

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

34778

34776

REC'D
OCT 28 11

Form 540
QUARTER

Date

GAME DEPARTMENT STAFF

By

Previous Paper

34211

34212

Recommend the engagement of two additional Asst
Game Rangers. Consider also the "Incorporate Grounds" should
be treated as Game Preserves and thus preserve one of the
valuable natural resources of the Prot.

M. Butler

Please see Swain's let^r of 25th of Oct
(enclosed) from which it appears that
he only proposes to include in the contract
for next year one Game Ranger. ^{attached}
The salary of Game Ranger (a mounted
Ranger) shows that many which including
in the game cost as the best is double
the ~~amount~~ for the two Game Rangers
in the estimate is \$100 per month but I
had from the Director of the
p.s. ~~of~~ ^{Game} ~~Department~~ ^{Office}.

The present staff of the Game Dept

Subsequent Paper

34211
34212

June 1910 \$2000
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[...]
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It seems that to the other side of
the Dept. must not be added a person
plus that the big game in the last
year is estimated in 3 or 4 years

W. Fiddle.

Wait for the Estimates. but in
the meantime, ask for the Game
Warden's annual report for 1910-11?

Feb
Mar 2

Alone
Mar 3

~~1911~~

Appointing of an additional assistant
recommended in R.C. - MS 15/1

Approved MS 1/4



301

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

September 23rd 1911.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 540

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the question of whether it would not be advisable to make a small addition to the Staff of the Game Department of this Protectorate. The Game Warden has applied for two additional Assistant Game Rangers and I am in favour of making this addition to the Staff if I can possibly find the funds. At the present time the Staff of this Department consists of four officers with a certain number of Native Scouts, and when consideration is given to the enormous areas over which supervision is necessary, it will be seen that it is in reality quite impossible for such a comparatively small Staff to carry out this work as thoroughly as should be done.

2. There are in this Protectorate vast areas which are unlikely to be needed for settlement for many years and which are in fact not very suitable for settlement. Such areas, which include the "Closed Districts" and "Forest Reserves" constitute what may be termed the "Shooting grounds" and have to bear the brunt of the increasingly numerous Shooting Expeditions which annually visit

the

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., F.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

34775

301

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

September 28th 1911.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 549

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the question of whether it would not be advisable to make a small addition to the Staff of the Game Department of this Protectorate. The Game Warden has applied for two additional Assistant Game Rangers and I am in favour of making this addition to the Staff if I can possibly find the funds. At the present time the Staff of this Department consists of four officers with a certain number of Native Scouts, and when consideration is given to the enormous areas over which supervision is necessary, it will be seen that it is in reality quite impossible for such a comparatively small Staff to carry out this work as thoroughly as should be done.

Extract

2. There are in this Protectorate vast areas which are unlikely to be needed for settlement for many years and which are in fact not very suitable for settlement. Such areas, which include the "Closed Districts" and "Forest Reserves" constitute what may be termed the "Shooting grounds" and have to bear the brunt of the increasingly numerous Shooting Expeditions which annually visit the

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LEWIS HURCOLE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET.

34775

301

REC'D
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

September 28th 1911.

No. 510

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the question of whether it would not be advisable to make a small addition to the Staff of the Game Department of this Protectorate. The Game Warden has applied for two additional Assistant Game Rangers and I am in favour of making this addition to the Staff if I can possibly find the funds. At the present time the Staff of this Department consists of four officers with a certain number of Native Scouts, and when consideration is given to the enormous areas over which supervision is necessary, it will be seen that it is in reality quite impossible for such a comparatively small Staff to carry out this work as thoroughly as should be done.

2. There are in this Protectorate vast areas which are unlikely to be needed for settlement for many years and which are in fact not very suitable for settlement. Such areas, which include the "Closed Districts" and "Forest Reserves" constitute what may be termed the "Shooting Grounds" and have to bear the brunt of the increasingly numerous Shooting Expeditions which annually visit

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

LEWIS HARDBERT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

the Protectorate.

3. I am of opinion that it is sound policy to treat these "Shooting Grounds" as "Game Preserves" and to endeavour to protect them as long as possible thus conserving one of the valuable natural resources of the country, and I, therefore, recommend that the employment of two additional Assistant Game Rangers should be sanctioned in the Estimates for 1912-13.

4. This appears justifiable when the figures for the Revenue and Expenditure of the Game Department are taken into consideration. During the year 1910-11 the Revenue was 210,000, against an Expenditure of only 22,500, and it appears that the more complete supervision which will be obtained by this increase in the Staff will more than repay the additional expenditure incurred.

5. The big game shooting unquestionably formed the original attraction for most men who have since become Settlers in this Protectorate and besides being a considerable source of Revenue it continues to be a means of great advertisement for the country and brings a large amount of trade and money into it with visiting Sportsmen.

6. The Game Warden and his assistants are fully alive to the impossibility of attempting to preserve the game when it is opposed to the interests and progress of the country and the settlers, but as I have already stated it is possible to preserve the game in districts where it will in no way conflict with the development of the country but will, on the contrary, form a valuable asset, and I am, therefore, in favour of increasing the Staff of the Game Department to the necessary extent.

extent to enable thorough supervision to be carried on, in the proper Districts.

7. Besides the usual patrolling of Districts the Game Warden is taking energetic measures to put a stop to the illicit slaughter of Elephants and smuggling of Ivory which has been going on for many years, and an increase in the Staff of the Department is required on this account, as I have considered it advisable to discontinue shortly the system of Government purchase of Ivory from natives. The additional expenditure which the employment of the two Assistant Game Rangers will entail, amounts to Rs 25 each per annum.

8. I append an extract from the Game Warden's Annual Report in which a scheme of Game Districts is drawn up.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,


GOVERNOR.

Extract from the Game Warden's Annual Report
for 1910-1911.

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RGS 28 OCT 11

3. Game Reserves:-

The Crown Lands including the Closed Districts and Native Reserves have to bear the brunt of most of the Shooting Expeditions which visit the Protectorate, and they may, therefore, be looked upon as the mainstay of the work of the Game Department. It is the duty of the Game Warden to look after the stock of game, to see that it is not reduced below safe limits by disease or other causes, and this can only be done efficiently by having a Ranger in charge of a district, and permanently stationed there. Each district must not be so large that it cannot be properly patrolled. Each Ranger must be assisted by active scouts, who have their own rifles and are paid for their work. In this way the game will be protected and the same good shooting, which has been the main attraction to British East Africa, will be maintained. The capital into the country in the past few years has been a very valuable asset to this country is an indisputable fact, and I am taking it for granted that it is the intention of the Government, as it certainly is the wish of the Colonists, to conserve the natural resources of the Protectorate as far as possible. I am, therefore, going to make suggestions for an increase in the expenditure of the Game Department, and when the fact is taken into consideration that the revenue of the Game Department for the year 1910-11 from licences alone

was only £1,000, it will be seen that the Game Department is in a very poor position. It is, therefore, suggested that the expenditure of the Game Department should be increased to £2,000 per annum. This will enable the Game Warden to employ more Rangers and scouts, and to provide better equipment for the Game Department. It is also suggested that the Game Department should be allowed to purchase land for the purpose of creating Game Reserves. This will enable the Game Warden to create reserves in areas where the game is particularly abundant, and to protect these reserves from the effects of shooting expeditions. It is also suggested that the Game Department should be allowed to purchase land for the purpose of creating Game Reserves. This will enable the Game Warden to create reserves in areas where the game is particularly abundant, and to protect these reserves from the effects of shooting expeditions.

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and not including skins or sale of confiscated trophies, was over £10,000 and that the expenditure was only £2,500, or about one quarter of the revenue, it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the expenditure should be increased. Although this is not likely to increase the revenue in the immediate future, it will have the effect of ensuring the present revenue being maintained, for unless the stock of game is kept up, the shooting will deteriorate and the number of visiting sportsmen decrease. And it is surely policy to safeguard the revenue for a longer period, at the expense of a slightly increased expenditure.

The opinion is commonly held, both by the general public, and I am afraid, also by the Authorities at the Colonial Office, that the present standard of shooting in the Protectorate cannot be maintained for more than 3 or 4 years and that the Sportsman, who visits Africa for big game shooting, will cease to exist. This idea has been current for the last 30 years or more and is still unrealized, and I should like to take this opportunity of trying to dispel the illusion, or at least show that the matter is one which can be controlled to a very great extent, as far as the Preservation of the Game is concerned, and that under properly organized protection, the magnificent stock of game at present existing will last for many years.

The Big Game Hunter, far from decreasing is becoming more numerous every year and will continue to do so, and the demand for this shooting is likely to increase steadily, as the game in other parts of Africa becomes exterminated. It is, therefore, undoubtedly wise policy to preserve as strictly as possible the unsettled areas which constitute the shooting grounds not only near the Railway Line but also in the furthest outlying districts. For other Branch Lines

must eventually be constructed which will bring these areas, at present inaccessible, within easy reach of Sportsmen. I should, therefore, propose that the country should be divided up into the following game districts, each under the supervision of a White Ranger with a staff of native scouts:-

1. {
 - (gotik.
 - (Loita Plains.
 - (Southern Guaso Nyiro.
 - (Kisii.
2. (Uasin Gishu Plateau, North of Nzola River.
(Mount Elgon.
3. {
 - (Laikipia (unless the Masai are moved and this country becomes a settled area).
4. (Tana and South of Guaso Nyiro.
(Mount Kenia.
5. Northern Reserve and North of N. Guaso Nyiro.
6. Southern Reserve.

District No. 1. This is one of the best shooting grounds in the country, and is visited by a large majority of the Sportsmen, especially those who have not many months to spend in the country. The variety of game is large and is the same as that in the Southern Reserve. The area included in District No. 1 is really too large for one Ranger especially as it is much shot over and the Kisii District, which is principally an Elephant country, should really be under a separate Ranger, whose time would be fully taken up with preventing the Elephant poaching which is going on at present. However, it would be well to put the whole district under one Ranger first and let him suggest later how it should be subdivided.

District No. 2. The Uasin Gishu Plateau South of the Nzola River is now almost entirely taken up by settlers, chiefly Dutchmen, and although many of them are preserv-

preserving the game on their land, the game will inevitably disappear by degrees. But North of the Nzeia River there is a very good shooting ground including Mount Elgon District, and there are a good many Elephants. This district must have a Ranger who can also devote a little time to the settled area of the Plateau.

District No.3. If the Masai are eventually moved from the Laikipia Plains to the Sotik, this district will at once become a settled area and in that case will not need a Ranger, but if the Masai are not moved there should certainly be a Ranger on Laikipia who could also look after the Elephants on the A. M. Range as well, and occasionally visit the Rift Valley.

District No.4. The Tana River and Northern Guaso Nyiro is another of the best shooting grounds in the country and one which is becoming increasingly popular with Visiting Sportsmen. This is largely due to the Motor Transport Company's service to Fort Hall and still further improved transport facilities which will soon be available will attract more Shooting Parties and make this ground still more important. This district has never been under a Ranger and one is very urgently needed there, particularly to look after the Giraffe, Rhinoceroses and Buffaloes. This Ranger could also include in his district Mount Kenya which is greatly in need of being properly patrolled by good native scouts as the Elephants are being killed by Wandorobo hunters to a considerable extent. Probably at or near Embu would be the best place for this Ranger's Headquarters, and he would be able to work to some extent in conjunction with the Ranger in charge of the Northern Reserve,

who

who will also look after the country North of the Northern Guaso Nyiro which will more often be visited by Shooting Parties in the future, with the improved transport to Fort Hall.

District No. 5. The Ranger in charge of the Northern Reserve will have a very large area under his supervision, although a good deal of it is extremely dry barren country which will not require much patrolling. There will be a great deal of work able to be done in this district by efficient native scouts. This Ranger will undoubtedly have to use animal transport principally and his expenditure will be more than that of others. He will also be able to attend to a good deal of country outside the Reserve.

District No. 6. Unless the German Government closes as a Game Reserve the country along the border of the Southern Reserve, a Ranger will have to be stationed on the border at or near Ol-Dony-Mrok, to prevent poachers coming over the border into the Reserve. It would be best in any case to have a Ranger in charge of the Southern Reserve, but if a German Reserve is formed on our border, and there is a difficulty in financing a sufficient number of Rangers for other districts, the Reserve could do without a Ranger better than other districts. Native scouts can be used a great deal and practically all the Masai in the Reserve act as scouts. The Game Warden or officer in charge of the office in Nairobi can also spare a little time for visiting the Southern Reserve.

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EAP

8 Nov 1911

Sir,

pm

DRAFT

EAP
No 651

Gen Sir Ed Guinness

with ref to para 8
of your despatch No 540 of

MINUTE.

- Mr. Pennington ²/₁₁
- Mr. Butler ¹/₃
- Mr. Fiddes
- Sir H. Just
- Sir J. Anderson
- Lord Lucas
- Mr. Harecourt

the 28th of Sept., I have the

28/9

to request that you will

furnish me with ^a the annual
number of copies of the Game

Warden's Annual Report for
the year
1910-11.

Yours
EAP