

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 74/1871

2 1/4 06

(Subject.)

371

Timber and Forest produce fees.

Submits explanations as to reasons for
and reports that they will not visit provinces
to make the changes and recommends that they
Changes chiefly connected with forest produce

(Minutes.)

say that, in view of the info
furnished, and Elgin approves of
the new scale of fees

at once

R. G. R.

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2 MAR 06
Commissioner's Office,

Nairobi,

February 1st 1906.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

372

No. 10
(Incl. 1)

My Lord,

*By Ngor
4/3 45/00*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 4 of the 5th ultimo.

2. It is regretted that the reduced scale of fees for the purchase of timber and other forest produce was gazetted before it had been referred for the consideration of the Secretary of State; care will be taken in future to submit such questions for orders.

3. The reasons for the alteration were that it was considered that the sale of posts and poles was hampered by the high rates, and by varying descriptions of length and thickness which gave rise to a good deal of confusion as to the amount of the fee to be levied.

4. The matter was brought to the notice of His Majesty's

Commissioner

H. M. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London.

Commissioner of the Treasury in March last year, who pointed out that in 1904 the Commissioner of Customs had departed from the Revenue Code in a manner which was unauthorized, and stated that in such a manner the Revenue Code should not be interpreted. Considerable comment was made on this subject, and the Treasury Department has since adopted the Revenue Code as the basis of its operations. The Local Auditor comments on this matter in his report, and in view of the remarks of the Commissioner of Customs it is possible that the scale of fees here suggested is the best possible.

Enclosed is a report on the subject of the scale of fees which I called for in my report of 1904, and which was published under reply and which contains a list of the proposed changes.

It is to be observed that the proposed changes include the elimination of one tree which has been a great pest in the forests, and the enhancement of the scale of fees in other respects. No alteration has been made in the scale of fees in connection with the charges are principally in connection with poles and posts and tend to a much desired simplification. I would recommend

that

that the new scale be ordered to, & further reports will be
submitted during the next financial year when we shall have
had more time to see how the alteration works.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

George Sailer

C. O.
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MEMORANDUM.

The difference between the old and new rates gazetted for forest produce are as follows:-

	OLD RATES.	NEW RATES.
1. Poles 15 - 20 feet each	8 annas	6 annas.
2. Mekeo, Matundu etc.	usual rate	1/2 usual rate.
3. Mirosi-per ft. girth	Rs.1-0-0	Rs.1-2-0.
4. Mwizi - per ft. girth	Rs.0-8-0	Rs.0-0-0.
5. Matundu & Mekeo	Rs.0-8-0	Rs.0-4-0
6. Special rates.		

To consider the above differences:

(1) Poles of from 15 to 20 feet are very seldom sold and, as in the case with all poles, the Officer in charge have strict injunctions only to sell poles which should be got rid of for the good of the forest. The forests are of course very unequally stocked and when two trees are very close together it is desirable that one of the trees should be removed. At 8 annas per pole there was ^{no} demand for 15 to 20 feet poles and all undesirable trees had to be left to grow. This hampered our forest management. Even at present prices Europeans prefer to buy imported timber and our sales are chiefly to Indians who can cut and convert the trees more cheaply.

It must therefore be remembered:

- (a) That 15 - 20 feet poles are only sold when their presence in the forest is undesirable and that in some of our forests no poles whatever are sold.
- (b) That the price now asked has hampered, yet brought the poles into competition with imported timber.



found suitable for making packing cases when a demand might be created and the price raised. For the present no merchant will take Matundu even at the reduced prices.

(6) Special rates.

There have been introduced to give us freedom in selling dead or fallen or unsound timber which could not be disposed of at the gazetted prices.

The general effect of the new prices has been to increase the sale of forest produce and more especially of the undesirable forest trees, such as Mekeo and Matundu poles. It is more than probable that new rates will require to be gazetted at intervals to regulate the demand with the local supply. There is no doubt that the present rates are low when the quantity of timber obtained is considered, yet the fact remains that we are scarcely yet competing with imported timber. In the Uvamba Province the revenue for the past 9 months amounts to Rs.7,114-10-1 compared with Rs.2,187-15-0 for the same period of 1904.

The quantity of good timber trees sold has increased very little.

(Sd) Andrew Linton.

Nairobi,

January 30th 1906.

RECORDED

By

W. A. TITTON

Enclosure

In Col. J. H. Sadler's Research
No. 50 of February 1st 1906.

Comair

E.A.F.

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Indy

8 March 1906

To, The Hon. the Governor

to acknowledge the receipt
of your despatch of the 25th of the
1st of March 1906, and in reply
to inform you that, in
view of the information
now furnished, I
approve of the new
scale of fees for the
purchase of timber and
other forest produce,
as gazetted on the 22nd of
October 1905.

Yours