

EAST AFR PRO  
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1909

Memor. No.  
24. 101

1909

Previous Paper

Death of Hon. A. Blyth

Proceedings in Magistrate's Court were not public therefore they were not published in local press. However as to the whole of the matter has been made for some time in local press.

W. Fidler carefully checked through the the East African Standard what were published in it a some little time after the proceedings but could not find any allusion. Perhaps the matter was referred to in one of the other papers. It is reported in Standard some time after the incident.

To Abroad July to see

4/8/09  
4/11

Sum 28  
2.12  
2/12/09

at subsequent Paper

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Part 1 DEC 09

PARAPHRASE.

426

TELEGRAM. The Governor of the West Africa Protectorate to the  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Received Colonial Office 5.57 pm, 30th November, 1909)

4/11/09  
SL 4/6

With reference to your telegram of November  
29th. The proceedings in the Magistrate's Court  
were not public. Therefore they were not published  
in the local press. Attention as to the state of the  
court was observed, however, from time to time in  
the local press.

CIRCUARD





GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

W. J. ...  
T. J. ...

Dear Sir,

Herewith all the ...

from ...

...  
...  
...

Yours  
...

...

ON THE LEADER of OCTOBER 10th 1908.

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The Case of Colonel Patterson.

Whenever we make reference to the undue susceptibility of the official temperament in this Protectorate as if their ground was so precarious that a wire fence is needed to protect them from the knocks and jabs of ordinary civilian criticism. In view of the not very complimentary references made to the settlers in the White Book despatches to the Secretary of State, such as the "Bible" and the "Well known Captain" and also the statements of non-official members of the Legislative Council, himself a nominee of the Government, it is pertinent to ask the question why this Draconic treatment is meted to the offending settler and why an official who has notoriously sinned should go scot-free and be permitted to leave this territory with honours where honour is not deserved.

We refer to the late Game Ranger. We have it on very good information that Colonel Patterson, one of the Heads of Departments and Chief Ranger of this Protectorate, was before his departure responsible for certain acts and delinquencies for which he has never been brought to book or impeached. Taking advantage of his official position he committed acts which in the case of any individual would have resulted in official disrepute with which he is charged and which we are prepared to charge him with (1) of taking advantage of his official position (2) of shooting wild animals into the hands of the natives (3) of shooting wild animals without permission (4) of shooting wild animals with

with his friends in the game reserve (5) of breaking the Game Laws with regard to confiscated property and other acts which if not coming directly under the service rules do not redound to his personal credit.

We all admire the esprit de corps which unites a class. Against this virtue the official of this territory is not immune. But the virtue, if unduly laboured, is apt to degenerate into a virus. The unfortunate division which seems to have developed in British East Africa between official and civilian (whoever be the class or whether circumstances are chiefly responsible) will not be removed unless vigorous justice be done impartially to both. The Government which is afraid of the exposure of one of its officials, should the occasion arise, only tends to yield the impression of pusillanimity in governing, and falls a victim to its own system.

On the East African Standard  
of February 6th 1900.

THE "Times" reporting the death  
of the late Hon. J. Blyth  
writes:—

The Hon. James Austin Blyth, of Glasgow  
was born in 1822, and died at  
Glasgow on the 5th inst. at the  
age of 77 years.









ON THE LEADER OF APRIL 10th 1909.

COLONEL PATTERSON.

It will be seen from our Reuters Cable that Lord Crewe has exonerated Colonel Patterson on two charges, viz, of entering the Northern Game Reserve and of behaving with inhumanity to Mr. Blyth. It is quite possible that Colonel Patterson had the best of reasons for shooting in the Northern Game Reserve, and we are delighted to hear that he will receive that box of trophies - alas! by some means "stolen" - which has remained so long in the hands of the Game Office.

It is always delightful to be cleared of a charge which has never existed.

No one has ever suggested that Colonel Patterson behaved with "inhumanity" to Mr. Blyth. No such charge has ever been made. But we have a remote suspicion that the gallant Colonel suffered not so much from inhumanity as from an excess of humanity.

Sir James Hayes Sadler in conversing officially on the subject let fall a significant remark which our readers by this time doubtless know well enough, as it has circulated in sporting circles during the last week. His Excellency said "you know, Mr. So and So Colonel Patterson has refunded the money."

It is not clear why Colonel Patterson should have refunded the money, but it is a little more light to be shed on this remark.

Nevertheless we are exceedingly sorry to hear that Colonel Patterson's health has broken down, as we were

looking

looking forward to have the pleasure of seeing him once again in our midst.

But it seems that he considers that the climate of East Africa would not be good for his health. We are sorry.

ON THE LEADER OF APRIL 10th 1909.

CABLES BY REUTERS

COLONEL PATTERSON'S CASE.

London April 8.- In the House of Lords, Lord Crew, replying to Baron Bouché, said that careful examination proved that the reports connecting Colonel Patterson with the death of Blyth in East Africa or the committing of any other crime were unfounded.

Lord Crew has sanctioned Colonel Patterson's return to East Africa, but his health had broken down.

Lord Crew stated further with reference to the reports of Colonel Patterson's inhumanity towards Blyth he treated him throughout with nothing but kindness and humanity. Regarding the charge of shooting in the game reserve he accepted Colonel Patterson's explanation and directed his trophies to be sent to him in England.

In the Advertiser of the  
20th April 1900.

#### Victim of Gossip

#### TORY CREWE'S STORY OF AN AFRICAN TRAGEDY.

Lord Crewe, the Secretary, described in the House of Lords yesterday April 17, how Colonel Patterson, D.S.O., formerly Commandant in British East Africa, had been the victim of a rumour which had done him much harm. He said that the rumour was a concoction of the non-eating lions and stopped work on the Uganda Railway.

For Colonel Patterson returned owing to ill-health from his post last summer, rumours of a sinister character prevailed, said Lord Crewe. He had gone to the northern game preserves with a view to delimiting a boundary. Mr. Blyth, who was his companion, died in the course of the expedition from a revolver shot, undoubtedly inflicted by himself either by accident or as the consequence of the delirium of fever. The rumour made Colonel Patterson responsible for Mr. Blyth's death.

Upon his own careful inquiry, Lord Crewe was able to assure the House of Lords that the reports were wholly unfounded. There was not a single word of evidence against Col-

onel Patterson, either as to

words Mr. Blyth's death or

any other matter.

With Colonel Patterson's

name in connection with

the Uganda Railway.

## Col. Patterson.

### REPLY BY LORD CREWE.

In the House of Lords Lord Zouche of Harringworth called attention to the case of Lieut. Colonel Patterson, D.S.O., late Game Warden in British East Africa, and inquired as to the circumstances under which he had ceased to hold that position in the colony.

The Earl of Crewe, in reply, said that the question of the conduct of a public servant could never be a light one, and this particular case was so singular that it had caused them at the Colonial Office a considerable degree of anxiety. Colonel Patterson had a distinguished record of service in South Africa and elsewhere. He was mentioned in despatches more than once, and had obtained the D.S.O. He was also well known to many of their lordships for the account he gave of the expedition of the Uganda Conns. in Uganda. Work in connection with the Uganda railway was almost stopped on the night of terror these lions caused when they were imported to the Colony.

East Africa, 1909.

...ing and ... sinister character had been prevalent regarding him, not merely in East Africa, but also, he had been told, they had reached England. The rumours to which he had alluded arose, to a certain extent, out of the unfortunate death of a son of a member of their lordships, **Rouse, Lord Blyth.** Colonel Patterson was going on duty to the Northern Game Preserves, and he was accompanied by Mr. Blyth. In the course of that expedition Mr. Blyth died by a revolver shot, undoubtedly self-inflicted either by accident or in a fit of delirium consequent upon a severe attack of fever from which he suffered throughout the journey. The rumours concerning Colonel Patterson in some cases actually took the form that he had been responsible for Mr. Blyth's death. At any rate he was accused of having shown distinct inhumanity at the time. He (Lord Crewe) had examined all the documents relating to the case, and he could assure their lordships that there was no foundation whatever for these rumours. (Cheers) There was not a scrap of evidence to connect Col. Patterson in any way with having caused Mr. Blyth's death, and there was no ground for the reports that Colonel Patterson had treated Mr. Blyth with anything but kindness and humanity throughout the journey. It was also stated that Colonel Patterson had been guilty of some falsification of documents.

... was able to ...

... had accused Colonel Patterson of ...

Colonel Patterson left the East Africa should be sent to him in England. In fact speaking generally the best proof he (Lord Crewe) could give to the House that he did not consider Colonel Patterson unworthy of continuing in His Majesty's service was that he had sanctioned his return to East Africa. But Colonel Patterson's health had, he was afraid, broken down to a very great extent, and that had prevented his return to East Africa, and consequently he had ceased to hold the appointment of game warden there.