

EAST AFR. PROT  
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Governor  
Field 641

EUROPEAN CEMETERIES

1914

7th July

Reports as to arrangements for care of graves.  
Provision will be made in 195-6 Estimates for Govern-  
ment contribution.

Last previous Paper.  
6. of 6.  
11064  
Mga

Dr. G. Fiddes.

I think that the matter  
might rest until it is raised  
again by Mr. Brown or Mr. James  
Williams.

Put by

H. J. R.

578714

alone

Put by

Subsequent Paper.

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

No. 641.

July 7th, 1914.

23604

Sir,

*Handwritten:*  
H. of the  
M. O. B. H.  
Uga.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 396 of the 28th of April on the subject of the care of European cemeteries in this Protectorate.

2. With regard to the cemetery at Mombasa, the statement of Mr. Monier-Williams is not quite correct. This cemetery has always been attended to by the Conservancy Department and four grave diggers attached to the staff are employed to keep it clean and the graves tidy. As can only be expected however, in a seaport possessing the cosmopolitan characteristics of Mombasa, cases occur from time to time where deceased persons leave no estate, and the League of Mercy accordingly undertook to appeal to the more richly endowed relatives and friends of those buried in the cemetery for subscriptions to allow of some memorial being erected over the graves

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR H. H. CECIL, B. C., M. P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

graves of the poor. No other reason exists for asking for contributions, as little or no expense is incurred by the maintenance of a headstone or monument when properly erected. As no funds have hitherto been available it has not been possible to undertake such work as re-lettering or re-gilding, but the stones and monuments are periodically cleaned by the staff.

3. With regard to Nairobi, it was never intended to suggest that the Municipality have neglected their responsibility in the upkeep of the cemetery. The Municipality exercises general control in such matters as the alignment and allocation of graves, the erection of numbered stone pegs for purposes of identification, the maintenance of paths and walls, weeding and cleaning, etc. A Municipal Inspector also attends all funerals. The work left to private persons is the care of graves and tombstones, and is carried out by relatives and friends or by the League of Mercy at the request of those who are unable to attend to such matters themselves, and on behalf of those deceased persons who have no relatives in the country. Permission has been given to the League of Mercy to plant trees and flowers and water has been laid on in order to assist them in this work. The Government is responsible for the upkeep of  
the

the way, and leading to the cemetery but otherwise incurs no expense.

4. At Klamu the care of the cemetery is part of the duties of the Administration. The Provincial Commissioner has already arranged for a sum to be set aside every month for the payment of labourers who are under the supervision of the Superintendent of Conservancy and carry out such duties as he may think necessary to keep the graves in a proper condition. Ornamental shrubs are also being planted along the paths.

5. In the cemetery at Nakuru there are 27 graves, 20 of which have either headstones or stone enclosures in good condition. The enclosure is surrounded by a galvanized iron fence. All graves are tended by station hands, especially detailed for the purpose, who are paid by the Administration. The roads of approach and the cemetery itself are reported to be in good order.

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of your despatch I agree that some specific provision should be made by the Government as a contribution in aid of the maintenance of cemeteries and I will take the necessary action in connection with next year's estimates.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your humble, obedient servant,

*H. Conway Bayfield*

GOVERNOR.