

EAST AFR. PROT
UGANDA
36944

C.O.
36944
23 NOV

Form 768
Field
Date
1912
th October
Previous Paper

E.A. AND UGANDA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Reports have recently approached the Govt for financial assistance. Some memo. as to the work done by the Society. Recommendation of £300 be made and necessary provision made in 1913-4 Estimates.

Sir G. Fiddes

There is much to be said for assisting a Society of the kind being especially a new one of this kind, but in a place like the East Africa where so much remains to be done in the way of providing for the bare necessities of administration. I think that we should refuse. There are 3 very wealthy settlers in the Prov^{ce} Capt: Morrison, Mr Macmillan, & Mr. Fenwick Williams, & I should have thought that one of them could be persuaded to immortalize himself by providing a sum of £ — for a building to be

Subsequent Paper
20/11/12

to know as well as possible
The is also at Carnegie Co. of the
activities include museum as well as
library.

Apart from this, I see difficulties
in the way of differentiating between
applications of the nature. You will
see from $\frac{500}{32145} / 12 + \frac{500}{14625} / 11$ that
we have refused appl^s for assistance
from the League of Mercy + the Y. H. C. A.

Representative

Express regret that the S. J. is
unable to entertain the appl^s for the
reasons given at (A) + (B), but
suggest ~~personally~~ ^{unofficially} to the gov^t that
some private benefactor might be willing
to assist if the matter were brought
to his notice?

H. J. R

26/21

I fear but I must agree,
though reluctantly.

Pr. 28
U. of N. 11.12

I think a distinction may be drawn between
a museum + philanthropic societies which are
numerous; but I cannot get over reason 'A'

629-412 Degree # 30462

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

October 30th 1912.

No. 765

C. O.
36944

23 NOV 12

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society have recently approached Government with a view to obtaining financial assistance.

Memorandum

2. The position is briefly as follows:-

The Society was founded in 1909 and its objects are the formation of a representative collection of the fauna, flora and geology of this country and Uganda and also of the handicraft of the various native tribes, the publication of a scientific journal dealing with the above subjects, evening meetings at which matters of scientific interest are discussed, and the formation of a scientific library.

3. Since its inception considerable progress has been made and the attached Memorandum gives a fair idea of what has already been done. I may say here that I have had an opportunity of inspecting the Museum personally and consider that the excellent results achieved reflect great credit on the Committee and members.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

4. The Society has not reached the stage when some financial support is necessary if the sphere of its activity is to be extended. Specimens are being sent in from all parts of the country but they cannot be properly labelled and arranged in cases until a scientifically trained man, with Museum experience, is appointed to deal with them. This the Committee propose to do as soon as the necessary funds are available. Considerable capital expenditure is moreover necessary on taxidermy, insect proof storage cases and preservatives.

5. Now that there appears to be the nucleus of a valuable collection which will in course of time be a great asset to the community, I think that Government should render, at the present stage of the Society's existence, such reasonable assistance as it can.

6. I may mention that the Society has expressed its willingness to hand over the whole of its collections to Government at any time that we may express our wish to accept them, subject only to its being allowed to continue to exercise some measure of executive control over the management and arrangement of the Museum.

7. Having regard therefore to the immediate needs and the fact that the Society will, with a little encouragement, develop into a most useful body, I recommend that a grant of £300 be made and that the necessary provision be inserted in the Estimates for 1913-14.

(8)
I feel that there is sufficient justification for this request by what has already been done and what it is proposed to do in the future and trust that you will be able to concur in my view.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conroy, Esq.

GOVERNOR.

REGARDING THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE EAST AFRICA AND
UGANDA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

The material lodged in the Museum has not yet been catalogued and to do so, on a scientific basis, would occupy about 6 weeks. The following may serve to give a comprehensive idea of the amount and nature of the specimens and material forming the property of the Museum.

Birds. A total of about 1000 Specimens - Of these there are 600 identified study specimens, the work of naming them having been done by the British Museum authorities. 60 birds are mounted and the balance forms unidentified Specimens.

Mammals. Owing to lack of space and the meagre resources of the Society no collection of mounted large animals has been attempted though many sportsmen and others have frequently made offers of mounted or unmounted Specimens. It may be mentioned that a complete giraffe (skin and skeleton) may shortly be given and arrangements for storing will have to be made for so valuable a gift. A comprehensive collection of skulls and horns has been acquired but owing to want of space they have to be displayed on the floor of the building.

Small mammals. There are about 800 Specimens with skulls all bearing

bearing full scientific data mounted as study specimens. 400 of these have been identified by the British Museum. This branch of the fauna of British East Africa is being continually augmented and will prove of great interest to the British Museum authorities.

Fish, There is a small collection of identified fresh water fishes some of which are new to Science. Also a collection of some 200 different sea fish obtained off Mombasa. These have to be stored away outside the Museum and it would require about £30 to £40 to effect their proper display.

Reptiles, About 60 specimens perfectly preserved in solutions but unidentified. This collection will require to be sent to the British Museum to be properly worked out.

Insects, Some 300 identified butterflies properly cased and numerous beetles, flies, etc.

Geological, A very complete identified collection of some 200 mineral specimens.
A small collection of fossil remains and pre historic implements.

Plants, A good collection of plants which cannot be displayed owing to lack of space and which has been placed under charge of the Forestry Department.

Library, Some 40 Scientific and other books of reference.
About

About 80 monographs presented by the British Museum and the Smithsonian Museum U.S.A. also the Museum regularly receives the Scientific Journals from the following Societies :-

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. U.S.A.

THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM U.S.A.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM.

THE BERLIN MUSEUM.

And also this Museum supplies all the above with copies of its Journal.

Membership, This comprises some 60 or 70 members and the evening meeting, at which lectures are given are always attended to the full capacity of the Museum.

The Museum building is quite inadequate to contain the material that has been so far collected with the result that little of it can be properly displayed to the public and some of it has to be stored in various places in Nairobi. As material keeps coming in this deplorable condition increases which cannot but be most detrimental to the welfare of the Society.

There is also the serious objection that at present the Museum building is incorporated in the Game Warden's Department which at times causes great inconvenience to that officer. It was entirely owing to straightened circumstances that this dual possession was formed as thereby the Museum received a small profit of 10£ per ann. This arrangement worked fairly well at first but now

and in the future it is perfectly untenable.

The urgent need of a salaried curator is very pressing as the care of the present collection must be maintained the Secretarial work, editing of the Journal and the Scientific work to be done on the present material requires some one who can competently perform such offices.

C. D.
R. 4 DEC
D. 5

Downing Street,

6 December, 1912.

DRAFT.

East N° 872

G. W. Belfield

MINUTE.

Mr. Allp 1/12

Mr. P. M. 3/12

Mr. R. Reed 4

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

W. B. Balfour

See 117 B.

2 cuts sent to East 1/12

Mr. Reed

I presume you will write to Mr. Belfield?

Yes

H. V. K.

H. V. K.

I have sent Mr. Balfour

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 765 of the 30th of October recommending that a grant of £300 should be made by the Government of the East Africa Protectorate to the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, and to inform you that, while I fully appreciate the reasons which have led you to ^{make} ~~have made~~ this recommendation, I regret that I am unable to entertain it.

2. In the East Africa Protectorate so much remains to be done in the

way of providing for the bare necessities
of administration, that for the present
at any rate I fear that applications of
this kind must be refused. Moreover, as
you are no doubt aware, there have recently
been applications from the Young Men's
Christian Association and the League of Mercy
for pecuniary assistance, but it has not been
found possible to entertain them, and I
cannot but feel that there would be diffi-
culty in differentiating between such ap-
plications ^{if} by ^{it is granted} granting assistance in some
cases and refusing ~~it~~ in others.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. BARDOURT.