

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT
38026

38026
21st NOV 09

Governor. No.

Jackson Bay

1909

19. Oct

Last Previous Paper.

4/1957

MAJOR CAPPELL

Consider his high present position arduous and unsuitable and is anxious to terminate his unsatisfactory state of affairs. It would be unfair to appoint him to a senior post in the Prot; and there is no special post which would be suitable. He merits every consideration and asks that he may receive early attention.

Mr. Butler.

The difficulties connected with this appl were foreseen. (i. Gov accepts Sat.)

I cannot think of any E.A. appl. who wd be suitable for Major

Capell.

I to General Dept to consider him for any vacancy that may be available outside E.A. force.

11/11/09

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

This Dept is really concerned by an appl of the 2nd of Nov 1909 in form 1957/09, which has caused it to be considered as necessary to be [unclear]

and copy 30 Nov

General Dept. in the noble efforts which they are making to find employment for Major Capell outside the S.A.P.

SPAB

Nov. 26

We must bear him ~~in~~ ^{in mind} in mind.

Mr Harris & Mr Hunter should see.

Mr Hunter should speak to me as to the question of further voting

TCR 26/11

S. J. R. 26/11

Reply as proposed.

CAH 26 Nov

atms

See further minutes CAH

Approved by
Director
27/11/11
+ del. 26/11

Mr Harris

You have handed me the annexed letter from Mr Tyrrell of the Foreign Office with reference to a vacancy for an Assistant Collector in Zanzibar. Of the two men referred to we cannot support Bishop: his latest reports from the Gold Coast were poor; there is a suspicion of want of temperance, which personal inspection does not in my opinion tend to negative.

Captain Bennett of the K.A.R. is a very good man: his confidential reports are uniformly good, and General Manning wrote of him in 1907 "The best Militia Officer I have yet met employed with the K.A.R."

As a militia officer, he suffers from disabilities which I believe block his chances of promotion and permanency.

No doubt he is a very suitable candidate, who should do well.

But I venture to suggest that we should not allow this post to be filled without considering whether we should not ~~use~~ either Major Essex Capell or Major Maldon ^{in the} Foreign Office.

(1) Major Capell is now, and has been for over a year, ~~Commissioner in~~ Acting District Commissioner in the East Africa Protectorate. The Governor urges that his "age and previous seniority in the Police Force of the Orange River Colony render his present position anomalous and unsuitable". This is undoubtedly true.

I consider (though I gather that Mr Head does not altogether agree) that by such prolonged and unproductive employment we are establishing a considerable claim upon the Colonial Service in general and that it is

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in particular. We are committed, I submit, to finding him a post somewhere. Lord Crewe stated, when the appointment was first made, that he was not satisfied that the arrangement was a desirable one; and the advisability of bringing it to an end appears to me to grow stronger every day.

The question is whether the Secretary of State can fairly ask Sir E. Grey to give ^{Major Capell} this appointment.

Lord Selborne's account of Major Capell's attachment is in S. Africa 28987/08. What we know officially against Major Capell is given in Sir H. Gould Adams' despatch (34551): and it will be seen that Sir H. Gould Adams, though he supported the Government in not selecting Major Capell to command the new Police Force in the Orange River Colony, wrote "Now I want to do very justice to Major Capell and I say distinctly that the position of an officer holding a subordinate rank is everything that can be desired".

The objection to Major Capell lies, I believe, in a nutshell. It is simply that he is not socially suitable for the command of a Police Force and suffers from rather a swelled head.

He must have grit: he obtained a D.S.O. in the Boer War (see testimonials in 32419/08 which are from all sorts of people and very favourable) "fought his way up from the bottom to very nearly the top" of the S.A.C. He was second in Command of the S.A.C. in the Orange River Colony and has acted as Inspector General in the Orange River Colony. I am much afraid we shan't be able to find him anything better than the Zanzibar appointment - if we can find him anything at all in the Colonial Service.

He

41282/08

(my underlining)
R.E.

He is not to have a District Commissionership in East Africa and the occurrence of any suitable vacancy there, is an off chance. As regards West Africa I venture to point out (1) that Major Capell has asked for employment "in any healthy part of Africa", (2) that he is a married man with two young children, and (3) that a point has just been stretched to give a District Commissionership in West Africa to Colonel Colin Harding. It seems rather doubtful whether it would be wise in the public interest to offer an early vacancy of a like character to Major Capell - quite apart from the question whether at his age and with a young family it would be advisable to offer him an appointment on the West Coast.

(2) Major Meldan, late Captain of the King's African Rifles, is a strong candidate also. His last salary was £800 and he had to leave the K.A.R. in view of a recent rule to the effect that Militia Officers must vacate their appointments after ten years.

This was very hard on him as he married quite a short time before he lost the appointment in the belief that it would be permanent.

He is in straitened circumstances.

Of Major Meldan we have heard nothing but praise and his last confidential report runs "He knows more of the country" (i.e. E. Africa) "and habits of the people, of which he has made a particular study than any official in the Protectorate. He knows the Sudanese soldier thoroughly and gets on well with them. I consider him a very reliable officer to have on detached duties. He is a first rate officer

of

of temperate habits, and fond of shooting.

Personally I should prefer to see Major Capell appointed, as I consider ^{that we are committed to him & I regard} him a very awkward handful for those of us who have to do with the Patronage work - but I understand that you are more doubtful, (and you have seen Major Capell) and Major Meldon's case is also a hard and difficult one for us.

(If it were decided to back either of these candidates, it would no doubt be of great help if the Secretary of State were willing to make personal representations to Sir E. Grey.

I don't see why Mr Tyrrell should not have a copy of my minute in answer to his letter.)

TCH 10/12

Mr Reginald Dawson

Mr Earle.

I agree with Spear, leaning towards Major Meldon.

CCH

13 Dec

the point of view of the G. A. Dept. ... to Mr Macnaghten's opinion ... we had better satisfy the claim of Major Capell first, assuming that we can influence the decision. He is an ... present anomaly in the A.P. service, holding a position with

WT. 2000 - 25 0000. 11/10/12 A. & R. W. 1911 - 2 0000 - 0000

should not be put before Capell, nor ... in addition ... cables. ... should be practicable ... it would be ... 31

which he is naturally dissatisfied ... the awkwardness of such will ... rapidly with time

135

HAB

Dec 13

Mr Macnaghten

Mr Macnaghten ... papers back today telephoned to say that the F.O. would consider Bennett with other candidates but that as regards Capell & Meldon Sir E. Grey thought them too minor for such a post as they had plenty of good candidates.

Mr Harris
Mr Reed

The above minutes show that Major Capell has no chance for the Jaeger's vacancy. The answer to the point Sir E. Grey made to be based ... to the increasing desirability of getting ... a Greig as soon as possible - ... think that it would be not possible to adopt the Govt suggestion to turn Major Capell off - ... finding been another job. I have pointed out above the "disapproval" ...

the way of giving him a District Paship in East
as well as in East Africa - (the latter I think has
negatived) - I can see nothing for it but
to wait till something turns up.

Luckily in the most of the worst cases with
which we have been faced during the last
two or three years something has eventually
turned up. It is most desirable that the
'turn up' should arrive soon - but we meanwhile
he can only pursue Mr. Macaulay's policy, &
accept as a good once the fact that Mr. Macaulay
writing us fairly rewarded with a
Magistracy.

T.C.H. 3/11

C.H.
5 Jan.

Mr. Prades
This is probably not the only
case which will give us trouble in
time to come. By putting certain
retired officials into junior app'ts we
have satisfied them for the moment, but
they will soon become discontented &
begin to worry for transfers. In the present
case I feel that there seems to be
nothing for it but to wait.

Sir & Hopwood P. 6

4218
7/11/01
6/1
to wait. N.P.S. - 1/10/01

4352



HERMION-CROWSPRICE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

7th December 1909.

Private & Confidential.

My dear Read,

The last despatch about Capell places us in a somewhat difficult position. If he is to be kept on here indefinitely, we will have great difficulties presently with him. He is far too old and too senior to occupy a temporary Assistant District Commissionership. Moreover he can hardly exist upon it with his family.

I cannot help thinking that if the Colonial Department cannot provide him with a better post elsewhere it will be only a kindness to tell him so definitely, and to relieve us of the awkward position in which he is placed. He has sent us various letters which he has received from Arthur Lee, Gilbert Parker, &c. whereby it appears that Colonel Solly assured these gentlemen that there was strong hope of employment of a suitable nature being found in the near future. It was rather indicated from these letters that if such anticipations

were

435/B

were not realised, these gentlemen would ventilate
Major Capell's grievances in Parliament.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. G. ...".

38026

436

REC'D
NOV 22 1909

Government House,

N a i r o b i.

19th October 1909.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential (88)

My Lord,

I have the honour to bring to Your Lordship's notice the case of Major Capell, who is at present temporarily employed as Assistant District Commissioner at Dagoretti, in accordance with Your Lordship's instructions contained in Your Lordship's confidential despatch of November 2nd last.

2. This officer's age and previous seniority in the Police force of the Orange River Colony render his present position anomalous and unsuitable and I am anxious to terminate what I regard as an unsatisfactory state of affairs. It has always been my experience that when officers who have held important posts in one Colony receive junior appointments in another they speedily become dissatisfied and signs of this are not wanted in the present case.

3. Major Capell very naturally dislikes being under the orders of men much younger than himself both in years and in service, some of whom may actually have been on his staff in South Africa, and I cannot but sympathise with his feeling in the matter.

4. On the other hand it would be manifestly unjust to deprive

H.M. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London. S.E.

C
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SEP

deprive others of the promotion which they have earned by appointing Major Capell to a senior appointment, nor is there any special post in this Protectorate which would be suitable.

5. In view, however, of the assurances which he received from the Colonial Office that every effort would be made to find him appropriate employment, he certainly merits every consideration and I would venture to ask that his case may receive early attention. There may well be suitable posts in other Colonies or Protectorates to one of which it might be possible to appoint him.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's humble

obedient servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

DRAFT

Sal Conf.

For the P. J. [unclear]

MINUTE

- Mr. Jackson 27/11
- Mr. Reed 27
- Mr. Fisher
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Sir G. Lucas
- Sir F. [unclear]
- Col. [unclear]
- Lord [unclear]

Sir

20 Nov 1909

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Jackson's Conf. despatch of the 19th of [unclear] in the subject

of Major A. C. [unclear]
of the Naval Service

and to refer you to my Conf. despatch

of the 20th of November, 1909

I have

I have

~~to be [unclear]
despatch [unclear]~~