

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

32462

Recd
7 OCT 11

32462

Big game shooting

Submit memo. by game warden dealing
with points raised by Capt. Warwick.

W. Fiddes.

I sympathize with me but it is
pointless to choke off these opinions from
well-meaning correspondents.

The game warden's reply appears
to me to be very crushing, but it is
couched in language which we cannot very
well pass on. But perhaps it would be
wise in any case to go into details
with Captain Warwick.

Tell him with reference to our
letter on $\frac{W}{2.15.11}$, that after consulting the
Governor's observations upon his suggestion

Subsequent Paper

32463

The B. of B. is satisfied that it would be
unpleasant & undesirable for the Govt to
assume responsibility for the engagement
of sports for shooting parties that were
all so small game reserves maintained
by Govt in the B.A.P.; other the questions
which he raises with regard to the danger
of disease from Game Reserves, ~~and with regard to the report of the~~ ^{and with regard to the report of the} ~~for sale~~
the location of Reserves, have already
been fully considered.

and send the Govt 10 copies of
our letter to Capt. Warwick

28/2/3

30/

I don't think that we need pursue the
correspondence with Capt. W. - but by unless
he returns the matter.

P. 12

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K. 12

Put by

32462
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

September 24th 1911.

No. 886

(Incl. 1)

Sir,

W
2558 +
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 376 of the 12th of July, enclosing a letter from Captain Warwick setting forth his views on various questions connected with big game shooting in this Protectorate.

Memorandum
2. I enclose herewith a Memorandum by the Game Warden, in which the points raised by Captain Warwick are categorically dealt with, and with which I am in complete accord.

3. I would venture to suggest that it is open to Captain Warwick to ventilate his opinions through the usual channels, if he so desires, and I submit that such incursions in to the realm of official correspondence are to be deprecated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

[Signature]
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

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MEMORANDUM

REC-1
OCT 14

I have read Capt. Warwick's letter with astonishment as it is a useless compilation of impracticable theories by a pessimist who is evidently lamentably inexperienced in the conditions obtaining in Africa, especially British East Africa, and who is unable to deal with natives. I treat with suspicion these spontaneous outbursts of administrative genius founded upon two or three short shooting expeditions.

2. With regard to Captain Warwick's preliminary statements

(a) There can be no doubt of the genuineness of his intentions and the denial seems rather unnecessary.

(b & c) It would appear to the ordinary reader that the greater part of his letter is devoted to decreasing the work and expenses and increasing the comfort of the visiting portmen, thus entailing direct additional expense and trouble to the Government, as is also pointed out in the second part of his letter.

3. I will not deal separately with the other points raised in the letter.

4. The highest figure derived from the issue of game licences in this Protectorate is last year's total £10,456 and not £50,000 as is stated by Captain Warwick; and although this sum forms a very acceptable addition to the Revenue, it is not of such importance as Capt. Warwick imagines. It is worthy of remark that he himself inadvertently points this out very clearly in the last paragraph of his letter. Nevertheless the Government is fully alive to the desirability of conserving this valuable asset, and a special Game Department

Game Department has been organized for this purpose, but it not unreasonably declines to take upon itself the burden of "arranging matters for shooters" thereby withdrawing from the public; for whose welfare Capt. Warwick is so much concerned, a considerable and legitimate trade and at the same time lowering itself to the level of a trading organisation. I consider that it is doing an injustice to the agents who fit out shooting parties to say that they "fleece" visiting sportsmen. A shooting expedition de luxe is necessarily an expensive amusement and it must be borne in mind that visitors who have no experience of the country and who cannot speak the native language are bound to pay for these services. It is my experience that most of the visiting sportsmen who come to British East Africa are very well satisfied with the results of their expeditions and with the way in which they have been treated. This is borne out by the numbers who re-visit the Protectorate or become residents, and by the steady increase of revenue from licenses.

5. It is given to understand that the personal attention given by officials to Captain Warwick during his visit would necessitate almost a duplicate staff being engaged, if the same assistance were to be bestowed upon all visiting sportsmen. Even this was apparently not sufficient to relieve Capt. Warwick of the troubles and exertions of his boys as he himself admits.

6. The petty details connected with the transport of porters and the engagement of personal servants of a shooting expedition are very considerable and indeed far greater than can be carried out profitably under the routine of practical Governments and would not only necessitate a special staff, but cause great ill-feelings. The comparison with Fortunate East Africa is not a very happy one as the methods adopted

(4)

several weeks, or accept the slightly higher terms for
 terms which would probably be offered by the various local
 agents. It is obvious that they would pay "for the sake of
 peace and to avoid loss of time". This has a reflex action
 which means shortly that the agents could offer higher wages,
 and the Government Transport Office and could therefore
 obtain more labour. Such would be the state of affairs
 under Capt. Warwick's regulations and the only means of avoiding
 it would be to pass two laws - one prohibiting Sportswomen
 from engaging boys except through the Government, and the
 other making it illegal to offer higher wages
 to the Government. Both regulations would be considered
 as tyrannical by Sportswomen and their local agents and
 would not think would be approved by Government.
 Capt. Warwick does not do us the justice to
 say that their labour is not available to the Government or
 that they are paying wages to the Government to the Government and
 that they are not at present. Government is short
 of labour and at present the Government is short
 of labour from which alone all labour could be engaged at a
 maximum wage appears highly satisfactory at first
 and is so in theory. In actual practice it would in-
 evitably lead to the chaos which Capt. Warwick warns us the
 lack of freedom in the labour market will produce. The un-
 avoidable delays and congestion in such a Transport Office
 probably lead to something approaching a revolution.
 It is, under present conditions the several agents and
 the sporting parties, especially in some of the districts
 and visiting Sportswomen will have to do well or get well
 under any other system. With the matter, and treated
 properly, can obtain all the labour he requires
 in a few isolated districts. In criticizing the
 system of labour in this Protectorate, and assuming that

by the Portuguese in their treatment of the natives are neither worthy of imitation nor likely to find favour with Englishmen and are diametrically opposed to the ideas of British Colonial Policy. I consider that any form of State-controlled labour which attempts to fix a maximum wage, which I understand Capt. Warwick to mean, is precisely to be disapproved.

In the next three paragraphs Capt. Warwick describes the failure of the very system, namely the engagement of boys by Government, which he has previously advocated, and that too from no fault of the Government, but because he was himself unable to resist the temptation of paying "for the sake of peace and to avoid loss of time". From this confession it is easy to see the real impracticability of his proposed regulations for recruiting labour. We may picture the arrival at Mombasa of a steamer with half a dozen shooting parties on board all frantically hurrying to catch the first train up country to escape the so-called deadly coast belt. We need not picture these six shooting parties all trying to make arrangements with regard to boys and porters through the Chief Transport Officer at Mombasa as suggested by Capt. Warwick. We will take a more likely and favourable view and presume that such transport arrangements were soon found to be impossible at the coast and that they have been transferred to Nairobi, whence most of the shooting parties make their start. Even here, the most efficient labour office could not supply single-handed the number of porters required by six shooting parties full of sportsmen. It is not possible to estimate the number of porters which would be required, but it is not unlikely that the number would be prohibitive. It is hardly necessary to ask whether these six shooting parties would wait patiently in Nairobi for

the higher wages paid by shooting parties will eventually rob the settlers of their labour supply. Capt. Warwick Stanley's complete ignorance of the true state of affairs. The shooting parties and the settlers draw their labour supplies from quite different sources and there is no question of competition between them.

The shooting parties consist as a rule almost entirely of Wanyawenzi, and a few Kavirondo and Wakamba; and as porters bearers, Somalis and a few Dakhili and Terakho. The settlers employ principally Kikuyu and Kavirondo as agricultural labourers and a few Wassi as herd boys. The explanation of this is that the Wanyawenzi are by far the best porters obtainable; they will seldom accept other employment in fact they are professional shooting party porters. They eat meat readily as well as wool. On the other hand the Kikuyu porters are the worst available, they cannot carry such heavy loads of march as far as the Wanyawenzi, and they are constantly breaking down and so the whole of the journey, which the Wanyawenzi may complete in a day, the Kikuyu will rarely get near, but they are the best available agricultural labourer.

These facts are corroborated by the "Scale of Allowances for Officers of the East Africa Protectorate for Local Travelling" laid down by Government of which a copy is attached. It will be seen from this scale that the different capacity of porters is officially recognized.

9. Capt. Warwick suggests that the Government should "fix a standard wage, engage boys themselves for strangers and have them paid by an official at the expiration of the expedition". I must point out that the Government have "fixed a standard wage", not compulsory for the public, but recommended to all the agents who enter for shooting parties;

and after making enquiries I have failed to find a single case where the agents have exceeded this standard and even to the best Wanyamwezi porters the highest wage is Rs. 10 per month. The question of personal boys, cooks, and gun-bearers depends is more complicated and their wages depend upon their accomplishments; those able to speak English are in greater demand and consequently command higher wages, to which they are quite entitled; Somali gun-bearers are the best and of course the most expensive, Rs. 75 to Rs. 80 per month being the usual wage of the best Somali. It must be also remembered that some Sportsmen are more exigent than others and it is therefore on the whole quite impossible, and would be unjust, to lay down a fixed wage for all cooks, personal boys and gun-bearers, and the Government could not supply these at lower prices than the agents whose terms are necessarily kept down by competition.

10. With reference to the suggestion that payments should be made by an official at the end of an expedition, I would point out that this procedure is invariably followed by the agents, but it is not unreasonable that boys, who after all are only human, should during an expedition of several months ask for a small portion of their wages for personal use. Such details as these are usually managed by the guides or sports hunters who are generally engaged by Sportsmen to organise and manage their expeditions for them and it is only in cases like Capt. Warwick's where the Sporting Sportsman is either unwilling or unable to afford the luxury of employing an agent that the trouble arises with the servants. For it is obvious that the agents must have quite as much perhaps even more control over the charges they employ than Government can have.

11. From an administrative point of view, the shooting parties who manage their own affairs and do not employ the local agents, are to be strongly discouraged, for they are the ones who most frequently break the Game Regulations, and they generally cause trouble in the outlying districts.

12. The Government intend to register white guides and gun-bearers in future, and although this is for the protection of game and not for the convenience of Sportsmen, nevertheless it is anticipated that the practice will be of great advantage to those who are ready to abide by the Regulations.

13. With reference to (b) on page 3 of Capt. Warwick's letter, if "strangers would gladly sign a paper of non-responsibility" as he readily signs, surely such a document would cancel the advantages which he claims for his suggestions.

With reference to (c), I believe Capt. Warwick visited this Protectorate in 1907, so that some effects should now be noticeable in the "falling off of licences due to Sportsmen going elsewhere". In actual fact the numbers of shooting parties which visit the Protectorate have greatly increased and are quite as numerous as is desirable; while there has been an increase in the receipts from licences of nearly £2,000 each year. These facts do not impress me with any regard for Captain Warwick's pessimistic warnings.

With reference to (d), the Government have no fear of such a day, and can confidently reassure Capt. Warwick that they are completely masters of the situation.

14. It is certainly very unpleasant for Capt. Warwick that his boys dislike him so much and most unfortunate that he is unable to control them, because in making these complaints about native servants in British East

Africa Capt. Warwick is only condemning himself. These are not as a rule the experiences or opinions of Sportsmen, who come to shoot in this Protectorate. I have never heard of complaints of this nature before, and the statement that sportsmen cannot visit the country on account of the bad, expensive servants is quite without foundation. Natives are very quick at reading characters, and some people always have trouble with their boys, usually through their own mismanagement. We have our own troubles with labour questions in British East Africa, but they are rarely genuine. When a farmer complains that he cannot obtain or keep boys while he is surrounded by others who do not experience this difficulty, the case is suspicious.

15. Capt. Warwick says - "It does not appear advisable to permit a "Small" Game Reserve to increase too much in quantity etc." - Possibly he is confusing this Protectorate with some other country. There are no "Small" Game Reserves in British East Africa, unless private farms are included in the term. The Southern Reserve has an area of 10,695 square miles, and the area of the Northern Reserve was originally 38,300 square miles, but has now been reduced to 25,900 square miles. And although Capt. Warwick's remarks with regard to disease hold good for Zoological Gardens and Deer Parks they are totally inapplicable to the areas mentioned above. In these Reserves there is no question that diseases will break out on account of overcrowding. These areas are far too large for game to increase beyond the point allowed by nature, for the ruthless law of the survival of the fittest is here enforced without mercy.

16. Capt. Warwick does not appear to be familiar with the histories and means of transmission of the various diseases by which farmers are troubled in this Protectorate and in other parts of Africa. Rinderpest, the most serious and of which the pathogenic microorganism is ultra-microscopical, was almost certainly introduced into Northern Africa with transport animals, and gradually swept South. And although game suffer from rinderpest it is not a disease liable to break out spontaneously in a game Reserve through overcrowding.

Gastro Enteritis, a closely allied disease, but having a visible pathogenic micro-organism, has done much damage to domestic cattle, but the pathogenic micro-organism has not been found in any of the game animals supposed to have died of this disease and which have been microscopically examined by the Veterinary Pathologist. Attempts artificially to infect game animals with Gastro Enteritis by grazing them on contaminated ground have also proved negative, but this latter experiment has not been carried out on a sufficiently large scale to be absolutely conclusive. Experiments are also being made to ascertain if it is possible to infect game animals with Gastro Enteritis by inoculation. Of the Piroplasmoses, the most serious is East Coast fever, but in this case the game, instead of spreading the disease is in fact a great disinfecting agent, for an infected tick is rendered clean by biting a game animal. Ticks have been proved to carry in their blood the pathogenic micro-organism of Bilious Fever of horses (*Equus caballus*) and a rejection in their members will be welcomed

in settled areas, but this disease is not at all a serious factor in the development of the country and on the whole it is unjustifiable and premature to condemn the game and assume that Game Reserves are equivalent to potential reservoirs of disease. It is of interest to note that during the last few years of drought, when the game has suffered a good deal from disease, that the game inside the Reserves has suffered far less than that outside.

17. With regard to Capt. Warwick's suggestion that "Reserves should be changed continually", I must point out that this question was discussed by the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, when it was decided that a Game Reserve should be an absolute sanctum and should be permanent, because it is the object of such a Reserve to prevent the extermination not only of any game animals but also of all other animals which go to make up the Fauna of that part of Africa. This may be taken as representing the opinions of British Naturalists and Sportsmen. If a Reserve such as the present Southern Masai and Game Reserve were thrown open to shooting, as Capt. Warwick suggests, the rarer animals such as Greater Kudu, Roan Antelope and Rhinoceros would be exterminated. It is my opinion that the Rhinoceros will be absolutely exterminated outside the Game Reserves within the next 50 years. The proper method of dealing with valuable shooting grounds is to close a certain district to shooting for a time to allow recuperation. This matter has been fully dealt with in my annual report for 1910-11.

18. Capt. Warwick asks, "Is it politic to make a Game Reserve anywhere near the railway?" I should imagine that such a question would be the first to be asked in the most elementary examination in administrative subjects.

subjects. Does he imagine that he has detected a flaw which has been overlooked by previous administrations? When a sane man is seen performing an apparently insane action it is generally wise to investigate the matter more closely before asking questions which render the inquirer liable to a snub. Capt. Warwick is apparently unaware of the fact that the Southern Game Reserve, bounded by the Railway is almost without water during half the year and that for thousands of square miles the surface of the ground is thickly covered with stones and boulders, while upon every bent of grass, from 1 to 50 ticks sit, ready to attach themselves to the first passing animal.

The Masai tribe are bound to be provided for somewhere and this area was reserved for them as it was very unsuitable for settlement. It may be asked how it is that the Masai can live there if the Settlers cannot.

The explanation is a simple one. The Masai are essentially "nomads" and wander over large areas, following the pasturage and water as do all desert tribes, and they are thus able to exist under conditions which would be fatal to the European Settler who establishes himself on a fixed site. Later, when it became known that the Masai do not kill and eat game, this area was wisely formed into a Game Reserve and it is now the most successful and valuable Reserve in Africa.

19. The question of the export of game hides for sale has been the subject of the most careful consideration by many experienced sportsmen, naturalists, and administrators, and it has been unanimously decided that such a measure would be equivalent to signing the death warrant of the game. (Vide the Colonial Office Blue Book, Cd. 4472.

"Preservation"

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"preservation of wild animals in Africa". 1910. Page 19.)

The prices of skins quoted are approximately correct, but it must be remembered that these are the prices of tanned skins and not of the raw articles, the prices of which are very much lower.

It is not correct to include Zebra skins in this classification. The skin of the Zebra is poor and of inferior quality, producing a hard brittle leather, for which there is little demand. It is absolutely wrong to say that boys do not care for the meat of Hartebeest and Zebra, as they are the two animals which form the main meat supply of porters. Capt. Warwick is probably thinking of the Kikuyu who are for the most part vegetarians and will rarely eat any meat except that of cattle and sheep, possibly in imitation of the Masai, who observe the same custom.

Capt. Warwick's proposal that the Government should purchase game hides from Visiting Sportsmen and export them is, to say the least, a crude and unpractical scheme. It would be interesting to know who is to pay the porters needed to carry these hides from the Northern Quaso Nyiro River, Mount Elgon or the Loita Plains to the nearest point of the Railway. Capt. Warwick says, "Let Government pay a small price per hide; then shooters will take a little trouble etc....." Does he imagine that the Sportsmen who come to shoot in British East Africa and spend from £500 to £10,000 on their expeditions are going to take the trouble to bring back all the skins for the sake of selling them to Government for a few shillings, or because it is the wish of the Government that they should do so? And if the matter was made compulsory under the Game Ordinance and if Sportsmen

were fined for neglecting to bring in skins - this I take to be Capt. Warwick's idea when he says, "They can check a shortage of hides produced when checking heads and horns to be exported" - would not that be the very way to make the conditions intolerable to the Sportsman and keep him away from the country, which Capt. Warwick earlier in his letter warns us to be so careful about?

The real question of importance is not how to deal with the skins shot by Sportsmen, a comparatively negligible quantity, but with the skins and flesh of game which Settlers wish to exterminate in certain districts. Capt. Warwick does not give us any assistance with this problem. If free permission were given to export hides and flesh of game killed on private land it would lead almost at once to the extermination of all the game in the settled areas and would give enormous encouragement to poaching on Crown Land, which it would be impossible to deal with except by an enormous staff of Game Rangers whose expenses would practically cancel any profit made from the hides, even if Government sold and exported them after buying from the Settlers. Capt. Warwick says, "My idea being for Government to reap the benefit from such hides and not to permit shooters selling for themselves". This suggestion when analyzed amounts to a proposal that Government should indulge in trading operations under a monopoly, which is a proceeding entirely opposed to British ideas of Government. A great deal of ill-feeling has already been aroused by the ivory regulations, and if a Government monopoly in game hides was added to these, it would create a perfect furor.

20. In the penultimate paragraph of his letter Captain

Warwick

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Warwick says, "my sole object in writing the above is to preserve as long as possible the asset of game licences to the country". As a matter of fact his proposals are a direct incentive to the slaughter of game. In his last paragraph he says, "Local officials may disagree with these statements, but I respectfully point out that East Africa is for the Settlers of a future generation and not for a big game reserve".

It is rather difficult to understand exactly what Capt. Warwick's policy is.

21. In conclusion I should like to reiterate

(1) that the Government are fully aware of the necessity of preserving the game in British East Africa in suitable localities while at the same time giving due consideration to the interests of the Settlers.

(2) that the Government are thoroughly conversant with all the problems connected with the preservation of game in this Protectorate, the necessary supervision of shooting parties, and the management of Game Reserves

(3) that there is not the slightest fear that there will be a dearth of Sportmen on account of the "boys being impossible" or for any other reason, such as the preference shown by Sportmen to shoot in Portuguese East Africa.

So long as there is plenty of game to shoot, - and there will be no lack for many years to come, - there will always be found "Sportmen", of whom the term can be used in its highest sense, ready and delighted to brave the terrors and discomforts of the native labour question.

Sd/- R. B. WOOSNAM.

GAME WARDEN.