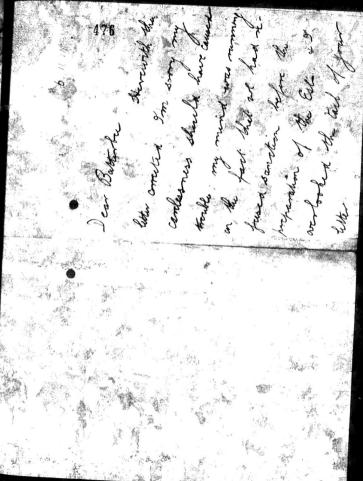
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In the reply to this Letter the following.

Number should be quoted.

18141

TREASURY CHAMBERS

31st October 1911

Sir,

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have had before Them Sir C. Lucas' letter of the 30th ultimo (29448/1911), further respecting the proposal to erect a Government bonded warehouse at Nairobi.

They now direct me to transmit herewith a copy ofa further report on the matter which They have received from the Board of Customs and Excise, and to request that Mr. Secretary Harcourt's attention may be particularly drawn to the first paragraph thereof. Their Lordships are still of opinion that this proposal involves financial risks which it is very desirable to avoid, but They are aware that conditions in the East Africa Protectorate differ to such an extent that the practice of this country may be no safe guide. In these circumstances They are willing to leave it to Mr. Harcourt to decide whether the erection of the warehouse should now be commenced as provided for in this year's Estimates; but Their sanction is only given on the condition that the rates of rent to be charged to the users of it shall be fixed at such figures as to cover interest on the capital outlay arm on the estimated value of the site, as well as the whole cost of maintenance and a charge for depreciation.

> I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

he Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office. COPY

Treasury No. 18141/1911 Customs and Excise No. 31412 1911. 35362 REC⁹ | NOV ||

COLONIAL OFFICE.

Rast Africa Protectorate.

Further as to erection of a Government ponded warehouse at Nairobi.

The Board desire me to say in amplification of their observations on this subject contained in their report of the 24th October, 1910 (Treasury file, No.18531/1910) that as between a "public" or "private" warshouse, the advantages of the latter from a departmental point of view would consist in relief from all questions likely to arise if the Crown acted as warshousekeeper, such as loss, damage or pilferage of goods, disputes as to charges, and pressure by merchants warshousing goods for a reduction of rates below a remunerative level.

The possibility of any hurtful monopoly being fostered by the approval of a single "private" warehouse could be avoided by requiring official approval of the scale of charges for rent and the handling of goods, and should that be ineffective by granting bonding privileges to other firms.

The latter course would, however, involve a certain dispersal of staff and possibly an increase in the cost of Revenue collection, though these disadvantages might be minimised by approving none but suitably situated warehouses and only such a number as were necessary for the actual requirements of trade. On the other hand, the concentration of bonding work in a single "public" warehouse would be of undoubted Revenue advantage from the point of view of economy of control and effective supervision.

The conditions which prevail in the East African Protectorate differ, however, so materially from those which obtain in this country that the considerations which influence the Board in preferring privately owned warehouses to Crown warehouses might very possibly be discounted were the local circumstances in the Protectorate fully known. It is possible that there may be localities known to the Colonial Office where the conditions approximate more nearly to those at Nairobi than do those of this country and the opinion of officials in such localities might be of value in the further consideration of this subject.

(Sd.) J. P. BYRNE.

Custom House, London, 21st October, 1911.

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