

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR FRONT
No. 4254

4254
RE-CE 2 FEB 07

1907
3907

(Subject.)

Mr. H. H. Henderson

Notes for a full statement of the reasons why his services were performed

(Minutes)

Mr. Reed

Summarize a few minutes minutes
M.C.P.

Mr. Anderson

Principles as proposed by Ellis at the end of his life

H. H. H.

7/2

Info for consideration - see me
see in it -

7/2 11.3

at once

Mr. Anderson

I have passed the off but I feel rather inclined to let these father have a copy of all our correspondence with him so that he can draw his own conclusions
19553
19553/2

Mr. Ellis
I think that we had better
do as Mr. Cox proposes.

The letter which has been
drafted does not represent
quite correctly what took
place. It was not "at his
request" that Mr.
Henderson was allowed to
depart. He began by calling
upon me to tender his
resignation. He replied by
saying that he might be
allowed to depart, and we
then said that Mr. F. J.
was prepared to let him do
so. But this was not con-
sistent with our first letter.
If you could summarize
of the correspondence, and
the further draw two con-
clusions from it.

Oct. 26. 13

I am afraid the proposals proposed to be
sent will not satisfy Mr. Henderson.
He will want to know the understanding
his own - at that if do not satisfy.
However we may try him with
these letters to start with. He if he
for the evidence we cannot refuse it.

and then there may follow rebuttals &
surrebuttals, & rejoinders & surrejoinders

11/16/2

At any rate the correspondence
will show Col. Henderson that
it is not the case that we
intimated to his son that
"any reasonable" had been dis-
cerned with that fact not
able to do so. Col. Henderson
decision had been reached at

11/26/2

E.A.P. 4254

The story of Mr. Henderson is as follows.

He was deputy Inspector General of Police in the West Africa Protectorate and was on leave in England when a despatch arrived from the Acting Commissioner (No. 588 of the 28th October 1905) stating that Mr. Henderson was very heavily in debt, and has been guilty of certain actions which, if not actually criminal, rendered it most undesirable that he should remain in the Protectorate. The details of his offences were given in a memorandum by the Treasurer enclosed in the despatch. Briefly they are

(1) An Indian firm, Souza and Dias, was pressing Mr. Henderson for payment of a debt of £100. To stave off legal proceedings he gave their lawyer, Mr. Byron, certificates to enable the latter to draw his salary for July and August 1905 (amounting to £66.13.4.). The July salary was duly paid to the lawyer, but before the August salary could be paid in the same way Mr. Henderson went to the Treasurer and alleging - falsely - that he had arranged matters with the lawyer, obtained payment of his salary.

After this Mr. Henderson was again pressed for the money and gave Souza and Dias a cheque for Rs. 800 which was dishonoured on presentation. An action was brought against him and judgment given against him and his pay attached by order of the Court in satisfaction.

(2) The Treasurer added that he was informed by the Assistant Liwali or Arab magistrate of Mombasa that Mr. Henderson had been indebted to them continuously for the past three or four years in various sums: the debt

then

then (October 1905) amounting to Rs. 3700 (£247). On one occasion Mr. Henderson tendered a cheque to the Liwali which was dishonoured, though after some trouble it was ultimately cashed.

(3) The Treasurer was also informed that Mr. Henderson had borrowed Rs. 1600 from a Swahili Khassis Mahomed and still owed him Rs. 400.

(4) On the date of his departure ~~from England~~ ^{for Europe} Mr. Henderson borrowed Rs. 1500 from a German, a slight acquaintance of his, giving as security post-dated life certificates, which as the Treasurer pointed out were no security at all.

(5) Mr. Henderson told the Treasurer on leaving for England to contradict any rumours as to his indebtedness, as he had paid everyone through his lawyer Mr. Parkinson. The Treasurer however ascertained from Mr. Parkinson ^{acting} that this was not the case, the sum given to him being quite inadequate to discharge Mr. Henderson's debts.

(6) Before leaving ^{for} England, the Treasurer stated, Mr. Henderson issued several cheques on the National Bank of India, though he had no account there.

On this we wrote to Mr. Henderson on 27th November stating that Mr. Lyttelton had learnt that "you are not only heavily indebted to various persons in the East Africa Protectorate but are also charged with issuing cheques on a bank where you had no account and with other actions which disqualify you for further service under the Government of the Protectorate. Mr. Lyttelton has accordingly no option but to call upon you to tender your resignation".

Replying

Replying on 28th November Mr. Henderson said that

- (1) He did owe money to a considerable extent.
- (2) The money had been paid off now.
- (3) It was never more than £250.
- (4) He had asked the Inspector General of Police whether he need resign on account of his indebtedness, and was told not to do so.
- (5) As to the dishonoured cheque - (he only refers to one case ~~and~~ ^{that} there were several) he said that he wrote to the Manager offering security for the overdraft, but the cheque had already been dishonoured.
- (6) His indebtedness was due to his having started a pack of fag-grounds.
- (7) He most humbly requested that he might be allowed to resign instead of being "dismissed".

Replying on the 8th of December 1905 we accepted the resignation as from that date.

On 11th October 1906 he applied for further employment under the Colonial Office but was told there was no hope.

I should answer Colonel Henderson quite shortly, saying that his son had admittedly become and remained for years indebted in considerable sums to various persons including natives and Indians in the Protectorate, and that in at least one case a debt of his became the subject of legal proceedings, and judgment was entered against him in the Courts of the Colony.

That such a state of things was obviously incompatible with his retention of his appointment as a police officer, and that in accordance with the usual

practice

practice of the Colonial service, he had incurred the penalty of dismissal: but that at Mr. Henderson's earnest request he was allowed to resign, instead of suffering the disgrace of dismissal.

We need say nothing about the charges of issuing bogus cheques and defrauding Messrs. Souza and Dias, as even if they were disproved he could not be reinstated.

W.D.E.
A/2

terrible to diminish & affect
less unfavorably his future
prospects. I was abroad at
the time and he was unable
to consult me. Mr. Henderson
has never received any
direct intimation of the
cause of his dismissal - he
has consequently never been
able to combat any charges
which may have been made against
him. It is quite true that
Mr. Henderson had got into
debt, and shortly before
his leaving Africa I sent him
a check amounting to Rs 2000
to enable him to meet his
more pressing liabilities. I
cannot think that his debts
were the cause for the
step which was taken in dismissing
him. My son as far as I
can learn did excellent
service in organizing &
conducting the East African
Expedition & under these circum-
stances, especially as he was
the only
Government servant who

135
money in the Colony I cannot
help thinking that his dismissal
must have been the result
of other & greater charges as I
have been kind against him
& Mr. he has not been given
an opportunity to refute
them. I therefore ask
that a full statement of
his case be submitted to me
to enable me to judge what
course it would be advisable
to pursue in the future. I am
a Government servant myself
having 30 years service in the
Indian Military Service. In
the at present I hold the
rank of Colonel. I mentioned
this as a subject among
of my sons case be submitted
to me for my information
& guidance.
I have the honor to be
Yours truly
Obedient servant
Walter Henderson
Col. M.S.

H. S. A. P.
4254

19
1897

436

5858

19 February 1897

DRAFT

Mr. W. H. Henderson
Genl

Sir
In reply to your
letter of the 23rd of
January I am directed
by the Genl of Africa to
transmit to you the
accompanying copy of the
Correspondence which
passed between the
Colonial Office and
Mr. W. H. Henderson
in connection with his
application of his address
to the service of the
East Africa Protectorate

MINUTE

- Mr. [unclear] 70/2
- Mr. [unclear] 76
- Mr. [unclear] 10/2
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Sir M. D'Omanney
- Mr. Church

The Secy of State
see further minute

17 Nov 1897
(41326/97)

28 Nov
(42538)

8 Dec
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[Handwritten signature]