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TREASURY CHAMBERS,

Sir,

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have had under consideration Mr. Antropus's letter of the 29th February last forwarding the Estimates of the East Africa Protectorate for the year 1908-9.

My Lords note with satisfaction the careful serutiny to which these Estimates have been submitted, and They find Themselves in agreement, in principle and as regards details, with the conclusions at which Secretary the Earl of Elgin has arrived. Subject therefore to the observations which follow, My Lords accept the several proposals which are submitted, and approve the Estimate of Expenditure at a total of £737.138.

To meet this, there is Kevenue estimated at 1533,439, a Parliamentary Grant-in-aid (included in the Colonial Services Estimate) of £138,000, and balances in hand; a balance being left available on 31st March 1908 of £20,913.

With reference to the raduction from £16,000 to £12,000 of Mr. Hutchins' Estimate for the Forestry and Scientific Department, My Lords take the opportunity of drawing attention to the rapid growth of expenditure on expert and scientific services, Agriculture, Forestry Survey and Lands. The Secretary of State will doubtless agree

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with Their Lordships as to the importance of a trafficus control being exercised over appenditure and these heads, if it is not to outrun available recoursed. In the particular case referred to, which it is observed has been the subject of considerable discussion, My Lords are not in possession of sufficient information to enable Them to form an opinion as to the necessity of incurring expenditure on so large a scale in the present circumstances of the centry. They feel that They must leave this matter in the main to the judgment of the Secretary is State. But They trust that no schemes impolying requirement expenditure will be initiated without discrimination between what is necessary, and what could be deferred till ampler resources were available, both as regards the services themselves and the methods adopted for carrying them out.

Education. My Lords presume that some part of the increase under this head will be met from fees, and They would be glad to have further information on this point.

considerable doubt shather this expenditure, which did not meet with the assent of the Degislative Council, is justified, nor are They satisfied that the saving to the Government would be sufficient in any case to make the expense worth thought to the fordships desire therefore that specific to this item may be withheld, and in the meanting and be gired if the matter of the same of the s

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