

EAST AFR. PROT.
PATRONAGE

27340

C.O
27340

14 AUG 1909

Number No
Date 1909

1909

13 July

at Previous Paper

20328

Mr. J. H. Haldon.

Difficult to find him a suitable off. in Prot.
He might be considered in conn. with Abyssinian
Boundary Inspection.

No inscription.
You shall see that the
question of the posting of the Abyssinian
function will not be settled for some
little time to come.

H. J. R

Seen

21/10/08

Mr. Cook might also like to see or return

T.C.H 25/8

Seen L.R 30/8

S.R to note that in view of the weight
of officers in requirement for the
Abyssinian function - & further

H. J. R 30/8 (T.O.)

Letter from Colonel Hamilton attached. Colonel
Levy replied that Major Meldor has
an excellent record.

G.C.N.N.

8.9.

Letter from the Ambassador of Germany attached.
A note of Lord Curzon reply. 10.1.10

W. Read.

W. Macnaghten.

The appts. in connexion with the
Abyssinian Boundary have taken
the form of the addition of 1 District
Council & 2 Dist. District Councils
to the ordinary Protectorate staff.
See C.O. 39303/19 as to the filling of these
appts. I fear there is no opening for
Major Meldor in his connexion.

WAB.

March 1.

Seen
T.C.H.

19/3

H. J. R.
4/11

W. B.

Letter from Colonel Hamilton attached. Colonel
Leah replied that Major Maldon has
an excellent record.

G.C.N.V.

8.9.

Letter from His Excellency of Ceylon attached.
a note of last hour reply 10.1.10

W. Read.
W. Macrae.

The appts. in connexion with the
Abyssinian Boundary have taken
the form of the addition of 1 District
Council & 2 Asst. District Councils
to the ordinary Protectorate staff.
See C.O. 39303/19 as to the filling of these
appts. 2 years hence is no opening for
Major Maldon in his connexion.

WAB.

March 1

See

T.C.H.

19/3

H. J. R.

2/III

WAB

10/10/10

Old Palace, 100
Canterbury.

Dear Lord (revised)
I have been asked for two
independent quarters to bring
to your notice the case work
of Major Meldor - of whom
I already knew something - to
obtain the position of Game
Warden in East Africa.
I knew nothing about the

I have been asked for two
independent quarters to bring
to your notice the case work
of Major Meldor - of whom
I already knew something - to
obtain the position of Game
Warden in East Africa.

I knew nothing about the

position or its duties or its
 Geographical range. But
 I have for several years
 known something of the
 high character & abilities
 of Major Meldon who was
 an intimate friend of
 a Cousin of mine who

served with distinction both in
 East & West Africa (Uganda
 & Nigeria), & was ~~finally~~
 killed in the South Africa
 War. I cannot well
 decline to send to Mrs
 Collier, although, as I have
 said, I am very reluctant
 as to the exact character
 of the request which I convey.

Sept. 4th 1909

SPENCER LODGE,

RYDE.

102

My dear Sully

I expect you know
all about Melder whose
letter I enclose (please
return) I am told that
he would be a very
valuable officer to our
Company

I have seen Hammers
letter & am glad to
hear that our
interests

are about to be
attended to, do be
about it as our City
financiers will not wait
for ever

Had a good shoot near
Winchester, spoiled
by the late harvest
The hares surprised
me we could not
shoot hundreds

been so disposed
In the Island the
complaint - lots
birds very wild 103

Very truly
Yours
J. H. Hamilton

[Duplicate of Minutes attached to
E.A. 38026/09 104

Mr. Harris

~~100~~

You have handed me the annexed letter from Mr Tyrrell of the Foreign Office with reference to a vacancy for an Assistant Collector in Zanzibar. Of the two men referred to we cannot support Bishop: his latest reports from the Gold Coast were poor; there is a suspicion of want of temperance, which personal inspection does not in my opinion tend to negative.

Captain Fennet of the K.A.R. is a very good man: his confidential reports are uniformly good, and General Manning wrote of him in 1907 "The best Militia Officer I have yet met employed with the K.A.R."

As a Militia Officer, he suffers from disabilities which (?I believe) block his chances of promotion and permanency.

No doubt he is a very suitable candidate, who should do well.

But I venture to suggest that we should not allow this post to be filled without considering whether we should not press either Major Essex Capell or Major Meldon upon the Foreign Office.

(1) Major Capell is now, and has been for over a year, Acting District Commissioner in the East Africa Protectorate. The Governor urges that his "age and previous seniority in the Police Force of the Orange River Colony render his present position anomalous and unsuitable." This is undoubtedly true.

I consider (though I gather that Mr. Read does not altogether share my view) that by such prolonged acting employment he is establishing a considerable claim upon the Colonial Service in general and East Africa

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in particular. We are committed, I submit, to finding him a post somewhere. Lord Crews stated, when the appointment was first made, that he was not satisfied that the arrangement was a desirable one; and the advisability of bringing it to an end appears to me to grow stronger every day.

41282

The question is whether the Secretary of State can fairly ask Sir E. Grey to give Major Capell this appointment.

Lord Selborne's account of Major Capell's retrenchment is in S. Africa 28967/08. What we know officially against Major Capell is given in Sir H. Gould Adams' despatch (34551); and it will be seen that Sir H. Gould Adams, though he supported the Government in not selecting Major Capell to command the new Police Force in the Orange River Colony wrote, "Now I want to do every justice to Major Capell and I say distinctly that in the position of an officer holding a subordinate rank he is everything that can be desired."

(my underlining)
3/28/24

The objection to Major Capell lies, I believe, in a nutshell. It is simply that he is not socially suitable for the command of a Police Force and suffers from rather a swelled head.

He must have grit: he obtained a D.S.O. in the war and (see testimonials in 32419/06 which are from good people and very favourable) "fought his way up from the bottom to very nearly the top" of the S.A.C. He was second in Command of the S.A.C. in the Orange River Colony and has acted as Inspector General in the Orange River Colony. I am much afraid

afraid we shan't be able to find him anything better than the Zanzibar appointment - if we can find him anything at all in the Colonial Service.

He is not to have a District Commissionership in East Africa and the occurrence of any suitable vacancy there, is an off chance. As regards West Africa I venture to point out (1) that Major Capell has asked for employment "in any healthy part of Africa", (2) that he is a married man with two young children, and (3) that a point has just been stretched to give a District Commissionership in West Africa to Colonel Colin Harding. It seems rather doubtful whether it would be wise in the public interest to offer an early vacancy of a like character to Major Capell - quite apart from the question whether at his age and with a young family it would be advisable to offer him an appointment on the West Coast.

(2) Major Weldon, late Captain of the King's African Rifles is a strong candidate also. His last salary was £500 and he had to leave the V.A.R. in view of a recent rule to the effect that Militia Officers must vacate their appointments after ten years.

This was very hard on him as he married quite a short time before he lost his appointment in the belief that it would permanent.

He is in straitened circumstances.

Of Major Weldon we have heard nought but praise and his last confidential report runs "He knows more of the country" (S.E. Africa) "and habits of the people;

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- 734000
9 pp

of which he has made a particular study than any official in the Protectorate. He knows the Soumness soldier thoroughly and gets on well with them. I consider him a very reliable officer to have on detached duties. He is a first rate officer of temperate habits and fond of shooting.

Personally I should prefer to see Major Capell appointed as I consider that we are committed to him and I regard him as a very awkward handful for those of us who have to do with the Patronage work - , but I understand that you are more doubtful, (and you have seen Major Capell): Major Meldon's case is also a hard and difficult one for us.

(If it were decided to back either of these candidates, it would no doubt be of great help if the Secretary of State were willing to make personal representations to Sir E. Grey.

I don't see why Mr. Tyrell should not have a copy of my minute in answer to his letter).

T.C.H.
13/12.

Mr. Read (away)

Mr. Farle

I agree - with, I fear, a leaning towards Major Meldon.

C.A.H.
13 Dec.

From the point of view of the E.A. Department I incline to Mr. Macnaghten's opinion that we had better satisfy the claim of Major Capell first, assuming that

we

we can influence the decision. He is an actual and present anomaly in the East Africa Protectorate service, holding a position with which he is naturally dissatisfied, and the awkwardness of which will increase rapidly with time.

F.G.A.B.

Dec.13.

Mr. Macnaghten

Mr. Montgomery sent these papers back to day and telephoned to say that the Foreign Office would consider Bennett with other candidates, but that as regards Capell and Meldon Sir E. Grey thought them too senior for such a post and they had plenty of good candidates.

A.J.H.
30/12.

Major Meldon has been considered & the fact comes on one or two occasions lately. So far it has not been found possible to recommend him for anything.

This matter will not be overlooked
but this paper should be

10/6 T.C.H. Put by
at once

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Governor's Office,
Nairobi, 14 AUG 1909

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

July 15th 1909.

No. 395

*all
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xlab*

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 266 of May 17th enclosing certain correspondence relating to an application from Major J.A. Meldon, late of the Uganda Rifles.

2. I note that Major Meldon asks for employment in Somaliland and not in this Protectorate. I fear that in any case it would have been difficult to offer him a suitable appointment here, though I regard him as a capable and experienced officer.

3. His name might perhaps be considered in connection with the Abyssinian Boundary Inspection. He would, I think, be particularly well qualified for work of that kind.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.