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Conf. Dir. Patta work also
- P.S. Memorandum to
a report on the water boring service for 1931,
& Exhibits in regard to an erroneous
report of an intention to exercise certain
water rights from the Texas Reserve

This report is interesting and
although it shows that water boring
operations have been closed down
this may be of advantage in the
long run if it leads to a re-organization
of this service on scientific principles
to first a geological survey of
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a comprehensive scheme as suggested
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expense in transport etc. will be avoided
(one water administration in 1930 had
to pay £250 in transport charges for the
service).

No doubt the utilization of this service
by means of the water Betterment Fund
when that has been so established.

P. Patta
J. S. Pinks M.A.
8/7/32

P.P.D.

1973
No. Memorandum 68. Dis. Patti Hooker
Conf. Dis. Patti Hooker
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when that has been so established.

? Patti

J. S. Pinks M.A.
8/7/32

P.P.D.

never been applied for from Kenya.

In (I think) January of this year Mr. Moore (then of C.A.S.) showed to me a letter which he had rec'd from the Colony asking him to ascertain the prospects of an application to the C.A.S. for capital for water-boring. As I was then Secretary of the C.A.S. I advised Mr. Moore that such an application would stand a poor chance of success, as (a) its object would be the maintenance, or at best the resurrection, of an existing service, & the C.A.S. had frequently expressed their reluctance to relieve a Col. part of its existing obligations; and (b) ~~as~~ all the plant was already available in Kenya, a C.A.S. grant would be spent entirely in the Colony; whereas the C.A.S. were now concentrating on schemes likely to benefit the U.K.

I gathered that Mr. Moore proposed to reply accordingly to his correspondent at the Nairobi Secretariat.

Mr. Poynton tells me that she shares the

yes, ~~no~~ it would be a waste of time & effort in

147 Kenya to apply

2. I doubt whether money will be forthcoming from the Native Betterment Fund for water-boring, at any rate until that fund has built up a cash reserve. For the first year, or two, its resources will probably be exhausted in supplying the four direct native agencies, no one of which can legitimately be said to use water-boring.

3. There seems to be no escape from the Governor's conclusion that water-boring must be suspended until the financial position improves. It is satisfactory to know that when conditions permit a resumption, work will proceed on a completely thought-out scheme, rather than on the haphazard system hitherto pursued.

Education
Public Health
Roads & Bridges
Agriculture

Partly
A. Street
9/7

I agree that we cannot see where the additional money for this purpose is to come

from

from, and that therefore we must accept the proposal that water boring should be put into cold storage.

So far as the native reserves are concerned I very much regret the necessity for this, but we cannot indicate to the Governor on what other services he should save the necessary money, and I do not wish to begin suggesting that services should be ^{preserved} saved, simply because we regret their disappearance. Otherwise there is no finality ~~to the~~ expenditure and no possibility of substantial economy.

W.S.
11.7.32

I agree

B.H.B.

13.7.32

I agree, but it is all to the good that the geological ~~survey is going on~~ basis is being thought out in the meantime.

M.H.

14.7.32

AW



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

KENYA:

No. 84

CONFIDENTIAL.

13^{1/2} JUNE, 1932.

RECEIVED
- 4 JUL 1932

No 2
17046/31

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Lord Passfield's Confidential despatch of 17th March, 1931, on the subject of water boring services.

2. The problem of employing the water boring plants at present in charge of the Director of Public works to their best advantage, especially with regard to the Native Reserves, has received my earnest consideration and, with this in view, I transmit a Memorandum prepared by the Director of Public works and also a Report on the water boring service for the year 1931. It will be seen that there were four boreholes sunk in Native Reserves last year and of these three were successful, there was also one borehole which was successfully deepened to secure a purer supply.

3. The recommendations made by the Director of Public works in his Memorandum accorded closely with those made by a Sub-Committee of the Provincial Commissioners which had discussed the question in March 1930, and the only obstacle to applying them was the question of finance.

4. Owing to the present financial stringency
only.....

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MAJOR SIR PHILIP GUNLIFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.



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only two ways by which the sum of £10,000 per area could be raised were:

- (a) through the Local Native Councils;
- (b) by means of a grant from the Colonial Development fund.

Unfortunately it proved quite impossible for the Local Native Councils to raise the sum without extraneous help whilst a grant from the Colonial Development fund was not forthcoming.

5. In view of this and of the assurance that ~~the~~ water boring equipment was not likely to deteriorate or become reduced appreciably in value by storage, I decided with the concurrence of my Executive Council to close down operations except for existing or implied commitments and the completion of two more boreholes in Laikipia on Crown Lands where two machines were already at work. This decision was foreshadowed in paragraph 4. of Kenya despatch No. 16 of the 8th January 1932, and the savings since effected have amounted to £3,500. In accordance with my previous suggestion I am devoting a portion of the savings to the expenses of the Geological Survey not being undertaken by Sir Alfred Kitson.

No 1
Rowley/32

6. I would add that this decision will not affect in any way the work at present proceeding in the Northern Frontier Province in connection with the improvement of water supplies out of the Abyssinian Compensation Fund, which is controlled by the Provincial Administration and not by the Public

Works

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Works Department.

No 2
1586/29
(In circulation)

7. The boreholes to which reference is made in paragraph 3. of Lord Passfield's despatch are the same as those mentioned in the first paragraph of the first enclosure to Sir Edward Brigg's confidential despatch No. 133. of 10th September, 1930. In this connection I assure you that there is no intention whatever to excise any water holes from the Native Reserve as gazetted by Government notice No. 394 of the 13th October, 1926. It is the fact however that there are water holes near Simba, which the Masai have been accustomed to use, outside that gazetted Reserve and it is probably to these that the Provincial Commissioner refers in his Annual report and in connection with which he makes the erroneous statement that it is proposed to excise them from the Reserve. As they have never been in the Reserve it is not possible to excise them from it.

No 5
16096/30

8. These water holes are situated in the railway Mile Zone and as I informed Lord Passfield in my despatch No. 43. of the 17th January, 1931, the disposal of that area is under consideration by this Government and has been referred for advice to the Central Board established under the Native Lands Trust Ordinance. That Board has given its advice but as implied in my telegram of 30th September, 1931, no action has been taken on that advice in view of the prospective Land Commission to whom the problem will be referred in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

17332/11
1/24/32

REPORT ON BORING FOR WATER
DURING 1931.

Forty boreholes were sunk during the year. Of these 29 were successful yielding 833,000 gallons per day in the aggregate, or 28,000 gallons per day average at a mean depth of 236 feet. Of the 11 unsuccessful holes, 5 were abandoned owing to drilling difficulties, 3 were stopped by the applicants at shallow depths and 3 were drilled to a fair depth without yielding a potable supply in excess of one gallon per minute. The percentage of success in drilling operations was, therefore, 72.5. but, if 8 holes which were abandoned at shallow depth for the reasons stated are left out of consideration, the percentage is 90.6. - a highly satisfactory result. The necessity for the abandonment of some holes on account of fissured, bouldery or highly inclined strata, or other contingency or mishap, can never be completely eliminated even with the utmost vigilance on the part of the driller, and every such occurrence has been fully enquired into:

The expenditure during the year was £13,713. but only a portion of the work undertaken was revenue earning, for some of it was carried out on unalienated Crown Lands and in the Kamasia Native Reserve without any repayment. The actual revenue received during the year was £5,628.

The demand for boring on payment by European farmers and local Native Councils was very small during the year because of the economic depression.

Most

necessitating gradual retrenchment of drill staff,
so that at the end of the year only five out of
fourteen were in the field. Moreover, the spasmodic
and uncertain nature of the applications, often
from isolated and distant centres, rendered
organisation extremely difficult and overheads
high; for the cost of moving 15 tons of plant and
equipment over long distances - a cost which falls
on Government under the regulations - is scarcely
justified unless there is a fair programme of work
in the vicinity of the centre to which the unit is
moved.

Ref. No. E. 28/117/B/1/3.

The Hon. the Ag. Colonial Secretary,
Nairobi.

WATER BORING.

Ref. Your No. S/C. WAT. 2/1/14. Ill. dated
1/12/31.

I have given much consideration to schemes to
comply with your letter under reference both for
European and native areas.

EUROPEAN AREAS.

2. The following possibilities for increasing the
demand have been considered:-

- (1) Reversion to a charge per day for drilling in
place of the footage rate which was tried
tentatively to make boring more attractive
but has not fulfilled expectations.
- (2) Reduction of charges in cases where 6. or more
completed applications (supported by bank
guarantees) are received from one district of
limited area.
- (3) Amendment of the Land and Agricultural Bank
Ordinance, 1930, so as to provide special
facilities for obtaining advances for boring
for water as has been done in the case of
fencing and dipping.

3. Unless Government were prepared to subsidise
boring on European farms to a greater extent than has yet
been proposed, the rate under para. 2.(1) could not be
reduced below £5.10.0. per day. The rate under para. 2(2)
might be reduced to £5.0.0, but I am definitely of the
opinion that under present economic and financial
conditions it would not be likely to be possible to get
even

any drilling charge which did not involve very serious loss to Government. As regards 2(3), I see no way in which the Ordinance could be so amended as to provide facilities which would be likely to appeal to farmers at the present time and also give adequate security to Government. Moreover, it seems to me that the arguments in favour of special facilities for fencing and dipping scarcely apply to water boring on farms.

BORING IN NATIVE AREAS.

4. I find myself of the opinion, after discussions from time to time with administrative officers, that the present methods of financing and controlling boring in Native Reserves have proved unsatisfactory in practice. I consider that these methods have been responsible for unduly high cost to Government, and sometimes to Native Councils, and for unwillingness in some areas to embark on further boring operations. I regard the unsatisfactory results to have been primarily due to the following circumstances:-

- (1) The spasmodic character of boring in individual native areas, there usually being no fixed programme for a machine in view for any considerable period. This generally causes high transport costs, often over difficult country to widely separated sites, and sometimes abandonment of proposals after expenditure has been incurred far in excess of the sum chargeable to the Native Councils under the Boring Regulations. Transport, often under difficult weather conditions, and by slow and indifferent means at the disposal of administrative officers, causes overheads to mount up owing to the drill crew, although helping with the transport, doing no productive work which can be charged for.
- (2) Delays caused by difficulties of transport of fuel and water by means at the disposal of administrative officers.

(3) Delays ...

localities and waiting for spares to arrive. Inadequate supervision of the drill foremen themselves in difficultly accessible places.

- (4) Unsuitable pumps, tanks, troughs, and other portions of installations purchased and installed by administrative officers under indifferent technical advice, and inadequate attention to them while in operation.

5. In my opinion, it is not desirable to undertake further boring operations in Native Reserves, except on the following general lines. These should, in my view, be applied to each area where it is intended to improve the water supply.

- (1) The preparation of a completely thought out scheme for the area concerned (not excluding methods other than boring whenever this would adequately fulfil requirements and be cheaper) by the Public Works Department in collaboration with the administrative officers concerned.
- (2) Approval or disapproval of the scheme by Government.
- (3) If approved, provision of the capital funds required to carry out the scheme.
- (4) Execution of the scheme by the Public Works Department - though, of course, in practice, as in the case of all works in Native Reserves, the work would be done in close collaboration with the administrative officers.

6. The above procedure would obviate the difficulties mentioned in paragraph 4. which have been found unavoidable under present methods. They are, in fact, largely due to the endeavour to apply to Native Councils in Native Reserves a set of regulations designed for drilling for individual farmers.

7. Clearly the application of the principles of paragraph 6. necessitates the prior provision of capital funds for each area. It would not, in my

opinion

Opinion, as practicable unless at least £10,000 were available for each area where the water supply was required to be improved, and this sum would probably, on the average, justify the employment of 2 machines, taking into consideration the probability that in some areas means for the supply of water other than boring might be found more suitable either in whole or in part.

8. As this is dependent on the provision of capital funds, it seems out of the question at present to proceed with it, and, in my view, the only suitable alternative is to close down boring in Native Areas for the time being.

BORING ON CROWN LANDS:

9. Boring is at present being carried out on unalienated Crown Lands, North Eastern Laikipia. After visiting this area, I feel of the opinion that there is not justification for continuing the operations at the present time, except possibly to the extent of completing two more successful holes. In parts of this area, water could be provided more cheaply by the construction of small dams to impound flood water than by pumping from boreholes. Work of this kind could be done by the farmer at his own expense.

10. Finally, I recommend that drilling for water should be abandoned and equipment stored until the financial and economic situation shows a substantial improvement, subject to the following:-

- (1) Existing commitments and implied commitments to be carried out.
- (2) Possibly two more boreholes to be completed on Crown lands, Laikipia.

I would add that equipment of this character is not likely to deteriorate or to become reduced appreciably in value by storage. Boring apparatus does not vary much in design from year to year.

SD: H. L. SIKES.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.