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COLLECTIVE FINE ON MASAI

1914

th August

Reports as to expenditure of proceeds on demarcation of boundaries of Masai Reserve and the irrigation of Narok Station. Question of compensation for Planter Konig must await conclusion of war. Trusts action will be approved.

previous Paper.

18868

Mr. G. Fidler

approve of the proposed action?

H. J. R.

22/9/14

at home P.M. 22.9.14

25 Sep 14
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next subsequent Paper.

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REG^b
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

ST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 765.

August 17th, 1914.

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Sir,

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18868

With reference to your despatch No. 521 of the 29th of May, I have the honour to inform you that, subject to your approval, I have authorized the application of the proceeds of the collective fine levied on certain sections of the Masai tribe for the following purposes:-

- (a) The demarcation of the boundaries of the Masai Reserve.
- (b) The irrigation of Narok Station.

2. With regard to the first mentioned project I would observe that, though it is customary for natives living in their Reserve to be held responsible for the marking out of their boundaries either by the erection of
beacons

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

beacons at frequent intervals or in some other approved manner, the possibility of being able to induce the Masai voluntarily to undertake work of this nature is extremely remote owing to their nomadic habits, sparseness of population and other racial characteristics.

3. It is, however, most desirable that the boundaries of the Masai Reserve be defined in such a manner as to admit of no mistake as to their whereabouts. Their position has up to the present only appeared on plans with the result that the Masai often inadvertently ignore them. Including the Anglo-German border these boundaries are over 1,000 miles in length and it is estimated that a sum of £700 will be necessary to meet the cost of demarcating them.

4. As regards the second proposition I consider that an irrigation scheme by which the Police and Station Staff at the Narok River may be enabled to grow their own food is very necessary. I am informed that the conditions are such that crops cannot be grown successfully without it and a reduction in the high cost of native foodstuffs is very desirable in order to cheapen and popularize labour.

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labour. Mr. Hemsted states that certain of the Masai themselves are anxious to commence cultivation and have asked for irrigation.

5. I am advised by Mr. Watts, late Commissioner of Public Works, that it would be a simple and inexpensive matter to extend furrows from the Narek River which would serve to irrigate a considerable area of land on either side of the stream. It is estimated that the fulfilment of this scheme will not cost more than £120.

6. It is expected that the sale of the cattle levied as a fine on the Masai will realize approximately £1,000 out of which it was originally proposed to pay a sum of £166 to Planter König as compensation for his stolen stock, vide paragraph 2 of my despatch No. 410 of the 30th of April last. This payment will now, however, have to stand over until the cessation of hostilities with Germany. I trust that I may receive in due course an expression of your approval to this arrangement.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conwa Bayard

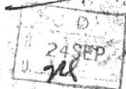
GOVERNOR.

*Gov
18868*

No. 3006/1914

CAP

Sir

DRAFT.

25 September 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 765 of the 17th of Aug. and to inform you that

I approve of your proposals for the use of the proceeds of the collective fine levied on certain sections of the Masai tribe.

GEO. H. HARGREAVES.

CAP

No 873

Mr. W. H. Belfield.

23/9/1914

Bottomley 24.9.14