

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 36257

36257
12 DEC 07

No. 396

(Subject.)

1907

Police - Corporal Punishment.

Last previous Paper.

17949
SN 9

Mr. Inge has & Sec Council advise that it would be difficult to introduce the abolition of corporal punishment at present would prefer to consider the question a later date.

(Minutes)

Minutes continued.

The conditions of EA approximate closely to those of her Highness, as the Gov. says; we know that the material of the force is not at present, & pending at present the re-organization of the force & finally the commitment of a better class of men more amenable to army discipline.

I would certainly agree to the Governor's proposal to consider the question, & you have...
the number of men flogged

17949 SN 9

229
4292

C O

36257

Governor's Office,

REC-42 OCT 07

32

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

9 September 1907.

No. 595

(Inst. 1)

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 595 of July 16 inst. suggesting the abolition of corporal punishment for the Protectorate Police.

I have discussed the subject carefully both with the Inspector General, a copy of whose minute is attached, and with the Executive Council and while fully recognizing the desirability of the proposed measure we are of opinion that it would be difficult to introduce the change just at this present juncture.

The conditions prevailing here are very dissimilar from those which have made the retention of this form of punishment necessary in Northern Nigeria, where, as

Your

H. M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

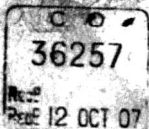
Your Lordship states, it would be almost impossible to maintain discipline without it.

4. In our Police Force also there are many individuals who make us good constables as we could expect to find amongst Natives but from time to time exhibit the childish characteristics of their race and in consequence require the chastisement appropriate to immature mental development.

5. Corporal punishment is only administered by the order of the Inspector General of Police or the Deputy Inspector General of Police; this power is not allowed either to Superintendents or to Assistant Superintendents of Police.

6. During the last eighteen months there have been 54 cases of flogging in the Force which numbers approximately 1650 men, exclusive of Non-Commissioned ranks. I should prefer, unless Your Lordship directs otherwise, to consider this question again a year hence when the measures Mr. Donald is taking to reform the Police Force may be expected to produce substantial results.

COPY.



435

Despatch No. 395 of 846. 17. 1907

MISREK.

I may mention the punishment of flogging for certain offences runs only with me and the Deputy Inspector General and not with any other Officer in or outside the Force. It is very seldom resorted to - The Knowledge that it can be inflicted, and if necessary does take place, is the most valuable deterrent we have, especially with the class of natives our force consists of.

The intelligence of the local native is on a par with that of a backward school boy, and corporal punishment to him is not what the word flogging would convey and is not the same to him as if given to a civilized person to whom it conveys moral degradation.

To the class of men we have got, dismissal would not act as a deterrent and, if it is known that corporal punishment is discontinued, departmental offences will increase rapidly. To dismiss a man from the force for such offences would be tantamount to expelling from school a boy under circumstances where a caning would meet the case.

I would most respectfully emphasize the fact that this is the only punishment by which discipline is maintained and straight forward behavior is the public assured and I would ask that the punishment be not abolished.

Naivohi August 19th 1907.

Sd/- R. Donald

Inspector General of Police.

C O
36257RECEIVED
12 OCT 07

Despatch No. 395 of 846. 17. 1907

MINUTE.

I may mention the punishment of flogging for certain offenses exists only with me and the Deputy Inspector General and with any other Officer in or outside the Force. It is very seldom resorted to - The knowledge that it was to be inflicted, and if necessary does take place, is the most valuable deterrent we have, especially with the class of natives our force consists of.

The intelligence of the local native is on a par with that of a backward school boy, and corporal punishment to him is not what the word flogging would convey and is not the same to him as if given to a civilized person to whom it conveys moral degradation.

To the class of men we have got, dismissal would not act as a deterrent and, if it is known that corporal punishment is discontinued, departmental offenses will increase rapidly. To dismiss a man from the force for such offenses would be tantamount to expelling from school a boy under circumstances where a warning would meet the case.

I would most respectfully emphasize the fact that this is the one punishment by which discipline is maintained and straight forward behaviour to the public is secured and I would ask that the punishment be not abolished.

Nairobi August 19th 1907.

Ed/- R. Donald

Inspector General of Police.