

1923

149

KENYA

C O  
21049  
REF  
REG 27 APR 25

APP. G.

DATE

24th APRIL 1923.

CIRCULATION:-

Mr. *Britton*  
Mr. *L. H. Head*  
11/2/23

SUBJECT

POST OF BLACKSMITH FOREMAN, UGANDA RAILWAY.

Expresses dissatisfaction with terms of Service Certificate, and requests re-engagement or employment in another colony.

U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.

Previous Paper

*B.O.*  
*19.05*

MINUTES

This has been held up waiting for precedents. I only returned to me today

When I saw Mr Knapp (see on 17750) I had not seen the files of J. E. Gullagher & Hilliard, which form clear precedents for not intervening, and telling Mr Knapp that he was entitled to communicate with the general manager about his Certificate of Service. I certainly thought it possible at the time that we might consider sending his case out to the fact for a report, and although I am not

Copy comes to for some copies

*Porty*  
*SREA*

Subsequent Paper

*B.O.*  
*34223*

certain either way, I may have mentioned the possibility. I am sure, however, that I gave no promise that it would be done.

We have only Dr Knapp's statement of the case. ~~however~~ but from No 8 he seems to assert that he had been given no reason to expect a certificate of a diverse nature. & that had he known he would not have come home. As he left his wife & family in the Colony then seems to bear out the assertion. On the other hand he knew definitely that he would not be re engaged in Kenya and in difficult <sup>circumstances</sup> when he did leave his country. There if he thought he was going to get an appointment elsewhere.

It is quite clear that he has no claim on us at all, & in view of former precedents he must be left to fight

the battle over his Certificate with the Uganda Railway.

I ask to say S & S has considered his letter but that he is unable to intervene in the matter, say he is at liberty to approach the Kenya Govt. on the subject.

And observe that as he was engaged in the Colony in the 1st instance, the grant of a passage to this country on the termination of his service was a concession on the part of the Kenya Govt., to which he was not strictly entitled, and that he is not eligible for a passage back to Kenya at Govt. expense

Govt  
7/5/25

The letter from Mr Ford which he produces is dated February 21st & is quite consistent with the cert of presence which speaks well of his earlier services.

It is a fairly hopeless position

it is not Ford who signs the unimpeachable report which forms part of the 17750. A.V.P.

for the man to find himself  
here & his family in  
Kenya: whatever the  
reason, the U.S. authorities  
ought not to have let him  
go without the certif. of  
service first being given  
to him. We doubt they  
have difficulties locally in  
Kenya, but the way in  
wh. personal cases are  
dealt with is surely  
too far unsatisfactory.

I do not necessarily  
believe all that Knapp  
says - indeed I agree that  
we should not retrocede as to  
the certificate, I feel that  
there is a case for sending  
out a copy of the copy  
book for report on  
the points raised in (3)  
& (5).

ad. 9.5.25  
I agree with Mr Parkinson.  
Of course we can't expect  
that the G. H. acts in  
the certificate of service, but  
then case should be  
handled as a special  
unusual hardship.

As to further liability, etc.,  
see A/19105. We must  
say

for the man to find himself  
been other family in  
Kenya: whatever the  
reason, the U.S. authorities  
ought not to have let him  
go without the certif. of  
service first being given  
to him. We don't think  
have difficulties (locally in  
Kenya, but the way in  
wh. personal cases are  
dealt with is surely  
too far unsatisfactory.

H. J. D.

I do not necessarily  
believe all that Mr Knapp  
says - while I agree that  
we should not rely on as to  
the certif. I feel that  
there is a case for sending  
out a copy of the corresp.  
today for report on  
the points raised in (3)  
(5)

Adf 9.5.23

I agree with Mr Robinson.  
Of course we can't expect  
that the G. H. acts in  
the interests of service, but  
therefore should be  
handled with special  
leniency and help.

As to further enquiry, see Adf/1905. We must

say that no protest can be  
held on?

131

Adf 10.5.23

at once

H. J. D.

11/E/23

for the man to find himself  
here & his family in  
Kenya: whether the  
reason, the local authorities  
ought not to have had him  
go without the certif. of  
service first being given  
to him. We do not think  
have difficulties (locally in  
Kenya, but the way in  
wh. personal cases are  
dealt with is surely  
too far unsatisfactory.

H. J. P.

I do not necessarily  
believe all that Mr Knapp  
says - perhaps I agree that  
we should not rely on as to  
the certif. & feel that  
there is a case for sending  
out a copy of the corresp.  
to say for report on  
the points raised in (3)  
(15)

all  
9.5.23

I agree with Mr Parkinson.  
If course we can't expect  
that the G. H. will in  
the interests of service, but  
there can should be  
headed out of present  
unpleasant conditions.  
As to further sending cases,  
see H/19105. We must

say that no project can be  
held out? 131

6.5.23

atome  
H. J. P.  
11/E/23

H. J. P.

RECEIVED  
26 APR 1923  
COL. OFFICE

132

G.P.O. Post Office  
U.P.O.  
Lancaster

The Under Secretary of State  
For The Colonies  
Colonial Office  
Downing Street  
London

24/4/23  
CO  
21049  
REC  
APR 27 1923

Sir  
Re Service Certificate Uganda Railway

I have the honour to request the above to  
be returned to General Manager Uganda Railway  
for the following reasons

- It is Malicious & Defamatory
- It does not bear the signature of the head of my  
department i.e. Chief Mechanical Engineer
- I was at no time called upon to answer for  
any immoderation or was I ever even reprimanded
- I have a wife & four children the latter at their  
most expensive age my time, added to drink  
to excess at any time I can, now to be  
false & libellous

My service certificate was not presented  
to my superior before leaving Kenya Colony?

I interviewed the Hon. the General Manager  
 who was informed there was no charge whatsoever  
 for post being abolished for economical reasons  
 & have expended a considerable amount of money  
 on the voyage to England with a view to  
 obtaining a further appointment in the  
 Postal Service leaving my wife & family  
 in India pending something definite  
 & in the best of health & should not have  
 dreamed of undertaking the journey to England  
 had this certificate containing a statement  
 during the whole of my previous colonial  
 service had been presented to me in India &  
 applied for it & was informed it would  
 be presented to me in London?  
 I trust the above will suffice to prove to you  
 I am a legitimate grievance & entreat you to  
 return me to Australia as first available  
 post that I may vindicate my character  
 attach herewith for your perusal a copy of  
 letter from Works Manager to Chief Mechanical  
 Engineer recommending the maximum of  
 my grade is an increment of 75 hundred  
 pounds per month & shall be pleased to

I intervened the day the General Charge  
 was informed there was no charge whatsoever  
 the post being abolished for economical reasons  
 have expended a considerable amount of money  
 on the voyage to England with a view to  
 obtaining a further appointment in the  
 Colonial Service during my visit to London  
 in 1872 pending some time I have  
 been in the best of health & should not have  
 dreamed of undertaking the journey to London  
 had this certificate containing a claim  
 covering the whole of my previous Colonial  
 Service had been presented to me in London  
 & applied for it was informed it would  
 be presented to me in London?  
 I trust the above will suffice to prove to you  
 I have a legitimate grievance & should you be  
 returned me to Kensington be fully satisfied  
 that I may vindicate my interests  
 attach herewith for your perusal a certificate  
 either from Works Manager, or District Engineer  
 or my recommender, the minimum of  
 my grade is an increment of 70 pounds  
 6 pence per month & shall be pleased to



forward excellent testimonials extending over  
years if you consider it necessary.  
Trusting my application will receive  
your favourable consideration.

I have the honour to remain

Sir

Yours Obediently

Geo. Knapp

forward excellent testimonials expending very  
little if you consider it necessary.

Trusting my application will receive  
your favourable consideration.

I have the honour to remain

Sir

Yours Obediently

Geo. Knapp

D/26th. February 1916.

135

The Chief mechanical engineer,  
Uganda Railway Nairobi.

Mr. George Knapp, Foreman Blacksmiths.

reply to your endorsement No 1874/15 of the 10th February  
an enclosed petition from Mr. Knapp I have to inform you  
during his probationary period Mr. Knapp has shown himself  
smith of the highest class with the ability to control man  
power is a man of great energy & application who is already achiev  
ing in improving not only the output of the shops under  
his control it is equally important the quality of the work done.  
Mr. Knapp is perfectly conversant with the operation of the rollers  
and horse machinery and his full value as a blacksmith can  
be discovered when he is supplied with the best quality of  
material. He is a man with three children and a family of  
11 on the minimum pay of 11/- per week and he cannot  
cannot expect any man to work for less than 11/- per  
week. I recommend that his services be retained at the rate  
of 11/- per week.

His long and wide experience in his trade is a strong  
qualification for such a procedure.

I have the honor to be

your obedient servant

(33.) F. S. S.

Workshop Manager.

The Chief mechanical Engineer,  
Uganda Railway, Kampala.

Mr. George Augustus Forester, Esq.

In reply to your endorsement of 19th inst. of the letter you say  
an enclosed petition from Mr. Forester, who is an inferior  
during his probationary period Mr. Forester has shown himself  
a possessor of the highest class with the ability to control men  
he is a man of great energy & application and has already shown  
himself in improving not only the output of the engine but also  
it is equally important the quality of the work done  
Mr. Forester is perfectly conversant with the operation of the  
and force machinery, and his full knowledge of the engine was  
discovered when he is employed with the engine at the  
in a workshop with three engines. He is a man of high  
live on the principle of efficiency and economy and he  
cannot expect any man to work for less than the best  
I recommend that his services should be retained at the  
of his price.

His long and wide experience in the operation of the engine  
justification for such a procedure.

I have the honor to be,  
Dear Sir,  
your obedient servant,  
(Sd.) F. W. ...

Scratched Meta ...

K 21049/23 Kenya

*[Handwritten mark]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

16 May 1923

DRAFT.

Sir

Kenya

Conf.

*[Handwritten: 17759, 3997]*

with ref<sup>ce</sup> to Sir R.

Mr G.

MINUTE.

*[Handwritten: 17759]*

Compton's Conf' deat.

No 215. of the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mr. Seel <sup>11/5/23</sup>

Mr. Parkinson <sup>11/5/23</sup>

Mr. Trotter <sup>14/5/23</sup>

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

I have etc to Sir. to you.

~~for~~ the acc<sup>t</sup>.

copies of cover<sup>ce</sup> with

Mr G Knapp, Blacksmith

Foreman, Usanda Rly.,

regarding the termination  
of his employment service.

I do have frequent

that

2 pts

Knapp. 24. 4 23 (21049)

Knapp. 15/5/23

K 21049/23 Kenya

*[Handwritten mark]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

10 May 1923

**DRAFT.**

Sir

Kenya

Conf

*[Handwritten: 1000000 3997]*

with ref<sup>ce</sup> to Sir R.

Off Cr.

**MINUTE.**

*[Handwritten: 1750]*

Comptroller's Conf. dated

No 215. of the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mr. Seel <sup>11/5/23</sup>

Mr. Parkinson <sup>11/5/23</sup>

Mr. Holtby <sup>14/5/23</sup>

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindie.

Sir H. Road.

Sir J. Musterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

I have etc to be to you  
~~for consideration~~ the acc<sup>ts</sup>  
collection of comm<sup>ts</sup> with

The Cr Knapp, Blacksmith  
Foreman, Lesander Key,

regarding the termination  
of his certificatory service  
of his employment

I have frequent  
that

20/5

~~Knapp 21. 4. 23 (21049)~~

~~Knapp 25/5/23~~

that I may be furnished  
your observations on the  
with ~~an explanation as to the~~  
~~numbered~~ (5) and (6)  
points raised in paras (3) and  
<sup>in</sup>  
(2) of Mr. Knupp's letter

↳

was

[On receipt  
of the  
included  
I would  
first, be  
let you  
is appar  
taking  
that C.A.  
rather  
him in  
his dep  
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the  
enquir  
Jan

that I may be furnished  
 with an explanation of the  
 points raised in paras (3) <sup>(5) and (6)</sup>  
 in Mr Knapp's letter

On recd  
 I was  
 pleased  
 to find  
 that you  
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 Jan

that he is <sup>can</sup> unable to  
 hold out <sup>no</sup> any prospect  
 of your being offered  
 further employment  
 in the Col. & service

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

(Signed) H J READ

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.



that Darcy be furnished  
 you observe on the  
 with an explanation as to the  
 numbered (5) and (6)  
 points raised in Francis (3) and  
 in  
 Knapp's letter

{

W.C.S.

[On recd  
 just be  
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 be he  
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 of the  
 enjou  
 Jan

that he <sup>can</sup> ~~is unable~~ to  
 hold out <sup>no</sup> ~~any~~ prospect  
 of your being offered  
 further employment  
 in the Col. & service

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

(Signed) H J READ

Mr.  
 Mr.  
 Mr.  
 Mr. Davis.  
 Sir G. Grindle.  
 Sir H. Read.  
 Sir J. Masterton Smith.  
 Mr. Ormsby-Gore.  
 Duke of Devonshire.



that you were not at any  
time called to answer for  
any misdeemeanor or  
reprimanded, and that your  
also as to why the cert. was  
not handed to you before  
you left the Colony.

(2) I am to observe,  
in regard to your request  
to be returned to the Colony,  
that the grant ~~to~~ of  
a passage to this country ~~is~~  
in the termination of your  
service was a concession on the  
part of the <sup>(Govt of)</sup> Kenya, to which  
you have no claim;  
you were ~~not~~ <sup>entitled</sup> ~~entitled~~  
entitled, and that you  
are not eligible for a passage  
back to East Africa at  
Govt. expense.

(3) ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> ~~franchise~~ <sup>franchise</sup> ~~franchise~~  
The ~~franchise~~ <sup>franchise</sup> ~~franchise~~  
The ~~franchise~~ <sup>franchise</sup> ~~franchise~~

