

EAST AFR. PROT.

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CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS
REMOVAL FROM MOMBASA TO KILINDINI

Reports as to Mombasa will still be used by vessels trading with India and the Persian Gulf. States as to the necessity of stationing an experienced officer there. Proposes to create new appt of Collector of Customs at Mombasa on £250 by £15 to £400. If this is approved considers European Staff of the Dept should be able to cope for some time with the rapidly developing trade.

Mr. Read.

I am enclosing copy of this in Est^s Memo. for Treasury. Things have got rather tangled. The Deputy Chiefship (No. 4) has provided in 1912-13 Est^s has never been filled and his Mr. Read's salary as an Asst. has apparently been paid ~~from~~ from the provision. Presumably the intention was to give him the new post (D.C.). Then, instead, he was destined for the new Customs Office, and his resignation, will go to a junior man as regards No. 41236, which covered the second version of the Estimates, it merely promised this further disp. The reduction of the P.W. vote on this ground will not I should be necessary. Will call Est^s are settled.

W.R.S.

App. on Est. 1913-14
Bd of Customs asked to
Recommend a candidate
on 30/6348/13 Est

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 889.

December 23rd, 1912.

Sir,

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I have the honour to address you on the subject of the removal of the headquarters of the Customs from Mombasa to Kilindini, alluded to in Mr. Bowring's despatch No. 678 of the 28th of September, wherein he submitted certain proposals for the improvement of the latter port, and sanctioned in your telegram dated the 31st of October.

2. As the result of this change, the major portion of the imports and exports will of course be handled at Kilindini, but at the same time Mombasa Port will, as formerly, be utilized by vessels trading with India and the Persian Gulf, in addition to dhows and coastwise steamers. To point out the importance of this trade I may mention that in 1911-12 the number of steamers entering

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

entering Mombasa Harbour from Indian ports alone was over 100, the number of passengers being nearly 6,000 and the cargo discharged amounting to some 12,500 tons.

3. It will be clear therefore that to close down the port of Mombasa at the present stage would cause such congestion at Kilindini as could not be efficiently dealt with even by the proposed additional staff, and the advisability of appointing an experienced officer to supervise the trade at what will in future be the branch Customs office at Mombasa is I think equally clear. The position will be one of considerable responsibility and the services of a qualified and trustworthy European officer are essential.

4. I propose therefore to create the new appointment of Collector of Customs at Mombasa Port, at a pensionable salary of £250 per annum rising by annual increments of £15 to £400. I have informed you in my Confidential despatch No.133 of December 8th that funds for the post will be met by a reduction on the Vote for New Roads and Bridges. If this proposal meets with your approval, the European staff of the Department, strengthened as it will be by the presence of a Deputy Chief of Customs, three Assistants, and three Preventive Officers, should be complete and able to cope for some time to come with our rapidly developing trade. This appointment will

conduce

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conduce to better supervision and more speedy handling of goods, and I am convinced that the increased revenue accruing therefrom will prove my proposal justifiable.

5. In my despatch No.133 Confidential of the 6th of December Vote 8. Customs Department I stated that the salary attaching to the post should be £300 by £10 to £400 per annum. The circumstances are however now altered owing to Mr.Muir's resignation, which I have reported in another despatch, and I consider the salary mentioned in paragraph 4 to be adequate for the present.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Bejred

GOVERNOR.

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