



EAST AFR. PROT.
9316

C.O.
9316
REC
REC'D 19 MAR 13

ing 104
GOVT
1913
February
Last previous Paper.
Incas
4912

MASAI RESERVE
WATER SUPPLY

Submits observations on water question in Southern Masai Reserve. Provincial Commr has been instructed to visit Trans Mara during March and report. Promises further despatch.

Dr. J. Anderson

The matter seems to be receiving proper attention. Await the further steps proposed by the Govt?

W. J. S. 25/4
W. J. S.

620.3.13.

623.3.13

18338

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

February 14th, 1913.

~~PROTECTORATE~~

No. 124

1001

CO
9316
REC'D
19 MAR 13

Sir,

3824

With reference to your telegram of the 5th instant asking for a report on the construction of dams in the Trans Mara country, I have the honour to submit the following observations on the water question in the Southern Masai Reserve.

23604

2. As stated in my despatch No. 464 of July 5th, paragraph 2, it was at first thought that the provision of facilities for watering cattle in the Trans Mara district would be the most urgent work required in the extended Southern Masai Reserve but it was soon found that this was not the case and that other districts demanded prior attention.

3. It was evident in the first place that
owing

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARGREAVES, P.O., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

* No. 3824
† No. 23604

12

owing to the very large herds using the road to the Mara River it was necessary to protect the water-holes en route particularly in the Lemek Valley and a Public Works Overseer, Mr. Catchpole, was detached to take charge of them and to make temporary dams.

4. The Trans Mara country itself has not so far been very largely occupied by the Masai, partly because the river was in flood during a great part of last year, which rendered crossing difficult, and partly because a large proportion of the cattle moving from Laikipia has not yet reached it. The Masai, moreover, prefer the Cis-Mara country and will use it as long as it suffices for their needs. Mr. Catchpole's operations have met the existing situation but more extensive works will be required in the future and it was for this reason that I despatched my telegram of the 1st instant ^[24/2] asking for the engagement of Mr. Watts who has great experience in such matters. With his assistance we shall, I hope, be able to ensure that the money inserted in next year's estimates will be wisely expended.

5. As a matter of fact the rains have been so abundant since the despatch referred to was written that there has really been no reason to improve the grazing across the Mara, which is reported

reported to be excellent just now and greatly in excess of what is actually required for the moment. It has for the same reason been impossible to report on the district under unfavourable conditions. There is little doubt however that this fortunate state of affairs cannot be expected to be permanent and that precautions ought to be taken to ensure an ample water supply in the dry season which will inevitably be experienced sooner or later, and has in fact actually begun. Next month will be at the same time the earliest date at which an idea of the country in a condition of drought can be obtained and the latest to which an examination of it can safely be postponed. The Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha, has therefore been instructed to visit it during March and on the receipt of his report I shall address you further on the subject.

etc
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

W. B. Bowring
GOVERNOR.