

EAST AFR. PROT.

1101

C. O.

4805

Recd

8 31 09

Governor No

Adler Comg

1909

6 Jan.

26

Appl of Mr Hitzel  
as Factory & Boiler Inspr

Last Previous Paper

Leaf  
43680/4

Sends memo by Comm of Public Works resp.  
necessity for post a qualifications of Mr Hitzel.  
Request sanction of temporary appt of Mr Hitzel.

W. Read

as To the necessity for the appointment  
the Comm<sup>ty</sup> of Public Works makes out  
a very fair case. But the fact that W.  
Hitzel has been making out designs for  
giving advice to private persons will  
not weigh with the Treasury in favour of  
making an official appointment.

As to W. Hitzel's suitability for the  
appt. there does not appear to be any  
reason for paying any further attention  
to the protest of the Editor of the East  
African Standard (41831/05). Any man  
who could perform the very varied duties

Next subsequent Paper

9048

which are apparently to devolve upon Mr. Hitzel would have to be done. Thinking of an Admirable ~~at~~ Crichton, or as the Comd<sup>g</sup> of Public Works is satisfied that he can discharge them adequately we may count the Govt. lucky to get him. And a salary of £350, with house allowance of £60, would not seem to be excessive for the qualifications which the post demands.

I think we might try the Treasury again with this despatch, in reply to 43880, & suggest approval of the appt. for a year from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next, the continuance of the appt. being discussed at the end of that time in the light of a report on the work actually done.

JAB

Feb 15

H. J. R.

I think so

H. J. R.

15/2

1871 Feb 20

Feb 22 1871  
atms

Edw. H. K.

C. O.  
4606

Recd  
8 FEB 09

*R*

Governor's Office,

Nairobi.

6th January 1909.

27

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential (2)

Encl. 1.

My Lord,

In reply to your despatch confidential of the 27th of November last I have the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum by the Commissioner of Public Works which gives full details of the necessity for the appointment of a Factory and Boiler Inspector and Inspector of Electric Light and Power Plant.

G.K. Watts.  
24-12-08

2. I agree with Mr. Watts on this point and also as to the possession by Mr. Hirtzel of the necessary qualifications for the post, and trust that Your Lordship's sanction to his temporary appointment may not be withheld.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

*J. H. ...*

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON. S. W.

I thank His Honour for kindly giving me an opportunity of writing on this file. In order to answer Colonial Office Despatch (Confidential) of 27/11/08 a somewhat lengthy explanation is required.

1. The history of the case is shown in Minutes (7) and (10) so far as I am concerned and I take full responsibility for recommending the appointment, as it is the duty of Government in every civilized country to protect Artisans and Labourers when they are working in Factories. It may be argued that there are but few factories in this country at present; but there are quite enough in my opinion to justify the appointment of one Officer for work done by three Sub-Departments in more advanced countries, viz:-

- (a) Boiler and Machinery Inspector
- (b) Factory Inspector
- (c) Electric Light and Power Inspector and  
Electric Machinery Adviser to Government.

Mr. Kirtzel has now inspected 26 Works which are much scattered, and I enclose his Reports. The inspections have been made without the slightest friction, except in one case where a Firm in business is purchasing some second hand machinery from Hammar for a small Electric Light installation. The concession to this Firm (Anderson and Mayer) have not yet been finally settled, as a proper inspection of this machinery has not yet been made. Mr. Kirtzel merely looked at a boiler which will probably eventually be the property of the Company, because it was on a truck in a Public Works Department siding. I explained matters to Mr. Anderson

and the case dropped.

5. We have no complete list of the Factories, or Agricultural machinery, Tractor Engines, Electric Motor Wagons and Ploughs in this country as yet but Mr. Hirtzel is gaining the necessary information as he travels about. In the near future I trust that the FIC Factory at Limuru, more Fibre Factories, the Electric Light Company at Mombasa and many other undertakings will be in full working; also that the Nairobi Electric Light Company will be extending its operations not only by spending sums of Government money but by supplying more meters to private persons - specially one large fan for the Flour Mill, and another for the Kamiti Ranch. Moreover His Excellency has been pleased to grant a Coal Concession in the Shimba Hills where lignite has already been found and in their initial work Mr. Hirtzel will be available for inspecting their machinery and until the operations become large enough to justify the appointment of a Mining Inspector. Therefore at present in my opinion I am quite justified in asking for an appointment - the duties of which I have already detailed - or else I should be failing in my duty to all those employed in Factories &c.

There is another reason - and a very good one however for having such an officer - viz: that I am absolutely without an expert adviser in Electric Light and Power matters, and as the Nairobi Company is becoming a large affair, there will be another in Mombasa soon, and other schemes are under contemplation which should be reported on by me as they come up for the consideration of Government. I must on these grounds have one. I have not enough work for a whole time officer at present, hence my proposal to have one with trifold duties. In addition to his originally proposed duties Mr. Hirtzel has not only inspected machinery of very varied character and put

to many different uses, but has already valued the buildings and machinery of a Fibre Concession, at the request of the Honourable the Commissioner of Lands, in order to enable the latter to judge if he is justified in refunding the guarantee; and the same request for his services for similar work on other concessions has been asked for and will be granted. Mr. Hirtzel has gratuitously made out a design for a turbine for Mr. Fleming, he has advised private persons on their traction or motor wagons, and I have an application from a planter asking that Mr. Hirtzel may be an umpire at a trial of a motor wagon in Mombasa before it is sold to a private firm. I have had an application from the Honourable the Director of Agriculture asking me to lend an officer to advise certain settlers at Naivasha on a proposed irrigation and water supply scheme. Mr. Birch, Executive Engineer at Kisumu, has fallen sick and has had to be temporarily relieved by another officer from Nairobi. Mr. Blain Executive Engineer Naivasha is overworked and has no time to advise on this question - the Provincial Commissioner informing me that this officer is doing the work of two men and it would be hard to ask him to do the work of three - and the only officer I can possibly spare to carry out the Honourable A.C. Macdonald's request is Mr. Hirtzel. I may mention that I am against my officers doing work which Civil Engineers, or licensed Surveyors in private enterprise can do, but in many instances no such qualified men can be found at present and in such cases I permit my officers to give gratuitous advice.

4. My officers are very few - far too few for the Engineering projects under preparation or under construction in this country - they are all fully employed - and I have

no one to spare for the duties now done by Mr. Hirtzel - moreover the electric side of his work could not be done by any Member of my Staff.

As regards the proposal that the Loco Staff of the Uganda Railway might carry out Mr. Hirtzel's work I have no information. This idea I do not however view with favour as I require an Officer to carry out the multiple duties of Mr. Hirtzel, and I should not be able to give orders to any Uganda Railway Officer. To my mind the Public Works Department should in the present backward state of this Protectorate be the Department responsible for Boiler/Factory and Electric Light and Power Inspection - questions of ill treatment to Natives only being settled by the Secretary for Native Affairs.

5. To come to Mr. Hirtzel's qualifications. These to my mind are unquestionable, and in addition to his Mechanical and Electrical engineering knowledge he can survey. Could a Junior Factory Inspector at Home show his all round knowledge? Of this I have no information as I have been working outside the United Kingdom for the past 35 years.

6. Mr. Hirtzel knows a little Kiswahili, and he will be directed to improve his knowledge and learn some Kikuyu.

7. It is no disgrace to Mr. Hirtzel not to be able to find suitable employment in private enterprise in this country, as I never before came across one in which the present white community is so impoverished and so unable to afford to employ a trained engineer. This poverty may be unknown to the Colonial Office. Many of the settlers however can just manage to pay the salaries of Subordinates but no professional man, and the man to hold the proposed post must be a properly trained gentleman moving in the best society of this Protectorate. The frequent bankruptcy of the Indian Traders, the closing of one large hotel and a Cafe in Nairobi, the throwing up of the

Railway Refreshment Contract by Messrs. Nazareth and the failure of any one to come forward to take their place, the number of white applicants for employment in mine and other Government Offices - who have failed for want of capital on their Farms - prove my statement.

8. Mr. Hirtzel's connection with the Electric Light and Power Company in Haiyobi as a shareholder and employee and his severance from it I have fully explained in the File of that Company and he has never made any secret of it. It is true he owns <sup>IN</sup> 4000 shares - nominally valued at \$4000 when he gets them - but these he is transferring to his wife at Home with orders to her that they be sold on the first opportunity. He has no voting power at present due to his shares and is powerless in the management of the Company, and has now no influence in it.

Mr. Hirtzel made many enemies when he was in private enterprises and is not a popular man. These facts to my mind do not tend to unfit him for his post, although his manner when he joined Government service was not so tactful as it might have been. In this respect he has improved of late, and I expect still further improvement in this respect. He is somewhat raw at Government procedure at present, but this he is learning.

9. Another manner in which I am utilising Mr. Hirtzel I forget to mention viz: that His Excellency has sanctioned the following Committee to revise the Indian Electricity Act:-

Mr. Dowling, Post Master General  
 Mr. Swine, Superintendent of Telegraphs  
 Mr. Hirtzel

Their report will be sent to me to be forwarded to Government (through the Honourable the Crown Advocate) for orders. The present Act is very defective and it must be amended next year.



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10. In conclusion I strongly support the proposal that the appointment of Factory Inspector should be sanctioned and that Mr. Hirtzel should be the officer to fill this post. If the sanction of Government is accorded I request that the Crown Agents for the Colonies may be instructed to draw up a three years temporary agreement and forward it to this country for signature and return.

Sd/- G.K.WATTS

Commissioner of Public Works.

Nairobi.

December 24th 1936.

S.E.

3 Hch 09

Pro

Sir,

with ref. to your letter of the 10th Nov. last, no. 18845/08, I am &c. to transmit to you, to be laid before the Com. of the Treasury, a copy of a resp. from the Gov. of the E.A.P., covering a Memorandum by the Commissioner of Public Works on the subject of the necessity for the appointment of a Factory and Boiler Inspector in the Prot. and the qualifications of Mr Hirtzel for the post.

In view of the considerations adduced in this memorandum, <sup>appeal to</sup> the Com. will be glad if the Lords <sup>of Council</sup> would ~~concur~~ consent to the temporary appointment of Mr Hirtzel to the post for one year from the 1st of April <sup>next</sup> on the understanding that the continuance of the appointment will be decided at the end of that time in the light of the work actually done by Mr Hirtzel.

to establish a strong presumption that the post is required, and that Mr Hirtzel is fitted to discharge the duties of it. No hardship would therefore be done.

DRAFT

The Sec.  
Treasury.

42500  
Amad 9045

MINUTE.

- Mr. C. 27/6
- Mr. Bunter 27/6
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- The Earl of Crewe.

Pro. 6 in form

Earle to see in connexion with 46745

(Signed) R. L. ANTROBUS