

1911

EAST AFR. PROT
2155

2155

21 JAN 11

Board Conf.

Date.

10 Janry

Municipal Council - Nairobi

last previous Paper.

24323/1910

Indicates lines upon which he proposes to work in anticipation of future approval of scheme

* Mr Butler

The S.P.S. I understand, is prepared to give further consideration to the ~~proposal~~ ^{proposal} & this evening, and is anxious to have this paper before him before his visit to Nairobi which he is proposed on Thursday.

Two chief points appear to call for consideration -

1. Are there enough people in Nairobi of sufficient ability & business to have the ^{control} management of municipal affairs. The S.P.S. proposed committee was that there are not quite the necessary assets to hand on

subsequent Paper

1911

to the Municipality the allocated &
unallocated Crown lands in Nairobi.
The former estimate to being a net of £1755 pa.
And the latter to be worth about £23,000.
On this point I think that considerable
pressure will have to be brought to bear
upon the Treasury before they will consent
H.S.B. 1/1

W. R. D. D. D.
H.S.B.

With regard to (a) ^{Jan. 11} ~~the~~ ^{the} proposed proposal
that the new municipal council there
shall be a majority of official members
nominated by the Govt. & that the
non-official members representing the
European & Indian sections of the
population, shall be also nominated by
the Govt. The native section would probably
be represented by one of the official
members - the Secy for Native Affairs,
in the Provincial Comm. ^{of the District}
H.S.B.
24/1

Mr. Hancock

5

You will wish to consider this before
 tomorrow's meeting.

I see no great objection to the proposal
 provided that the "due & generous provision for
 future Govt. requirements" is made.

Yrs
 25/1

Self
 Hancock
 25/1

COLONIAL OFFICE,

L O N D O N.

20th January 1911.

Confidential.

Sir,

With reference to the Secretary of State's Despatch (Confidential) of 20th October 1910, dealing with the question of Local government, and my report of May 10th 1909 upon British East Africa enclosing a memorandum on the financial effect of applying the Municipal Ordinance of 1909 to the Nairobi Township, I would beg to state that this subject has now received further consideration and I understand that the Secretary of State is not averse - after the additional information which has been supplied to him since my arrival in England - to reconsidering the position in so far as the Municipality of Nairobi is concerned. I would not propose, without further consultation with the local authorities, to place before the Secretary of State any detailed scheme for an increase of powers to the Municipality, but would merely wish at present to indicate the lines which I would propose to work upon in anticipation of his general approval.

2. In 1901 the Nairobi Municipal Regulations established a Municipal Committee to carry on certain functions of local government in that town. The constitution of this Committee allowed of the nomination of both official and unofficial members, the former being in the majority. It continued its functions down to 1908, when a further Ordinance was introduced for the purpose of legalising its position and providing

The Under Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

L O N D O N.

2.

providing, inter alia, for the power of raising loans. The latter provision is however inoperative on the present financial condition of the town, as there are practically no assets upon which a loan could be based. Throughout the period from 1901 to 1910, all capital works and the maintenance of roads and water supplies have been a charge upon the ordinary expenditure of the Protectorate.

3. To all intents and purposes we have had a form of Municipal Council in Nairobi for nearly ten years and I think that both the official and unofficial members fully appreciate the responsibility of their position. The Ordinance of 1908, amended in 1909 as I have stated above, merely confirms the legality of their actions, which were being constantly questioned in Court prior to the date of the passing of the law.

It appears to me that after this very considerable novitiate, further powers could now be extended to a properly constituted Municipal Council for this town, whereby while ensuring the strictest Government supervision - as contemplated in the Ordinance of 1909 - the Council should have imposed upon it the ordinary duties of such a body. The financial effect of such a measure would be:

- (1) To immediately relieve the Protectorate from any further capital expenditure, and in the case of water works, &c., provide for repayment to Government of certain capital expenditure incurred in the past.

3.

(2) To provide for recurrent expenditures without any additional expenditure to that which is entailed upon the Protectorate at the present time.

4. To place such a Council in a sound position, it will become necessary to hand over to it certain revenues which are now paid to the general government of the Protectorate, and I would indicate in particular the rents derived from the leases of Crown lands within the Municipality, which today amount to £1,755 per annum. The surrender of this revenue, as also all unalienated Crown land - after due and generous provision is made for future Government requirements - would form the only secure basis upon which the financial position of the town could be established. The proposal is not an unusual one, and has been carried out in many British colonies.

I trust that this general outline of the method which I propose to proceed upon may meet with the approval of the Secretary of State.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



8 Feb 1911

Sir

I have the honour to
 acknowledge the receipt of your
 letter of the 20th of Jan
 which you addressed to
 me while you were in this
 country, relative to
 questions of practice
 municipal port &
 and of heading over to
 the municipal body the
 Common lands in Naviti
 for the purpose of making
 that body to have a bona
 fide copy of your letter in evidence for
 compliance of requirements
 2. After discussing the
 matter with you, I am
 prepared to

March 1911

DRAFT.

1. ~~Minutes of Conf~~
 2. ~~Minutes~~

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~W.S.~~ 2/2
- Mr. ~~Mills~~ 2
- Mr. ~~Read~~ 2
- Mr. ~~Fiddes~~ 2
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.

- Col. Seely. $\frac{2}{3.2}$
- Mr. Harcourt. $\frac{1}{4.2.11}$

4th Comm

20. 1. 11

Approve the general
principles of your proposal,
with regard to what
you will in doubt provide
we will further particulars
in due course. On the
receipt of these details
I shall be prepared to give

further concern to the
matter and to take up

L.C. 1/11
Write this 1/11

Indication of Commodity
to the Municipality and
Common lands so can be
opened after making due
provision for the protection
needs of the forest.

J