



EAST AFR. PROT

1877

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REG 19 MAR 51

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ernor  
field 261

MR MOYNAGH

MICA LEASES

1913

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Last previous Paper.

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and timat's act  
er for  
proved.

Mr. Moynagh

The Govt has granted Messrs Moynagh and Paquetin leases of 320 and 160 acres respectively, and requests approval.

? approve

and inform Mr Paquetin officially.

Mr. G. P. Fiddler

N.F.D. 21-5-13

I find nothing here as to royalty. We had better ask in approving, say we because the 10% on output stipulated on 1877 has been inserted in the leases.

... that the ...  
... do hand ...  
a good wage if ...  
done J.

Mr. Green should see

W.C.S. 21/5/13

and ask for a copy of the lease for land here (I am curious see it).  
Ph. 22-5-13

H. J. R. 22/5/13  
623-5-13  
26-5-13

ad. Com. 405  
minutes 93. 23 Oct 13  
minutes again 35. 9 April 14

108,134 W.L. 20 807-20  
41,000-11/12 A.S.E.W.

Next subsequent Paper.

12931/14

C. O. 16777  
REC-19 MAY 13

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

No. 261.

April 12th, 1913.

599

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 178 of 7th ultimo, relative to the lease to Mr. Moynagh of certain land in the Protectorate for the purpose of stining for Baza, and to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a report by the Commissioner of Mines on the subject.

2. That officer by a verbal explanation to me has supplemented his report, and, for the reasons given therein, and with due regard to paragraph 3 of your despatch referred to above, I have sanctioned the grant of leases for the areas recommended, and trust that my action will meet with your approval.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*H. Conroy*

*Yours*  
*108*  
Commissioner  
Mines  
April 8th

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 261 of 1913



Nairobi,  
11<sup>th</sup> 8th, 1913. 591

Sir,

Moynagh - Paqualin Mica finds.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Mica deposits discovered at Kikamea Hill, Mukaa, Machakos District and which were recently inspected by me.

The mica is found in every case in what are called pegmatite dykes in fine grained mica hornblende schist. As is usual in metamorphic areas the dip and strike of the schist varies a good deal, but the strike may generally be stated as being north and south and the strike of the mica-bearing dykes is generally east and west varying probably 30° to the North and South of that direction and in width they vary from 5ft to 20ft. To make the matter clear it may be well to state that a pegmatite dyke is a vein of granite of a peculiar character. The constituents of ordinary granite are quartz orthoclase, felspar, and mica, and in the ordinary granite we are accustomed to see in Europe, for instance, these three minerals are intimately mixed in the rock in the form of small crystals. In a pegmatite however, the minerals for some reasons

take

The Hon. Chief Sec  
Nairobi.

take on a macro-crystalline form one finds great masses of pure quartz several feet across in one place, then a great mass of felspar and now and again a large crystal of mica, the volume of the mica being much less than that of other minerals.

The practical result of this is that to extract the mica vast amounts of quartz and felspar have to be removed, and the whole questions of profit hinges on the frequency of the mica crystals or as miners term them "pockets or books" of mica. The majority of minerals (other than those found in alluvial deposits) in various igneous or sedimentary or metamorphic rocks occur in veins or reefs, and the usual procedure is to sink a shaft at the roof and follow its downward course by headings or drives and this procedure is adopted in order to minimize the removal of waste material. In mining for mica which occurs under the conditions above described a shaft and headings would be of little use, because a heading only exposes a limited face and a great deal of mica would be missed. The only alternative is to open the face of the hill side and remove the whole of the dyke piece meal to as great a depth as possible, cutting back the face into a series of steps as the quarry face gets too high to work at one operation. When one considers that with luck the mica only constitutes about 1% of the whole business is from a commercial point of view. The mineral when extracted is split into slabs about 1/32" thick and cut into square pieces as large as the slab will admit, the wastage

in cutting is about 50%. It is possible that the waste may be profitably ground up into mica dust, which is used for lubricating purposes.

When one digs down into a dyke a considerable amount of weathered mica is usually found in loose slabs within a few feet of the surface and this is due to resistance mica has the usual effects of weathering, the quartz apparently breaks up and the feldspar decomposes into clay but the mica remains intact, but badly stained with iron between the laminae.

This weather-staining considerably reduces the value of mica, and is the usual cause of what is called "spotted mica". As one digs down the spots disappear and a good quantity of green muscovite is found.

A considerable amount of work has been done, most has been put in on the site of the original discovery, which has apparently quite given out for the moment, about <sup>five</sup> other excavations have been made but mostly outside the limits of the original prospecting area, but within the area pegged out for lease, and several are of the prospecting areas pegged out by

city can be attributed to the <sup>excuse</sup> ~~fact~~ simply opened up the spot upon which Mr. Zeuner mica some 18 months ago and whose lease, through failure to work, was cancelled. About 2 tons <sup>two</sup> of sale-able mica has been mined by Mr. Moyer and it is <sup>now</sup> ~~being~~ on his <sup>part</sup> ~~part~~ <sup>area</sup> ~~area~~ <sup>having</sup>

Having regard to the amount of work done, the fact that Mr. Moynagh is ~~the~~ technically the discoverer, the patchy occurrence of the mineral and the number of spots on the area in which they have found the mineral, I would venture to suggest that Mr. Moynagh be offered a lease of 320 acres to be marked out as he wishes and without prejudice to the claims of Mr. Marquett and the other prospectors who accompanied him and whose claims are to be settled on April 14th at the Provincial Commissioner's Mining Court.

The mica is at present being worked by Messrs. Tebay and Beaumont who are both old miners. Mr. Tebay is in charge, he is employing Kaaba labour and stated that has more applicants for work than he can employ, he pays Rs.8/- to Rs.10/- per mensem. The labour comes from the villages round and returns home to sleep.

I also inspected the area pegged by Mr. Paqualin and found that a considerable amount of work had been done but was temporarily stopped pending the arrival of explosives, the presence of mica has been proved on this area. I would therefore suggest that grant of

only one discovery spot on this prospecting area. Messrs. Deacon, Grant and Cullinan are believed to have also pegged prospecting areas.

MS. No. of these persons in their application to occupy their claims will be called for.

Ser 16777 / Part Agr. Part.

597

6779

28 May 1913



Sir,

With ref. to the letter from  
4th Sept. 1908 of the  
the Council I am able  
to inform you that the Council  
approved the recommendation  
of the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the E. A.P.  
that you should be  
granted a lease of 160  
acres and an Enfranchisement  
a lease of 320 acres of  
land in the Maclachlan  
District for the purpose  
of growing India  
Gum etc

DRAFT.

C. C. Paganini Esq

MINUTE.

- Mr. Downie 27.5.13
- Mr. Bisset 27.5.13
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

