

EAST AFR. PROT

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36063

Governor  
Field 767

COCONUT INDUSTRY

1914

14th August

next previous Paper.

Trs 6 copies of Report by Commission apptd to inquire into and report on condition and to offer recommendation as to ameliorative measures. Asks authority to incorporate recommendations in draft Bill. Submits proposals as to provision in 1915-6 Estimates and requests telegraphic approval.

260903

~~Mr. J. G. Fildes~~  
Mr. J. G. Fildes

This is certainly an excellent report in the way of arrangement and completeness in itself and the number of the Commission should be

Yes. H. J. R. complicated?

As regards the proposals:

1. Rate of coconuts The arrangements proposed for the registration of plantations & licensing of dealers seem sound and the fees are light. As regards the system of uniform registration fees for plantations of above or below 20 palms, I notice that Mr. Beunworth Dickson (p. 99), considers that this will lead to the absorption of small or large estates & that subdivision of small estates will lead to splitting up. The accuracy of his views depends on the size of the fee, & with a fee so small as is proposed there should be no danger of evasions such as he anticipates. As regards the licence: the suggestion that

Unrecd. Oct. 26 Sept 14.  
Copy Report to Sir J. B. White, com. - 29 Sept 14  
Mr. J. G. Fildes  
T. W. A. 921- copy above sent - 9 Oct 14 57/8/14

next subsequent Paper.

260903

licensed dealers should purchase from registered  
owners only, raising the question of the  
redemption. If all middlemen are agents,  
well & paid, but if not (or it is not likely),  
how one could be able to buy from them. In fact,  
it would appear that of the few categories  
set out in the bottom of p. 2 & the top of p. 3,  
most would be out of a job because, <sup>as they would</sup> ~~they would~~  
<sup>not be</sup> ~~could be~~ registered owners, so one could  
buy from them. The intention must be that  
licensed dealers could purchase from registered owners  
or from other licensed dealers only?

The review of the Kanda or local Council  
system of dealing with thieves should be  
approved? It has already been tried in certain  
ports with successful results. As fixed the  
Kanda Tribunal Rules (p. 79) the old penalties  
will not be revised.

2. Control of Tapping. The Commission cannot  
see its way to prohibit tapping & proposes  
to substitute a tax per tapped palm  
(Rs 2 per annum). "If this is found to  
be too low a rate it might be increased  
gradually." Apparently, they are not  
very sanguine about that the tax will  
reduce tapping, since they base their  
figure for the revenue from this  
source on the number of trees estimated  
to be tapped at present.

The Govt with some regret concurs  
in the Commission's view. It seems  
clear that some banditry would be caused  
if the number of tapped trees (the number

Yes? g. R.

p. 4 and 5 p.

p. 9

- mented variety), and also that prohibitions  
would lead to a lot of illicit tapping  
which could not be punished without  
great expense in policing. I am not  
sure that the same objection does not  
apply in the case of the taxation proposal,  
since it would seem as difficult to  
trace tapped but untaxed trees as to  
trace tapped trees. However, the experiment  
showed certainly to trees? See the G. E. A. Ord. on  
p. 70.

3. The Beetle. This is an entomological  
question on which we should have  
Mr Marshall's views, but the Commission  
have gone fully into what to do elsewhere.

a) destruction of dead or decaying hollows.  
cf. Zanzibar Decree (p. 65), Ceylon Regs  
(p. 71) Straits Ord. (pp. 72-73) Samoa Ord.  
(pp. 74-75). In E.A.P. a Bill was prepared  
in 1909 (p. 77), but it did not go further.

b) Attacks on the Beetle, viz bait (under  
European control) - the success of this  
depends on the success of (a) - and  
rewards for beetles, junks, etc. On the point  
of G. E. A. Ord. + Samoa laws (pp. 74-76).  
Apparently, in Samoa the reward  
system of 1900 gave place in 1911 to  
compulsory destruction under penalty -  
though even then those who stayed were  
to receive a present from the Government.

also  
see my minute  
to Legislation

Ups  
H. A.

pp 607.

p. 7

also, fungus, parasite This had better wait till we are in a better position to get the fungus from Senoa & also, tried out some about the usefulness of the method as described in the Report it involves trapping the larvae first of all and it would appear possible to devise some cheaper way of disposing of them when trapped.

p. 7

4. Cultivation The main point is that dead matter must be cleared away & this has already been dealt with. Scarcity of labour since the abolition of slavery is evidently a serious factor & is referred to several times in the evidence

p. 8

5. Improvement of copra. The Commission say that a coconut expert is being obtained. This seems to be an anticipation of next year. Extractors - as all events we have not previously heard of it. Evidently someone is needed, though I expect we shall find that the European planters, rather than the Arab, Indian, or Native, will derive most benefit from him. It would seem that <sup>about</sup> ~~up to~~ two-thirds of the nuts are eaten locally & it is not unreasonable to suppose that the European, rather than the Colonist, grows for export.

p. 8

pp. 103 & 109  
that 6,300,000 are eaten - or about each of the 456,000 of palm trees 20 nuts

6. Legislation most of the points have been mentioned

above as regards (8 - Native liquor Ord<sup>s</sup>), the draft of 189 does not differ materially from the Ord<sup>s</sup> of 1907 printed at p. 83 except (rather curiously) that it omits the provisions in the 1907 Ord<sup>s</sup> as to taxation of tapped palms. The further, as you will observe from Govt 4539/08, that these provisions are suspended on the ground that

"owing to a particular condition of the owners of plantations on the Coast, due to a considerable extent to the abolition of the legal status of slavery, the tax should not be levied" The tax was to have been Rs 1 per acre and Rs 2 is proposed. However, the Jackson Committee of 1904 contemplated an increase of the one rupee in time to come, & quoted the Bombay rates of 8 annas ( $\frac{1}{2}$  rupee) to Rs 12. This last figure surely amounts to prohibition.

p. 60

Obviously there has in the past been no clear view in the Protectorate as to the question of taxation of tapped trees, but I do not think we need dwell on this now - the matter is more one of <sup>addition</sup> ~~improvement~~ <sup>luxury</sup> ~~luxury~~ than of a necessity.

W. Hokey's proposed <sup>addition</sup> 15th Ord<sup>s</sup> seem all right

pp. 140

7. Finance. I have already suggested that they can't have all their revenue & at the same time reduce tapping. Subject to this I have no comments.

? Telegraph (subject to the Temporary  
Orders on the Bill on pp 139, 140)  
Telegraph approval of the recommended thing,  
but point out that a step licensed  
dealer ought to be able to buy from  
another licensed dealer.

Send copy of Report to Mr Marshall,  
asking for his views on the colorology  
of the subject. Say that the recon I have  
been approved by Telegraph but that  
if he considers that any modification  
is necessary a further letter could be  
sent.

And as to his reply before sending a  
draft etc, which should compliment the  
Commission, ask for a report on the cause  
of the increase of the revenues to be taken  
(especially I think the Kambi Councils),  
& draw attention to the rather wobbly  
policy of the Board about the taxation of  
traded places.

Ref 239/14

The report of the C.A. is likely to  
be very remunerative under existing laws  
as there is a great amount of Ceylon  
C.A. seeking a market to replace  
the former market which formerly  
absorbed about 2/3 of the Ceylon output  
as proposed? H. J. E.  
26/9/14

A (The draft Bill at the end of  
the report requires revision  
of the A.G. as a glance at  
the paragraphs which I have marked  
in pencil will show. A.G.  
It would serve no purpose to  
criticize these in detail. The  
mistakes all occur in the  
additions, which have evidently  
been made by laymen.

? inform for a A.

C.B. 26.9.14

alone (P. 26.9.14)

36063

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 767.

17th. August, 1914.

417

Sir,

*300*  
*26403*

Report.

With reference to my despatch No. 619 of June 30th, 1914, I have the honour to transmit for your perusal 6 copies of the Report furnished by the Commission appointed by me to inquire and report on the condition of the coconut industry in British East Africa and to offer recommendation as to ameliorative measures to be adopted. The inquiry has been conducted with much care and thoroughness, and the report forms a valuable record of facts and views upon all questions relating to this important industry.

2. Prior to the commencement of the inquiry I had on more than one occasion fully discussed the subject with members of the Commission, explaining to them the steps which had been taken in the Malay Peninsula and the success which had attended those measures. They therefore commenced this inquiry with full knowledge of my personal views on the subject.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.



(2)

3. I am of opinion that the recommendations made are entirely sound, and I seek your authority to incorporate them in a draft Bill for your consideration.

4. I am one of those who have inclined to the opinion that all tapping of coconut trees should be prohibited, but there is force in the observations on the subject which will be found on page 5 of the report, and I shall be content for the present to adopt the line of action there recommended, substituting for total prohibition a system by which the cost of the article will be substantially increased.

5. A pleasing feature of the report is the fact that the estimated revenue so nearly balances the expenditure that it will be possible to enforce the proposed measures at very small cost to Government. As I do not anticipate that it need be necessary that any prolonged period shall elapse between the date of intimation of your approval and that of the introduction of the requisite legislation, I propose to enter in the draft estimates for the year 1915-16 the items of revenue and expenditure which are set out on the final page of the report. I shall be obliged if I may be favored with a telegraphic intimation of your approval of my proposals.

I will

(3)

I will in the meantime give direction that a draft Bill be prepared to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient Servant,

H. Conway Beyard.

G O V E R N O R.



C.D.  
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God  
36063/101  
S.A.P.

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nt H. 35 pm  
NS  
26/9/14 J.C.

Tel

DRAFT.

Gov.

Nausti

MINUTE.

- Mr. B. H. Rowley 26/9/14 p
- Mr. F.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

26 September.

sainfoin

Your despatch of 17 August  
impossible

767

persons approved  
proceed and apparent

page two of report should  
be

licensed dealers should be  
Securities

able to purchase from other  
abroad fraternal

licensed dealers page 139

Bill requires revision by  
rifolas

Attorney General

oppose

20/15

In/36063/4 EAD

421

24

29 Sept 1914

msd 24931

DRAFT.

Director  
General Bureau of  
Entomology  
MINUTE.

Mr. W. H. Cresson

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

Sir,  
I am directed by Mr.  
Sir. Harcourt to transmit  
to you ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> account of the  
accounting of the  
Report of the Commission  
appointed by the Govt of the EAD  
to inquire into the Coconut  
industry of the Port, &  
to inf. you that he will  
be glad to be favoured with  
your observations on those parts  
of the Report which deal  
with the Coconut  
Beech.

msd  
copy for 921 902/14 3773/14

Report

(36063)

2. Mr. Harcourt's approval  
of the account of the  
Commission's progress, at the  
Governor's request, being

Communicated by telegraph,  
but if you consider that  
any modification of these  
recommendations is necessary  
a further talk will be  
needed on the subject.