

1928

Kenya

1

No. 15244

CLOSED
UNTIL ~~1979~~

0053/378/15244/28

SUBJECT

Audit Department Staff

Previous

X *10424/27*

Subsequent

cc 15294/28K

*(Vacant for Principal
asst. auditor)*

16335/30

1 Gov Gregg Conf 31

24th April 25

Submits reasons on views of DCA & re-emphasizes need for appt of officers of more experience to fill the vacancies. Asks that these factors be borne in mind in choosing a successor to Mr Lee

2

The case for adopting special arrangements in Kenya with a view to limiting promotion to senior posts in the local Audit department to officers having long technical experience was submitted by the Acting Auditor (Mr. Lee) to the Director of Colonial Audit early in 1927. They ^{proposals} received full consideration but Sir Edward Stephenson was unable to concur in the suggestions for the reason that they involved altering the existing scheme of organisation of the Colonial Audit Department, and he expressed his disapproval in a letter to the Acting Auditor, dated the ^{20th} ~~27th~~ of July, 1927. The letter was transmitted to the Acting Auditor through the Governor under flying seal in the manner indicated in paragraph 23 of the approved Departmental Instructions of the Colonial Audit Department (Miscellaneous No. 258). The Qualification Reports which have been furnished to the Director of Colonial Audit by Mr. Smith, the present Auditor, under paragraph 10 of the Departmental Instructions, indicate that he is perfectly satisfied with the competence of the supervising staff of the local audit establishment in Kenya.

2. Regarding paragraph 4 the interval of a year which occurred between the date on which Mr. van de Velde left Kenya, and the date of Mr. Smith's arrival in Kenya, was due to the fact that Mr. van de Velde continued to draw the salary of the Auditor for eight months after he proceeded

on

on leave to this country. According to the information in this office Mr. van de Velde left Kenya on 2nd October, 1926, and continued to draw salary as Auditor of Kenya till 2nd June, 1927. The Director of Colonial Audit recommended Mr. Smith as his successor within a few days, on the 15th of June, and Mr. Smith took up the appointment on the 9th September following. In these circumstances there appears to have been no undue delay in this office in regard to the appointment of a successor to Mr. van de Velde.

3. The remaining comments in the despatch require no action here.

H. H. Fisher
Assistant Director
Colonial Audit Dept.
2nd June, 1928.

Embodiment the substance of the above in a despatch. Do not see what any further comment is required from the point of view of the Dept. It is to be hoped that the despatch will be satisfactory.

H. H. Fisher
1/6
The Audit Dept. kept to transfer Mr. Briggs from Uganda as soon as possible after leaving Kenya (by air on the 25th Nov.)

Colonial Audit Department.

It would be very regrettable if we could not reply to the letter of 7th June in time to be done as regards a successor to Mr. van de Velde whose Kenya leave will expire on 2nd November. It is possible to take any steps to select a successor so that we can inform the Gov. of the arrangements proposed.

G. A. Steel
27.6.28

I have now sent forward the usual reports recommending the appointment of Mr. Briggs as successor to Mr. van de Velde.

H. H. Fisher
Asst. Director
Colonial Audit Dept.
27/6/28

I have sent on this minute between the 16th & 17th Brass has forwarded (67th Oct) this paper can be re-circulated in a despatch for course prepared based on minute of 7th June 1928 with reference to para 2 of note. The information that Mr. Briggs who has had 13 years experience in the Colonial Audit Dept. has been offered the post of Principal Comptroller in succession to Mr. Steel that Gov. will be informed of the appointment.

will no doubt then be able to
arrange for with Gov. Ziegler and a
draft as to transfer when Police vacates
the app.

Speci

3 Feb

act

10/11/28

2 W. E. Cox (C. J. Stand.)

2 JUL 28

ha

Received ride note on basis
of draft No. 2.

Robert
3/10/28

Mr. C. J. Stand.

You should personally see this
conspicuous

Police

Seen Thanks

3/10/28

A. J. Harding

8/10/28

ha

Mr. Lee 13/7/28

Mr. Allen 14/7

~~Mr. [unclear]~~

~~Mr. [unclear]~~

Sir C. Strachey

Sir J. Shackleton

Sir G. G. Huddle

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby Gore

Lord Lovat

Mr. Amery

W. Fisher 19/7
to Parkers 20/7

Downing Street,

24 July, 1928

20 JUL 1928

DRAFT

KENYA

Confidential (2)

Gov.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch No. 31 of the 26th of April on the subject of the establishment of the Audit Dept. in Kenya.

2. As regards para. 2 and 3 of your despatch, I understand from the ^{Acting} ~~Acting~~ Director of Colonial Audit that ^{informed} ~~informed~~ early in 1927 the Acting Auditor of Kenya (Mr. H. N. Lee, ~~Acting~~) suggested to the late Director of Colonial Audit that a special arrangement should be introduced whereby promotions to the senior posts in the Kenya Audit Dept. should ^{thereupon} ~~thereupon~~ be limited to officers having long technical experience of audit work. The late Sir Edward

Stephenson

① Further action still outstanding on X.15294/28 Kenya.

② *Kenia to me*

acc

Stephenson was unable to concur in ^{the} ~~this~~ suggestion as the introduction of such an arrangement would have involved the alteration of the existing scheme of organisation of the Colonial Audit Dept. He ^{has} ~~communicated~~ communicated this view ^{in a letter} to the Acting Auditor of the ^{20th} ~~27th~~ of July, 1927, which I understand was forwarded under flying seal through you in accordance with the procedure laid down in par. 23 of approved Departmental Instructions of the Colonial Audit Dept. (Misc. No. 253). ^{I am also} The Acting Director ^{of that} ~~of Colonial Audit~~ ^{is satisfied} that the qualification reports which have been submitted to the ^{Colonial Audit Dept.} ~~G.A.D.~~ by the present Auditor of Kenya, under par. 10 of the Departmental Instructions, indicate that he is satisfied with the competence of the supervising staff of the ~~Colonial Audit~~ establishment in the Colony. In this connection, you will see from my despatch No. 480 of the 10th ^{to fill} ~~of~~ July, that ~~he~~ filled the post of Principal Assistant Auditor in Kenya, which

will be rendered vacant by Mr. H.N. Lee's forthcoming transfer to Zanzibar.

I have selected Mr. A. Bragg, Senior Asst. Auditor in Uganda, who has had over thirteen years' service in the Colonial Audit Dept.

(3 on I.15294/28. Kenya)

*Y. K. P. ...
May 1927*

3. In regard to para. 4 of your despatch concerning the delay which took place in the appointment of a successor to the late Auditor of Kenya Mr. Van de Veldt, I may explain that the interval of a year which occurred between the date on which Mr. Van de Veldt left Kenya and the date of his successor's arrival in the Colony was due to the fact that Mr. Van de Veldt continued to draw the salary of the Auditor for eight months after he proceeded on leave to this country.

VELDE

He ~~ceased to draw pay as Auditor of Kenya~~ *ceased to draw pay as Auditor of Kenya* ~~at the 2nd June, 1927, and the late~~ *at the 2nd June, 1927, and the late*

hand that it was not therefore possible to appoint a successor until after that person had elapsed

Director of Colonial Audit, submitted a recommendation.

recommendation as to his successor within
a few days after that date. Mr. Smith, the *present Auditor*,
took up appointment in succession to Mr.

Van de Velden on the 9th of September 1927,

following, so that the ~~actual~~ ^{period of} delay which

~~occurred and which is reflected~~ ^{his app. was vacant} was in

~~reality~~ ^{was} only one ^{about} of some three months,

~~and not of a year.~~ ^{(As I have already stated above,}
~~You will see that so~~

~~the delay is likely to occur in the appointment~~ ^{arrangements have been made already}

~~of Mr. Dragg to succeed Mr. Lee as Principal~~

Assistant Auditor.

5. Para. 5 and 6 of your despatch

~~will be~~ have been brought to the notice of the

~~Acting~~ ^{has} Director of Colonial Audit ~~when~~
~~appointed.~~

I have, etc.,

*This copy of the
beginning of
October 1927*

*20/10/27
1/10*

recommendation as to his successor within

a few days after that date. Mr. Smith, *the present auditor,*

took up appointment in succession to Mr.

Van de Velder on the 9th of September 1927,

~~following~~, so that the ~~actual~~ ^{period during} delay which

~~occurred, and which is mentioned,~~ ^{the app't was vacant} was in

~~fact~~ ^{was} really only one of some three months

~~and not of a year.~~ ^{(As I have already stated above,} you will see that no

~~agreement, arrangements have been made~~ ^{already} delay is likely to occur in the appointment

~~of Mr. Dragg to succeed Mr. Lee as Principal~~ Assistant Auditor.

5. Para. 5 and 6 of your despatch

^{will be} have been brought to the notice of the

^{has} Acting Director of Colonial Audit ^{when} appointed

I have, etc.,

This copy of the
signature of
October 1927

20/10/27

Henry 2/15/28
(personal)
1703 **6**

COPY.

Mr.H.D.Fisher to Mr.W.H.Smith.

Confidential.

8th June, 1928.

Dear Smith,

In a letter to the D.C.A. dated 9th Feb. 1927, (No.265/A.20(a)) Mr.Lee, then Acting Auditor of Kenya, submitted copies of a memorandum, and a covering letter, which he had sent to the Colonial Secretary in reply to a request for a report on the departmental staff, and the audit generally, and, in the correspondence, he propounds a theory that it has become necessary to staff the senior posts in the local audit department with officers who have the qualification of a "high standard of technical efficiency" and to replace those who have not this qualification with officers whom he refers to as "experienced" officers.

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Accountants
the
the

The question of adopting Mr.Lee's suggestions was dealt with by the D.C.A. at the time but has now been taken up by the local Government, and we are in the position here of having to defend the practice of promoting to "senior posts" in the local audit department in Kenya members of the Colonial Audit Department of less than 8 years service. The correspondence is confidential, and behind it all, I suppose, is the question whether a training in commercial accountancy is a necessary qualification for senior posts in our audit offices. Of course our auditors have to be trained in Government or appropriation audit and the principles which they have to apply are not drawn from the text books of commercial accountancy, but from the proved regulations which

we

we inherit from the Exchequer and Audit Department. The flaw in Lee's theories is that knowledge of technical procedure does not necessarily ensure that an officer has the higher education which is needed for the purpose of grasping the principles on which the technical procedure is founded. If we can secure public school men or men who have passed known examinations in subjects required for a public school education we have a guarantee (isolated exceptions there may be) as to their fitness for supervising work in the audit office in Kenya in much less than 8 years. We want men who can grasp and apply principles for our senior posts, not technical machines, however useful for the work of the subordinate audit staff. Our audit establishments are divided into

- (1) The supervising staff sent out from England, and
- (2) The subordinate staff obtained locally, and the reason for the distinction is purely one of education.

I have sent the relative papers back to the G.O. but enclose an extract from my minute for your personal information. Appointments in Kenya, and elsewhere, have been in the charge of the D.C.A. and Dale for some years, but I have now taken over that section for the time being, and am looking into the whole question of Kenya staff with a view to backing your own proposals for adequate staff and adequate pay. The question appears to have been held up pending issue of the revised Colonial Regulations which may affect the position of the Audit department in regard to the examination of "self-accounting" departments, including Railways.

These and other matters I ought to⁵⁰ into but they must wait.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) H.D. FISHER.

Late DCA was prepared to recommend a separate Audit for the Kenya Dept. Railway Administration + perhaps a 2nd responsible post at £160 in connection with the audit of self accounting dept in Kenya.
H.D.

4 MAY 1928
GOVERNMENT OFFICE



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

KENYA.

No. 3/

CONFIDENTIAL.

26th April, 1928.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 9th January, on the subject of the establishment of the Audit Department.

2. It is observed that the Director of Colonial Audit is of opinion that a generous proportion of the experienced officers of the Colonial Audit Department have hitherto been allotted to Kenya. Whatever may have been the case in the past, at present - with the exception of Mr. Smith - no Audit officer in Kenya has completed 8 years' total service in the Colonial Audit Department, as Mr. Lee is now on leave pending transfer on promotion to Zanzibar.

3. I would point out that, while this Government fully appreciates the difficulties arising from the war and from the continued ill-health and subsequent retirement of the late Auditor, I feel compelled to re-emphasize the need for the appointment of officers of more experience to fill vacancies caused by transfer and retirement and I would ask that

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

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25/1

that these factors should be borne in mind in choosing a successor to Mr. Lee.

4. I trust too that in making this appointment there will not be a recurrence of the delay which took place in selecting a successor to the late Auditor when nearly a year elapsed before the post was filled.

5. In regard to Sir Edward Stephenson's reply to the criticism of the material and scope of his Annual Reports to the Secretary of State, I am cognisant of the duties imposed upon the Director of Colonial Audit under the existing regulations and, whilst I fully agree that he has complied with the strict letter of the Regulations, I still submit that the contribution made yearly by Kenya to the Headquarter organization in London entitles this Government at least to expect guidance and directions from him in matters which he may consider significant in the Annual Reports on the local accounts or otherwise brought to his notice.

6. I would also suggest for his consideration that he should inform this Government of any difficulties which he may experience in filling vacancies suitably, such as inadequacy of pay or prospects compared with those prevailing in other Dependencies, in order that such representations may receive due weight and consideration when the local Audit Department's Estimates come under review.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Innoble servant,

Edward Gung
GOVERNOR