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Conf 12

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3 Feb.

previous Paper.

2334

1920

Government House, Nairobi

Reports on unsatisfactory condition, both as regards furniture & accommodation. Notes as to arrangements made for Royal visit & asks that part of the £500 specially granted may be devoted to furnishing of Govt House.

M. P. Fiddes

The Treasury have approved of the expenditure of £1300 on the extension of Govt House. The item was included in Supplementary Estimate n<sup>o</sup> 2 in Govt 151

The Treasury would probably do better to transfer the money

It is very tempting to accept Sir P. Girouard's proposal, <sup>try to</sup> close this unfortunate matter of the curtains & carpets by letting the bill be met out of the £500 allowed for entertaining the Royal visitors. But I do not think that we can properly do so without going

on spending 17 mths.

W. E. 250 7 40,000  
S. M. A. R. W.

Subsequent Paper.

12580

to the Treasury. The allowance of \$500 was sanctioned for the entertainment of their Royal Highnesses. I doubt whether the Treasury would regard as coming within this term articles which T. R. H. will enjoy only for a few days, while the God-Sbody of Godmand hold them as a possession, perhaps not for ever, but, we will hope, for some years to come.

On the other hand, if we go to the Treasury, we ~~must~~ <sup>should, in the ordinary course,</sup> send the correspondence. This despatch is an awkward document to communicate. The special pleading peeks out in the phrase that the ~~extra~~ <sup>sum</sup> furnishing account for curtains was ~~simply~~ <sup>temporarily</sup> made necessary by the Royal visit, &c.; when it appears earlier in the despatch that the curtains &c. were ordered before Sir Percy had heard that the visit was to take place. It is also a little awkward to have to lay before the Treasury the Governor's opinion that the allowance given to him

to meet the expense of entertaining the Royal party was excessive and that one fifth of the amount would have sufficed. <sup>10-83</sup> also present difficulties. In that despatch the Gov<sup>r</sup> says that provision has been made for the amount involved to be debited from public funds. He has not told us what form his provision took. It has not appeared in any estimates supplement any or other. He now proposes to meet the cost from an allowance of which he had not heard when he made this statement.

We might, it is true, give the Treasury the facts without sending the correspondence, accompanied by the substance of the relevant parts of this despatch. A great deal of it is irrelevant so far as carpets and curtains are concerned. But it is our almost invariable practice, in making a recommendation to the Treasury, to send the correspondence in which it is

A

based. It will be clear that there has been a good deal of correspondence in this case and the Treasury will be suspicious if it is withheld. If they were asked for it we should be in a very uncomfortable position indeed.

Another possible line of action would be to tell Sir P. Gironard, in a private letter, that it is necessary to go to the Treasury, for the reason stated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> par of this minute, that his despatch which was written under the impression that reference to the Treasury would not be necessary, is not suited for the purpose; that it would be convenient if he would write a despatch giving only the necessary explanations as to the order for curtains and carpets, and avoiding in particular the difficulties referred to at A & B in this minute.

It goes very much against the grain to advise this subterfuge

method of dealing with a situation but the difficulty of which the Govt is entirely to blame. But the other courses discussed present very serious disadvantages and am inclined to think that this is on the whole the best way to take.

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HAB

March 3

Lt J. Hopwood

I am of opinion that if the curtains had not been previously ordered it would have been necessary to provide them for the entertainment of T.R.H.; and that therefore their cost, which has not yet been charged to any sinking of the budget, may properly fall on the entertainment allowance; it being understood that no more than the £500 ~~allowance~~ can be devoted to "entertainment".  
? to inform the Govt.

HAB 3/3

Yes this is a good way  
out of our difficulty...

HAB

HAB

2/3 III

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Nairobi,

February 23rd 1910.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential No. 18.

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that on my arrival in this country I found that Government House Nairobi, as it stood, was in a semi-furnished condition. The most usual articles necessary to make the furnishing of the house even approximately complete were lacking: the bedrooms were carpetless and curtainless: most of the blinds were hopelessly dilapidated, and had none of the ordinary fixtures for their working. The hot water supply was not only inadequate but practically unworkable. The furniture of the reception rooms having been unprovided with covers, was being rapidly spoiled.

2. The house itself contained six bedrooms. My

household

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

THE EARL OF CREWE, K.G.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

household, consisting of myself, Lady Girouard, Aide-de-Camp, Private Secretary, boy and governess, and two European servants, would have more than completely filled the house. In addition a Lady companion accompanied my wife.

In consequence of the lack of accommodation, it was impossible to think of bringing out my family, and in order to provide for the white servants two bedrooms were hastily constructed under the eaves of the house in the garret. I think Your Lordship will agree that the accommodation I have outlined was somewhat restricted, and moreover quite prevented my entertaining either members of the Legislative Council and other residents visiting the capital, or the many people who are constantly sent to me with letters of introduction from various parts of the world.

3. Adopting the usual practice which is followed in all our Colonies, I considered it desirable and necessary to transfer the Governor's Office to Government House and did so. Up till then it had

been accommodated in the Secretariat, which is situated more than a mile away.

The Office accommodation available at Government House consisted of one small room about 10 feet square situated in such a position that in order to reach it all callers had to pass through the living rooms of the house. There was no office accommodation whatever for an Aide-de-Camp, Private Secretary or a clerk, and they have been accommodated up to date in the Drawing room, Dining room and Ball room. Such an arrangement practically entailed the whole house in its lower storey becoming a public office.

4. In so far as curtains and other appurtenances were concerned, as Lady Girouard was leaving England early in November, I sent her a hasty list of what was urgently required, and requested her to communicate with the Crown Agents in the matter. She informs me that she did so before leaving. She received my list only one week before her departure and I am only too glad that the order was carried through, as the house

would

would otherwise have been in a most uncomfortable condition for the entertainment of the Royal party.

5. Shortly after Lady Girouard's departure I was informed confidentially of the approaching visit of Their Royal Highnesses and of your wish that they should be entertained at Government House. I immediately pointed out to the Executive Council that such a visit would entail my leaving the house with my family and my entire staff and using tents both for bedroom and office accommodation.

The Executive Council considered the matter one of urgency and agreed with me that sufficient bedroom accommodation for my personal staff and three small offices should be erected as an annexe to Government House. As soon as the public announcement of the visit was permitted I placed the matter before the Legislative Council, who did not demur to the proposed expenditure.

6. As matters stand today, during the entertaining of Their Royal Highnesses, it will be necessary to place at their disposal the entire accommodation of Government House as it existed at the time of my arrival - my

family

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6. As matters stand today, during the entertaining of Their Royal Highnesses, it will be necessary to place at their disposal the entire accommodation of Government House as it existed at the time of my arrival - my

family



family being accommodated in the new annexe either in the offices or the two bedrooms. My staff and the staff of Their Royal Highnesses and their European servants will have to be accommodated in tents.

Under ordinary circumstances the extra accommodation which has now been provided at Government House will allow of my having two spare bedrooms available for possible guests, without resorting to tents. I cannot think that, in view of the considerable calls upon the Governor of this Colony for the entertainment of visitors, this accommodation is excessive.

7. Your Lordship has kindly intimated to me in your despatch Confidential of December 8th last that a special entertainment allowance of £500 has been approved, to meet the extra expenditure which may be incurred by the visit of Their Royal Highnesses. This sum appears to me excessive and I consider that £100/- should meet my absolute personal expenses; I would therefore request that the remainder might be devoted to the payment of

no  
2566

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of the extra furnishing account for curtains, largely made necessary by the Royal visit, &c. The provision for extra accommodation passed by the Legislative Council upon which a saving has been effected, has I am informed received Your Lordship's sanction. If the above course meets with approval, there will apparently be no necessity for any appeal to the Treasury. I trust Your Lordship may be enabled to accept my explanations of a somewhat unusual procedure which certainly would not have been adopted excepting under pressure of great urgency.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's humble,

obedient servant,

  
GOVERNOR.

5952 Cap

15 March 1910

Sir John

I have the honour  
to ack. the receipt of  
your last Cap no 12 of  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Feb, and to  
inform you that I approve  
of the cost of the <sup>uniforms</sup> ~~uniforms~~  
carpets, &c, ordered  
for Fort Home, Manitoba,  
being defrayed from the  
Allowance  
Special Satisfaction of £500  
sanctioned in my last despatch

DRAFT.

W.P. Camp  
John P. Primard

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~W.P. Camp~~ 1/3
- Mr. ~~Batter~~ 11 1/4
- Mr. ~~Fiddle~~ 11
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

(Money 38660) of the 6<sup>th</sup> of Dec last  
to pay the bill of  
add par. B. to the  
H.P. J.P.B.  
H.P.

2. It will of course be  
understood that that  
allowance must not be  
incurred

3. The C. A. for the



January 1880.

My dear Grouard

I was pld to me from your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> of December that you and Lady Grouard like East Africa and that you enjoyed Roosevelt's visit.

These entertainments are certainly a great tax, and we were pleased to be able to get a special £500 for you from the Treasury to cover your expenses over the visit, the Duke of Cornwall's party you will have had the dispatch about £200.

When we got your telegram of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November we arranged for the carpets etc. to be ordered for Government accounts to be forwarded at once and they have no doubt arrived some time ago. This order was something of a surprise to us, as it should strictly have been placed through the Crown Agents - and Colonel Repulse 375 road (we does not want to make any difficulty about it, but we shall have to <sup>get</sup> ~~consult~~ the Treasury approved and be able to show them that the articles were indispensable and that the charges are correct and not excessive, and to explain how the cost has been covered by savings on other services, and in order to avoid unnecessary official correspondence he

has asked me to mention the matter  
to you so that you can let us have  
the information you need. I enclose  
~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> ~~pages~~ <sup>pages</sup>  
the detailed account which  
will be able to check.

I was greatly interested in your  
reports - they represent an enormous  
amount of work for the few weeks you  
had to prepare them. I wish it were  
possible to meet you more fully. You  
will have seen had our telegram as to  
the necessity for postponing an al-  
-gamation for a time - it is a pity,  
but I am sure you will find Cordona  
a man who will be ready to co-operate  
with you in every possible way.

Your good opinion of the railway  
management was very satisfactory.  
I have no doubt there is a lot to be done  
in other departments, but we have always  
been compelled to go slow in East Africa  
for financial reasons and there are a  
good many of the men left over from  
the days of the Company and of the F.O.  
control who have hardly been able to  
keep abreast of the times.

All good wishes for the New Year.

(11. 6)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

3rd February 1910.

My dear Hopwood,

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th January. I am indeed sorry that there should have been any misunderstanding about the order for carpets, &c. for Government House.

On arrival here I found that the house was practically half-furnished. There were no carpets in any of the bedrooms, no small window curtains, the blinds in a hopeless condition - having been temporarily put up and worked by pieces of odd string - and the furniture generally was deteriorating heavily by having no covers.

I made up my mind to put up with the furniture just as it was, and have ordered none whatever, but it became essential to provide window-curtains and carpets, and this I have done by removing the carpets from below to the bedrooms above and even bringing up some from the Mombasa house, and ordering fresh ones for the lower rooms.

I wrote to my wife, as I knew she was coming out and would like the choice of them and she had only a week in which to carry out my views. I asked her to write to the Crown agents in the matter and I know she did write to

Major

Major Carmichael, and am sorry that it was not strictly carried out according to regulation.

As you know, I have transferred on the ordinary Colonial principle my offices to Government House. In order to carry this into effect A.D.C. has been working in the Drawing room, the Private Secretary in the Dining room and the Chief clerk in the Ball room. I have several white servants who are taking their meals in the Ball room. There was no accommodation for white servants and my family absolutely filled up the house.

It became imperative to secure proper office accommodation - I myself being provided with a room about 10 feet square, the only office in the house - and unless the whole of my family, A.D.C., Private Secretary, &c. were to go into tents during the Duke of Connaught's visit, it became quite impossible to entertain them here. I spoke on the matter to the Executive Council and brought it up to the Legislative Council that there was necessity for increasing the accommodation both for office and bedrooms at Government House. I did not like to do so actually, but there was no alternative. Council did not demur in any way.

The work of providing offices and two new bedrooms will be completed probably next week, or just before the arrival of the Royal party.



During the visit of the Royal party, my wife will with Miss Walton have to occupy the new bedrooms intended for the A.D.C. and Private Secretary, and I shall personally have to camp out in a new office. Their Royal Highnesses and Miss Pelly will take up the whole of the bedroom accommodation of the house as I found it. My A.D.C., Private Secretary, Capt. Fulkeley and Capt. Crackenridge of the Duke's staff, will have to go under canvas. I think it will agree that I have not been so importunate in my demands.

I will now at Government House ordinarily have two spare bedrooms, which would not appear to be excessive considering the number of people who are sent out here from all parts of the world with letters of introduction to me, asking that I should show them some hospitality.

I am very grateful for the special allowance of £500. for the entertainment of the Royal Party. The sum however is excessive, and I shall certainly not draw upon it for more than £100., if so much. The money voted by Council for the house and the grant for the entertainment of the Duke of Connaught will amply cover the changes to the house, the new curtains &c. and the entertainment of the Royal party, and there will apparently be no necessity to approach the Treasury in the matter except in the approval of the Council's vote for alterations, &c. to the House. It

It has been, and it is quite impossible to carry on reasonable work with the accommodation afforded, and I think you will agree with me in so far as my own work is concerned, that the late principle of the Governor having his office in the Secretariat a mile away from Government House is not one which should be continued.

Mary asks for your kind remarks about the reports. I answered that there has been necessity for postponing amalgamation. It would have solved a great many difficult points about the Military and Police, and have led to very large economies indeed which are now being sacrificed.

I am very pleased and thankful that you have so strongly supported me with regard to railway rates. I can assure you that the action of the Colonial department in this regard is very greatly appreciated in the country. I do not see how we can go ahead until we secure an export trade.

The menacing condition of East Coast fever has come as a great shock. You will be aware of the enormous expenditure which has been necessitated in South Africa to try and control this disease. If it should spread here up to the highlands, men like Delamere who have large herds and all the farmers who have now with considerable time and trouble broken in oxen to the plough, might lose the whole

5.

of their stock and the country be in a desperate condition. I do not anticipate that this would occur at once, but with the example of South Africa before us there is the greatest necessity for tackling the whole subject. Many personal interests are involved & fortunately, as we have taken so few measures in the past, and the arguments in the matter will revive many old cattle settlements, I think that the good sense of the community as a whole will support measures for control. I am loath to ask for money for this purpose, but I am afraid it will have to be found, but it will certainly be within the estimates.

I hear that there is some likelihood of your cutting down the expenditure proposed for coast-land settlement. I would strongly impress the unwisdom of any such policy. We have had all the central machinery for carrying on this work sitting in Mombasa for two years, have promised to place the question of land titles in order, but certainly cannot do so unless we have the field parties to carry out the survey and look into the titles. And recently the Colonial Dept. gave large concessions in land to Owen Thomas - (the "plands of East Africa" I think it is called,) certainly subject to any native rights, but as these native rights are indeterminable today, Thomas is already having very serious trouble - as are all people to whom we have allowed land on similar terms.

It is most unfair to them and most unfair on the natives of the coast strip, and I feel sure that unless the work is carried out at once, we shall have heavy claims to meet for non-fulfilment of what we have promised. If the money for the field parties is not to be granted, we must frankly abolish the whole department and declare it to be the policy of the Government to let matters slide.

I have no doubt whatever that very large savings can be effected in some departments, but in order to do so it becomes necessary to abolish certain senior posts. I cannot see why the Treasury should object even to the pensioning of any such individuals, if I can promise four or five times their salary as a virtual saving to the Department. To wait until by the natural process of time their appointments can be terminated, means to say that it is quite impossible to go on with any reorganization.

To have to refer each individual case is perhaps necessary, but it certainly puts off reasonable re-organization for a long time. I hope you will not gather that I am very impatient in the matter and pressing too much. If I understand that everything is to go very slowly, I am quite prepared to do so, but I shall have to face considerable criticism, which I do not mind, but I do feel that it is rather hard on the country.

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The result of the elections are very much as  
you outlined. I hope it does not indicate another  
P.E. in a short time.

With all kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Ray. Howard*

Sir Francis Hopwood,