

EAST AFR PROT

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REC'D  
REG'D 24 DEC 15



59151

Gen Belfield 808

Kikuyu Water Supply for Nairobi

1915

24 Nov

is copy to Gen Manager of Railways deprecating Prof Simpson's proposals.

Last previous Paper

10/11/14

Agrees with Gen Manager's views & thinks it very undesirable to incur large expense in connection with the supply of present

Miss Hq case 19/11/16

all. Note. Ref to TAM's 5th

AT 13/1/16

at once.

J. J. G.

17/1/16

Circulate to TAM's Committee 21 Jan 1916

Mr Fiddens

Extract from minutes of 87th meeting of the TAM's Committee, 17 Feb 1916 -

The Committee considered a despatch from the Gen Manager of the East African Protectorate, enclosing a letter from the Gen Manager of the Kenya Rail way on the subject of the Nairobi water supply.

Professor Simpson said that Mr. Eastwood evidently did not know the history of the Kikuyu supply. Mr. Bransby Williams, who was an expert, had reported as Mr. Eastwood would have found it he had read his report that, on gauging the flow after three and a half months dry weather he had found just under a million gallons a day and that even in the driest year it would not fall below 600,000 gallons a day. The existing service storage reservoir of 60,000 gallons was clearly not much use. When he (Professor Simpson) was at Nairobi, he found a flow of 750,000 gallons a day, and a service storage for 60,000 only, there was a small river running out of the reservoir or service tank. Mr. Williams had pointed out that a new service reservoir would be required. He added that the railway authorities were quite clearly not the proper persons to be in charge of

Next subsequent

20/1/16

the Nairobi water supply. Mr. Eastwood, in Professor Simpson's opinion, only showed that Mr. Williams' views on this point were well founded. The Kikuyu springs would always be one of the principal sources from which Nairobi would obtain its water supply, and for that reason required adequate protection.

He found that the attitude of the East African authorities towards his recommendations was quite different from that of the West African Governments. The East African people were whittling down every suggestion he made; and, if this went on, the state of affairs in ten years would be thoroughly vicious.

Mr. Read said that the want of money perhaps explained the difference of attitude.

Professor Simpson said he understood the position, but wished to see a policy laid down which would be followed when money was forthcoming.

It was decided to recommend that the considerations to which Professor Simpson called attention should be pointed out to the Government, and they should be asked to report further.

Ref  
14/2/16

Mr Bottomley

Diff. submitted

RF  
16

Circulated to TAMS Committee 2 March 1916

No objection was raised at meeting of 7 March 1916

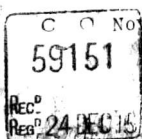
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15/3/16

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 808.



Sir,

In reply to paragraphs 5 and 6 of your predecessor's despatch No. 353 of May 20th, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the General Manager of the Uganda Railway on the question of the Kikuyu water supply for Nairobi.

I am in agreement with the views expressed by Mr. Eastwood and consider that it would be undesirable to incur any large expenditure in connection with this supply at the present time. The estimated cost of acquiring the land is undoubtedly high but property in that district is in considerable demand and I doubt whether it could be purchased for less.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*A. Lowry Bevier*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

*13511*  
Gen. Manager  
16-11-15

INCLOSURE

In Dispatch No. 20 of 20/11/15

59151

REC'D  
REF: 24 DEC 15TELEGRAMS ADDRESS:  
MANAGER, N. R. B.  
P. O. Box No. 27.

## Uganda Railway

PLEASE REFER TO  
YOUR REPLY.

General Manager's Office.

No. D.19/51/1114

Nairobi, November 16, 1915

S. S. A.

To The Hon'ble

THE CHIEF SECRETARY

to the Government,

NAIROBI.

Sir,

PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S REPORT.

Your No. S. 913/101 dated the 5th July.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd September asking for reports on certain reports raised by Professor Simpson in connection with the Waberi Water Survey, I have the honour to state that until actual experiments are made to see what supplies can be tapped the outflow of Waberi is a matter of opinion, and can be a matter of opinion only. At present we know that the present supply is insufficient.

2. In my opinion, I can only re-iterate, that I consider the present water supply insufficient for the wants of the future, and if springs are tapped lower down the valley as suggested by Professor Simpson (expressed in para. 3 of the Colonial Office despatch no. 353) the present reservoir would not be available for storing such supplies, and therefore I do not consider the expenditure of a large sum of money justifiable.

3. With regard to para. 6, the value of the land is put at an all round figure of £10 per acre. It is very rich country; it is built over and inhabited, and about half is under cultivation, but although the land could be compulsorily acquired, and the value fixed by a Government Assessor,

I consider it my right, for the purpose of forming an estimate of the cost of Profas or Simpson's proposition, to put the land at what is as near as possible its real market value.

4. An intercepting drain can be put in at a cost of about Rs. 15,000, and if you consider it of sufficient urgency this can be done as soon as we can get labour, characteristic to Nairobi Water Supply, Capital Grant, in which there is a sufficient unexpended balance that could be employed for this purpose.

5. To acquire the land and buildings would require a special provision, and for the reasons expressed in para. 2, I do not consider the expenditure at the present time should be incurred.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

Sgt. F. WATSON.

General Manager,  
Nairobi Waterworks.

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G. A. P.  
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Discd 2/25/16

Printed 19 Feb '16

DRAFT

911 No 119  
G. A. Belfield

MINUTE

- Mr. Fiddis 16/2
- Mr. Bothamby 17/2/16
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

for cause

Sir,

I have the hon. to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 808 of the 24th of Nov., transmitting a copy of a letter from the General Manager of the Uganda Railway on the question of the Kikuyu water supply for Nairobi.

2. Mr. Eastwood expresses the opinion that until actual experiments are made to see what supply can be tapped, the utilization of the Kikuyu spring is a matter of opinion, but that in his judgment, the present supply is insufficient for the

needs of the future.

3. It does not appear from Mr. Eastwood's letter that he is acquainted with the report of Mr. Brandy Williams on this subject. On page 18 of his printed "Report on the Sanitation of Navaho" Mr. Williams says: "The springs appear to have a deep-seated origin, the flow is, I am informed, fairly constant. I gauged this flow & found that at the time of my visit the total quantity of water coming from the springs was just under 1,000,000 gallons a day. This was after 3 1/2 months dry weather. I am of opinion that a supply of 600,000 gallons a day may be safely calculated on even in the driest years."

4. On page 40 of this report Mr. Williams says: "In order to cope with the maximum daily rate of consumption a new

Further,

service reservoir will eventually be required. The present <sup>101</sup> storage is only 60,000 gallons, this will clearly not be of much use when the daily supply from the reservoir is 540,000 gallons per day."

5. Mr. Brandy Williams was undoubtedly entitled to speak with authority on a question of this character, & I am not aware that during the nine years that have elapsed since his report was printed any facts have come to light that <sup>would</sup> tend to <sup>or any new development occurred</sup> to invalidate his conclusions. On the contrary, I understand that Mr. S. P. Simpson, during his visit to Navaho in 1913, found a flow of 750,000 gallons passing through a service reservoir of the capacity of 60,000 gallons only. <sup>Even if in the</sup>

constant future it should be  
found necessary to supplement  
the Kibungu supply, it will  
probably always be a very  
important contribution to the  
water supply of Nairobi. It  
follows that it is essential to  
the health of the community  
that it should be adequately  
protected against pollution.

I realize that the  
present is not a time at which  
the expenditure <sup>required in</sup> ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~undertaken~~  
to give full protection to  
this supply can be undertaken,  
but the cost ~~of this work~~ is  
not likely to decrease as time  
goes on, & I am of opinion  
that the matter should be  
very carefully considered as  
soon as the present financial  
stringency is abated, with a  
view to the <sup>commencement</sup> ~~adoption~~ of a  
practical programme on the  
lines suggested by Professor  
Simpson, unless proposals less expensive in <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ ~~matter~~, ~~of~~  
better adapted to secure the  
safeguarding of the supply  
can be put forward in the meanwhile. I should welcome a full  
expression of opinion on  
this subject.