

Circular.
EAST AFR. PROT.

544

2387-

23879

Governor. No.
Person Draft

1909

16 June

at Previous Paper.

Col. Hadist Dept

Sends minute by Treasurer re relations bet
Treasurer & Hadist Dept. Consents in the Board's
remarks as to unsuitability in some respects of
Col. Reps to Ed. Bot.

noted

General Dept.

H.B.

July 19.

The Macnaghten

The last paragraph of the Enclosure is
the only part that really answers
our circular. The question of the
applicability of the Col. Reps to the
Prot is not one that should have
been raised in ~~any connection~~ ^{this connection}

? send copy extract of deep extracts
in brackets of H.P.

Plus

noted
In the shade I would find it as Mr.
P. Marley proposes
H. B.

C. O. 23879

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

545

June 18th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential (61).

(Incl. 1.).

My Lord,

In reply to Your Lordship's Confidential Circular of March 18th I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a minute by the Treasurer, who by the nature of his duties is brought into close contact with the officers of the Audit Department.

~~Treasurer~~
~~June 5th.~~

2. I quite concur with what Mr. Bowring says. The Colonial Regulations are in some respects unsuited to the East Africa Protectorate and a rigid insistence on the procedure prescribed in them, which may however justifiably be considered by the Auditor to be obligatory upon him, is apt to lead to disproportionately lengthy correspondence on

insignificant

H.M. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

LONDON, S.W.

insignificant points of detail to the possible exclusion
of important matters of principle. 546

5. In consequence of this a heavy responsibility rests
on the local Auditor, which might be sensibly lessened by
a modification in some respects of the regulations in
question. The present situation demands a wise
discretion on his part, of the exercise of which, I am
happy to say, we have hardly ever had to complain.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

Humble servant,


INCLOSURE

Copy.

In Despatch No. of 16/11/09

Your Excellency,

Since I have been Treasurer of this Protectorate I have always been able to work most harmoniously with the Local Audit authorities. I have always found the Officers of that Department most willing to assist and meet me in every possible manner.

I have occasionally heard of friction between Audit Officers and Heads of other Departments, e.g. the Postmaster General and Mr. Keays and the Postmaster General and Mr. Waters, but such cases have been rare and any ill feeling speedily removed.

It may of course happen that a bold and zealous Audit Officer may, through the careless wording of a query or report offend the Head of some Department - usually an Officer of longer service than himself and frequently an older man who resents "interference".

When Mr. J.A. Barnes was acting as Local Auditor I found that there was considerable resentment on the Treasury on account of what my staff considered needless and irritating queries on minute details. Still I recognise that the Local Auditor has a perfect right to query any deviation however small, from the C.O. regulations. I will go further and say that it is his duty to do so.

But I think it would be a good thing if the Comptroller and Auditor General could hint to his staff that some of the smaller discrepancies, such as are found to occur in accounts of the magnitude of those of the East Africa Protectorate, might be passed without comment.

I have already reported that I do not consider the C.O. regulations as they stand entirely applicable to the East Africa Protectorate and that I have not the time to draft model regulations for the Protectorate. I feel that there are several matters of principle which require consideration

but

but which cannot be tackled as long as my staff is overwhelmed by a mass of details.

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As regards Mr. H.C.E. Balck-Barnes, I do not wish to have to work with a more tactful and conscientious official. We have always been able to come to an agreement in a friendly manner and much wearying correspondence has been saved by his willingness at all times to discuss questions before taking them up officially.

signed, G.C. Bawring,

6 - 6 - 09.