

EAST AFR. PROT

492 13/14

5 JAN 14

1913

24 December
Last previous Paper.

Encloses Professor Fisher's report with recommendation that the site of the present station should be moved. It is also necessary to state in anticipation of approval. Has called for estimates of cost but no reply is able to say how far sum provided in 1913 estimate for buildings in K. Kavirone will go to meet requirement. Requests early approval.

20/1/14
9320/13

Mo? 29. 6 Jan 14

Mr. G. Fiddes
Now that there is a prospect of a railway being constructed from Nakuru into the Kavirone country, it is all the more desirable that the town (the chief administrative centre of the province) should be a healthy site.

The map enclosed is for 9520/13

General idea of the country, although I cannot find at the site proposed by Prof. Simpson. Approve of the station should the Govt propose to take it.

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Fiddes to Secy AF 10/1/14
57/114

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

GOVERNMENT OF
NORTH ROYALTA
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

December 31st 1913

No. 956

JAN 4

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40524
12

Sir,

Report
Nov. 21st 1913

With reference to your despatch No. 24 of the 8th January, I have the honour to inform you that Professor Simpson has visited Mumiis and submitted a report, copy of which is attached, with recommendations that the site of the present Station should be moved.

2. As I gather from your despatch under reference that you are not altogether satisfied with the present site and as Professor Simpson has given such a decided opinion on the matter, I have decided, in anticipation of your sanction, to make the necessary arrangements for removal.

3. I have asked the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza, to confer with the Director of Public Works with a view to forming an estimate of the cost of a complete new Station, stating also what use, if any, can be made of the existing station.

4. I have included in the draft Estimates for 1914-15 a sum of money for buildings in North Kavironda, but until I receive the report referred to in the preceding paragraph I am not in a position to say how far this will go to meet requirements.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.O., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

(2)

requirements.

5. The removal will be undertaken gradually but I am anxious that it should not be unduly delayed and I should be glad therefore to receive an early intimation of your approval to the action I propose to take.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alarwan Begum

GOVERNOR.

Station is situated on a comparatively low ridge between the valley of Jammu and the Beas river. It is reported by the survey party that there had been a small stream that had been dammed on the ridge, and so irrigated by these hills on the South. At one time was suggested as an alternative and suitable site for the present station. But on inspection of it was found as that its configuration was such that, notwithstanding its height - 400 feet above that of Ludhiana, it would not be healthy. This is borne out by the fact, which I learnt later, that the natives had abandoned it for this reason.

On entering Ludhiana it was evident that great pains had been taken by successive Administrators, notably Mr. P. Hastings, former District Commissioner, to render the station as healthy and as fertile as possible. Large tracts of land had been planted, various ditches had been dug, and a considerable area nearly 2 of the station had been put under cultivation to keep it free of rank and high grass. The pathways leading to, and around the Government buildings had been covered with sand, and gravel which gave them a neat appearance. Further inspection disclosed the fact that great pains had been taken to drain the many swamps in the station and plant them

under

under cultivation. One broad street formed the bazaar. It contained 32 Indian shops, mostly of a poor type. It had not the appearance of a thriving place.

I was in Muzias 4 days, and in 2 of these it rained in the afternoon for an hour, insufficiently long to reveal the retentive nature of the soil and its disposition to form pools notwithstanding the amount of drainage and tree planting that had been carried out. It was the season for the light rains and during the heavy rains the conditions would probably be worse.

5. The population of the township of Muzias is not more than 600. There are 7 Chinese, 102 Indians, 135 Natives, 250 Seehilia - making a total of 648. The Kavirondo Gwall outside the township. Within the Government area there are 4 Europeans, the District Commissioner, 2 Assistant District Commissioners and the Assistant District Superintendent of Police. There are no European traders or merchants. About 2 miles away on the same ridge as Muzias, but nearly 100 feet higher, is the Hill Hill Mission with two Missionaries.

6. After meeting the several head of the different communities and hearing several enquiries I find that each community is frequently from Muzias and that none considers Muzias a healthy place. The chief

United States his own rights to 4 miles
 away because it is Africa. The natives of the
 country when they come and furnish no police
 invariably get fever, so do the Amulias
 and Samalis. The Indians suffer from fever.
 During the past six years there have been
 12 District and Assistant District Commis-
 sioners, 2 police officers and 3 Missionaries
 in Madras and all except one have suffered
 from Malarial fever and that one has never
 felt in good health in Madras. The present
 District Commissioner has been in office
 2 months and out of these he has spent 3
 weeks in bed with Malarial fever. The
 Missionaries have moved to the highest point
 of the slope being so the prevalence of
 fever, and one of the relations who has been
 stationed at the railway station of Takamara
 for 6 years and has known every European
 officer who has passed the station and some
 of the Amulias and Samalis, views the health of the
 Government area in a very unfavourable light
 none of the officers looked well on the line
 on my visit. Since June 1900, three
 Europeans and one Chinese have died of black
 water fever and there have been sickness and
 deaths from the same cause among the Amulias
 and Indians. The Europeans and Chinese were

condition described in or military as is or other
 other nations will have it in the, even now in
 order to maintain it in its present state of average
 of 150 men are employed daily. I would therefore
 recommend that Lunas be abandoned as a head quarters
 station and that it be removed to a more healthy site.

9. Lunas is of intense historical interest
 having been the scene of great activity in former days.
 It was here the Swahili caravans from Zanzibar and
 the coast stopped on their way to Karandji and again
 on their way back to the Coast. It was then a centre
 for the slave and ivory trade. Later it became one of
 the camping grounds for the British in the early days
 on route for Uganda and Uganda, and was established as a
 station by Mr. Spivey and is now Provincial Commissioner
 of the Eastern Province of the Uganda Protectorate.

In 1902 the Uganda Railway reached Lunas and
 the steamer traffic ceased to take took the place of
 the road route into Lunas via Luanda. In 1906 the
 railway trade was stopped. In 1907 the railway
 line and this trade was started and continued
 until 1911. Later the railway was closed and
 the trade ceased. In 1912 the railway was
 reopened and in 1913 the railway was
 closed to other traffic. The railway is
 now used as a road for the transport of
 day leave Lunas for Luanda, but at other times
 the road there are only about 1000 people
 travelling southwards away from Lunas
 where the main communication will be where
 Luanda is concerned.

beans, millet, fish and skins are the chief products.

10. Having come to the conclusion that it is not advisable to retain Murriss as a Government station the next step was to find a healthy site on which a new station could be built. This was a matter of considerable difficulty. I visited a number of places in the vicinity of Murriss but found none suitable. Some of these may be mentioned. Longa Hill 3 miles south of Murriss, Stada Hill and Murriss Hill east of Murriss on the Kalamoon and 7 to 8 miles distant. I also visited and inspected Murriss Hill, Murriss ridge and Murriss ridge on the Kismu-Murriss Road any of these I recommend Mr. Yetter.

11. Murriss ridge is about 13 miles south of Murriss and 7 miles from the Kala River. The road from Murriss to Kismu passes it and it is on the western end of the Murriss ridge of which it forms a part. It is in a fine open part of the country, it is high, has a good soil and offers excellent facilities for drainage. There is no water and possesses an ample supply of water from springs at the foot of the ridge and which can easily be protected from contamination. There are large springs on different sides of the ridge so that it can easily be arranged that one be set aside for Europeans, one for Indians and the other for Natives. Stone for building purposes and firewood for fuel are obtainable at an easy distance.

12. I learn from the administrative officers that there are certain advantages belonging to the suggested site.

These are:

- (i) It is nearer than Muias to practically all the sub-districts where the largest population exists.
- (ii) A new sub-administrative station is being opened in North Kitosh and will administer the greater portion of the country North of Muias which removes any necessity for Muias going so far North as the Chief administrative centre.
- (iii) In going from Muias to Estima the administrative oficer passes through a comparatively sparsely populated country, whereas from Flamingo he would pass through thickly populated areas.
- (iv) From the point of view of accessibility to Kitsum the head quarters of the Province the new station at Flamingo would make the head quarters of the Swirion's district a ten days journey instead of 8.

10. I would suggest if the proposed site meets with approval that the area be surveyed, not a plan drawn out showing roads, trails, water supply, arrangement of buildings, position of Indian huts and so forth, but an outline plan relating to the planned station which may vary in the future.

11. I thank you very much, Comptroller in his name, for the interest and help rendered us. The Chief of the district was particularly helpful and I received also valuable assistance from Dr. Richard the Chief Sanitation Officer.

(12) There is one matter of importance about

Form 477/1913
1914 E.A.P.

6 January 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour
to acknowledge the receipt of
your despatch, No. 7
956 of the 8th of Decr.,
and to inform you that I
approve of the action
which you propose to
take with regard to
the removal of the
present station at
Mumias.

(Signed) L. HARCOURT.

DRAFT

E.A.P.

No. 29

Genl. H. Balfour & Genl.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 6/1/14.

Mr. Bottomley 6/1/14 f

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.