

EAD PROT  
11/8/12

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4783  
12

1985

Director  
Conf  
Quara 7

NAIROBI ELECTRIC LIGHT CONCESSION

Date  
1912

Concurs with Concessions Committee to allow the present arrangements to continue. Submits observations as to the removal of power station from the Ruiru to the Thika Falls, the reservation of land at those Falls, and the exemption of machinery from import duty. Sends maps giving information desired.

Previous Paper

Vertical text on left margin: Maps returned to Mr. G. F. ...

Mr. G. F. ... Feb. 20

Sir P. ... I discussed with Mr. ... the ... I subsequently visited the power on the Ruera River. There is nothing more to be done until question of the Nairobi municipal has been settled, but I might say that I was favourably impressed by what Mr. B. has already accomplished. The dam, turbines, etc. on the Ruera falls were excellent, & Nairobi

Subsequent Paper

1280

one of the best let. house  
Africa.

Partly?

H. J. R.

19/11

Along  
P. 23

789

C O  
4789

GOVERNMENT HOUSES  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

January 23rd 1912.

281

No. 7

CONFIDENTIAL.

(Incls. 2)



Sir,

With reference to your Confidential  
despatch of the 11th of August last, forward-  
ing a copy of the report of the Committee  
appointed to consider the question of the  
Concession of the Nairobi Electric Power and  
Lighting Company Limited, I have the honour  
to inform you that I concur with the decision  
of the Committee to allow the present arrang-  
ment to continue.

2. It would appear that Mr. Baylton assumes  
that it would be entirely in the interests and  
to the convenience of the Government for him  
to remove his power station to the Thika Falls.  
The Thika Falls, however, is hardly  
a suitable site for any representation to that  
effect and it is not in the interests of the  
Government, in fact, to deal with a per-  
usal of the correspondence that Mr. Baylton  
himself raised the whole question and pressed  
the Government for a solution.

3. In the event of his power station not  
being removed to the Thika Falls, Mr. Baylton

appears

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.O., K.P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DONNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

x 7-23-05

appears to foreshadow a time when it might be necessary for him to deprive the landholders, along all the reaches of the rivers upon which his Company holds rights, of water for both domestic and irrigation purposes. Such an attitude cannot be maintained. In this Protectorate, as in almost all countries where the requirements of water for irrigation are acute, it is the practice to accord claims for domestic consumption prior rights to those for irrigation, and the latter again priority over claims for power production. However, even if in the face of his concession the courts should uphold Mr. Baydon's attitude in this matter, the position of the Government would still be by no means hopeless, as the concessionaire can only lay claim to the amount of the minimum flow of these rivers together with such reasonable proportion of the flood discharge as would serve to fill any storage reservoirs which might be permitted to construct on the courses of the streams. The remainder of any excess of flow above the minimum discharge of the streams might be impounded at numerous points on the feeder streams and released in such quantities as would allow of very extensive irrigation in the valleys, with ample water for stock and domestic purposes to all landholders affected.

4. With regard to paragraph 5 of your despatch

despatch, sufficient land has already been reserved in the vicinity of the Thika Falls to serve for storage purposes and for otherwise securing the proper use of the falls on that river as a source of power. The enlargement of this reserve could only be effected by the re-annulment of land already alienated, but I consider that the portion already set aside should be sufficient for any power station.

5. With reference to page 4, paragraph (a) of the Committee's report there appeared to me no sufficient reason why machinery intended to be used for generating electric current for lighting purposes should be exempt from import duty, nor why the trade should be assisted by the Government to that extent in its competition with the purveyors of oil and other articles used for purposes of lighting. 6. On the other hand there were substantial reasons for exempting from duty the machinery intended to be used for generating power for industrial purposes.

7. A satisfactory proposal was made to have been arrived at whereby the actual machinery and plant used in generating electricity would be imported free of duty, but the poles and wires which convey the current from the generating station to the consumer would be dutiable. Mr. Bayldon contended, I believe, that on those terms his Company would pay duty on 50% of the plant and material imported. In

that

that case the compromise would be fair to both parties as there can be no doubt that not less than 50% of the current generated by the Company is used for lighting purposes.

8. I observe that in <sup>the</sup> Cape Colony "Customs Amendment and Tariff Act 1898" a similar exemption was inserted, and it would appear therefore that the Crown Advocate of this Protectorate was not alone in considering that a distinction should be made between posts and wire and the other apparatus and appliances.

9. I transmit herewith two maps <sup>x</sup> giving particulars in accordance with your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*John G. G. G.*  
G. G. G.

G. G. G.

# SHEET N<sup>o</sup> 1

KIAMBU NAIROBI KIKUYU LIMURU DISTRICTS

Scale: 1 Mile to 1 Inch



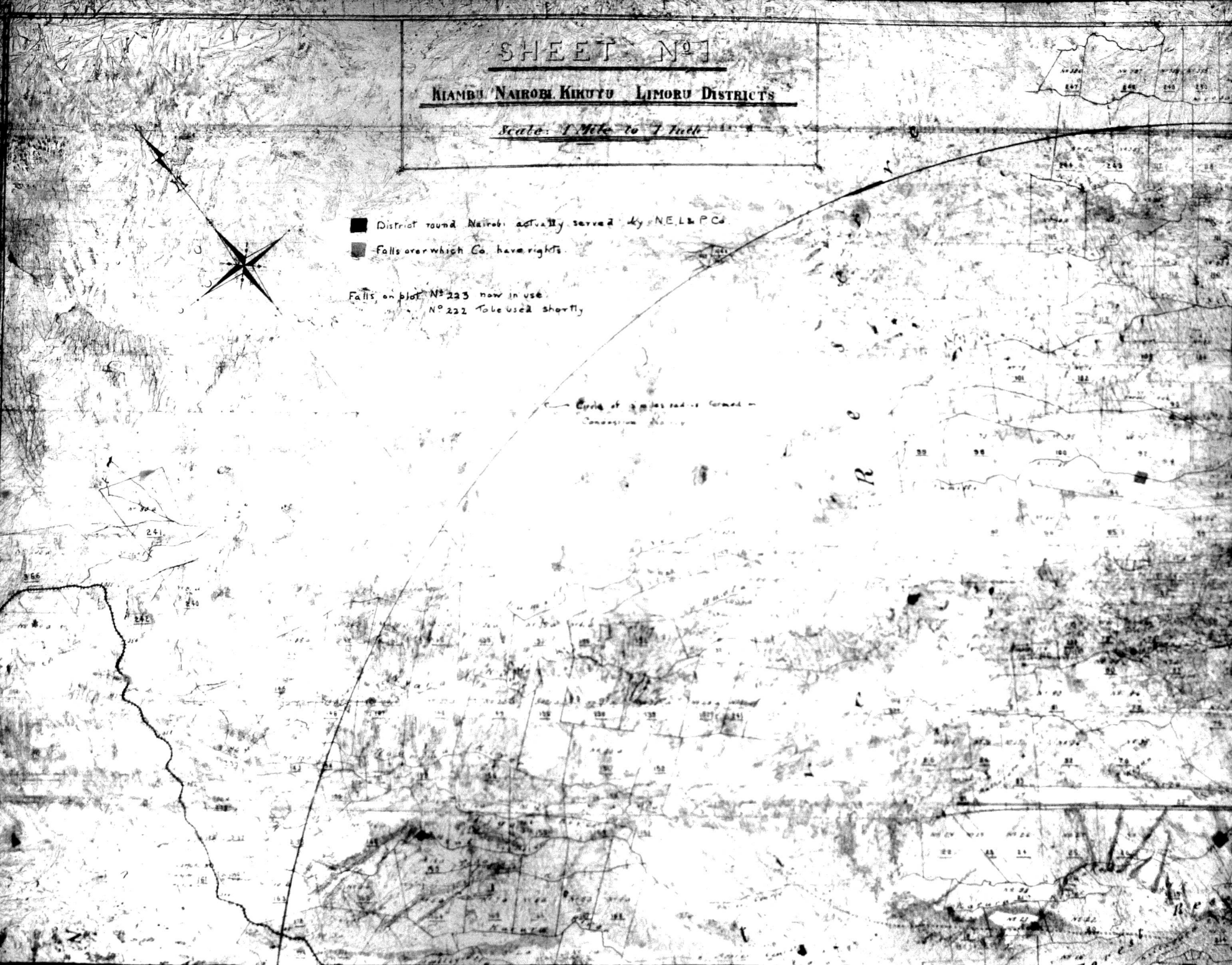
■ District round Nairobi actually served by N.E.L. & P.C.

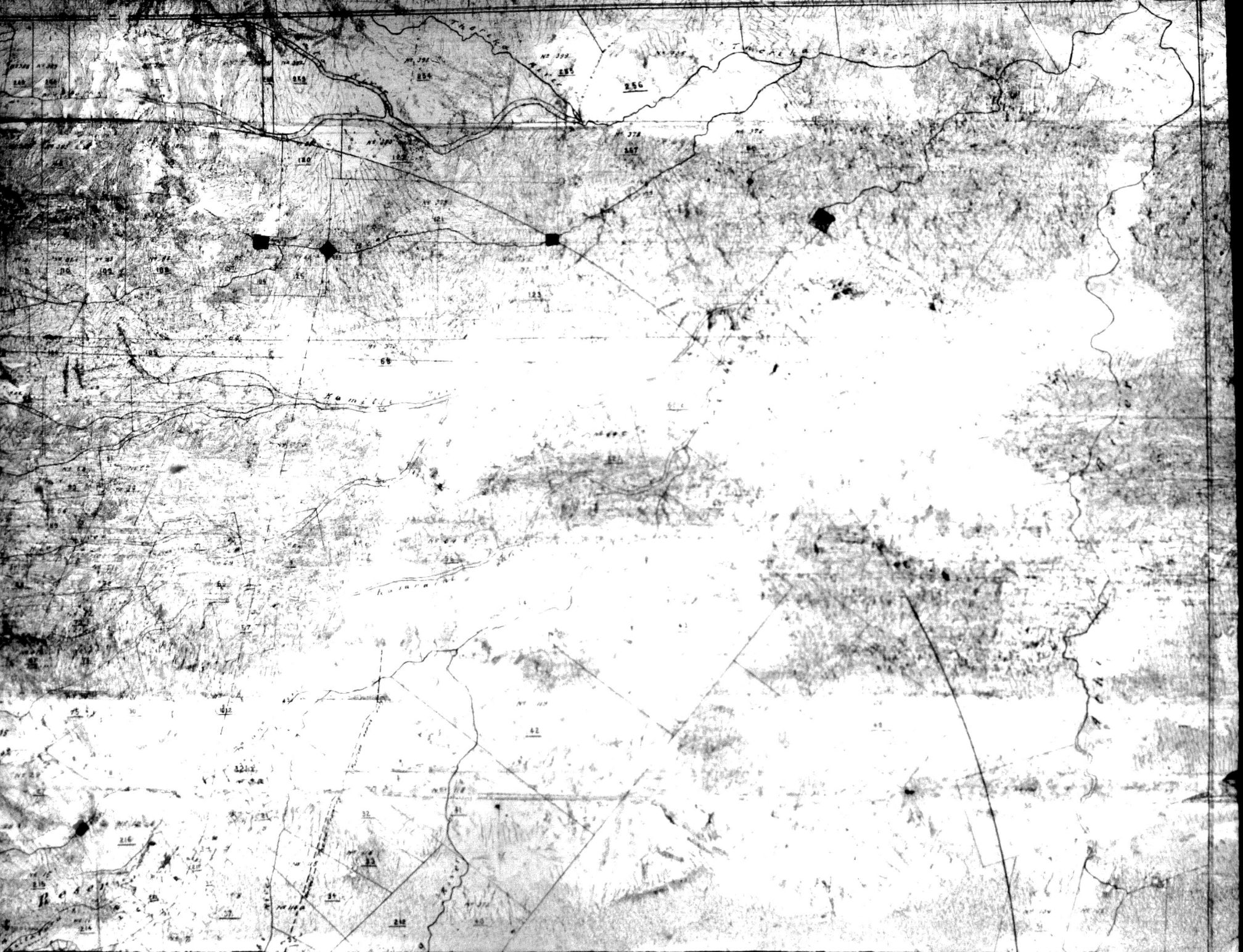
■ Falls over which Co. have rights

Falls on plot N<sup>o</sup> 223 now in use

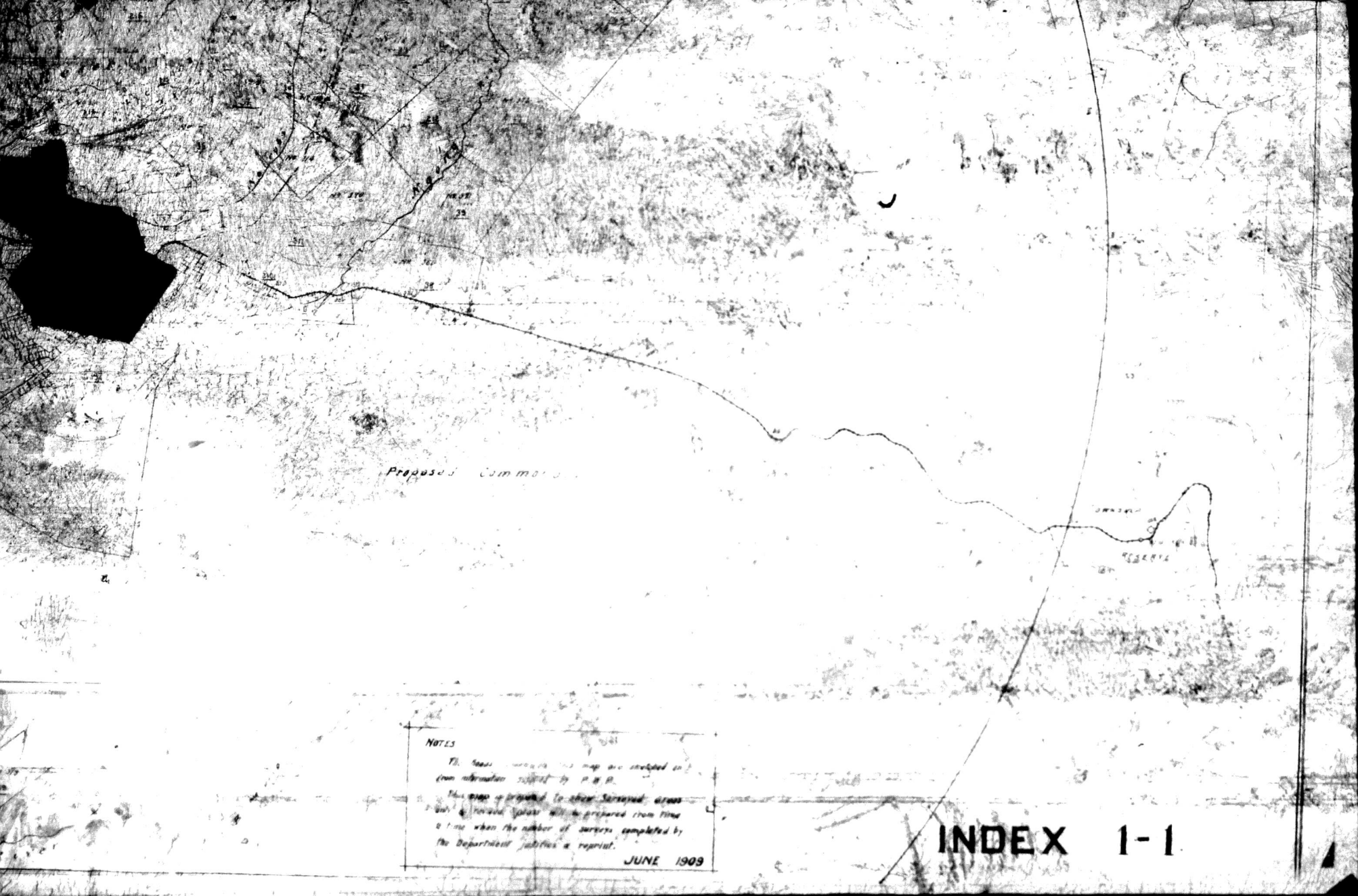
N<sup>o</sup> 222 Take used shortly

— Course of a proposed road -  
Concession No. 10









*Proposed Communication*

**NOTES**

The lines shown on this map are sketched on  
from information supplied by P. H. P.  
This map is prepared to show proposed lines  
and a revised plan will be prepared from time  
to time when the number of surveys completed by  
the Department justifies a reprint.

JUNE 1909

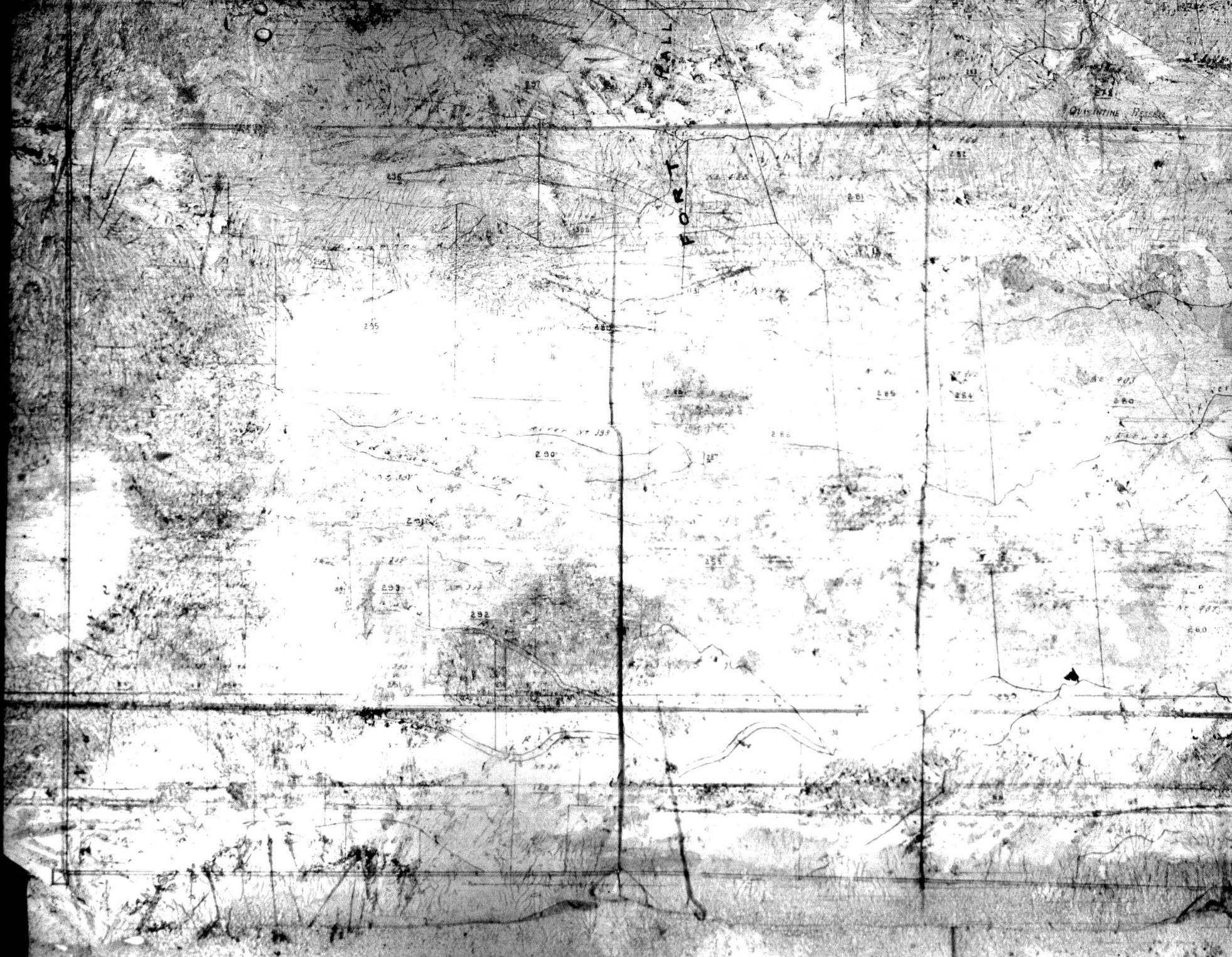
**INDEX 1-1**

SHEET No. 2

FORT HALE DISTRICT

*Scale 1/2 Mile to 1 Inch*

■ Falls now a plain



FALL  
FORT

QUANTINE

290

295

285

284

280

286

255

234

233

232

120

207

260

250

88