

E. AFRICA
ZANZIBAR
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16 W 10

Region

Taxation

1910

The body

Signature

Send copy of Zanzibar requesting info as to the comparative value of a poll tax & a full tax in one with proposed scheme of taxation in the following table for any info in which might be useful to the Clerk.

~~S. Africa~~ ~~Y. S. Africa~~ ~~W. India~~

In the past we have imposed both tax only in the S.A.P., Uganda, & Nyasaland, but recently we have substituted poll tax for both tax in the more developed parts of Uganda & it has been suggested that the same course should be followed in the S.A.P. Mr. Clarke talks of info as to the comparative value of the two forms of tax, but the poll tax is obviously the more remunerative but it must depend upon the local needs of Zanzibar whether or not it is substituted for the poll tax.

Mr. Stanley
We have a poll tax in the Zanzibar 19/27

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FOREIGN OFFICE

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5942/10)

SIR:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar requesting information as to the comparative value of a hut tax and a poll-tax in connexion with the proposed scheme of general taxation in the Sultanate.

Sir E. Grey would be grateful if he could be furnished with any information in the possession of your Department which might be of use to Mr. Clarke.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

W. Stanley

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

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MAY 10

9 MAY 1910

Kansibar,

Kisumu 7th, 1910

Sir:-

I understand that there is now considerable likelihood of our being able to introduce a general scheme of taxation here and from the beginning of 1912.

In his despatch on the subject No. 233 of 17th June 1909 Mr. Carr suggested that when such general taxation was introduced it should take the form of an urban rate, a poll tax and a poll tax. I am entirely in line with him in regard to the former but before definitely pronouncing in favour of the last named as compared with a hut-tax I should be glad to have some information as to the comparative value of these forms of impost from countries where one or other has been tried with a view to being the better able to come to some decision as to which

Yours

Respectfully,

J. H. M. ...

... be the more suited to our local circumstances. I
should be much obliged therefore if you could oblige for
me from the Colonial Office the particulars I desire.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

(Signed) Edward Clarke.

to request that the following
obscure on this subject
may be brought to the
notice of Mr. Sir I.

Grey

2. South Africa

In South Africa, a hut tax
has practically always
been imposed in the first
instance, & subsequently
in certain Colonies some
form of poll tax substituted
for it. ~~Nevertheless~~ a
hut tax cannot be more
easily repealed & replaced
than a poll tax; and this
is clearly an advantage
because the imposition of
poll tax is attended with
a certain greater risk of
disaffection and trouble,
especially as it is difficult

to fix a satisfactory ¹³⁷
kind of age. In most
cases, so far as South
Africa is concerned, a
poll tax has been
^{more recently} resorted to with a
view to stimulate the
native to leave his home
and ^{engage} go to work in the
mines or in other
industrial pursuits.

There is, however, considerable
difference of opinion as to
the relative advantages
of hut tax & poll
tax, as appears from

pages 60-65 of the Report of the S. African
Native Affairs Commission,
1903-1905, and pages
13-14 of the Report of the Native
Affairs Commission,
1911-7 (Natal),

of which are enclosed: and
 this difference of opinion
 is reflected in the legislation
 of the various parts
 of S. Africa. Thus,
 the Transvaal, the O.F.S.
 S. Rhodesia & N.W. Rhodesia
 levy a poll tax or a
 hut tax in the nature
 of a poll tax. N.S. Rhodesia,
 Basutoland and the
 Bechuanaland Prot.
 levy a hut tax,
 while in Natal both forms
 of tax are levied.

The most recent legislation
 on the subject is that of
 the Transvaal, S. Rhodesia
 & N.W. Rhodesia, and this
 provides for a "national tax",
 i.e. a poll tax, as stated
 in this above. Such
 legislation has the
 obvious

133
 obvious benefit of
 being likely to be
 more remunerative
 in view of the
 any tendency to the
 overcrowding of the
 population into too
 small a number of
 huts. It may
 be added, with regard
 to the amount of the
 tax, that in South
 Africa ~~the~~
 £1 per head or
 per hut ~~is~~
 a normal figure which
 has been
 collected at a
 lower rate in
 the more
 advanced regions,
 such as Northern
 Rhodesia, ~~which~~

DRAFT

MINUTE

- Mr. _____
- Mr. _____
- Mr. Fettes
- Mr. Joubert
- Mr. Cur
- Mr. D. _____
- Mr. F. _____
- Mr. _____
- Lord _____

been substituted for
the tax in the more
developed parts of
Uganda, and it has
been suggested, that
a similar course should
be adopted in the E.S.

5. Finally, while
observing that a poll tax
is ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~advisable~~ ^{advisable} ~~measure~~ ^{measure}
~~than a head tax~~ ^{more remunerative} ~~than~~ ^{than} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~tax~~ ^{tax} ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~imposed~~ ^{imposed} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~country~~ ^{country}
to point out that,
so far as Zanzibar is
concerned, it necessarily
depends upon the local
circ. of that ^{Sultanate,} ~~country~~
whether or not it is
more suited to that
country than a head
tax would be.