

DESPATCH



EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 11819

11810
PAGE 3 APR. 07

209

Government No.
Johnson 37
1907
May 5
Last previous Paper
6297

(Subject)
Kenia Forest
Technical + Climatic Valuation
To report by Mr D S [unclear]

PRINTED FOR PARLIAMENT
Colonial Reports - Kenya
1907

Mr. Antrobus

(Minutes.)

This is a report by one of the ablest forest officers in the world & must therefore carry great weight.

He says that the forest extends to a belt some 287 miles long & 8 miles broad entirely round the slopes of Mount Kenya, & he computes the area of timber forest apparently at about 1,000,000 acres. He has only seen the Southern half amounting of about 500,000 acres.

It will be seen from p. 14-25 that he has been at considerable pains to test & value the southern portion of the forest & assuming that the northern portion of it is on the whole of equal value, he gives (p. 26) £23,000,000 as the total value of the timber in the forest.

Earl of Warwick informed April
Capt. [unclear] 28 May 1907
and [unclear] 203 29 May 1907

Next subsequent Paper

11920
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1645

Kenia forest. Even allowing for a considerable
reduction of the figure it is obvious that we
have in the forest an asset of very large value,
which ought to be disposed of without careful
consideration.

The forest contains Cedar, the valuable tree
being the chief feature in the Western Kenia
forest. (p. 31) Mr. Hutchins says "With
the exception of brittleness, the Cedar
of the B. E. A. P. is a timber of great
value + one of the finest cedars, if not
the finest, in the world. ----"

The forest also contains various other valuable
timbers, such as Yellow wood, Iron wood,
Iron tree, etc., of which there is a
most interesting account at p. 32-48
of the report.

In addition to the 1,000,000 acres of
timber forest, Mr. Hutchins estimates that
there are at least 700,000 acres
of bamboo forest on the slopes of Kenia.

He fears that it has little present importance
at Kenia in view of the large areas of more
accessible bamboo elsewhere in the
Part II, but he is going to discuss the question
of its utilization in a further report.

There is also a possibility of a trade with S. Africa in moss (p. 51)
With regard to the question of transport
for the timber, Mr. H. says that a railway
from Mount Kenia via Fort Hall to
Nairobi would involve the construction of
about 90 miles of railway, that it would have
easy gradients that would pass over comparatively
dry & thinly inhabited country.

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5
The movements of a feasible track can be found, a railway from Kikaya (station on the Uganda railway a little to the west of Nairobi) along the foot of the abundant range to the forest. The distance in a straight line is 55 miles. He says that a railway along this route would act as a direct feeder in labour & provisions to the forest until local supplies were forthcoming in the equally fertile Kenya country, that before long there would probably be developed sufficient vehicle traffic to pay interest on the line apart from the timber traffic that is part of the Uganda railway after it leaves the Coast traverses country so thickly populated & that the railway would be of the utmost importance to a scheme (discussed elsewhere in his report) for establishing a zone of white settlers along the base of the forest country between the forest & the natives. Incidentally, these remarks by Mr. Hutchins throw doubt on the soundness of Lord Kitching, Sir E. Dyer, & Mr. James' scheme for a railway from Nairobi to Fort Hall. This has been gone into more fully on another paper.

at p. 53-55. Mr. Hutchins discusses the question of the rate to be charged for timber suggests that a through rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton per mile should be offered to

my company taking up the working of
the Kenya timber. The answer that the
Govt. are going to construct the line on
any case, we must have what the
General manager has to say on the
subject.

It appears from p. 55-56 that floating
the Kenya timber down the Tana river
is not a feasible alternative to
the railway scheme would involve the
construction of some 200 miles of
railway or tramway, or operations
expensive to make the river navigable.
In a distance of 300 miles from the
Coast there appears to be no difficulty
in floating timber down the Tana.
In view of the length of railway to
be constructed this seems to be a
less costly scheme than the other.

There appears to be a good prospect of
getting sufficient labour to work
the forest (p. 57-58), & W. N. gives on the whole,
an excellent account of the climate. -
Tana is unknown except either
Surveys or materials.

At p. 75 he says "I consider it of the
utmost importance from a climatic point
of view that the whole of the Kenya
forest should be preserved intact as a
water-bearing area. To allow the Kenya forest to
be destroyed would be an irreparable national
disaster almost unequalled in history. The



secret forested area. catastrophe
could be perhaps the destruction of the
Kenya forest which followed the
advent of the Europeans. It seems
but suggested, but it is shown that
we shall have to take proper precautions
to ensure that the forest is not cut on
thoroughly sound lines.

At p. 77-80 he discusses the question of
the working of the forest. At the very
beginning he says: -

"To ensure the Kenya forest against
destruction, but one course can be
followed. It must remain government
forest, in charge of the Forest Dept., &
only trees which are incidentally fit to
be felled & are marked as such by
the Forest Dept. should be allowed to
be cut. It might be considered that
this reservation would hamper the commercial
working of the timber, but this is not so.
Forest & Range has been worked consistently
on these lines for the last 300 years
& I do not see how we can afford
to ignore ^{ignore} so emphatic an expression of opinion
from so distinguished an expert. Such being
the case it is desirable that
arrangements should be made to
maintain the forest in a state of
preservation to ensure the supply of
timber for the Government of Kenya
Forest.

This

The maps as to the applications made
by Lord Warwick & Mr. Norton Jervis
for a lease of 100,000 acres each
of the Kaimi Forest. With regard
to these applications Mr. Pritchard
says that his description of the
forest applied for is vague &
unsatisfactory, that some of the best
forest is not embraced in the
applications, & that in the Western
District most of the area applied for
contains no forest. He is of opinion,
however, that these Syndicates, in their
view, to open up the country & work
the forest should be encouraged
to the utmost extent compatible with
the preservation of the forest, & with
this view, he recommends that public
tenders should be invited for the sale
of the exploitable timber standing
on 400,000 acres in 4 blocks
of 100,000 acres each, the purchaser
of the timber & each of these blocks
having the right to select his block
within certain areas which Mr. H.
defines at p. 79.

It is now time to one of the most important
sections of the Report. The terms which
Mr. H. proposes sh. be granted to

Concessionaires. These are ^{to be} as follows:-

(1) Rents payable for timber shall be on the
scale of

1 Anna per cubic foot for Cedar, Amphor,
Yellow-wood & Poon

$\frac{1}{2}$ Anna per cubic foot for all other timbers

The above rates to be in force for 3 years from
the date of signing leases, double rates for
the further term of 3 years, treble rates, & so on
until expiration of lease.

The low rates fixed for the first 3 years
are to encourage a budding enterprise & encourage
some extent the heavy initial outlay.

These prices are for the timber as it
stands in the forest measured by the
Forest Dept.

(2) Only trees marked as exploitable by the
Forest Dept. can be felled by the licensee.

This is considered essential & it is anticipated
that the effect of this provision will be
not only to preserve the forest but partly
to improve it.

(3) All trees marked for felling must be
felled or killed by ringing, unless
specially exempted.

This is to meet the danger of a superabundant
regeneration of inferior species &c.

(4) The felling areas will, as far as possible,
be selected to suit the convenience of the
licensees. What is to say, the most accessible
& valuable forest will be first marked
for working.

(5) The lessee must declare his intention to work the exploitable timber in any Section at least 2 months previous to the date fixed for beginning working.

The Joint Dept. shall be considered to have exercised due diligence if the timber marking be done at the rate of 5000 acres per month or.

(6) When once a felling section has had the exploitable timber marked, no second felling section will be marked till the whole of the exploitable timber in the first has been cut.

(7) The successful tenderer will be required to pay 10% of the amount tendered as security for the working of the forest or a deposit of £20,000 (whichever sum may be the greater). The deposit to be forfeited if work is not begun ^{within} 2 years from date of lease.

(8) All timber must be felled by Section by Section.

- (9) The minimum pay^t in any one year may not be less than
- £ 2,000 a year - 1st 3 years
 - £ 4,000 a year - 2nd 3 years
 - £ 6,000 a year thereafter

This would involve the working of only about 400 acres with a stocking as low as 1,200.

(10) The lease to be for 20 years. This gives the lessee ample time to work the exploitable timber on his 100,000 acres.

Inter alia these provisions are directed against those who are engaged in the forest, with no hope of seeing their rights at a profit.

H. J. R.
Hatchings is now in country & accept the lease for about 1075

(11) The lessee to have first refusal of timber near his leased ground or of forest produce within his leased ground.

(12) No lessee shall cut or remove any timber within any leased forest until his selected area of 100,000 acres has been surveyed by a licensed forest surveyor & the boundaries & plan accepted by the Comm^r of Lands.

Mr. H. says that there can be no beginning of systematic work till after the area has been surveyed.

These provisions seem to me to be eminently sound & reasonable.

Mr. Hatchings' report concludes his report with a short account of the route which he followed.

It now remains for us to consider what action should be taken on the report.

(A) Mr. Hatchings has applied for the vacant app^t of Conservator of Forests, & a let: has been sent to the fore of the Cape telling him to offer the app^t to him & saying that, if he accepts, he should proceed to the Post^o as soon as practicable. This is obviously the first step to be taken. It will be seen from p. 8 & 9, what damage has been done

to the Forest by fire & has estimated
it is to have the remedial measures
recommended by Mr H. brought into
force as soon as possible under his
personal direction.

(B) We must now send an answer
to Lord Warwick & Mr Justice Deane.

I do not suppose that it is proposed to
consider seriously their claim to
preferential treatment on the ground
of having discovered (as they say)

the forest, but it may be well to
dispose of that claim once & for all. If
by discovery they mean the finding
of something hitherto unknown to

Europeans their position is untenable,
for Mr Deakin, the Director of the
London School of Economics, passed through
the forest some years ago when he
made the ascent of Mount Kenya
& it did not occur to him to collect
within easy reach of the forest for
a considerable time. If by discovery

they mean that they have tested
the value of the forest, Deane did not
see any work was done & it is only
necessary to refer to what is stated in
the earlier part of the minute viz. that
Mr H. says that the description of the forest
applied for is vague & unsatisfactory that some
of the best forest is not embraced in the

stems
plotted
said
first
part
of the
at night
&
at that

applications & that on the Western side
west of the area applied for contains
no forest - [Mr Deane & I have just
seen Mr Deane & find that he does not
claim to have spent more than £4,000 or
£5,000 in exploring the forest, so that this
is a small matter in any case.]

I think that it will be sufficient to
write saying that Mr Hutchins' report has
been received, that it is a long one &
requires careful review but that Lord
Selkirk may say at once that in view of Mr
Hutchins' will let them know as soon
as practicable the conditions on which
he is prepared to grant concessions
for timber-felling in the Forest.

We should send a similar reply to Mr Ogle
(12594)

(C) If Lord Selkirk approves of Mr
Hutchins' recommendations, we must
consider what steps should be taken to
carry them into effect.

The report is being printed & as
soon as copies are available, we might
go through it (possibly with Prof.
Deane & the Green report) & eliminate
any matter which is superfluous (such as the
account of Mr Hutchins' visit) or which
ought not to be published (such as Mr H's
views

views regarding railway rates for timber,
leaving practically the description of
the forest & the woods & the terms
proposed for grants, which the latter of
which might be embodied in a
formal offer. We could then
ask the public to bring the up
to the notice of the public both here
+ in Canada, among the proper
channels, & to invite offers for leases
the timber-felling rights in
the blocks of 100,000 acres.

(2) The main of the whole business
seems to be the transport of
the timber from the forest to the
Coast. As the Trans. Co. scheme
involves the construction of 200 miles
of Railway, I am afraid that it will
have to be dropped. There remains the
question of connecting the forest
with the Ufganda railway by another
line, the junction being at Nanda or
somewhere in its neighbourhood. We
were told by Mr. Hunter from this
morning that the route proposed by Mr.
Hutchins was a very difficult one &
that case, the branch line might have
to go via Fort Hall & we cannot reckon
on having to construct less than 100
miles of it. I think that it is useless
for us to contemplate the possibility of

not is actually
supported the
by saying the
scheme is safe
by Mr. Hutchins
statements. H.P.R.

of constructing this line ourselves. Well
Assuming that a rough-and-ready line
can be constructed ^{at a cost} for £3,000,000, with
we should have to find £300,000 &
it would take us 3 or 4 years to
accumulate this amount from Ufganda
railway surpluses. Moreover, I think that
our scheme for railway extension in Ufganda
is a one promising one. There seems to be
a prospect therefore of our being able to
find the money from railway surpluses &
I do not think that there is the faintest
chance of the Treasury giving it or lending
it to us. The railway must accordingly
be constructed by private enterprise. In
vising our advice to the public I
think that we should indicate this
& perhaps say something as to
what the Govt. would be prepared to do -
e.g. give them ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~land~~ ^{land} ~~required~~ ^{required} any unoccupied
land required for the railway, subject to
the Govt. approval of the route to be
followed, the place of junction with the
Ufganda railway, or - treating the
line in fact on the same basis as
the proposed branch to the Soda Lake
- also, if necessary, give them favourable
rates on the Ufganda railway for a
certain term, remit the rent for
certain period or - but not give

a land grant which would probably
be only used for more company - merging
purposes. If we succeed in floating
off the 4 blocks of 100,000 acres,
the Co. Company might continue to
build the railway & the share of
the expenses to be borne by Govt
would not in that case be very
great.

(E) Assuming that the line is to
be built by private enterprise, we
ought to get Mr. Curzon's views as to
whether the $\frac{1}{4}$ rate recommended
by Mr. Hutchins, could be
given on the Uganda railway.
We ought also to get a
map from the Colony showing
roughly the 4 blocks of
100,000 acres described by
Mr. Hutchins, & I think that an
explanatory plan ought to be issued
to the public with the other info.
It will be seen from (12) above that
the areas will have to be accurately
surveyed before work can be begun, but
I think that this can wait until
matters have progressed somewhat further.
The railway would take some time
to build.

N.S.R. 12/4

This is most interesting and
useful.

We may, I think, adopt
Mr. Hutchins's proposals without
hesitation, and I agree
with Mr. Read in thinking
that the report, with certain
amendments, might be pub-
lished at once. I would
not, however, do more than
this to advertise the forest,
until Mr. Hutchins has
taken up his appointment
and some progress has been
made in the organisation
of the department.

But the forest cannot be
worked without a railway,
and the question is how the
necessary capital could best
be raised. I wish that we
could devise some way of
raising it on the security
of the Protectorate, but I
am afraid that that is
impossible so long as the
revenue has to be supplied

wanted by a Parl: Grant.

Wed. M. 19.

The Committee

on Finance

Very interesting .. Proceed as
at B in the Board
minutes & then recommend
for further consideration.

J. H. R.
22.4

be sure that the Treasury take direct responsibility for
any failure to build the line as a Government line.
to cooperate with the Great Report printers.
W. 22.4

I decidedly endorse the opinion that
this first report remain in Gov. hands.

Proceed as in Sir J. Harcourt's minute
22.4

W. Hutchins.

I enclose the papers for
further consideration of the minutes
as directed above.

H. J. R.

W. J. Brown called ^{11/5} the
other day. He is very anxious
that we should publish as much as
we properly can of Sir J. Harcourt's
report.

Wed. May 1.

Lad Elgin
has told
Frederic that
Lad see his
his friends
a party 19th or
D.H. 9

ment by a Parl: Great.

Wed. M. 19.

The Committee
Lod. Reg.

Very interesting .. Proceed as
at B. in the Report
minutes to the Committee
for further consideration.

J.H.
22.4

be sure that the Treasury take direct responsibility for
any failure to build the line as a Government line.
to cooperate with the Forest Report printers.
M. 22.4

I decidedly prefer to discuss that
the first report remain in Gov. hands.

Proceed as in Sir J. H. [unclear] minute

22.4

to [unclear].
I recommend the papers for
further consideration of the minutes
as directed above.

H. J. R.

15
Mr. In. Brown called the
other day. He is very anxious
that we should publish as much as
we properly can of Mr. Hutchins's
report.

M. M. 1.

Lord Elphinstone
has told
Frederick that
I will see [unclear]
his friends
at [unclear] 19th or
20th.

11
11819
REGD 3 APR 07

Commissioner's Office

Nairobi,

March 24th 1907.



AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 37

(Encl. 1.)

My Lord,

With reference to my telegram No. 31 of today's date and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to enclose herewith an interesting report on the technical and climatic value of the Kenya Forest by Mr. D. A. Hutchins.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

Acting Commissioner,

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

LONDON, S. W.

~~2 copies~~

30th April 1907

Indexed

DRAFT

The Earl of Warwick

MINUTE

- Mr. McManis 29/4
- Mr. Reed 30
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus 30
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Mr. Churchill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

By hand,
With reference to
the letter for the Dept
of the 14th of August last,
& on the subject of your
application and that of
Mr. Newton Freeman for
concessions of forest
land in the Kenya Province
of the E.A.P., I am directed
by the Lord of Elgin to
inform you that Mr.
Hutchins' report on the
Kenia Forests has now
been received.

2. The report is a long
one and requires careful
Govt consideration, but
Lord Elgin is satisfied
that provisions of Mr.
Hutchins' report are

B
Copy for 303 29 May 1907

simulate

10/11/25/26

agreed upon the
forest must remain
just property forest in
charge of the Forest Dept.

3. Lord Ly. will inf.
your Lordship and the
Revenue as soon as possible
of the conditions on which
has prepared to grant
concessions for timber-
filling in the hinterland
and will be granted.

R.R.

C.D.
5
5

11819

E.A.F.

13

DRAFT. Printing

Secretary
Treasury

R.R. 7/11/07
no. 5
revised instructions.

Friday
5th July 1907

Amud 248/6

Sir with ref to the letter
from the Dep^y of the 28th of May
last, ~~where~~ I am
instructed by the ESJ to
request that the
~~concessions~~ Lands Com^{rs}
of the Treasury may be
moved to consent to the
printing of further
supply of 300 copies
of Mr D.E. Hutchins
Report on the Brit
E. A. Forests, Russell's 41
1907, being printed by
the Stationery Office in
~~the Stationery Office~~
~~at the Stationery Office~~
since the

number originally
printed has proved
to be insufficient
to meet the demand.

~~The report
on the
development of the
E.A.P. and its
economic products
and L.A. 2 anticipates
a ready sale for
the report in the
country and S.A.~~

2. L.A. 2 does not anticipate
any difficulty in
disposing of the
additional number
of copies referred to
in regard of the

~~number~~
number of individuals
public bodies
and ~~institutions~~ in the
country and in S. and
E.A. who are interested
in the development of
B.E.A. and its economic
products.

late
Q.L.A.