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DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.
No 7407

E O.
7407
REC 27 FEB '07



1907
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(Subject)

Survey Department

Department of Inspection of, and Repairs to

(Addressee)

Col. Siddle

Yours very truly,
H. J. R.
27/2

Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a file number or reference.

My Dear

I have made the necessary alterations in the Draft Estimates as far as possible, but further details are required.

1. In the District Surveyor's draw £500 p.a. net: The net of salary would place them on the same footing as the Deputy District Surveyors and they would be drawing £200 p.a. more than the Assistant District

2. District Surveyors at £1100 added to the Personal Emoluments, including travel

3. Details as required of £200 added to the old charge, including branch (This £200 is part of the £700 but £500 is accounted for as being used to purchase & amend drawings)

7458

to be taken an account of the E 756
of General Corporation.

I think stacked estimates on the basis
suggested by Mr. Hills should be
used for in order that the priority
of the estimates when passed may not
be delayed; unless they are of real value.

I cannot help thinking that further
provision will be necessary under
total transfer & labor to district
board.

John

27/2/07

copy to ... on 11/6/07
asking them to approve of the
revised estimates previously
putting the rest of ... with
full report.

at ...

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NAIROBI

7407

British East Africa

5th February 1907

27 FEB 07



441

Sir,

1. With reference to your letter No. 45930 enclosing instructions for the inspection of the Survey Department of British East Africa I have the honour to inform you that I arrived at Nairobi on January 29th and proceeded without delay to make the inspection.

2. I trust to be in a position to furnish a full report by next mail but in view of the fact that it is important to obtain an early decision on the question of the survey estimates for 1907-8 I judge it preferable to deal, in a preliminary manner, with a few of the more important points that arise in this connexion.

3. I found on arrival here that, in deference to your criticisms on the first estimates, a revised set had been sent to you for approval. These, while marking a substantial reduction upon the original proposals, still involved a very considerable increase of annual expenditure and I made it my first duty to examine them critically with a view of ascertaining what reductions could be made without impairment of efficiency, and whether the proposed scheme provided for a natural and steady growth of the survey department upon scientific lines, rather than a sudden increase to meet temporary difficulties.

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
LONDON S. W.

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4. As the result of this examination I drew up a fresh set of estimates, based upon those for the current year with certain additions and, as time somewhat pressed, I sent you a telegram, copy of which is attached for reference, embodying my recommendations.

5. A few points in this telegram call for special notice:-

(a) A sum of £1,500 is asked for, to allow of the appointment of three District surveyors who will act as Land Rangers.

The duties of a Land Ranger, as apart from the survey work, would be principally confined to the inspection of property boundaries, to the detection of infringements of the occupation laws and to reporting upon new land suitable for occupation. This work would not in general take very much of his time and, as it is of great moment to maintain the closest connexion between the cadastral survey branch and the land department, it appears that the combination of survey and land ranger duties is politic.

(b) The demand for land has in the last few years been so rapid that it has been quite beyond the power of the land office to survey and mark out new farms as taken up. Hence, quite rightly, large use has been made, and is now still being made, of the services of private, licensed surveyors. It is obviously desirable that in the future this work should be done by the Survey Department, but as a sudden break of policy is unwise it would seem best that the change should be spread over a few years. I accordingly recommend that the use of licensed surveyors be discontinued by successive steps

three years and the work taken up, pari passu, by the Survey Department.

The expenditure upon fees to licensed surveyors during the current financial year will be just over £6,000. I propose that this sum be added to the vote for the cadastral branch by three annual increments of £2,000, thus giving this branch a natural growth, without increasing the total annual cost of cadastral survey work in the Protectorate.

I may further explain that the sum paid to licensed surveyors is recoverable, in its entirety, from survey fees payable by the settler. When the cadastral branch takes up the work systematically it will undoubtedly do it at a cheaper rate than the private surveyor, working often on isolated plots, and, as the same fees will be paid, the survey department will soon be earning money.

(c) The total effective increase proposed for the cadastral branch next year is thus £3,500. This will be sufficient to enable the present staff of 3 subordinate surveyors to be replaced by :-

- 3 District surveyors
- 4 Senior staff surveyors
- 5 Junior staff surveyors

The suggested arrangement further provides for an automatic increase in subsequent years, so that, for example, in 1902 the staff of this branch will stand approximately at:-

- 4 District surveyors
- 7 Senior staff surveyors
- 9 Junior staff surveyors

In addition to the Deputy and Assistant Directors and the subordinates of lower grades.

It need, however, hardly be pointed out that all predictions as to the future of the department are quite uncertain owing to the impossibility of foreseeing the rate of influx of new settlers into the country.

(d) The heading "special expenditures" shows a large reduction, but it should be explained that this is chiefly due to the fact that during the current year there was a heavy building item which will not recur, and in any case charges for building services will not in future appear in the survey estimates.

(e) The proposals contained in my telegram were agreed to by the Commissioner of Lands and the Director of Surveys who are both satisfied that while the immediate enlargement of the survey staff is not quite what they hoped would be accorded, they provide for a progressive development, which, combined with certain improvements in method to be dealt with in a full report, should enable the department gradually to overtake the present arrears.

The Director of Surveys is further of opinion that the system of step by step augmentation now put forward presents many technical advantages over the more rapid increase for which he asked.

A copy of this despatch has been furnished to the Acting Commissioner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. H. Hills