

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

L 28

5 JAN 11

Handl. Room  
Date  
1911  
Open  
Pages

Government Offices Nairobi

Considers present arrangements necessary & practicable. Recommends funds be raised by means of special grant or from the loan approved in the Report on Post.

Read.

The remarks made by Sir P. Girouard, in his report on the Protectorate, on the Govt offices were as follows:-

... with the exception of the Treasury and the General Post office, the headquarters Public Offices of the Protectorate are a disgrace to any British Colony, and by far the worst it has ever been. The misfortune for a large staff to be forced to work in for years on end a collection of tin shanties, unprovided with either double roof or veranda, and divided internally by wooden

Handwritten notes and stamps at the bottom left corner.

particulars, the offices are entirely over-  
crowded and entirely unsuited to the  
trying conditions under which work has  
to be carried on in the tropics.

Nothing that I can add will strengthen  
the case made out by his description and  
by the photographs which accompany  
his letter. It is evidently a matter of  
urgent necessity that a beginning should  
be made of a new set of offices.

£10,000 was inserted by the Col in  
the Estimates for 1909-10 for new offices,  
but provision was deferred here, pending  
consideration of the general financial  
"position" which at that time was causing  
some anxiety.

I understand that Sir Percy's  
whole scheme would cost £30,000, but  
of course it would not be necessary to  
provide the whole of this at once. The  
question cannot be decided apart from  
the proposals which he is putting forward  
for a loan, but it is advisable that  
those who will ~~shortly~~ have to discuss  
these proposals should see before hand  
the evidence of the urgency of at least

one item of the proposed expenditure

WAB

220

Jan 9

Mr Fuller

Sir P. proposed I had a talk  
with Mr. Lester & Mr. Baines of the  
Treasury the afternoon. The latter stated  
that <sup>if it is</sup> ~~the~~ ~~estimate~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~yet~~ ~~decided~~  
with regard to <sup>the</sup> loan, the cost of  
these <sup>other</sup> ~~other~~ ~~proposals~~ should not be  
provided for in it but in the ordinary Estimate.  
Sir P. proposed suggested that, that as  
the £20,000 which he proposed to  
provide in the ordinary Estimate toward the  
cost of the Tika Treasury might be  
transferred to the loan. It is of course  
very doubtful whether the Treasury will  
agree to a loan at all.

Col Seely

Mr Hammond The plots are a collection  
I have had some sketches [at least one of  
the Indian sketches in the Indian quarters of  
Pretoria before the war] and a few more to

partitions, the offices are entirely over-  
crowded and entirely unsuited to the  
trying conditions under which work has  
to be carried on in the tropics.

Nothing that I can add will strengthen  
the case made out by his description and  
by the photographs which accompany  
his letter. It is evidently a matter of  
urgent necessity that a beginning should  
be made of a new set of offices.

£4000 was awarded by the Govt in  
the Estimates for 1909-10 for new offices,  
but provision was refused here, pending  
consideration of the general financial  
position, which at that time was causing  
some anxiety.

I understand that Sir Percy's  
whole scheme would cost £30,000, but  
of course it would not be necessary to  
provide the whole of this at once. The  
question cannot be decided a priori from  
the proposals which he is putting forward  
for a loan, but it is advisable that  
those who will ~~probably~~ have to discuss  
these proposals should see the present  
the urgency of the urgency of at least

me than of the proposed expenditure

HAB

220

Jan 9

W. Fuller

Sir P. proposed & I had a talk  
with Mr. Cantor & Mr. Deane of the  
Treasury the afternoon. The latter think  
if it is  
that ~~the scheme~~ ultimately decided  
with regard to <sup>the</sup> loan, the cost of  
these public buildings should not be  
provided for in it but in the ordinary Estimates.  
Sir P. proposed suggested that, that as  
the £20,000 which he proposed to  
provide in the ordinary Estimates towards the  
cost of the Public Buildings might be  
transferred to the loan. It is of course  
very doubtful whether the Treasury will  
agree to a loan at all.

J.R.

Col. Percy

Mr. Hornum The plots are a violation -  
I have had some discussions [at least one of  
the Indian members in the Indian Council of  
Patna before the war] - and a big game to

the same treatment to his administration  
in contempt

W. 11/11

I entirely agree. The first buildings  
are a disgrace, and the discomfort  
endured by the unfortunate officials  
in a tin hut <sup>(see photographs)</sup> as they put it is  
really very great I am sure.

J.S.  
13.

I am shocked at these photos.  
There must be new buildings  
whether by brass or otherwise.

H. 15. 1. 11

See now  
relative  
to  
3/19/11



particulars, the offices are entirely over-  
crowded and entirely unsuited to the  
trying conditions under which work has  
to be carried on in the tropics.

No more ~~can~~ can add will strengthen  
the case made out by his description and  
by the photographs which accompany  
his letter. It is evidently a matter of  
urgent necessity that a beginning should  
be made of a new set of offices.

£10,000 was inserted by the Col. in  
the Estimates for 1909-10 for new offices.  
but provision was believed here pending  
consideration of the general financial  
position which at that time was causing  
some anxiety.

I understand that Sir Percy's  
whole scheme would cost £30,000, but  
of course it would not be necessary to  
provide the whole of this at once. The  
question cannot be decided apart from  
the proposals which he is putting forward  
for a loan, but it is advisable that  
how the will ~~shall~~ have to discuss  
these proposals should see before hand  
the evidence of the urgency of at least

one item of the proposed expenditure

WAB

220

Jan 9

W. Fisher

Sir P. Fremont & I had a talk  
with Mr. Austin & Mr. Perkins of the  
Treasury this afternoon. The latter think  
that <sup>if it is</sup> ~~absolutely~~ absolutely decided  
with regard to <sup>the</sup> loan, the cost of  
these public buildings should not be  
provided for in it but in the ordinary estimate.  
Sir P. Fremont suggested that ~~that~~ as  
the £20,000 which he proposed to  
provide in the ordinary estimate towards the  
cost of the Nika training might be  
transferred to the loan. It is of course  
very doubtful whether the Treasury will  
agree to a loan at all.

W. Fisher  
Col. Seely  
Mr. Fremont  
The plots are a revelation -  
I agree that these matters [not mentioned one of  
the Indian matters in the Indian Council of  
Princis before the war] are a very grave &

disposal & maintenance of the administration  
is complete.

W. 11/1

I entirely agree. The post buildings  
are a disgrace, and the discomfort  
endured by the unfortunate officials  
in a tin hut <sup>(see photographs)</sup> on the subject is  
really very great. I am told

J.S.  
13. 11

I am shocked at these photos.  
There must be new buildings,  
whether by loan or otherwise.

H. 15. 1. 11

See now  
subject  
3/19/11

and from treatment to bring the administration  
into contempt.

W. 11/1

I entirely agree. The first buildings  
are a disgrace, and the discomfort  
endured by the unfortunate officials  
(are photographers)  
in a tin hut on the top of a hill is  
really very great I am sure.

J.S.  
13.

I am struck as these photos  
there must be new buildings  
whether by loss or otherwise.

H. 15. 1. 11

See now  
what  
you  
sign

disgrace & calculated to bring the administration  
in contempt.

W. 11/1

I entirely agree. The fort buildings  
are a disgrace, and the discomfort  
endured by the unfortunate officials  
in a tin hut on the equator is  
really very great I am told.

J.  
13.

I am shocked & these photos  
there must be new buildings,  
whether by boat or otherwise.

H. 15. 1. 11

See now  
what  
you  
say



CONFIDENTIAL OFFICE.

LONDON.

5th Jan'y. 1911.

428  
JAN 5 1911

Sir,

In my Report upon the Protectorate, dated 26th May 1910, I referred, in most uncomplimentary terms to the class of building which is now being used in the East Africa Protectorate at Nairobi for public buildings.

These tin shanties - photographs of some of which are attached - have now been in existence for seven to eight years, are hopelessly inadequate for the purposes of administration, insanitary, and quite unsuited to the climate. They consist of corrugated iron structures, without balconies, are in many cases unlined, and extremely uncomfortable in the heat of the day. In such buildings as these are to be found the whole of the public records of the Protectorate, many of which would be irreplaceable in case of fire.

It is to my mind imperative, both in the interests of good administration and the health of the staff, that such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue much longer. It is quite impossible, on the ordinary estimates of the Protectorate, to provide for general office accommodation for Government at Nairobi, and funds for such a purpose could only be obtained by means of a special grant or from the small loan which I have indicated as essential for the immediate progress of the country.

The Under Secretary of State  
to the Colonies.

LONDON.

CONFIDENTIAL OFFICE.

428  
NO 5 JAN 11

L. O. & S. O. N.

5th Jan'y. 1911.

Sir,

In my Report upon the Protectorate, dated 25th May 1910, I referred, in most uncomplimentary terms to the class of building which is now being used in the East Africa Protectorate at Nairobi for public buildings.

These tin shanties - photographs of some of which are attached - have now been in existence for seven to eight years, are hopelessly inadequate for the purposes of administration, insanitary, and quite unsuited to the climate. They consist of corrugated iron structures, without balconies, and in many cases unlined, and extremely uncomfortable in the heat of the day. In such buildings as these are to be found the whole of the public records of the Protectorate, many of which would be irreplaceable in case of fire.

It is to my mind imperative, both in the interests of good administration and the health of the staff, that such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue much longer. It is quite impossible, on the ordinary resources of the Protectorate, to provide for general office accommodation for Government at Nairobi, and funds for such a purpose could only be obtained by means of a special grant or from the small loan which I have indicated as essential for the immediate progress of the country.

The Under Secretary of State  
to the Colonies.


CONFIDENTIAL

I trust the matter may receive sympathetic consideration while I am in England.

Plans and a rough estimate of a proposed Administration building have been prepared, and could be submitted.

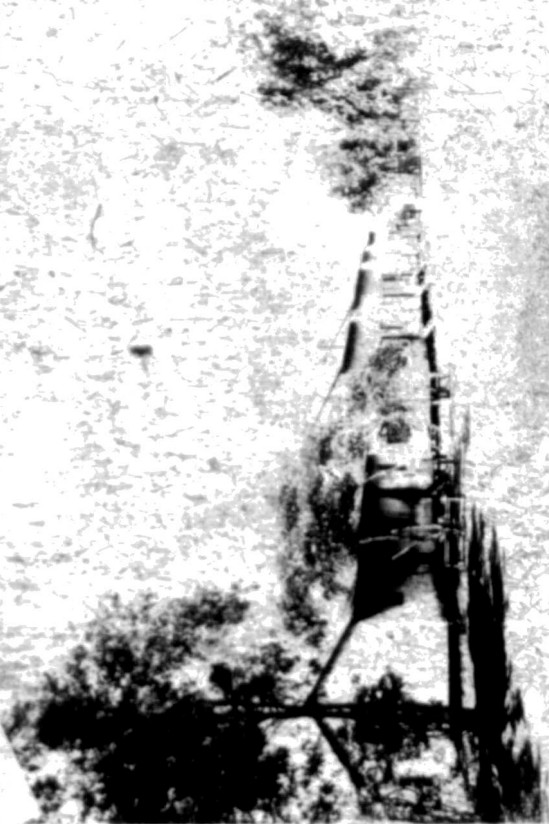
I am, Sir,

your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. J. ...'.

223

C.O.





H.





