

EAST AFR. PROT.

UGANDA

1911

20 JAN 11

1911

PRINTED FOR USE

230

1911

and the L.  
Camp

Date

Game shooting in S. Africa.

1911  
18 Jan

Reports discussion with Society for preservation of wild  
fauna. Submit views on Society's desire to increase  
maximum weight of tusks for elephants that in Uganda to 250 lb.  
Refers to present difficulties of farmers operations in  
many to Southern game Reserve & makes suggestions for throwing reserve  
open to shooting

PRINTED FOR PARLIAMENT

CC. 571

M. Fiddes

para: 1+3. See my second minute

range camp & area  
Further to go some way to reach

para: 4. The Society are going to  
write to us on this matter

para: 4. Mr Austin urged again  
at the interview that the elephants  
could be kept down & the reserves  
indicated, but I agree with Sir P. Ground  
that the proposed solution is not a practicable  
one.

para: 5 to end. The Society's reports  
appeared to be quite willing that the  
Zebra + Kudu were mentioned  
by Sir P. Ground as the two species of  
big game most injurious to farming,  
should be kept down, + if any other animals  
can

Subsequent Papers

23 29 10

can be shown to seriously hamper farming  
operations. I think that they should  
be dealt with in a similar manner.  
I would therefore approve generally of  
the application proposals as a summary  
of concept. To the S.A.J. for  
record 27.

H. J. R.

23/1

Col Seely  
W. Harcourt

I agree, though the Society will  
protest loudly. I regard this contention as  
unjustified: that when the interests of the big  
game conflict with those of the smaller game  
nature, the latter are to give way. This I have  
commended to Mr. William Rufus, but have  
to the present day, etc.

D. 24/1

I entirely agree

98.

26.1.

I agree generally, but before sending  
anything to the Society I should like  
to have some information as to the  
damage done by game coming out of  
the South Maori reserve. I must know  
what amount shall have to the certain  
amount.

I think that  
the Society should  
be made to  
know the  
amount of  
the  
S.A.J. for it  
14-2  
3

27. 27. 1. 11

At the request of Mr. E. N. Austin  
the representative of the Society for  
the Empire Mr. Earle landed with them 2 or 3  
days ago to receive the grant of £268  
the Southern Home Revenue & the  
S.P. The result of the discussion  
is embodied in the accompanying  
draft of a cheque, which Mr. Howard  
wishes to be sent to S.P. provided  
as soon as possible

H. J. R.

9/11

COLONIAL OFFICE, (5)

LONDON.

18th January 1911.

Extract  
PRINTED BY PARLIER

Sir,

I had the privilege of meeting yesterday, with Colonel Seely, members of the Society for the preservation of Wild Fauna in the Empire.

The Society wish to lay before the Secretary of State the desirability of increasing the weight of tusks for elephants to be shot in Uganda to at least 25 lbs. You will be aware that the legal weight in British East Africa is now 30 lbs.

Though I do not press for any immediate alteration in this standard, and though I do not look upon the Government revenues derived from ivory as of great importance, it is only right that I should state the fact that in the present condition of standards, a considerable trade in ivory is being diverted from British East Africa into the adjoining British Protectorate, German East Africa, Italian Somaliland & Abyssinia.

The Council expressed themselves as largely satisfied with the measures which had been adopted in British East Africa. With regard to elephant shooting in Uganda, I could not speak with any personal knowledge, but the proposal put forward by the Council, that only Administrative officers or certain specified natives should be authorised to keep down the number of elephants to avoid depredation, appeared to me an unworkable one. The ordinary Administrative officer

is

The Under Secretary of State

for the Colonies.

LONDON.

mc-7224-15

far too busily employed in his ordinary avocations to be turned into a big game hunter, and the grant to natives of any special rights in the killing of elephants is a course fraught with great danger to the animals it is sought to protect.

Though in East Africa we are not troubled by any great depredations from elephants, there is another source of evil which is a very great one. I refer to the presence of the Southern Game Reserve, practically in contact with a large number of European farms and Native Reserves. Though the Society viewed with a certain amount of equanimity the reduction of elephants in Uganda - by administrative methods - to a point where they could not commit excessive damage, they appeared totally unwilling to in any way consider a similar situation, now becoming very grave, owing to the presence of enormous herds principally of hartebeeste and zebra. One member contended that as the game was there before the settler, the settler should be moved - where to, was not ascertainable. ~~Such~~ Such an attitude exemplifies the general <sup>attitude</sup> position of the Society.

No inhabitant in British East Africa would desire to see any general extermination of game, and it is also rendered practically impossible by the fact that by far the larger proportion of acreage in the country will not witness any form of settlement beyond that of nomadic tribes for many years to come. There are fully 100,000 square miles of country which come under this category. The present Southern Game Reserve is on an entirely different footing. It is today closely in contact with civilization, and no less

an authority that Sir David Bruce has definitely stated that it is quite impossible to carry on farming operations with the presence of this game reserve. I have mentioned the fact that the construction of a Game fence as from Nairobi to Kiu, along the railway line, might in a measure prove effectual, though I have grave doubts of it and the expenditure on such a project would hardly be justifiable. I may state incidentally that the Council objected to even a Game fence - on aesthetic grounds.

I am of opinion that the present Southern Masai Reserve should be thrown open to shooting, and that furthermore the Game Rangers should be authorised to decide the number of any animals, such as hartebeest and zebra, which could - in accordance with the views of this Society - be reduced in order to afford protection to farming operations.

The Society objected in every way to the export of hides and skins, but unless farmers can recoup themselves in some way for the heavy expenditure of ammunition which is entailed by the destruction of game, even where authorised by Government, such destruction becomes impossible. I do not think that the farmers would desire to kill off the game from the point of view of pecuniary interest. It appears to me that some measure could be devised whereby the Government could make itself responsible for the export and sale of any such hides, wherefrom the expense incurred by farmers could be recouped, and any

balances

4.

balances placed to the credit of the Game Department.

The position is today in this regard a serious one, and the proposals I have outlined do not appear to differ very widely from those put forward by this Council with regard to the reduction of elephants in the Uganda Protectorate.

I have, <sup>the</sup> the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
E. C. [unclear]

Govt 1940 [Ed. / signed]

T #

DRAFT.

Ed. (Conf.)

PRINTED FOR PARLIAMEN  
CO. 5749

oddy.

8 Feb  
& Sunday

MINUTE.

in

- Mr. Parkin 30
- Mr. Butler 30
- Mr. Read 30
- X Mr. Fiddes. 1
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.

- X Col. Seely.
- X Mr. Harcourt.

is sent from  
into the  
to read

to P. Ginnard.  
if you

Have the honour to transmit to you a copy of ~~a letter~~ a letter <sup>from</sup> ~~sent~~ to Percy Ginnard ~~in~~ in the subject of Game in E. Africa, to inform you that I have generally of the proposals which he makes in this connection. 2. I have to request, however, that you will send me information as soon as possible as to the extent of damage which

and as far as possible detail has may be practicable, information



is done by game  
coming out of the  
Southern Reserve

Reserve

W. H. Harcourt

1940 E.A.P.



10 March 1911

DRAFT

S.A.P. - (Conf.)  
for:

Sir,  
With refer to my  
I have despatch of the 8 of Feb.

MINUTE

- Mr. Read 9 March
- Mr. Gault agrees
- Mr. Fiddes 9
- Mr. Judd
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- Lord Curzon
- W. Harcourt

I have the honor to  
inform you that I have  
received unofficially some  
further representations from  
the Society for the Preservation  
of the Fauna of the  
Empire on the subject  
of the Southern game  
Reserve.

See minute  
(inserted)

2. When the reserves

8078-15

of the Society have  
discussed the matter  
with Sir A. Pease, who is  
now on his way to the  
country & who is stated  
to be familiar with  
all the facts of the  
case both from the  
settlers & from the  
Spartan's point of  
view, they propose  
to send a formal  
deputation to me, but  
in the meantime, they  
have made certain  
suggestions which I  
request that you will  
consider & report on  
at

at your early convenience  
3. They admit that <sup>275</sup>  
great damage is being done  
to the farms of settlers by  
the Congolese Zebra and  
the Kestibeeste, but they  
suggest as a remedy for  
the evil, that the  
Revenue should be  
thrown open for the  
shooting of these animals  
& any other, which can be  
clearly shown to be  
responsible for the  
damage, until their  
numbers have been  
reduced to harmless  
limits.  
4. They expect that the

the flesh of the longhorn  
zebra at any rate is  
eagerly sought after for

the manufacture of  
buttons & that many  
persons would be glad  
to obtain the privilege  
of shooting them in

the Reserve provided  
that they were allowed  
to retain the carcasses.

5. They recommend  
therefore that licenses  
to shoot for these purposes  
should be issued on  
payment of a special fee  
& that the Govt., while  
allowing the carcasses to  
be disposed of by the

hunter, should retain  
the hides or skins for  
& dispose of them for  
its own profit.

I have, etc.  
L. Harcourt

DRAFT

MINUTE.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Fildes.
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.