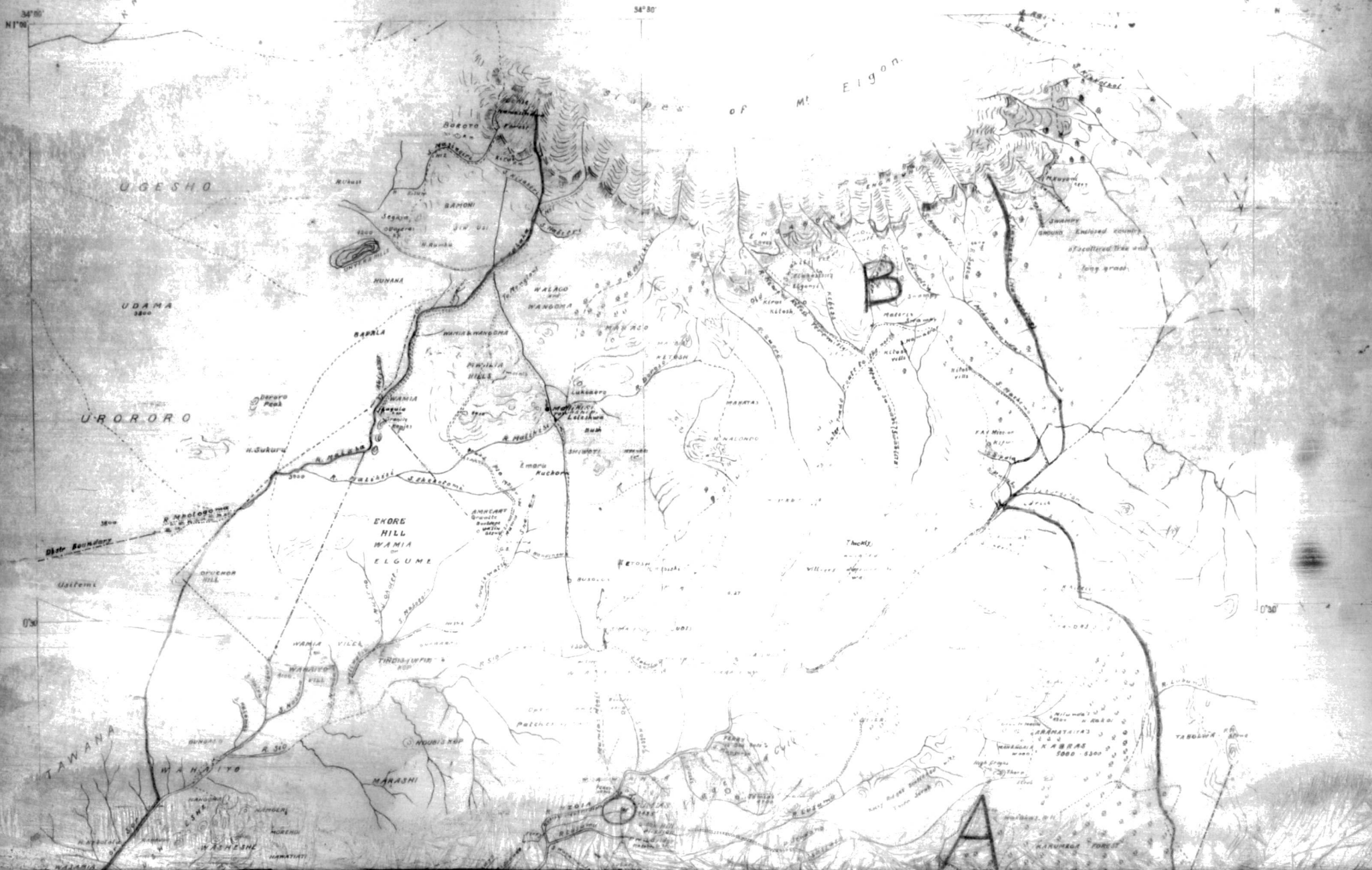
173

JOHN AINSWORTH,
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER,
NIGERIA.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

AFRICA 1 : 250,000

(PROVISIONAL) SHEET 86-W



Gov. 40324/1912

E.A.P.

134

sent to 45 pm
\$ 1/1

DRAFT Telegram

Southern Nairobi

~~E.A.P.~~ No

Jan

MINUTE.

- Mr. Downes //
- Mr. Bottomley / fs.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

unresting
 1 Your despatch of 21st November
 873 minutes of last parliament
 Now good completion
~~proposed~~ ~~proposed~~ ~~proposed~~ ~~proposed~~ ~~proposed~~
 authorized. 1 Despatch with

~~part~~ ~~follow~~ on the general
 question of revitalize
 on question of retention of
 of the site.

Harcourt.

two p.m.

G. D.
R. 3 JAN
D. 7

~~SO~~
H

ms d 9320

DRAFT.

East Afr Protectorate No 24

8 January 1913

General H C Kelfield Esq C M G

Sir,

MINUTE.

Mr. Downie 4

Mr. Bottomley 3

Mr. Read 3
Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

[Handwritten flourish]

40524

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 43 of the 21st of November and to confirm my telegram of the 1st of January, in which I informed you that I approved of the completion of the new gate, now practically completed at Msumar. I am by no means satisfied that with regard to

Papers to be circulated when D. Milnes arrives in the country

H. J. K.
5/4/13

to the general question of
the extension of the present
site, I am by no means
satisfied that the present
situation of Drummie is
satisfactory; but before
^{going} making any definite proposi-
tion on the subject I
should prefer to consult
with Dr. Miller, on his
arrival in England.

3. ~~Proposed~~ In the meantime
I should be glad to know
whether the reconnaissance
survey for a railway, referred
to in para. 9 of Dr.
Ainsworth's report, contained
in your despatch under acknowl-
edgment, is actually in progress.
Since it should be decided

to abandon the present site
of Drummie it would be
~~very~~ desirable that the
new station should be as
close as possible to the
track of the future railway.

I have