

EAST AFR. PROT
36039

36039
REC'D
REG'D
21/1/14

Governor
Belfield 740

1914

8th August

Last previous Paper.
H.O. 26864
Nyasa

PRISONERS
USE OF LEG IRONS

Reports as to use of, kind of iron used etc.

W. B. ...
W. J. Fisher
Pl. no. or 36093 by 2

W.S. 28/9/14

G. J. R.
28/9/14

Next subsequent Paper.
36093
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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 740.

August 21st, 1914.

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Sir,

*Gov
18401
Ty-coll*

In reply to your despatch No. 602 of the 25th of June, I have the honour to inform you that leg irons are not universally used by convicts employed on extra mural work in this Protectorate, but are resorted to only as a temporary means of restraint in accordance with ^{as laid down} Section 71 of the Prison Regulations of 1902.

2. A discretionary power in this respect is allowed to Superintendents in the case of prisoners who have previously endeavoured to escape from custody or are considered likely to do so. The imposition is only awarded in individual cases where personal considerations warrant such a course, and in no case as a punishment or as a general precaution to prevent

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

prevent escapes.

3. The leg iron now in use is of the chain pattern and weighs 3½ lbs. including ankle guards and straps. It is not considered unduly heavy and is lighter than the bar pattern formerly in use. Cases of hardship from the weight of the irons have not been observed.

4. The leg iron is the only kind of iron used within the prison and then only subject to the restrictions mentioned above. In point of fact scarcely 2% of the prisoners in actual custody have been compelled to wear them.

5. Neck rings and chains for gangs of prisoners are permitted when working in difficult bush or forest country which might facilitate escapes or when in camp at night en route from one prison to another. Their use is, however, not encouraged and they are not employed except in cases of actual necessity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Almoner Beckett

GOVERNOR.