

~~Handwritten text~~

in case of the ~~...~~ of Rs 1000,

which, according to ^{station} ~~...~~

regulation, it is permitted to

keep in the ~~...~~ safe

in case of ~~...~~

~~...~~

~~...~~

It is ~~...~~

pay will appear ~~...~~

and ~~...~~

the ~~...~~

should be allowed ~~...~~

of six months ~~...~~

to settle the ~~...~~

2. I shall be glad to

have written you ~~...~~

views with ~~...~~

opinion with a view to

too large an

provisioning ~~...~~

of petty cash in ~~...~~

check's ~~...~~

(Signed) L. HARCOURT



EAST AFR. PROT
15071

C O
15071

300

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295

Handwritten notes and stamps, including a large circular stamp with illegible text.

24.5.13.

24.5.13.

W 20 807 - 5H
1120 1112 A R E W

See subsequent Paper

C O
~~15071~~ 301

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI, 5 MAY
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

March 29th, 1913.

~~AFRICA PROTECTORATE.~~

(No. 207.)



Sir,

2/
394/2
12

In reply to your despatch of December 21st, 1912, No. 684, on the subject of destruction of game in certain parts of the Protectorate, and in continuation of my despatch No. 40 of January 23rd, 1913, I have the honour to offer the following observations.

2. No specific complaint regarding damage effected by game has been presented to me during the period of my tenure of office, neither has any request been made to me that the game in any given area should be exterminated. It is the fact that for some years past the Game Warden has from time to time received communications from farmers urging that their crops should be protected from the depredations of wild animals,

but

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

same - 15189-12.

but no representation has been made to me which can be taken as evidence of a general desire on the part of the community of any district that the game in such area should be exterminated.

3. As many of the complaints above referred to have emanated from Dutch and South African farmers of the Tsin Gishu Plateau, I was at pains during a recent visit to ascertain by all-round inquiry as well as by personal observation, what are the conditions at present prevailing.

4. There are considerable numbers of kudu, reedbuck and zebra in most parts of the plateau, and a good proportion of these could be skinned off with advantage. This the farmers have power to do if they choose, as the only descriptions of game which they are debarred from killing under the authority of a landowner's licence are those included in the first schedule to the Game Ordinance.

5. In some instances complaint is made against the eland, both on account of alleged damage to crops and of the fact that it is one of the hosts of the so-called eland tick, a parasite which is alleged by some to be the means of spreading lymphangitis. The indictment against this animal, of which there are probably not more than two herds on the plateau,

is however by no means unanimous, and I am of opinion that the desire of those who wish them no longer protected is prompted rather by a knowledge of the value of the skins than by any genuine belief that their presence is detrimental. The Game Warden and I have informed the assembled farmers that we are prepared to consider the removal of the protection now accorded to the eland on the plateau if any representation expressive of a unanimous desire to that effect is received, but I am convinced that there is no likelihood of such being made, as many of those concerned are sceptical as to their harmfulness and are anxious for their continued preservation.

6. In no part of the district did I meet any individual who was prepared to express a definite wish that the game on the plateau should be exterminated. To the poorer class of settlers the hartebeest and antelopes are a material means of support, while those of better class and more ample means consider the game an attraction with which they would most unwillingly dispense.

7. So far therefore as the Uasin Gishu plateau is concerned the extermination of the game is neither desirable nor desired, and I have no hesitation in expressing a strong opinion

that

that the policy of extermination in this area at all events should not for the present be entertained. The question is one regarding which there must always be substantial difference of opinion, and it is undoubtedly the duty of the Government to give to the settler reasonable facilities for protecting his property. This has been effected by the provisions of the Game Ordinance, and if real cause is shewn it may be possible to further extend those facilities, but wholesale extermination is not only unnecessary, but would be a reckless proceeding which would deprive the country of one of its greatest assets and attractions.

8. The object which your correspondents have in view is the establishment of a trade in hides - a most profitable undertaking for themselves and for those who provide the skins, but one which should on no account be entertained. The export of game hides for trade purposes is strictly prohibited, and were that restriction relaxed unless under carefully considered conditions the country would be flooded with individuals shooting for profit, and the preservation of game even on Crown Lands, would become little short of impracticable.

^{etc}
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Boyd

GOVERNOR.

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GOVERNOR.