



293

1911



EAST AFR. PROT

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2156

P. W. D. Staff.

After consulting Mr. Ross has estimated for a slightly larger staff than Mr. Watts considered absolutely necessary. ~~but~~ reduce it if it is found to be in any way excessive.

W. ~~Ross~~ Fiddler.

I got Sir P. Girouard to write this in explanation of the restoration, in the lists for 1911-12, of certain of the staff who of the P. W. Dept. which was cut out in the estimate submitted in Cal. that estimate has already been sent to the Treasury, & they will naturally want to know why the saving of £10,000 proposed in it is now reduced to £8,000. The other £2,000 has, in the lists for 1911-12, been knocked off Public Works' Revenue by way of

EPC

and

Date

January

Estimated Paper

31/1/11

copy to Treasury and Home Office

copy to Treasury and Home Office

Subsequent Paper

3695

11

W128,032-50
4,000, 11/10, A & E. W.

compensation but a reduction of
works by £2000 is not quite the same
thing as a ^{promised} reduction of staff by that
amount.

I propose to send a copy of this
letter to the Treasury with the memo
on the estimates on $\frac{GN}{35950/10}$.

HdB

Jan 25

H. R.
24/1

56
~~267~~
COLONIAL OFFICE,
L O N D O N.

21st January 1911.



SIR,

With reference to the Annual Estimates of the East Africa Protectorate, 1911-12, it will be noted that whereas the original savings on the Public Works Department were estimated to attain £10,000, it is now proposed to reduce this by £2,000, in consequence of certain appointments which it is deemed necessary to retain in the interests of the service.

2. As I pointed out in my General Report upon the Protectorate, I was struck with the apparently very large expenditure upon Public Works staff as compared with the works actually executed, and I directed the Commissioner to furnish me with details, which confirmed my view of the situation. The staff, created mainly from 1907 to 1909, it was explained to me, was based upon the idea that a very large expenditure in Public Works would take place annually. The finances of the Protectorate never allowed of this, and I was faced - in my Estimates last year - with the necessity of reducing the Public Works Extraordinary to the very low sum of £29,855. As there did not seem to be, even with the economies I proposed to effect in other Departments, any possibility of very materially increasing the amounts available for Public Works, I directed the Commissioner to reduce his staff to a more reasonable proportion to the work which it was called upon to cope with.

3.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,

L O N D O N.

7142-20

3. Mr. Watts, the then Commissioner, is to retire from the service in March next, and is to be replaced by Mr. McGregor Ross, the present Director of Public Works. I thought it only fair to that officer, as he is to be called upon to be in executive charge of the Department, to be given an opportunity of considering the reductions proposed by his predecessor. After due consideration, Mr. Ross impressed upon me the necessity of somewhat increasing the staff above the minimum limit assumed by Mr. Watts, and I have therefore thought it advisable to insert them upon the Estimates for the ensuing year. It will be my endeavour, however, to carefully watch the expenditure of this Department during the first year of Mr. Ross' administration, and should I become convinced that the staff allowed is in any way excessive, it will be my endeavour to reduce it.

I am, Sir, *Yr.*

Your obedient servant,

G. P. G. Ross