

13520

15 APR 08

Secretary's Office
Nairobi

1908

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My dear Sir,

I have the honour to submit
a copy of a Resolution proposed
by Lord Delamere in the Colonists
Association and sent to me
under cover of a letter from the
Secretary of that Association.
Copies of this letter and of the
reply which I caused to be sent
are attached.

This Resolution appears to
have been framed by Lord
Delamere immediately on his
return from England, before he
had even taken the trouble
to consult me as to the matter
with

H. H. Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies
Colonial Office

Resolution

Col. Ass.

Lord Delamere

East Africa Protectorate
Nairobi

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with which it dealt and I am
 sorry to say shows but too
 plainly the spirit in which he
 has returned to resume his
 duties on the Legislative Council.

~~To further consider it a bad
 sign for the accord, which the
 Association professes to wish
 to see between itself and the
 Government that it should
 have appointed as its secretary
 the notorious Captain Fichtel
 (the Progan incident fame)~~

I have the honour to be,
 with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
 humble servant

Wm. Buller

Direct
 printing

Endorsement in *Handwritten* to 9 18 1908

C. O.
13520

15 APR 08

RESOLUTION.

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That the Colonists Association is of opinion,
 that the present attitude of the Government, as regards
 Settlers and Natives, is one which is fraught with danger
 to the whole Community, and sure to lead to severe breaches
 of the peace; that if the Government persists in its present
 course, it is responsible for the results, and the Association
 therefore asks, that immediate steps be taken, to withdraw
 the impression that the Government is against the Settler,
 and for the Native, thereby encouraging the latter to
 lawlessness and crime, leading to reprisals which must cause
 suffering to many innocent Natives.

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Endorsement in *Conf. dated 22 of 23 Aug 1900*

Nairobi

March 27th 1900

H. W. the Governor,

Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I am instantaneously my Committee to forward you the attached resolution, proposed by the President the Right Honourable the Lord Delavere and seconded by the Deputy President Mr. A. Wood; and I am directed to forward the following letter drafted by the Committee concerning covering the said resolution.

"In connection with the attached resolution, we wish to bring the following to V. Excellency's notice. It seems to us, that the extraordinary labour rules, which are in force for those who wish to obtain labour through Government Officers have had the following effect: to greatly increase, in fact to double at least the cost of unskilled labour, without any adequate return to the employer; it must not be forgotten that although the 1 or 2 per cent in small wages, but the most serious is more than the native is worth, as he is idle, unskilled, and untrustworthy.

We also understand, that officers connected with the labour that might have necessarily informed the natives that they need not work for white men, unless they wish to do so.

We recommend that "forced labour" cannot be carried on in this country, but to deliberately advertise to the natives, that they need not work unless they wish to, must, to the very least appear to be a broad hint to stop work, the result being, that all over the country death of labour is being felt, and in many instances, as in the Ukamba Province, the settler is almost without labour and must inevitably be ruined unless the present situation is materially altered.

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We must point out V. R., that it is grossly unfair to invite the settler to this country, as has been done, to give him land under conditions which force him to work, and at the same time to do away with the foundation on which the whole of his enterprise, and hence is based, namely African labour, while the native is allowed to retain large tracts of land, on which he can remain in idleness, and no attempt be elevated or raise him is made, and if a period of famine arrives, he has only to apply for assistance and help, to the Government.

The unfairness of the situation we feel sure must appeal to, and will be remedied by V. R.

Again as a result, crime amongst the natives, against the settlers is greatly on the increase, within the last 12 months, greatly increasing within the last 6, we have had murders of white men, robbery with violence, murders many cases of insolence to white women, and at least one case of attempted rape, a most serious state of affairs, than one considers, what small white population this country has at present.

*have
insert
the
the*

In conclusion we must point out, that unfortunately the Hon. the Secretary for Native Affairs, does not appear to realise the responsibility of his position, a far higher and broader view should be taken, than one of advocating the cause of the native only, and thereby setting the one race against the other, a position fraught with difficulty and peril; it seems to us that the Hon. the Secretary for Native Affairs should be a just Arbitrator between the settler and the native, with neither with exceptional favour, and always ahead to find what is best both now, and in future, for the best interests of the country and its population white and black. There can be no equality for many years between the two races and a reference to other countries under

Small
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English rule, will easily bear out this statement, as it will take many generations before the Native is sufficiently educated both morally and mentally, to meet ~~with~~ the white man as equal, and never if the present policy of encouraging savagery, and idleness, is persisted in.

We would respectfully point out to V. E., that the present views which appear to have been adopted, whether those of one or more ^{men}, are against those of many of the Officials of long standing and experience in this country, and against those of the whole of the white settlers, many of whom we venture to say, have had a far longer, broader, greater and more humane knowledge of treatment of natives, than the Hon. the Secretary for Native Affairs appears to have, and yet, so far as we are aware, inno ^{has} case any attempt been made to consult them.

This Association exists in the interests of this country and the settlers in it, and wishes most sincerely to work and cooperate, with V. E., and H.M. Government, and would therefore ask you, to take immediate steps, to put an end to an intolerable situation, one which can only be an ruin to many settlers, and also must have a material effect on the future prospects of this country as a whole.

As a remedy to the existing state of affairs we would respectfully suggest the following.

The immediate withdrawal of the whole of the present Native Labour Rules, which are unworkable, and essentially unfair.

The substitution of ordinary fair working rules with the insistence of the fulfilment of the contract by white or black under penalty of the law, and that in these rules no effort be made by the Government to force the standard rate of wages to a higher rate than in the past, and that these be framed by a Board of officials and non-officials with a knowledge of the natives

9/2

desired.

That instructions be issued to Provincial
Commissioner and other Officers, to impress the
native with the desirability of working for ~~settlers~~
settlers and not otherwise.

I have &c., &c.,

~~Secretary~~

Colonists' Association.

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Confidential 23 9 23 March 1908

Copy.

Governor's Office,
Nairobi,
12th March 1908.

My Lord,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 5th instant giving cover to a resolution of the Association proposed by Your Lordship and seconded by Mr T. A. Wood.

2. His Excellency cannot but express his surprise and regret at the terms in which this resolution is worded and the impression it is evidently intended to convey. There can be no question as to the attitude of the Government of this Protectorate as regards settlers and natives. It has been, and always will be, one of impartiality, directed to the promotion and encouragement of the best interests of all. If such an impression exists, that the Government is for the native as against the settler it is a wrong one; it is not justified by any act or acts of the Government, least of all by the attitude of the Government itself towards the settlers and the willingness it has shown to help them wherever it legitimately can. Whilst this Government will sternly suppress any tendency on the part of the native to lawlessness and crime it will equally suppress any attempt at such reprisals as those to which you refer.

3. The letter of the Secretary deals primarily with crime by the natives against white men and with the labour question. It is much to be regretted that there have been lately two instances of murder of white men by natives and one of robbery and violence; unfortunately no country, especially lately opened to settlement, can be altogether free from such incidents. The cases

referred

The Right Honourable,

Lord Salisbury.

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referred to, in of which the culprits have been arrested and brought to trial, are isolated cases of crime and His Excellency is not advised that they point to any general feeling of unrest on the part of the natives or to any general spirit of ill will on their part to the white man. Should such a position arise the Government will be fully prepared to deal with it.

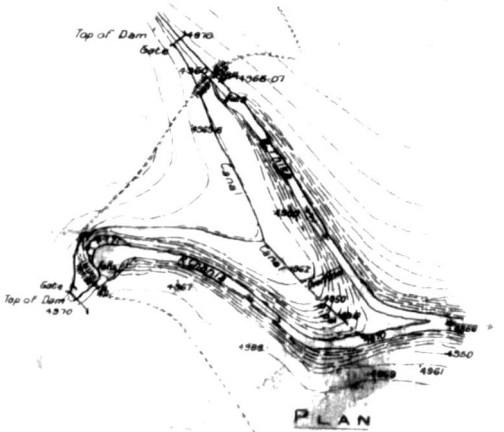
4. As regards the conditions of labour supplied by the Government those were laid down at a time when it was necessary to put an immediate stop to certain abuses which were brought to notice. If the Government undertakes to supply labour it is incumbent on it to ensure that that labour is properly fed and cared for. The Government has not been unmindful of the complaints that have been made by settlers against some of these conditions and it is recognized that the conditions which should properly apply to labour working under unfavourable climatic conditions outside its own districts, need not necessarily be enforced in their entirety in the case of natives working for settlers in the districts in which they are recruited.

5. Since January last steps have been in progress for forming Provincial and District Labour Boards, on which the settlers will be represented, and it is hoped that these arrangements will be completed in time to allow of a meeting being held at Nairobi about the 23rd instant at which the various questions involved can be discussed and to which your Association will be invited to send representatives.

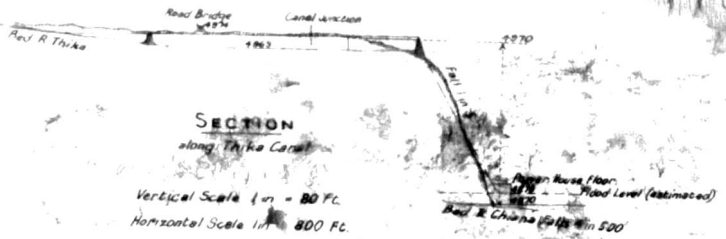
6. His Excellency is unable to accept the view put forward by the Association as to the manner in which the Secretary for Native Affairs conducts the duties of his Department and the assumption that he is setting race against race, being diametrically opposed

25 to

THIKA POWER STATION

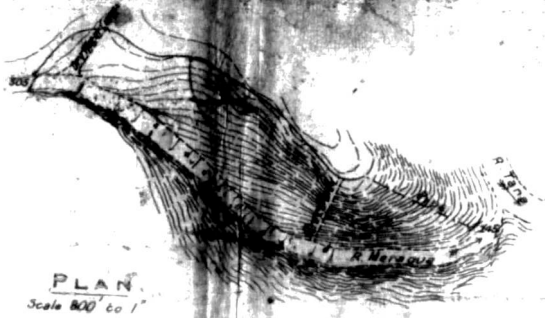


PLAN



SECTION
along Thika Canal
Vertical Scale 1 in = 80 Ft.
Horizontal Scale 1 in = 800 Ft.

POWER STATION



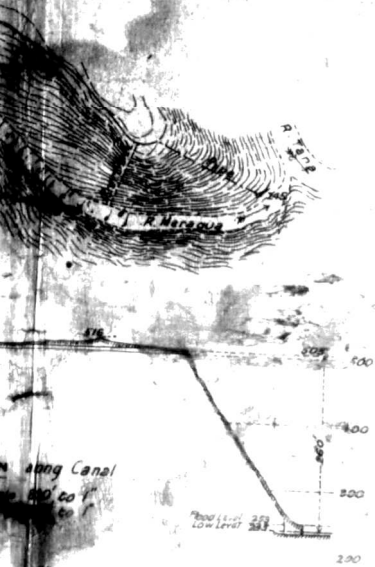
PLAN
Scale 800' to 1"



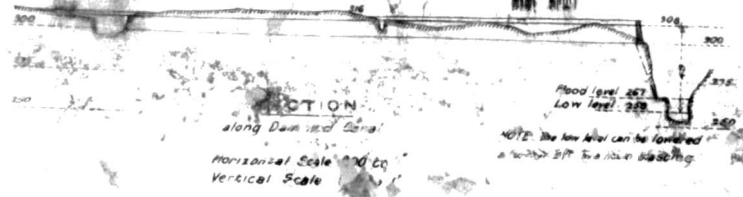
SECTION along Canal
Horizontal Scale 1 in = 800 Ft.
Vertical Scale 1 in = 80 Ft.

PLAN
Scale 800' to 1"

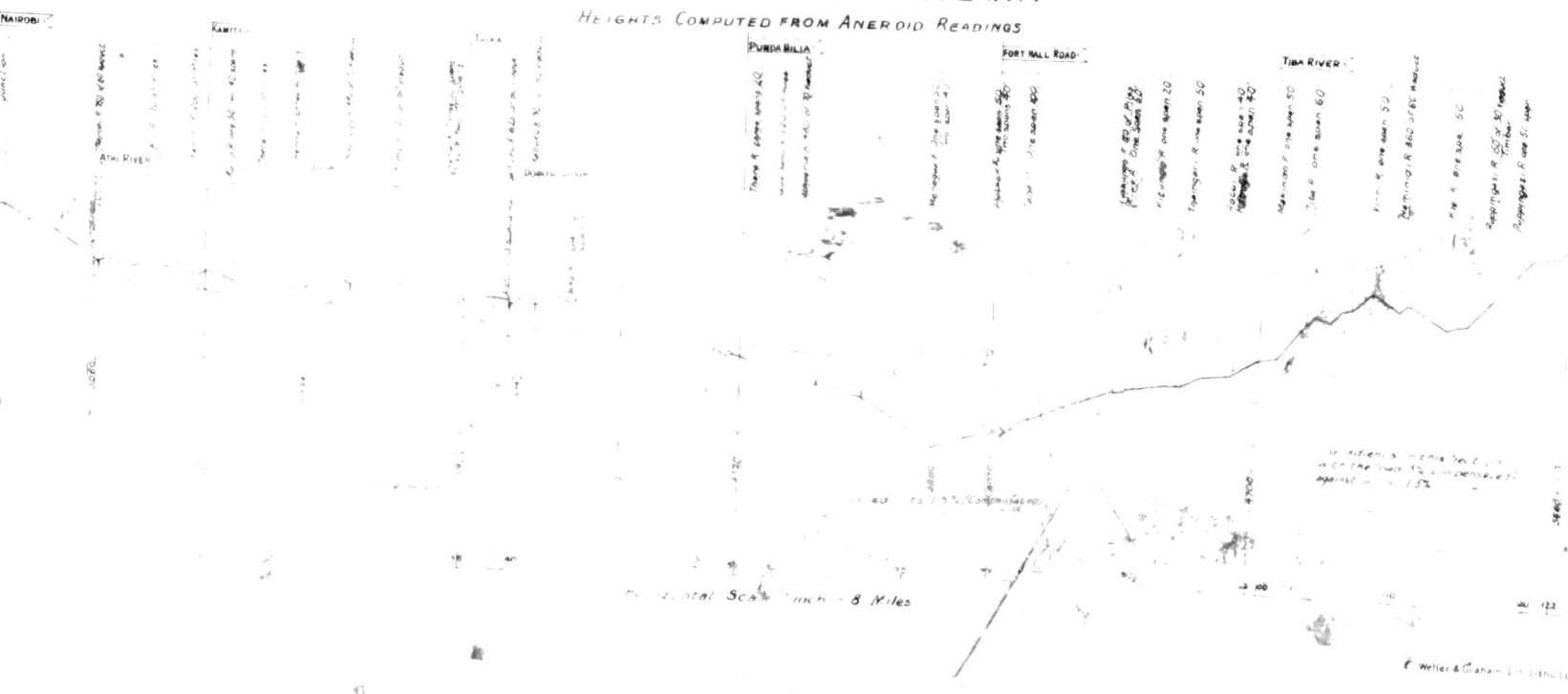
SECTION
along Dam and
Horizontal Scale 1 in = 800 Ft.
Vertical Scale 1 in = 80 Ft.



PLAN
Scale 1:1000



SECTION NAIROBI-KENIA RAILWAY HEIGHTS COMPUTED FROM ANEROID READINGS



Horizontal Scale 1 inch = 8 Miles

Wells & Graham Litho London