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Currency: Payment of ...

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COLONIAL OFFICE,

LONDON.

3rd January 1911.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Indian Pensions, which are a charge on the revenue of the Indian Empire, are payable in East Africa at s.1/4 per rupee, as it is considered by the India Office that the currency of British East Africa is a rupee one. In sterling countries these pensions are payable at s.1/0 per rupee.

This matter has come more directly before me owing to the approaching retirement from the Protectorate service of the Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. G. K. Watts, who is in receipt of an Indian pension. Mr. Watts desires to settle in British East Africa. If he does so, under the present arrangement his pension would amount to £403 per annum instead of £530 in a country with a sterling currency. Such discrimination would prove to be a great hardship, and probably lead to Mr. Watts settling elsewhere.

It is true the British East African Protectorate receives a sterling Grant-in-aid from Imperial funds, and although we use the rupee as a medium of exchange, I do not think we should be classed as a "rupee country".

The Under Secretary of State
to the Colonies,
LONDON.

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It seems anomalous that an Indian pensioner staying in Nyassaland should receive better treatment than one staying in British East Africa, and if the rule cannot be revised, we appear to be in danger of losing a very eligible class of European settler.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Governor.