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EAST AFR. PROT



16318

G.O.  
 10013  
 102  
 3/20

atching, R.

Date. 1912

FOREST POLICY

Friday

Submits views. Calls attention to the cession of the Northern Mau Forest to Capt. Grogan and strongly urges that it be redeemed at whatever cost. Remarks as to forsters cottages and free grants of timber to settlers.

previous Paper.

No 15484  
 No 24539

Grogan comes...

have or

Mr. G. Forder

Mr. Hutchins is a fanatic in forest matters & I think that his letter must be taken 'cum grano', especially the statement that we have given Capt. Grogan £500,000 in free timber. I tried to lead him off from sending in this letter, but he apparently had some idea of getting Mr. Ramsey involved in the matter & the letter is probably... preferable.

1007 sent to 318 of...

subsequent Paper

No 21407

H. J. R.  
 28/12  
 1007 sent to 318 of...

EXTRACT FROM SIR P. GIBBOURD'S REPORT DATED 19TH FEBRUARY 1912

(A) Forestry.

In my last report I made certain recommendations with regard to this Department—

- (1) The abolition of the appointment of Chief Conservator.

This has now been carried out.

- (2) That the first duty of the Forestry Department should be that of making its boundaries known without elaborate surveys and of protecting the existing forests.

This has been acted on largely, more particularly in the native reserves. The whole of the Kenia and Aberdare Forests are now more or less accurately bounded by means of cut roads. A certain number of the forest guards have been replaced by spearmen of the tribes themselves who are paid out of the Forest vote.

- (3) The forest and native reserves to be under the Provincial authorities. All foresters to be a disciplined body of men attached to the police.

The Secretary of State, in communicating his general approval of this, called attention to the fact that the word "foresters" had been used when "forest guards" was intended. This is the case. It has not now been found necessary to place foresters or even forest guards under the Provincial authorities as the Department and the former are now working in complete harmony.

- (4) was withdrawn.

- (5) provided for the delimitation and re-afforestation by the planting up of wattle, &c., of areas deforested for the fuel supply of the Uganda Railway.

This is being acted upon.

- (6) and (7) provided for the abandonment of the growing of teak and the restriction of experiments in conifers.

This is being acted upon.

- (8) It was suggested that the Forestry should be attached to the Agricultural Department.

This proposal was subsequently abandoned. The Forestry Department, which threatened two years ago to land us in an expenditure of £20,000 per annum, has now been restricted to £9,000 by the efforts of the Conservator. I do not see any reason for any early rapid expansion of the expenditure.

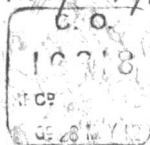
16318



139

85 Church Road  
Richmond

25<sup>th</sup> May 1912



The Under Secretary of State  
for the Colonies.

Sir,

With reference to my interview with Mr. Read on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., I have the honor to invite your attention to the present position of Forestry in British East Africa. Since leaving British East Africa, I have had the advantage of discussing Forestry in British East Africa, with experts, both in South Africa and in England. Grave fears have been expressed that the adoption of a retrograde forest policy in British East Africa will imperil not only the existing forests, but the whole future well-being of the country! Speaking in the House of Lords on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1905, the Earl of Elgin (Secretary of State for the Colonies) said: —  
"The forests are of immense value, not only in themselves but to the water-supply of the country."  
For the last eight years, the Uganda Railway has been run entirely on woodfuel supplied from the forest through which it passes. It is particularly important to

preserve the forest for the use of the Uganda Railway, as regards wood and water. In South Africa, land joining the Railways, has been specially acquired, and is being planted up, at great cost, with timber trees. It is especially the forest near the Uganda Railway which ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> being placed in so grave a situation of peril.

About £80,000 (up to the close of the current financial year) has been spent on the exploration, survey, demarcation, fire-protection, replanting and general supervision of the Govt forest in British East Africa: the major portion of this expenditure on the forests bordering the Uganda Railway.

I invite particular attention to the following:— apparently about half a million (£500,000) has been given to Capt. E. Grogan in forest rates with thecession of the "Northern Main" forest: together with all the Government expenditure on this forest; for planting, survey, and administration. The £500,000 represents the difference between the timber rates granted to Capt. Grogan, and the current <sup>timber</sup> rates in force for many years in this and in the other Govt forests.

It is most important to preserve this forest for the use of the Uganda Railway. It has already yielded an enormous quantity of timber, but could produce treble this quantity, in the future, if properly managed. In this

connection, it is worth bearing in mind, that the yield of the Prussian forest, under cultivation, trebled in value between 1830 and 1894! 141

Capt. Grogan's original concession embraced no forest adjoining the Uganda Railway. I understand that the recent negotiations with Capt. Grogan are not yet closed; and I strongly recommend that the opportunity be taken to redeem, at whatever cost, the concession of the "Northern Man" Forest.

The procedure in forest demarcations in British East Africa generally has been altered so as to leave the "margin" on the wrong side. The natural edge of the forest, so necessary for its fire-protection — the "fire-belt", is being cut off; together with the glades of grassland required to afford grazing for cattle in the future working of the forest. Projecting pieces of forest are also being cut off.

This procedure means a considerable loss of forest area and the putting of the remainder in danger from fire, to some extent. With only 3% of the area of the country under forest, the "margin" should obviously be on the forest side.

I understand that plantations have been started at Nakuru & Mukoroni, alongside the railway, where  
— very

my consideration requires that they should be vigorously prosecuted.

142

In H/S the Governor's speech, as reported in the "East Afr. Standard" it is stated that there will be a "saving" of £12,000 on the small forest expenditure of £12,000. The forest expenditure is already below the forest revenue which is not the correct position in a young country where everything has to be done to develop and organize the national forest estate.

When I left, <sup>plans</sup> the building of Foresters' cottages was being stopped. In 1907, at my suggestion, you sent out a despatch for this necessary work to be put through with the least possible delay. Much has been done, but the work remains unfinished. It should be noted that the German Govt. over the border are giving their Foresters better cottages than the Forest Dept. in British East Afr. has even asked for.

Before I left, the application by the General Manager of the Uganda Railway for 15 SS miles beyond K. Isipori was refused, in spite of the good timber-producing results obtained by the Forest Dept. in this area.

The free grants of timber to settlers which required limiting

4-2-11-28: not finished

...ing, defining, and ~~and~~ curtailing, as the country  
developed; have, on the contrary, been extended from  
(or 3 years in certain cases) to 5 years. Mr. Poiry's  
... helped himself to £200 worth of Govt Cedar  
timber and then got his free-permit extended! Vide  
... reports of Land Board meetings. 143

It has been stated that the breaking up of the  
Forest Dept. in British East Africa, by placing its  
staff under the Magistrate (Administration) is in  
contemplation.

In conclusion I may invite attention to three measures  
required for the successful prosecution of Forestry in  
British East Africa:—

Account to be kept so as to show the real forest  
revenue; not the cash revenue only.

No more forest to be alienated under any circumstance.

Resol. to be made to work the forests.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

Edut chimis

Edut chimis

C. D.  
R. 31  
D. 21

# 16318 2  
E.C.P. 111

522

31 May 1902

DRAFT

Hatchings, Esq.

Sir,  
I am to ask the

receipt of your letter of the  
25th of May relative to the  
Forest policy in the E.C.P.  
to inform you that it will  
be considered in consultation  
with the Govt of the Forest

- MINUTE.
- Mr. Vernon 30/✓
  - Mr. Butler 31 ✓
  - Mr. Fiddes.
  - Sir H. Just.
  - Sir J. Anderson.
  - Lord Emmott.
  - Mr. Harcourt.

Copy to 318. 31 May 1902

house