

1931.

Kenya

No. 17159

SUBJECT

C0533/410

*Discrepancies - Furniture and Effects at  
Government House, Nairobi.*

Previous

*Am. 16 29 2/12 (Report House  
Admin. Commission)*

Subsequent

1  
Nov. 1911  
before Sir A. Bugg ordered inventory to be made  
at Government House, Honolulu. Enclosed report of  
Board of Inquiry a missing articles and request  
steps be taken to recover sum of \$300.50  
for Sir A. Bugg.

This is the result of an inventory  
ordered by Sir Edward Oring himself, who doubt in  
accordance with Col. Reg. 562, which reads as follows:  
"Whenever a Governor vacates his  
Government, a similar inspection will be made; and if  
the retiring officer does not cause the deficiencies  
for which he is responsible to be made good, the  
inspecting officer will prepare for immediate trans-  
mission to the Secretary of State a statement of the  
expenses to be incurred for that purpose, in order  
that the Secretary of State may take steps to recover  
the amount from the officer responsible".

Draft herewith, and a copy, without  
enclosure, should be sent to the Crown Agents, L.P.,  
for information and guidance.

1/11/11  
4/27/31  
I sent to the version  
as I think G. D. could  
with full power in  
acc. Pakhuan  
I will - but not  
"hand"  
- 1/5/31

I don't know, but have taken  
on myself to pay the debt.

J. H. H. H.

79 1/5/31

To Sir A. Bugg (info. 1/11/11)

- 9 MAY 1931

1/1/31

C.M. (info 2/1/11) - 3/1/11

10 MAY 1931

1  
New York 17/1 \_\_\_\_\_ 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Leford to A. Hugg, advised inventory to be made  
at Government House, Karachi. Enclosed report of  
cost of buying a missing article and requests  
steps be taken to recover sum of Rs. 360.50  
for Mr. A. Hugg

This is the result of an inventory  
ordered by Sir Edward Glegg himself, who doubt in  
accordance with Col. Reg. 562, which reads as follows:-

"Whenever a Governor vacates his  
Government, a similar inspection will be made: and if  
the retiring officer does not cause the deficiencies  
for which he is responsible to be made good, the  
inspecting officer will prepare for immediate trans-  
mission to the Secretary of State a statement of the  
expenses to be incurred for that purpose, in order  
that the Secretary of State may take steps to recover  
the amount from the officer responsible".

Draft herewith, and a copy, without  
enclosure, should be sent to the Crown Agents, L.P.,  
for information and guidance.

✓ 17/1/31 (I send to Mr. Vernon,  
as I think G.D. can  
with Govt. House inventory)  
4/5/31  
A.C. Pathekar

I will - Mr. H. S. H.  
"H. S. H."  
- 1/5/31

I don't know, but have taken  
on myself to pay the debt.

J. H. H.

79 ) 1/5/31

To Mr. Glegg (info. comm.) - 9 MAY 1931

10/5/31 (info. 2/5/31) - 3/10 20 MAY 1931

4 Sir L. Grogg \_\_\_\_\_  
Lipate letter to be referred to him  
knowledge of Government Council, who may be  
able to show some light on disappearance

I now write to GAO  
Sir L. Grogg as at draft  
enclosed

copy  
2-11-21

recd  
9.6.21  
closed

1 Sir L. Grogg (Lancaster) \_\_\_\_\_  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE  
to Gov. GAO (in file 20/11  
Lancaster)  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE  
11 JUN 1951

1 from Lipate \_\_\_\_\_  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE  
that have not received "reassurance" from  
L. Grogg, but request to be informed  
of any further action to be taken

I have sent a P.O. with explanation

recd  
9/11/21  
closed

col

1 9th October 1929 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 August  
enclose copy correspondence with Sir L. Grogg, who  
is unable to show any light on the disappearance  
of the missing article

I am under the impression that Sir L. Grogg  
has stated that in the case he would pay up  
draft \_\_\_\_\_  
9th October 1929

recd  
9/11

Sir Edward Grigg said, definitely in No. 4 that of Miss Harper "cannot throw any light on the disappearance I will of course make myself responsible". In the circumstances I think it would not be ~~advisable~~ to pick the point in (certainly not in the terms of the last part of paragraph 2 of the draft), but to leave Sir Edward Grigg to draw inference and act on it.

Would you be prepared to sign a letter? (Sir Edward Grigg is a little touchy on these matters and would not appreciate why the signing authority had come so low as myself.)

1/11/21

8/11/21

I am under the impression that Sir L. Grogg is more than  
willing to be mentioned in the letter

closed 9/11/21

To Sir E. Grigg (etc etc)

23 SEP 1931

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Sir E. Grigg

14 September

In view of Miss Harper's reply, I consider nothing to show articles but not become missing after date when he had ceased to be responsible for practice at that time.

It is clear from No. 1 that (as V.O.B. says) Miss Harper is mistaken in her assertion that the articles were not missing at the inventory taken in October, 1930.

Perhaps Sir C. Bottomley would be prepared to write to Sir Edward Grigg on the lines of the draft herewith for comment.

J. Bottomley  
S. A. M.  
23/9/31

I am quite sure that Sir C. Bottomley will not wish to switch, or to semi-official correspondence with regard to this matter and I put up a revised draft for comment.

W.H.C.

23/9/31  
Yes - we are bound to show this out, but I hope the coming year will not last much longer.

W.H.C.  
24.9.31

11 To Sir E. Grigg (-16. 10 small) (10 enclosed)

26 SEP 1931

Nothing further received from Sir E. Grigg.

C. Bottomley  
23/9/31

Limit the after the date.  
B.N. 11 Nov.

J. Bottomley  
23.9.31  
at

Mr. Eastman

Open letter forward.  
R. 247 4/9/31

At Mr. Allen's suggestion I spoke to Sir C. Bottomley who said he would be prepared to write a line privately to Sir E. Grigg. Draft herewith for comment.

J. Bottomley  
24.9.31

(I received one from the C.B. that I should be at post)

Short of an alternative  
W.H.C.

W.H.C.  
12.9.31

12 To Sir E. Grigg - No 24 20/9/31

11/10/31

P.T.

please see slip attached.

I attach a note of the facts. There is a clear obligation upon Sir Edward Grigg to pay for the missing articles. Perhaps a private letter from Sir S. Wilson to him might have some effect.

I am sorry to have delayed this.

*J. G. [Signature]*  
17/12/31

Mr McSwaney

The note set out the  
facts - I hope Sir S. Wilson  
will accept an apology for  
his slowness in dealing with  
a reference from him in  
this

*J. G. [Signature]*  
17/12/31

*P. G. [Signature]*  
30/12/31

13 to Sir G. Guss - 21/1  
39.12.31

*[Handwritten initials]*

14. Letter from Sir S. Grigg dated 21/12/31

Letter to Sir S. Grigg dated 31/12/31

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

*Sir C. Nathan [Signature]*

has an ID copy to

No 14?

*[Handwritten initials]*

7.1.32

Sir S. Wilson.

I have discussed this annoying matter with Mr. Allen, and I submit a draft letter which I suggest we should send to Sir E. Grigg. But I do not think that there is any material confusion. Both sides are talking about the inventory of October 1930, ~~and~~ the issue is simply one of fact - were the articles missing from Government House, Waikiki, then, or not?

*[Handwritten initials]* 11/1/32

An extract from ...  
Mr. [Name] file ...  
Revised [Name]. (1 Aug 1931)  
...

1000 of my own field papers are  
 I was told by them  
 as the relevant part of 13. 14  
 XTC asking whether he agrees  
 with the position as stated in  
 10. 16 & 17. That if so we  
 will make another effort to persuade  
 Sir E. Glegg to pay up.

J. Glegg  
 15/11/32

J. Glegg — 9. 19/11/32  
 J. Glegg — 9. 19/11/32

I have written to you on 11. 10. 1932 (part 16/17)  
 25/11/32

7/12/32  
 Note for memo dated, that E. Glegg  
 and his partner in the description in  
 10. 16 that the articles were not missing when  
 he left the shop & the inventory was full  
 and then a month later.

It now appears that Miss Harper  
 could not have been informed at the  
 time of the inventory in Sept 1932 that  
 certain articles were missing because  
 the inventory did not show

whether specific articles were missing  
 or not. (The system of stock is  
 evidently misadventurous).

Write to Sir E. Glegg's attorney  
 that the inventory was taken in access  
 with his instructions; as soon as possible  
 after his departure (on 26 Sept. 1932 on Thursday  
 a Sunday, not a Sunday!) that this  
 helps very prominently provided and agreed  
 with the correctness of the count; that  
 it was not until the inventory had  
 been compared with the books of Messrs  
 and with the inventory of H. M. M. M. M. M. M.  
 that it could definitely be known that  
 what articles were missing; that  
 a Board was then convened to  
 decide what of the missing articles  
 (there were evidently a number of other articles  
 under 1) should properly be  
 charged against Sir E. Glegg and that  
 they decided that all should be written  
 off with the exception of those whose  
 question.

In the circumstances that while  
 there may be ground for criticism in the  
 delay caused by the present system of  
 checks there seems no reason to question  
 the findings of the Board and suggest  
 that Sir E. Glegg should now pay.

J. Glegg's atty  
 12/11/32

Sir C. G. Bennett.

Two important admissions were listed  
in No. 19a-

1. Miss Harper was given an opportunity  
to account for the fact that the articles were  
missing on September 19th. The fact was not  
established till the books were balanced at some  
date after the procedure which was then usual in  
Government House with the Opposition Party.

2. There is quite a possibility of the  
Governor himself saying that the articles were  
stolen during the confusion which may well be  
imagined to have prevailed between 4 p.m. on  
the 18th September and the arrival of the  
Opposition Party on September 19th. True, the  
House agreed that the Government House was  
"closed" to the signature of the Governor; but  
evidently he says that September 19th was  
"closed" in evening hours and the House-keeper  
was, in fact, not entirely satisfied and  
permitted to bring her quarters for a short  
or after Sir George's wife's departure. Enclosure 7  
to the report in 1928 shows that the House-  
keeper sleeps in the main building, which would  
not, therefore, have been closed under lock and key.

In the circumstances it seems very  
difficult to prove the claim against Sir George  
Brett. Justice Kenneth for comment.

Harper

6/10

15.10.72

Shirley Jones



22

C. O.

Mr. Preston. 14 /4/32.

17159/31. Kenya.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkman

Mr. Thompson

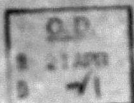
To C. Anthony 15-4-32

To J. MacArthur

To [unclear] 16-4-32

Party, U.S. of A.

Secretary of State



DOWNING CENTER,

22 April, 1932.

FOR THE CAROL WILSON'S OIL

**DRAFT.**

SIR EDWARD BRIDGE, K.C.M.G.,

27, St. George's, N.W.

You will be glad to know that as a result of further correspondence with Byron it has now been decided to drop the claim made against you by the Exchange Agreement for the cigarette boxes and not Krays, etc. arising from Government boxes in Nairobi. What happened to the articles in question must remain a mystery, and after this lapse of time it seems unlikely that anything will turn up to solve it.

Yours ever,

E. H. WILSON

I am glad this is settled at last

22/4/32

21<sup>9</sup>

C. O.

Mr. Dwyer. N. 1/4/24.

17189/21. Kenya.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parsons

Mr. Tombs

Mr. C. B. Dwyer

Mr. J. Stubbins

Post. U.S. of S.

Post. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

15432 f. 1/11/24  
H. Dwyer  
SE

DORRIS STREET,

22 April, 1924.

REQ. FOR DAN CECIL HUTTON'S DIS

DRAFT.

My dear Sir,

HIS EXCELLENCY

Many thanks for your

BRIGADIER GENERAL

trouble in sending the further

SIR JOSEPH STONE, K.C.W.B.,

information about the articles

K.B.E., C.B.

missing from Government House on  
Grigg's departure.

The correspondence has  
now been dragging on for a year,  
and in view of the impossibility  
of achieving this by your letter

shows  
that the articles had  
been disappeared on September 23rd

It has been agreed here that the  
claim should not be further  
pursued. This note is to accompany

the Secretary of State's despatch

No. 120

3 d/10

C. O.

20 <sup>10</sup>

Mr. Freeston. 14/4/32.

17159/31. Kenya.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Perkinson

Mr. Tomlinson

✓ Sir C. Bottomley. 15.4.32

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Partly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DOWNING STREET,

22 April, 1932.

Sir,

3 DRAFT s.

KENYA.

NO. 320

GOVERNOR. 37

3 affs

With reference to your  
despatch No. 479 of the 21st of

(5) August, 1931, regarding the

disappearance of certain

articles of furniture shown on

the Inventory of Government

House at Nairobi, I have etc.

to inform you that as the result

of further correspondence with

Sir Edward Gigg, I am

satisfied that he cannot

properly be charged with the

cost of the articles in question.

You will no doubt arrange for the

losses to be written off as

irrecoverable.

I have, etc.

(Sgd.) P CUNLIFFE-LISTER

RECEIVED  
17th March 1932  
COL. O.

19

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
KENYA,  
EAST AFRICA.

17th March, 1932.

My dear Estonley,

18/3

I have your letter 17109/31 of 28th January about the articles of furniture missing from Government House here the replacement cost of which has been claimed from Grigg, who in his letter to you of 14th September last says:-

\*I observe from Miss Harper's reply contained in the correspondence that according to her these articles were not missing when the last inventory was taken before she left Government House in October 1930. There is, as far as I can see, nothing to show that the articles did not become missing after that date when I had ceased to have any responsibility.....\*

Now, according to the papers I have perused, Grigg left Government House, Nairobi, on 24th September, 1930. The Public Works Department had already been instructed to take a full inventory of everything as quickly as possible after his departure: this they did on 26th September, 1930 - within two days of his departure. Miss Harper herself was permitted to stay on in Government House for a week or so after Grigg left and she only vacated her quarters, so I am told, somewhere about the first week in October, i.e., she was present in Government House during the taking of the inventory. Admittedly the inventory did not immediately

show.....

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
KENTA,  
EAST AFRICA

17th March, 1932.

above (in September, 1930) that specific articles were missing, as the books had not been "balanced". The actual count, though, in September had the balance been taken at ~~once~~ - would have proved that these articles were actually missing on that date, i.e., between 26th September, 1930, and say, 24th October, 1930. The count in September was made by a responsible officer of the Public Works Department and an officer of the Audit Department, presumably in the presence of Miss Harper; this being so, I assume Miss Harper's concurrence with the correctness of the check made by the two officers as to the actual number of articles present when they counted them. - They may not have specifically stated in her presence on that particular day in September that there should be, say, six Silver Cigarette Boxes and that there were only five present, one being missing.

I think the above shows that Grigg must be mistaken in the assertion made in his letter to Wilson of 30th December, 1931, that "the articles were not missing when he left the Colony and the inventory was held more than a month later". The inventory was commenced some 48 hours after his departure. Forty-eight hours' delay is not excessive as

Grigg's.....

Ko 14

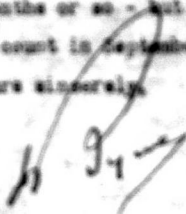
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
EAST AFRICA.

17th March, 1932.

Grigg's special train only left Nairobi at 4 p.m. on 24th September, 1930, and the next day was utilized in squaring up - the checking of the inventory was actually commenced the following day. Of course, no one can say whether anything disappeared between 4 p.m. on 24th September and the time the actual check was made. The usual practice followed during past years was observed on the departure of the Governor - Government House was "closed" and all silver ware, etc., locked up in a safe place.

The Board of Survey certainly sat some time later - probably two months or so - but that does not affect the correctness of the count in September.

Yours sincerely,



SIR CHARLES BOTTOMEY, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.R.N.,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
DOING STREET, S. E. 1,  
LONDON.

C. O.

17159/31/Kenya.

Handwritten number 18 and other marks.

Mr. Eastwood 21/1

Mr. Freeston 21.

Mr. Allen. *21/1/76/1*

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. *26.1 f*

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C. O.  
R 6 JAT  
D 27

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized '2' or 'X'.

Downing street,

28 January, 1932.

**DRAFT**

for answer.

S.O. for Sir C. Bottomley's signature.

Sir Joseph Byrnes.

*Henry 1856 CA*

My dear Byrnes

We have had during the past year certain official correspondence regarding a sum of £18,000. alleged to be due by Grigg on account of articles of furniture missing from Government House, Nairobi. The last official communication was your despatch No. 479 of the 21st August, 1931. Since then there has been official <sup>Correspondence</sup> with Grigg followed by personal correspondence between him and Wilson. I enclose copies of it.

To GRIFF 11.2.31  
9

Fr. do. 14.2.31  
10

To do. 26.9.31  
11

To do. 29.12.31  
13

Fr. do. 30.12.31 extract  
x to x of No. 14.

To do 18.1.32 extract.  
x to x of No. 15.

Fr. do.  
17

Please returning to the charge

with  
LW

Downing Street,  
19th January, 1932

C. P.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr. Parkman  
Mr. Tomlinson  
I Sir C. Dunscombe, K.C.  
Sir J. Shackleton  
+ From: E. G. G. 15.1.32  
To: P. O. S.  
Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL  
SIR EDWARD GRIGG, K.C.M.G.,  
K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.

*My best hel*  
*with reference to*  
I have considered your letter

of the 30th of December, and in view of  
what you say I do not think that we can  
ask you to pay without ~~first~~ referring  
back to Kenya.

Our view of what happened on

the papers which we have received, is  
that a Board of Survey was held in  
October 1930 on the effects at Govern-  
ment House, Nairobi, and that the  
articles now in question were then  
found to be missing. As Miss Harper  
says that she was present at this  
survey and that the articles were not  
missing, there is a direct conflict  
which presumably can be cleared up.

The

with Grigg we should like  
to have an assurance that the  
position is not set out in Wilson's  
letter to him of the 10th January.  
A simple assurance to that effect  
would however not be sufficient  
for the purpose but Wilson's letter  
of the 10th January will serve as  
a guide to what we have in mind.  
What we want is a complete and  
statement of events which will  
clear up all the ~~points~~ *points*  
which are to be pursued up to 1932

It is worth noting that the  
summary that was sent to you  
though I am sorry to bother you  
I think it is most important that you  
should set up last such a statement  
I am sure you will be glad to do so

*That is, if you  
think it is worth the  
trouble, you may get  
the summary which  
was sent to you and  
the summary that the  
summary of it is  
and be found.*



The next question which arose was whether  
the missing articles were by any chance  
at Government House, Bombay. They were  
not found there, and in consequence a Board  
of Enquiry was held in January 1931 to  
consider what should be done in regard  
to them. This is the statement of the  
position which we proposed to put to the  
Governor, and I think that when we get  
his reply the obscurities which have  
existed should be satisfactorily cleared

up.

I will see that what you say about

clearing is noted

*Done  
G. D. S. S. S.*

14

MR. GUYTON SQUARE,

S.W.A.

30th December 1931.

My dear Samson,

Thank you so much for returning Mrs. Martin's letter.

You have raised the point regarding the claim on me for articles missing at Government House. My contention is that they were not missing when I left the Colony and therefore ceased to be responsible. A most regular inventory was kept while I was there and articles were replaced immediately, and my housekeeper has assured me that these articles were not missing at the time I left. The inventory was held more than a month later and I don't think I can be held responsible for what happened in the interval.

I hate to be troublesome on a small matter, but I took enormous pains to look after Government property in Keape, maintaining a housekeeper for that purpose entirely at my own expense and replacing everything as loss occurred. I have no doubt whatever that the articles found missing when the official inventory was taken disappeared after I left the Colony.

If you are looking for a new Colonial Secretary in Southland I hope you will give consideration to V.S. Slender, who acted as Provincial Commissioner in the North-West Frontier

Recd 31/12/31  
Ans'd 19/1/32

14

14, RAYSON SQUARE,  
R.M.A.

30th December 1931.

My dear Sammy,

Thank you ~~as much~~ for returning Mrs. Martin's letter. You have missed the point regarding the claim on the articles missing at Government House. My contention is that they were not missing when I left the Colony and therefore ceased to be responsible. A most regular inventory was kept while I was there and articles were replaced immediately, and my housekeeper has assured me that these articles were not missing at the time I left. The inventory was held more than a month later and I don't think I can be held responsible for what happened in the interval.

I hate to be troublesome on a small matter, but I took enormous pains to look after Government property in Raaga, maintaining a housekeeper for that purpose entirely at my own expense and replacing everything as loss occurred. I have no doubt whatever that the articles found missing when the official inventory was taken disappeared after I left the Colony.

If you are looking for a new Colonial Secretary in Ceylon I hope you will give consideration to V.S. Stanley, who acted as Provincial Commissioner in the North-West Frontier

Recd 31/12/31  
Ans'd 19/1/32

MAILED  
JAN 1 1932

Tel. Room  
21-21-1111

111, BAYON SQUARE,

S. I.

- 2 -

Province of Kenya for nearly two years up to his recent leave, and showed a very remarkable understanding of Somali and frontier problems. He is young but very active and able and I know that Kittmaster had a high opinion of him. I understand that he has gone back to act as No. 2 to Wade at the Chief Native Commissioner's Office in Nairobi, but I expect that his heart is in the Somali country as it has always been.

*Yours truly,*  
*SG.*

Brig.-General Sir Samuel Wilson, GCMG., KCB.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

29th December, 1961.

My dear Sir,

lc

When I wrote to you the other day and, amongst other matters, referred to Martin's death, I was under the impression I had sent you the letter from Mrs. Martin to you, but apparently I did not, as I came across it amongst my other letters this morning. I do so now and apologise for not having done so before.

When you came in to see me before Christmas, you raised the question of a demand for payment that had been made of you for articles that were missing when an inventory was taken at Government House, Nairobi, at the time of your departure. I had the matter enquired into and ought to have written to you before Christmas. I write now to say that it would appear that the housekeeper must have been mistaken when she made the statement that the articles were not missing when the last inventory was taken before she left Government House in 1960, as it was as a result of the

copy to Sir of Bygone (18)

very

SIR EDWARD GRIGG, K.C.M.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.P.

very inventory that she helped to take that the articles were found to be missing. The Board of Survey met as a result of the taking of this inventory, and reported that with the exception of certain articles the discrepancies represented "fair wear and tear".

The certain articles are apparently the ones which the local Government are asking you to pay for. I am so sorry for being so long in letting you know about this.

*Yours truly  
W. B. Walker*

in September 1950 Sir Stewart Grigg ordered an inventory to be taken at Government House, Nairobi, immediately upon his departure from the Colony. This was completed in October, when it was found that certain articles were missing. Steps were taken to ascertain whether any of the discrepancies could be found at Government House, however, no traces of the shortages could be found, and a search of records was accordingly held upon the missing articles. The search must be the conclusion that with the exception of the following articles the discrepancies represented "fair wear and tear":

	Estimated cost of replacements.	
	Shs.	P.
12 smoking tea-jarls engraved "G.S.I."	50	00
12 cigarette case engraved "G.S.I."	40	00
11 pottery ash trays	10	50
11 ceramic jugs	200	00
12 trays for the above	24	00
Total.	324	50

When Sir Stewart Grigg was asked to forward a cheque for this amount to the Chief Agents, he replied seeing that Miss Harper, the housekeeper whom he had employed at his own expense, should be asked whether she remembered anything about the articles in question. Sir Stewart asked her if she could not throw any light on the disappearance he would, of course, make himself responsible. Miss Harper's reply was that the articles in question were certainly not missing when the last inventory before she left Government House was taken, in October 1950. In this, however, she was clearly mistaken, as it was precisely as a result of this inventory that the articles were found to be missing.

404

See No 8.

C. O.

17159/31/Kenya.

12

Mr. Eastwood 10  
Mr. Freeman 11  
Mr. Allen 12/11

C.D.  
R 12 NOV  
D 13

DOWNING STREET,

14 November, 1931.

Mr. Tomlinson.

X Sir O. Bottomley 12.11 f

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Parli. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

For Sir C. Bottomley's signature.

My dear Grigg

DRAFT.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

SIR EDWARD GRIGG,

K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O.,  
M.C.

(11)

I do not wish to bother you unnecessarily, but may I remind you of our official letter of the 25th of September regarding the claim of the Government of Kenya in respect of certain articles reported to be missing from Government House, Nairobi? No doubt at the time you were very full up with other matters, and ~~these might~~ <sup>no other might</sup> ~~of course~~ easily have been overlooked.

Please do not trouble to reply to this personal letter at all.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. O. BOTTOMLEY



17159/31.

1122

C.O.

Mr. Eastwood 18.9.

Mr. Freeston 18.9.

Mr. Allen-22/9

Mr. Franklin

Sir C. Bottomley 24/9

Sir J. Shackleton

Sir C. Girdle

Foreign U.S. of S.

Foreign U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

Per Sir C. Bottomley's sig.

DOWNING STREET,

26 September, 1931.

Sir,

I am etc., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th September regarding certain articles of furniture missing from Govt. House, Nairobi.

2. A copy of the Governor's despatch No. 171 of the 27th March which is referred to in his later despatch was sent to you in the letter from this Department of the 11th May, but

further copy is enclosed for convenience of reference, and you will observe that it confirms that the articles in question were certified as missing on the taking of the inventory to which Miss Harper refers and that although stated verbatim to be certain

**DRAFT.** for answer.

14 SEP 23 1931  
17159/31

16  
to Mr. Bottomley

10/10/31  
17159/31

(2)

could be traced at Government

House, Johnson, no trace of the

statement was found.

It is noted, at page 10.

as this evidence that the

statement is the statement

of the report received that

the report is not correct.

In his statement that

the report is true.

It is noted that

(5)

RECEIVED  
16 SEP 1931

RECEIVED  
16 SEP 1931  
COL. OFFICE

15/10  
15/10  
MR. BAKER SQUARE,  
S.W.1.

14th September 1931.

W 4 C

DC

10

C

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th September enclosing a Despatch with enclosures from the Governor of Kenya regarding certain missing articles of furniture at Government House, Nairobi.

I observe from Miss Harper's reply contained in the correspondence that according to her these articles were not missing when the last inventory was taken before she left Government House in October 1920. ~~Thereafter~~, so far as I can see, nothing to show that the articles did not become missing after that date when I had ceased to have any responsibility for public property at Government House. Miss Harper is an extremely careful housekeeper, and I find it difficult to doubt her word in the absence of any evidence to the effect that she had made a mistake.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Edward Gigg

Sir Cecil Duttonley, KCMG, C.B.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

13/10

RECEIVED  
16 SEP 1951  
OFFICE

11, BAYON SQUARE,  
S.W.1.

14th September 1951.

*W.H. 10.4*  
*DC*

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th September enclosing a Despatch with enclosures from the Governor of Kenya regarding certain missing articles of furniture at Government House, Nairobi.

I observe from Miss Harper's reply contained in the correspondence that according to her these articles were not missing when the last inventory was taken before she left Government House in October 1950. There is, so far as I can see, nothing to show that the articles did not become missing after that date when I had ceased to have any responsibility for public property at Government House. Miss Harper is an extremely careful housekeeper, and I find it difficult to doubt her word in the absence of any evidence to the effect that she had made a mistake.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Edward Gigg*

Mr Cecil Bottomley, KCMG, C.B.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

248



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

KENYA.

NO. 479

RECEIVED  
- 7 SEP 1931  
COL. OFFICE

21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 1931.

My Lord,

no. 6

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 400 of the 11th June, 1931, regarding the disappearance of certain articles of furniture shown on the inventory of Government House at Nairobi, I have the honor to transmit to you a letter dated 30th July, 1931 addressed to Miss Harper and her reply thereto, from which Your Lordship will observe that Miss Harper can throw no light on the matter.

I would add that Miss Harper is clearly mistaken in her assertion that these articles were not missing, since the inventory to which she refers was the same as that mentioned in the first paragraph of my despatch No. 174 of the 27th March, 1931. The inventory was completed in October when the articles in question were certified to be missing by officers of the Public Works and Audit Departments.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your obedient, public servant,

H. T. Martin

GOVERNOR.

SEAL OF GOVERNOR.

By the Secy. of Leg.,  
London 320 221" 1932  
11 SEP 1931

B.M.D. 2/10/3/149.

30th July, 1931.

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that Sir Edward Grigg has asked that you should be consulted with regard to certain articles which were found to be missing when the Government House inventory was checked by a Board of Survey in January last.

The missing articles in question were:-

Morning Tea Pots engraved "G.R.I"	2
Cigarette Box engraved "G.R.I"	1
Pottery Ash Trays, large, various colours.	11
Thermos Jugs, 1 pint, No. 46.	11
Trays for above.	12.

2. Sir Edward Grigg has suggested that you might be able to throw some light on the matter and I am to ask you to be good enough to inform me if this is the case.

I have the honour to be,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. USHER.  
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Miss Harper,  
c/o R. Davis, Esq.,  
Stores Department,  
Kouss & Grand Railways & Harbours,  
BAIROBI.

Copy.

c/o R. Gavin, Esq.,  
Store Dept.,  
K.&U.R.H.  
Nairobi.

August 11th, 1931.

To

The Hon'ble The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Ref. your No. S.B. M.D. 2/10/3/149 of 30.7.31.

I regret I can throw no light on the matter of the missing articles enumerated in your letter.

All the articles in question were certainly not missing when the last inventory before I left Government House was taken in October 1930.

This inventory was carefully taken in company with a representative of both Audit and Public Works Departments.

I have the honour to remain,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Sd. NELLIE HARPER.

RECEIVED  
GENERAL OFFICE

*K. G. H.*  
*negligence*

17159/31

26 *H*

119, EATON SQUARE,  
S.W.1.

RECEIVED  
4 JUN 1931  
O.L. OFFICE

2nd June 1931.

Sir,

NO 8

I have your letter of the 24th May containing a Despatch from the Governor of Kenya forwarding the Report of the Board of Survey held at Government House, Nairobi, after my departure. I have had a search made in my own silver and china here and find that the missing articles have not been brought home by mistake with my own. I am the more surprised by their disappearance because I employed a housekeeper, Miss Harper, at my own expense to watch over these things and would naturally have expected to hear of their disappearance before I left the Colony. She is still out there and Mr. Bird, the Private Secretary of Government House, always knows where she is. I should be very glad if the matter could be referred to her to see whether she remembers anything about these articles, as I fancy there must be some error somewhere in the matter. She does not seem to have been referred to by the three officers who formed the Board and it is just possible that information she might have given was overlooked. If she cannot throw any light on the disappearance I will, of course, make myself responsible.

REC'D 11 JUN 1931  
Copy to Edw. 100

A. C. C. Parkinson, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

*Edward Guinness*



C. O.

17159/31. Kenya.

2  
27

Mr. 29/4 1915

Mr. Parkinson. 6/5/21

Mr. Verney *Officer in Charge 7/5/21*

Mr. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bullock

Sir J. Shackburgh

Sir G. Grenville

Forest U.S. of S.

Party U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

C. O.  
R - 8MAY  
D 6

Downing Street

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1931.

**DRAFT.**

*sub. colonial*  
HIS EXCELLENCY CRIGG, K.C.M.G.,  
E.C.V.C., D.F.D., M.C.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Passfield

to transmit to you the accompanying  
copy of a despatch from the Governor  
of Kenya in which he forwards the  
report of the Board of Survey which  
was held at Government House, Nairobi,  
as a result of instructions given by  
you prior to your departure from the  
Colony.

E. Lord Passfield will be  
obliged if you will, in accordance  
with the Governor's request, forward

the

~~Ex. 17159 of 31. 1931.~~

*copy to Gov H.O. 11 JUN 1931  
copy to H. O. 19 MAY 1931*

Copy 5.00 1/2. for 10 c.

C.O.

20/5 19/5

Mr. PARKER 675/21

Mr. Verney 7/5/31

Mr. Tindall

Mr C. Bullock

Mr J. Shackburgh

Mr G. Grindle

Private U.S. of S.

Private U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

C. O.  
R - 8MAY  
D 6

54

**DRAFT.**

*Handwritten signature*

SIR EDWARD BRIDGE, K.C.M.G.,  
K.C.V.O., D.S.O., K.C.

Downing Street

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1931.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Passfield

to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of Kenya in which he forwards the report of the Board of Survey which was held at Government House, Nairobi as a result of instructions given by you prior to your departure from the Colony.

2. Lord Passfield will be obliged if you will, in accordance with the Governor's request, forward

the

~~10.12.31 27 Nov. 1931.~~

*Copy to Sec. 1100 11 JUN 1931  
Copy to H. G. 10 MAY 1931*

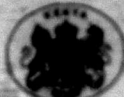
Copy to Sec. 1100 11 JUN 1931

the equivalent of £10,000,000 to  
the Crown Agents for the Colonies, & Billbank,  
Edinburgh, for the credit of the said fund.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
Signed A. C. C. PARKINSON

KENYA.

No. 171



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

RECEIVED  
29 APR 1951  
COL. OFFICE

27<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 1951.

My Lord,

I have the honour to state that in September last Sir Edward Grigg ordered an inventory to be taken at Government House, Nairobi, immediately upon his departure from the Colony.

This was completed in the following October when steps were taken to ascertain whether any of the discrepancies could be found at Government House, Mombasa; no traces of the shortages were found and a Board of Survey was held upon the missing articles.

2. I enclose a copy of the proceedings of the Board of Survey and I should be grateful if Your Lordship would take steps to recover the sum of £25. 50 from Sir Edward Grigg in payment for the cost of replacing certain of the missing articles.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant.

FRANCIS GERALD  
GOVERNOR.

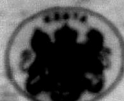
*copy to Sir G. Grigg - 8 MAY 1951*

*Received 405 11 JUN 1951*

*The copy to Sir G. Grigg*

KENYA.

No. 171



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

RECEIVED  
29 APR 1951  
COL. OFFICE

27<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 1951.

My Lord,

I have the honour to state that in September last Sir Edward Glegg ordered an inventory to be taken at Government House, Nairobi immediately upon his departure from the Colony.

This was completed in the following October when steps were taken to ascertain whether any of the discrepancies could be found at Government House, Nairobi. No traces of the shortages were found and a board of survey was held upon the missing articles.

I enclose a copy of the proceedings of the board of survey and I should be grateful if Your Lordship would take steps to recover the sum of £25. 360.50 from Sir Edward Glegg in payment for the cost of replacing certain of the missing articles.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant.

MICHAEL GENERAL,  
SECRETARY.

- 8 MAY 1951

11 JUN 1951

copy sent to Glegg

Removal done

See copy to Sir & Glegg's

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SURVEYORS ON THE FINANCIAL AND  
GENERAL ACCOUNTS FOR 1931.**

The Board consisting of:-

- Mr. J.S. Ross, Senior Assistant Treasurer.
- Mr. H.V. Lane, Acting Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dhule.
- Mr. G.F. Briscoe, Headquarters Superintendent, Supply Police  
Dhule.

assembled on the 20th and 14th. of January, 1931.

The Board considered each discrepancy in relation to the total stock of each article, and came to the conclusion that with the exception of the articles listed below in Recommendation No. 3, the discrepancies represented "fair wear and tear".

The discrepancies occurred over a period of approximately two years, and in most cases, the annual percentage of loss on the total stock of the particular article worked out at a low figure. This low percentage of annual loss appears to be due to the fact that it has been the practice for His Excellency the Governor to pay personally for the hire and for shortages and breakages, upon the occasions that the guests to be entertained exceeded 150 persons.

The Board made the following recommendations:-

1. That a representative of Government House Staff be authorized to check up and tally the glass and crockery which was surveyed by the Board.
2. That the articles appearing in the list of discrepancies be written off with the addition of one Billionth Dec, but excluding the articles listed in Recommendation No. 3.
3. That necessary be effected in respect of the cost of replacing the following articles:-