

East Africa Protectorate.

Summary of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of East Africa.

Third Session,

November 28th, 1911.

Nairobi.

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

East Africa Protectorate

Summary of the Proceedings of the Third Session of the Legislative Council, 1911.

Held at Nairobi on the 28th November, 1911.

The Council assembled on the 28th November at 9-30 a.m., HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (SIR E. P. C. GIROUARD, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E.) presiding.

Present :—

THE HON. THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT (A. C. HOLLIS, C.M.G.).
THE HON. THE TREASURER (H. A. SMALLWOOD).
THE HON. THE ACTING CROWN ADVOCATE (H. A. YOUNG).
THE HON. THE MANAGER OF THE UGANDA RAILWAY (H. A. F. CURRIE, C.M.G.).
THE HON. MR. A. C. MACDONALD (DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE).
THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON.
THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT.
THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON.

Extraordinary Members :—

THE HON. MR. W. MCGREGOR ROSS (DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS).
THE HON. MR. J. T. GOSLING (POSTMASTER-GENERAL).

Absent :—

THE HON. MR. F. W. MAJOR, I.S.O. (CHIEF OF CUSTOMS).
THE HON. MR. V. M. NEWLAND.
THE HON. MR. T. A. WOOD.

THE PRESIDENT administered the Oath of Allegiance to the HON. MR. H. A. SMALLWOOD (Treasurer), the HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON, the HON. MR. W. MCGREGOR ROSS (Director of Public Works), and the HON. MR. J. T. GOSLING (Postmaster-General).

THE PRESIDENT read a telegram which had been despatched to H. M. the King on the occasion of his passing Aden *en route* for India :—

“To

“The Private Secretary to H. M. the King :—

“I beg that the following address be laid before H. M. the King :
“The Government and Legislative Council of the East Africa Protectorate
“united with all sections of the community beg to tender to Your
“Majesty their loyal duty on the occasion of Your Majesty's visit to India
“and to wish Your Majesty and Queen Mary a pleasant voyage and a safe
“return.—GOVERNOR.”

and the reply which had been received :—

“To Governor, East Africa Protectorate, Nairobi.—The Queen and I
“sincerely thank you, the Legislative Council, and the people of the Protect-
“orate for their kind message of loyalty and good wishes.”—GEORGE, R.I.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of September 18th, which had been printed and circulated amongst Hon. Members, were taken as read and were confirmed.

THE PRESIDENT then addressed the Council. He said that the main purpose for which the Council had been summoned was to authorise the introduction and consideration of a Bill to apply a sum of money for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1913. He did not propose, in view of the very clear and

able statement which had been laid on the table by the Hon. Treasurer, to deal with these estimates himself at any length or in any detail. The sanctioned expenditure for the current year 1911-12 was £762,246, less remanet expenditure £10,000, making a net total of £752,246. The estimated revenue for 1912-13 was £788,184, and the estimated revenue for 1911-12 was £620,279, an increase of no less than £167,905 on that of last year. Under the half and half principle they could utilise one half of this estimated increase of revenue in new expenditure for 1912-13, so that to the £752,246 sanctioned expenditure for 1911-12 they might add £83,952, making a total of £836,198 for expenditure in 1912-13. The draft estimates of expenditure submitted amounted to £864,898 (*i.e.* £865,908 less £1,010 remanet expenditure on the Vote for the Abolition of Slavery), or £28,700 more than was allowed under the half and half principle. The expenditure in itself presented no very striking features. They had been obliged to set aside a very considerable sum of money out of the £83,952 for railway expenditure necessary for the production of the very large increase in revenue which was anticipated by the Hon. Manager. One or two points however called for special attention. It gave him great pleasure to have been able to place upon the estimates increases in salary for the Judges of the High Court. He thought that all members of the Council were agreed that for some years past the salaries attaching to these very high offices had not been sufficient, nor did they compare favorably with the salaries which Judges in other colonies enjoyed. At the same time the Imperial Government had considered the position of administrative officers throughout the Crown Colonies and had communicated to him the opinion that the time had arrived, more particularly in this Colony, when administrative officers should be given some opportunity of looking forward to some annual increment in their pay. He had therefore been pleased to place upon the estimates a sum of money to provide for this. He did not think they could speak too highly of the work which had been accomplished, under very trying conditions at times, by the administrative staff, and he trusted that Council would consider the increase entirely justifiable.

In order to meet the equilibrium as between expenditure and revenue it was proposed to ask for sanction to meet the following items of expenditure out of surplus balances:—

(1) A wireless station at Mombasa; (2) a new tug for Lake Nyanza, and the installation of apparatus for oil fuel on the Lake Steamers; (3) a drainage scheme for Nairobi; (4) the initiation of the construction of Government Public Buildings in Nairobi.

A sum of £31,200 was asked for these purposes. If this proposal was sanctioned, the desired equilibrium would be obtained, and a sum of £2,500 would be available for the very urgent requirements of the administrative staff which he had previously mentioned.

It would be seen that there was £83,952 available for the reduction of the grant-in-aid. If, however, the whole amount were to be devoted to that purpose, it would leave them, as on 31st March, 1913, with their surplus balances decreased by £45,666. It was therefore evident that they could not advisedly apply the whole sum to a reduction of the grant-in-aid, but if approval were obtained to the expenditure of the £31,200 from surplus balances it was considered a sum of £50,000 might properly be set aside to reduce the grant-in-aid, which would then be £65,000 instead of £115,000 as in the current year.

In considering the application of the half and half principle to the East Africa Protectorate it had always to be remembered that the Railway, although its gross revenue was far greater than that of any other Department, required nearly 70 per cent of any increase of revenue to cover the increased cost of earning that revenue, thus leaving only half of 30 per cent of any increase to be devoted to new expenditure on the other services of the Protectorate. In that connection he might be permitted to compare their position as regards the half and half principle with that of Uganda. In that Protectorate increasing revenues were being derived from customs and from internal revenue, mainly hut tax, of which the cost of collection was very small compared with the collection of railway revenue, and he therefore thought it was not an unfair demand to ask that the half and half principle should be at least relaxed in so far as finding some extra funds for public works was concerned. He trusted that the Imperial Government would see that there was certainly a great measure of right in their demand in that regard.

In addition to the sums which he had mentioned, Hon. Members would understand that a loan of £250,000 had been sanctioned by the Imperial Government. The interest payable on that loan would be $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and 1% sinking fund. The object of the loan was well known, and he would state them only for record: a deep water pier at Kilindini, at a cost of £100,000; the construction of a branch railway line from Nairobi to the Thika—a distance of 31 miles—at a cost of £60,000; and the construction of a water supply for Mombasa—the water to be taken from the Shimba Hills—at a cost of £90,000. Of that loan a sum of £47,000 would probably be spent in the year 1911-12, and therefore a sum of money to meet the interest on that amount had been included in the estimates. Apart from the loan, it would be within the knowledge of Hon. Members that the Imperial Government had sanctioned a special grant-in-aid, to be spread over a series of years, to cover necessary improvements required for the railway, and to provide rolling stock, both upon the Uganda Railway and upon the Magadi Railway, in consequence of the decision to begin the working of the soda deposits at Lake Magadi. Of that sum it was estimated that £75,000 would be spent in 1911-12, and £68,500 in 1912-13. It would be found that this latter sum had been included in the estimates as the last item.

On the whole it appeared to him that the estimates for the ensuing year compared very favorably with any previous estimates of the Protectorate, and though he would not venture to look too far into the future he thought that they could undoubtedly be hopeful, more particularly as to revenue. The Jinja-Kakindu Railway, for the construction of which the Uganda Railway was responsible, was about to be opened and a large traffic was expected from the northern portion of Uganda, which would probably not only make the new line pay but result in a very large revenue to the Uganda Railway. The trade coming both from Uganda and German East Africa had largely increased in the last year, and this had led to an increase of revenue. At the same time their own local revenues had very greatly improved upon those of former years, and if these were maintained in any like proportion, their next Bill might be at least as good as the one which had been laid before them that day.

THE PRESIDENT went on to say that he had sworn in the Director of Public Works and the Postmaster General as Extraordinary Members of the Council during the present session. He had thought this step desirable in view of the large expenditure incurred by both these Departments, and the considerable revenue earned by the Post Office. He had followed the procedure laid down in the Orders-in-Council of 1906.

THE HON. TREASURER moved a resolution "That a Second Supplementary Estimate of £25,136 for the service of the year 1911-12 be approved."

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The motion was put and carried.

The various items of this Second Supplementary Estimate were discussed and passed one by one as follows:—

PENSIONS.—		£
Mr. G. Mc. L. Tew from 28th December, 1910 to 31st March, 1912	... ..	136
1. Mr. J. R. W. Pigott from 4th September, 1911, to 31st March, 1912	... ..	6
"OFFICIAL GAZETTE" AND PRINTING AND STATIONERY.—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.		
2. Salary of 2 temporary compositors for 5 months	... ..	40
PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.—		
PROVINCE OF TANZANIA.		
3. Salary of 4 Hut Counters for 6 months	... ..	24
PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION— <i>Special Expenditure</i> .		
PROVINCE OF NAIVASHA.		
4. Masai Reserves	... ..	270
AUDIT.— <i>Local Charges</i> .—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.		
5. Salary of a Clerk for 6 months	... ..	24

PRISONS.—				£
6.	Prisoners food	...	...	1,000
7.	Prisoners Clothing	200
8.	Warders Uniforms	100

MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.—

9.	Epidemics	1,140
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THE PRESIDENT, referring to this item, said that he thought Government could congratulate itself on the very small expenditure which had been necessary compared with that incurred in connection with previous epidemics.

EDUCATION.—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS. £

Nairobi Division B School.

10.	Salaries and house allowances of 3 Indian teachers	143
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MILITARY.—

3rd BATTALION KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES.

11.	Personal Emoluments— <i>Followers</i>	15
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MILITARY—*Special Expenditure.*

12.	Electric light installation	100
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RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.—

13.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon expenses	12,333
14.	Traffic Expenses	1,604
15.	Special and Miscellaneous Expenditure	...	...	700

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.—*Special Expenditure*

16.	Institute for Railway Subordinates	...	...	1,500
17.	House at Kilindini	...	...	1,220
18.	Roads or Fences at Kilindini	...	...	580
19.	2 Stone Houses at Nairobi	...	...	950

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked where the Institute for the Railway Subordinates was to be situated.

THE HON. MR. H. A. F. CURRIE: At Kilindini.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.— £

VETERINARY DIVISION.

20.	Compensation for loss of Cattle	150
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AGRICULTURAL DEPT.—*Special Expenditure.*

21.	Compassionate gratuity to the widow of the late Major C. C. Boileau	90
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FOREST AND SCIENTIFIC DEPTS.—

GAME DEPARTMENT.—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

22.	Salary of an additional Assistant Game Warden...	150
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LAND OFFICE.—PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

23.	Salary of a temporary clerk for 2 months	12
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PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.—

MAJOR WORKS.

24.	House for Provincial Commissioner, Nyeri	1,000
25.	New Gaol, Nyeri	...	...	1,000

MINOR WORKS.

26.	Additions to Secretariat	...	...	342
27.	Completion of Dairies at Mombasa	...	...	307

THE PRESIDENT explained that these major works had been rendered necessary by the decision to transfer the provincial centre of the Kenia Province from Fort Hall to Nyeri.

The motion that the Supplementary Estimates be passed was then put and carried.

Appropriation Ordinance.

THE HON. TREASURER moved that his Budget Statement, which had been printed and circulated to Hon. Members, be taken as read.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The question was put and carried.

THE HON. TREASURER, in pursuance of notice given, introduced and moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to apply a sum of money for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March, 1913." He said that Hon. Members would notice that blank spaces had been left in clauses 1 and 3. The actual sums required would be inserted, and a full explanation given, when the Bill was in Committee. Since the schedule had been printed, instructions had been received which enabled the insertion of a sum of £68,500 under a separate head of expenditure. This sum was part of an extra grant for railway requirements necessitated by the scheme for working the soda on Lake Magadi.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The question was put and carried, and the Bill was read a first time.

THE HON. TREASURER moved the suspension of Standing Orders in order that the Bill might be read a second time.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The question was put and carried.

THE PRESIDENT intimated that a general debate could take place on the merits of the Bill.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that on behalf of the unofficial members of Council he would like to congratulate Government on the Budget which (as His Excellency had said) was the most favorable ever presented for the East Africa Protectorate. The unofficial members had also to express their thanks to the Hon. Treasurer not only for his clear statement but for the trouble he had taken in explaining the figures to them.

THE HON. TREASURER moved that Council go into Committee.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The question was put and carried.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole Council, His Excellency the Governor presiding.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE HON. TREASURER moved the Suspension of Standing Order No. 16, in order to allow Hon. Members to remain seated during the debate.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

The question was put and carried.

The various items in the Draft Estimates were discussed and passed one by one as follows:—

VOLE 5 (£3,807).—“OFFICIAL GAZETTE” AND PRINTING.

“Official Gazette” and Printing

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON, referring to this vote, said that, though he quite admitted that the Government must have a printing establishment of its own, he would like to ask whether it would not be possible for some of the work to be given out to private enterprise. To have private printing establishments in the Protectorate was a matter of great importance to the public, and if some of the work now done by the Government could be given out to these private establishments it would certainly help them and also assist the Government.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that it had been found by experience that if the printing work which was now undertaken by Government were given out to private enterprise it would result in a great expense to the Government. If any Hon. Member desired to investigate the comparative cost of work done by private enterprise and work done by the Government he would be furnished with full particulars.

THE PRESIDENT referred to the item of £100 for printing the "Agricultural Journal" as compared with £150 last year.

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that this item was for illustrations which were now done in England, but which it was hoped could in future be done locally.

THE HON. MR. A. C. MACDONALD said the item was entirely for outside printing.

VOTE 6 (£88,225).—PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked whether the time had not arrived when Government should assume a more forward policy in Tanaland. He did not want to go into details, but he was informed that, as far as the Lamu Coast was concerned, it was only in very few cases that the Coast native dared to enter the hinterland owing to the presence of Somalis. Lamu and the surrounding country many years ago was the most profitable district along the whole Coast, and he could not help thinking that, if Government would insist on law and order there and prevent dacoity by Somalis, the Government would ultimately reap its reward.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that it was mainly a question of expense. It was very difficult for Government to make a forward movement in Tanaland owing to the fact that the Somalis were a nomadic and war-like tribe, and it would require a large number of troops. Government had absolutely nothing against the Somalis, but they were gradually pressing South, and if they were guilty of dacoity they were arrested and punished. Quite recently two men had been sentenced to 10 years for dacoity. It was a very difficult country and was absolutely waterless in the dry season. An expedition on lines similar to that undertaken in Jubaland would not only be costly but might possibly end in failure. Government was allowing the Somalis to move on from Biskaya, the hinterland of Jubaland and Tanaland, to Sankuri on the Tana River and there was every probability of their remaining there permanently when they could be better administered.

THE PRESIDENT asked the Hon. Member to explain where Sankuri was situated.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY: Sankuri is situated about 300 miles up the Tana River. Continuing, he said that if the Somalis could be persuaded to settle there it was intended to insist on their building stone mosques which would be likely to induce them to remain permanently at one place instead of roaming about. That policy had been followed in Jubaland with considerable success.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that he was much obliged for the Hon. Member's statement. He did not however quite understand. Did it mean that the Somalis were doing harm there and that only in two instances they had been punished? He had been told that the mere presence of one Somali in a village was sufficient to make all the villagers clear out. The sooner the Somalis were taught to keep their place the better it would be, even though it did cost money.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said he thought the statement was exaggerated. Government had recently policed the Lamu District better than formerly and he did not think that on the Coast more cases of dacoity were likely to be heard of. It was only when Swahilis went into unadministered parts of the hinterland that the Somalis levied a toll on rubber collectors. The Somalis no longer came down to the Coast and raided as they had done 5 or 6 years ago. At any rate no cases, with the exception of the two which he had already mentioned, had been brought to the notice of the Government.

THE PRESIDENT said that he would like to say a few words to Council regarding the Northern Frontier District. At present Government had stations established at Marsabit, Moyale, and Serenli—the last mentioned place being opposite Bardera on the Italian side. It was a very curious and anomalous position for a British Protectorate to find stations on this frontier opened by the Abyssinian and Italian authorities, and to have no stations whatever for the administration of their own territory. In consequence, as they might know, Government two years ago undertook to administer the whole area, the main principle adopted being that of observation and of gradually obtaining, in so far as possible, the confidence of the Somali and other border tribes and inducing them to come into trading centres. So far everything had gone well. A trade route had been opened between Abyssinia and Nairobi, and this

had resulted in at least one benefit—the very considerable decrease in the local price of horses and mules. There was every indication also that the opening up of the frontier might tend to divert a certain proportion—not a large proportion—of the trade of Abyssinia down the Juba Valley. He could not think that it was otherwise than the duty of Government to administer the whole of that territory, and he was glad to be able to say that, with the exception of one small portion, the whole border was being sufficiently administered. The revenue that might be expected could only be small, but the administration was conducted from a political rather than a monetary standpoint.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said he noticed large items for transport and local travelling in all the different provinces. He asked whether there was any possibility of a saving by supplying mule carts in places where there were good roads, and by that means doing away with the old method of travelling by safari which was slow and unnecessary in districts where good roads existed.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that mule carts were being provided by degrees, and it would be noticed that in one or two instances a special cart staff had been estimated for. Carts and mules, however, could only be used where there were good roads. Where mules were useful, Government was considering the question of purchasing mules and carts. A saving might eventually result, but it entailed a capital expenditure which would be perhaps almost greater than the cost of recruiting porters.

THE PRESIDENT said he did not think there was very much to be gained by the upkeep of mules and carts, as it was only in very few instances that they could be used, and, besides the upkeep of the carts, Government would have to pay for drivers and other men and would also have to take the risk of any losses, moreover the carts could not be worked continually. For instance, the Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha, had mules, but if he went into the Masai country he could not use them, and while he was taking porters into the country the mules would be idle, so that a double staff was necessary. There were very few places, in his opinion, where mules and carts would be a real economy. In Nairobi mules were provided for short distances.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said that he meant that only in cases where mules could be used should carts be supplied, so that when travelling on roads they could use carts on journeys of 3 or 4 days' safari.

THE PRESIDENT said that a cart could be used in going from Nairobi to Fort Hall, or from Fort Hall to Nyeri, but if an officer had to leave the road it would be practically useless. As the Hon. Member was aware, Government availed itself of motor transport whenever it was running. The position was the same in almost every other province. At Kisumu and Muminis it was different, and Indian carts were usually employed at these places.

VOTE 8 (£15,355).—CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Customs Department.

THE PRESIDENT asked Hon. Members to note that the total revenue of the Customs Department on imports was expected to increase from nearly £80,000 to £110,000 and on exports from £8,000 to £11,000. A proportion was paid over to Uganda, but nevertheless the increase was very large indeed. There was an increase in expenditure of £1,200, including provision for a Deputy Chief of Customs. He had felt for some time past that the appointment was desirable, but he had delayed it until the Chief of Customs really wanted a man and could say who he was to be.

VOTE 12 (£46,994).—POLICE.

Police.

THE PRESIDENT said that Hon. Members would remember that generally speaking the expenditure in the Police Department had been very materially cut down two years ago, and the present increase in the vote was due to the gradual re-adjustment of the Department and to the extension of Police work. They were if anything under the vote in these estimates. Stock thefts would also undoubtedly lead to requirements for more men, and they were constantly having special demands for police.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he would like to ask what was the basis of the Inspector-General's salary. Why was one-third paid by the Uganda Protectorate and two-thirds by the East Africa Protectorate? Did the Inspector-General spend one-third of his time in Uganda and two-thirds in East Africa?

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that was the explanation.

VOTE 14 (£18,929).—MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

Medical Departments.

THE HON. DR. ATKINSON asked what steps were intended to be taken in connection with the isolation camp at Kisumu and whether natives were to be detained there for purposes of inspection.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that the camp was required both for purposes of detention and inspection. The inspection was for sleeping sickness and plague. Natives would be inspected, and provided they were passed by the medical officer they would be allowed to proceed at once, but if they showed signs of plague they might be detained 5 or 6 days before being allowed to proceed to their destination.

THE HON. DR. ATKINSON asked if it was intended that Kisumu was to be the port of exit for natives from Kavirondo.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY replied that it was hoped that would eventually be the case.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he noticed there was still an item of £1,500 on the estimates for the Sanitary Station at Zanzibar and he wished to know whether His Excellency could hold out any hope that this would be done away with before long.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that as matters stood at present they were under instructions from the Secretary of State to include the item in the estimates; but it was proposed to erect an isolation camp and hospital at Mombasa and he believed His Excellency wished to amend the estimates of the Public Works Department later on in order to include a sum for that purpose. In the meantime they had to keep up their contribution for the sanitary station at Zanzibar.

VOTE 16 (£7,900).—EDUCATION.

Education.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said that in this connection he noticed that no provision had been made for a school on the Uasin Gishu, and he asked if some statement could be made with regard to the present state of education there.

THE PRESIDENT said that the Director of Education, shortly after his arrival in the country, had visited the Uasin Gishu, and as there appeared to be no desire on the part of those who had children to have a Government school, the item in the estimates had not been expended. He hoped to see the settlers there when he went up shortly. There was still money on the estimates which would provide them with schools under a different system by which the parents would provide the building and board, whilst Government would provide the books and the teacher, and he trusted that the settlers would accept the proposal. The Education Board had recommended that in the case of the Uasin Gishu and the Indian schools the Dutch, Indian, and English languages respectively should be used as the medium in the lower grades, and English only in the higher grades. In the meantime Government would render assistance somewhat on these lines, and later on they might have an ordinary Government school. If a demand came from English parents it would be the duty of Government to establish an English school, but it was not required at the present moment. He would also mention that in regard to Nairobi Division B. school an English master was not as yet necessary, but one would eventually be required as in the case of the Uasin Gishu School. These teachers would also have to be acquainted with the Indian or Dutch language as the case might be.

VOTE 17 (£2,961).—TRANSPORT.

Transport.

THE PRESIDENT said he would like to use that occasion to place on record Government's appreciation of the services of the late Director of Government Transport, Mr. D. J. Wilson, who had retired from the service that year. After very many years of excellent work he had found that his state of health was such as to compel him to leave the service, much to the regret of Government.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said he understood that a Committee had been appointed some time ago to enquire into the working of the Transport Department and to ascertain whether a good deal of the work could not be given out to contract. He would like to know if that Committee had made any report.

THE HON. MR. H. A. F. CURRIE (Chairman of the Committee) stated that as most of the members had been away since the first meeting had been convened, little had been done in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT intimated that he would like the work to be taken in hand

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he understood that the Hon. Mr. V. M. Newland, one of the members of the Committee, would return shortly. He considered that the work being done at present in Mombasa could not be done more cheaply by tender; and in many cases private firms would have difficulty in doing the work.

THE PRESIDENT nominated the Hon. Dr. A. E. Atkinson as an additional member of the Committee. He added that the matter would be taken up on Mr. Newland's return.

VOTE 18 (£54,012).—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

Military Expenditure.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he would like to ask for an explanation of the new charge under the Volunteer Reserve "Personal Emoluments, Staff and Intelligence Officer, £400."

THE PRESIDENT explained that the Volunteer Reserve as it stood at present had not the value that it should possess because it had practically no head. It was impossible to ask for one of the K. A. R. officers to be detailed to take charge of this Reserve, and moreover one officer was undertaking the whole duties of Intelligence Officer. To make the service of real value the Volunteer Reserve should be inspected and properly looked after by a Staff Officer who could take charge of or command a volunteer company under the Volunteer Ordinance; and there was a desire on the part of a good many people that this should be done. He considered that it was almost an absolute national duty in a Protectorate like East Africa to belong to the Volunteer Reserve, and he trusted that the officer appointed would be able to engender considerably more enthusiasm than at present existed in the country.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said he would be glad if information could be given as to the cause of the recent unrest amongst the Wakamba, the reasons for sending a military expedition to that country, and what was the present condition of the country.

THE PRESIDENT said that he might state at once with regard to the use of the term 'expedition' that it was entirely against his order and the wishes of the Imperial Government that ordinary patrols necessitated for the peaceful advancement of the country should be termed "expeditions." A patrol had been sent to Ukamba, but it was more of the nature of a demonstration than anything else. He asked the Hon. Acting Chief Secretary, as Secretary for Native Affairs, to say a few words as to the reasons for sending the patrol.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that reports received two months ago indicated that there was unrest in the Wakamba country, more particularly in the Machakos district, due to the supposed presence of evil spirits. The Wakamba were a very superstitious people and had suffered from time to time from hysterical outbursts. It was some years since they had seen troops and it was considered advisable to send a company of K. A. R. to patrol in their midst. A company of the K. A. R. had accordingly been in the Machakos district for one week; it met with no opposition—not even from the evil spirits—and had returned to Nairobi. At the present time Government had slightly increased the police force in order to meet with any difficulties which might arise; but it was not supposed that there would be any further trouble. As soon as the Provincial Commissioner (Mr. Hobley) returned from leave—which would be within a few days—His Excellency intended to send him to Machakos to inquire into the whole matter.

THE PRESIDENT said that the trouble had been put down to neuro-psychic-hysteria.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON also asked if any information could be given as to the military patrol sent to the Elgeyo country.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that a patrol had been sent to the Maraguet country, north of Elgeyo, and had to pass through the Elgeyo country. The Maraguet country was the last corner of the Protectorate which had remained unadministered. The Government had effected administration of all the surrounding tribes and the Turkana district, but chiefly on account of the difficulty of the country, the Maraguet had been left entirely alone. They had rather openly defied Government of late, and it was considered necessary to bring them under administration, especially as according to rumour—which was believed to be true—they were harbouring two natives who had murdered a white settler on the Uasin Gishu plateau. Two companies of the K. A. R. had therefore started for the Maraguet country. So far no news had been received but the patrol had left only a few days before.

THE PRESIDENT asked whether the alleged murderers being harboured by the Maraguet belonged to that tribe.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that the men were two Elgeyo who were supposed to have murdered a Mr. Van Breda. A great number of outcasts from other tribes had also collected in the Maraguet country in the same way as had happened on occasions in other parts with unadministered tribes.

VOTE 20 (£851).—BOMBAY AGENCY.

THE PRESIDENT, referring to this item, said that there were other Protectorates concerned in the matter, whom it was necessary to consult in order to ascertain whether they were unanimous as to the advisability of a change in the present arrangement. Generally speaking, everyone was in favour of an alteration and of handing over the work to a general commercial agency.

VOTE 21 (£35,467).—POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he would like to move as an amendment to that vote that the salary of the Hon. Postmaster-General be reduced by £10. It would have given him personally very much pleasure to move that the officer's salary should be increased because he knew the satisfactory figures that had been attained and the great improvements in the efficiency of the Post Office; but he thought it his duty to move the reduction in salary in order to show his disappointment at the failure of the Hon. Postmaster-General to advise His Excellency to provide for a reduction in the rates of Inland telegrams. The present minimum rate was Re. 1, which was excessive both for the commercial classes and for the general public, and he considered that the time had arrived when the minimum rate should be reduced to one shilling (75 cents) as in South Africa. The actual reduction, however, he would leave to His Excellency's decision.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said he would like to emphasise the remarks which the Hon. Mr. Wilson had justly made. In towns the expenses incurred by the despatch of telegrams were very considerable. A reduction was necessary and should be made.

THE PRESIDENT said that he would remind the Hon. Mr. Wilson that the Hon. Postmaster-General was not responsible for actually sanctioning the reductions in revenue. That would be the President's office.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that his statement was that the Hon. Postmaster-General had not advised His Excellency to make any reduction.

THE PRESIDENT said that as a matter of fact the Hon. Postmaster-General had advised him to make a reduction. He had every sympathy with the Hon. Mr. Wilson's desire but it was not possible to make any reduction at present. The matter was however being referred to the Imperial Government, and he trusted they would see the justice of reducing it.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON then withdrew his motion.

THE PRESIDENT added that he trusted a reduction would be effected. As a matter of business it would probably not result in any loss of revenue but would increase the expenditure.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that it would increase the expenditure but would not be likely to affect the revenue materially.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked for an explanation of the two items 'Female Accountant' and 'Allowances to sub-postmasters.'

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that the two points referred to might be said to be included in the Europeanisation—if he might use the word—of the staff of the Department which was now in progress. The intention was to take the daughters of local settlers, a number of whom were about to leave school and, having first trained them in telegraphy, to pass them afterwards into the accounts branch of the Post Office and place them under a trained female accountant. The Department would thus secure in course of time not only a staff of European female accountants but also a reserve staff of telegraphists to meet cases of emergency. The other point, *i.e.*, that of allowances to sub-postmasters, was due to the increasing number of post offices which the Department had been able to arrange to be conducted by European storekeepers on the contract system. At present there were 8 offices so worked, and he was glad to say that 5 other Europeans, intending contractors, or employées of intending contractors, were either now in Mombasa or were due to arrive by the next few steamers. Thus the number of offices worked on the contract system would be brought up to 13. Naturally these offices were mainly situated in the more healthy parts of the Protectorate.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that he had one other question to ask the Hon. Postmaster-General. He did not understand the arrangement with Uganda. Could the Hon. Postmaster-General enlighten them regarding the contribution of £120?

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL, after furnishing Hon. Members with a copy of a statement which he had prepared in the matter, explained that the general governing principle was that East Africa and Uganda each bore a proportion of the loss on the Telegraph Service. East Africa's loss that year, omitting capital expenditure, was £8,159, Uganda's loss being £4,786. The services borne on the Uganda estimates consisted of Telegraph maintenance and construction which included capital expenditure and cost altogether £7,386 for the current year. If a comparison were made of the amount contributed by Uganda towards the loss on the service, Uganda's loss represented 37% of the whole, while the scope of work in Uganda represented 21% of the whole.

VOTE 21a. (£5,570).—POST OFFICE SPECIAL EXPENDITURE.

Post Office Special
Expenditure.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said he would like to ask whether the establishment of a wireless telegraph station would result in any reduction in the rates of cables or telegrams.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that one installation at Mombasa should permit of a reduction by one half of the present rates for telegrams between Zanzibar and Mombasa, and some slight reduction in the case of up-country places. That assumed that the Zanzibar Government, which had a wireless installation, would agree to accept roughly 1½d. per word as its share of the traffic receipts, and he thought this reasonable. He however did not think that the matter had yet been referred to the Zanzibar Government in regard to the question of charges.

THE PRESIDENT asked what the effect as regards cable rates would be.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that the rates of cables to Europe and South Africa would not be affected.

THE PRESIDENT asked the Postmaster-General whether he had any information as to whether the Italian wireless station now at Massowah or Giumbo was in communication with Rome.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that he had heard that the Italian wireless station had been communicating with Italy, but the information came in an informal statement. He however rather queried it because after all it was a greater distance from Mogadiscio to Italy than it was across the Atlantic, and although wireless communication had been made across the Atlantic the plant used was very expensive and very powerful.

THE PRESIDENT said that the report was that communication had been made between Massowah and Italy.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he considered that it was quite possible, but a statement had been made that the Italians were communicating direct, *i.e.* from Mogadiscio direct to Italy.

THE PRESIDENT asked whether, if it proved to be the case that Italian Somaliland was in touch with Italy, it would be likely to affect cable rates.

THE HON. POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that it would be very hard to say in the absence of details as to charges and the number of transmitting stations which would be utilised. It at least presented the possibility of an alternative route for cables to Europe, but whether it would be cheaper was difficult to say at present.

VOTE 22 (£289,632).—RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Railway Department.

THE HON. THE MANAGER OF THE UGANDA RAILWAY explained that in the current year's estimates they had allowed for a train mileage of 900,000 but on account of the increase in the traffic from Uganda, German East Africa, and the Nyanza Province, and in addition the carriage up of material for the Jinja-Kakindu Railway, he anticipated that the train mileage would be increased to 1,200,000. For 1912-13 he had estimated for a train mileage of 1½ millions, *i.e.* an increase of 300,000 miles over that of the present year, chiefly on account of an anticipated further increase of about 600 tons of produce per month from the Lake, and in addition to that they would probably have to carry up about 20,000 tons of material for the Magadi Railway. It was also hoped that there would be a general all-round increase of produce from the Nyanza Province. Moreover the Thika tramway would bring in a considerable amount of produce during the closing months of 1912-13. There would also be a further increase of what they might call revenue-train mileage, as fuel trains would have to carry

an increased amount of fuel. The above were the chief reasons why such a large increase in expenditure was anticipated for next year. It would however be noticed, on referring to the revenue estimates, that the estimated increase in expenditure was more than counterbalanced by the estimated increase in revenue.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT asked whether the goods scheduled could be altered so as to include sisal machinery in view of the fact that there was a great deal more machinery of that description about to be ordered from home. This would shortly be unloaded at Mombasa and he contended that it should come up under the head of agricultural machinery. Under the present arrangement it was very difficult to get it sent up under that schedule.

THE HON. THE MANAGER said that he spoke under correction but he thought the Hon. Member was wrong in his statement. He understood that the Hon. Member wanted sisal machinery classed as agricultural machinery—in the same way as cotton machinery—and he believed that had been done.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said he would like to ask whether the present level of Lake Nyanza was a matter of any anxiety for the railway, and whether there was any foundation for the rumour that it might be necessary at some future time to transfer the terminus of the railway.

THE HON. THE MANAGER said that the level of Lake Victoria Nyanza was certainly unusually low at present, but from their records it had been lower in the past. There was a certain amount of inconvenience simply from the fact that the steamers, when lying fully loaded up against the wharf at Port Florence rested on the top of mud and there was some difficulty in getting them off. If the lake fell another foot or 18 inches they would probably have to dredge but there was really no difficulty at the jetty. If the rains which they were having had extended to the Lake, the lake surface would no doubt rise. According to their records the lake had risen as much as 2 feet in 6 weeks. In any case it would only be a question of a certain amount of expenditure in dredging. There was no question of having to transfer the terminus to any other place unless some abnormal fall of 5 or 6 ft. took place.

THE PRESIDENT said that in the event of such an abnormal fall the East Africa and Uganda Governments would have to consider the question of putting a barrage above the Ripon Falls. He did not however anticipate such an occurrence.

THE HON. THE MANAGER said that the expense of a barrage would only amount to some thousand pounds.

THE PRESIDENT said that an extension of the pier into the Lake would be very much cheaper.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON asked whether, in view of the growth of Nairobi and the future requirements of the township, the Hon. Manager could give an assurance that it was not contemplated to replace the present subordinates' quarters by permanent buildings on the present sites.

THE HON. THE MANAGER said that the answer was both in the negative and in the affirmative. The site for the subordinates' quarters was divided into two portions, the half next the railway and the half next Government Road. His Excellency had decided that permanent houses should be built on the half next the railway because these houses would not interfere with the future growth of the town; but, as regards the other half, adjacent to Government Road and Victoria Road, it had been decided that these houses would not be renewed in future, though a certain number had been renewed. Future houses would be built on a site which would not be likely to interfere with the future development of Nairobi.

VOTE 22A (£15,883).—RAILWAY DEPT.—SPECIAL EXPENDITURE.

THE HON. THE MANAGER said that altogether the total expenditure for next year amounted to £33,000, made up approximately of £20,000 for a new cargo boat, £6,000 for a new tug, and the balance was for the conversion of the present machinery so as to make it suitable for oil fuel in place of wood. A new cargo boat was absolutely essential in order to enable them to carry all the anticipated future traffic, especially from Uganda. The cotton and sim sim trade from there, and the opening up of the country behind Lake Chioga, would greatly increase the down traffic, and it would therefore be necessary to have another cargo boat to bring the traffic into Port Florence. The tug was required in order that they might have a regular service to the ports which were

being opened up in the Kavirondo Gulf and the Sio River. The produce of these districts was increasing every month, and although they had one tug they had not been able to keep going with only one boat. The main advantage which would be derived from the use of oil fuel instead of wood was that they would thus have a regular service of fuel. It was extremely difficult to obtain wood fuel for the steamers, and on account of the increased train mileage it was all they could do to supply the fuel required. With the introduction of oil fuel on the Lake Steamers a great deal of train mileage would be saved, and moreover the amount of space on the steamers which was at present occupied by the wood fuel would be available for other purposes, so that really, even allowing for the price per ton of oil—which cost more than wood—they would actually gain rather than lose by the transfer. They hoped to have all these increases in the fleet and alterations in fuel completed within the next fifteen months.

VOTE 23 (£24,211)—AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Agricultural Department.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that he would like to ask the Hon. Director of Agriculture whether the time had not come when the experimental farms at Kibos, Mazaras, and Nairobi should be done away with, and the money spent in a better way. He himself did not profess to be an expert, but in a large country like East Africa, where the climate and conditions of life differed greatly, it seemed that the advantages derived from these 3 farms could not be very great; he would suggest that the money now spent on these farms should be utilized in obtaining the services of expert men who could visit the various plantations and farms, and advise on any difficulties that might arise. The settler could then make experiments on his own land. In that way the experiments would cover a larger area, and it seemed to him that the Government would be getting better value for their money.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE said that it was an extraordinary thing that in all new colonies settlers were at the outset opposed to experimental farms. However, as settlement advanced and farmers realized the expense involved in carrying out experiments for themselves in order to obtain data as to the suitability of certain crops, money was simply thrown at the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of farms. In East Africa they had got a number of farmers who had little knowledge of farming, and little data on which to act, and therefore instead of cutting down the expenditure on the experimental farms he would like to have seen it largely increased. It was intended to start two experimental farms on the Uasin Gishu, but much as these farms were wanted the money was not yet available. The experiments undertaken at the Government farms had been most instructive and had furnished them with very valuable data, and he was somewhat surprised that his Hon. friend should have suggested doing away with them.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that the Hon. Director of Agriculture had not quite replied to his suggestion which was that by having experts they would be making experiments not on one particular farm but all over the country. Would that not be much more satisfactory?

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE said that in a country like East Africa an expert, though he had travelled much and made a few experiments, could not come and advise the settlers of this country without having first obtained a certain amount of local knowledge, which could only be acquired by work on the experimental farms. An expert coming out to the country to advise settlers on sisal or any other industries would have to qualify his remarks until such time as he himself had obtained a certain amount of local knowledge.

THE PRESIDENT asked if the Hon. Mr. Wilson's proposal was that the expense should fall upon the farming population and not upon Government.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that he considered the money should be utilized in obtaining the service of experts. No settler would grudge half an acre or an acre of land if the expert wanted to make experiments.

THE PRESIDENT said he did not quite follow the Hon. Member in his remark. Would the expert pay for the cost of planting?

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON pointed out that the Kibos experimental farm cost £500 and the Nairobi farm £780, a total of nearly £1,300.

THE PRESIDENT said that even supposing an expert was provided and he went and planted in various parts of the Protectorate, there would not be the close supervision that there was at one centre and therefore fewer people would

benefit. If experts were introduced, settlers would have to travel great distances in order to see the experiments being carried out, whereas at experimental farms they could see the experiments going on all together.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE said that the Department had a number of experiments going on in other parts of the country.

THE PRESIDENT asked whether the Hon. Mr. T. R. Swift would give his views as a practical farmer.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said that as far as his own experience went he thought that if his Hon. friend Mr. Wilson had wasted in experiments the amount of time and money that his own firm had expended during the first three years they were in the country, he would take quite a different view. With regard to experiments conducted on farmers' own land he thought it would be quite impossible for them to be carried out in a way that would make them really reliable even supposing they were supervised as much as possible by an officer from the Agricultural Department. He considered that such experiments would be very misleading indeed to newly arrived settlers because they would be carried on by people who had little knowledge, which was generally a very dangerous thing. It was impossible to get any reliable data from crops grown by settlers. Most of the farmers of the country had picked up any knowledge they now had since they arrived in the country. Settlers were all inclined to think that their own particular branch of farming was the best and in such instances experimental farms were of the greatest value. There they could get an unbiassed opinion and watch the cultivation of many different products. Moreover these experiments were carried out by experienced men who had the time to devote to them and whose business it was to see that they were carried out correctly. If experiments were carried out on settlers' farms, the settlers would either not possess the knowledge to carry them out correctly, or if they had the knowledge, generally speaking they had not got the time, and for that reason he thought that experimental farms were very necessary in East Africa, and that the alternative proposal would be extremely misleading.

VOTE 23a (£2,184).—AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—SPECIAL EXPENDITURE.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said he would like to ask if the Director of Agriculture could give any information as to the item "quarantine expenditure." He was pleased that the item had been reduced to less than half that of the previous year but it was still a considerable sum. He would very much like to see the amount completely wiped out, and the same or a much greater amount spent in another direction. No provision had been made in the estimates for the scientific investigation of East Coast fever. He would have preferred to have seen the amount for quarantine allocated to such a purpose rather than the expenditure of large sums of money as in the past on fences for quarantine areas, which in the light of later knowledge was striking not at the root but at the branch of the evil. He thought the money would be far better spent in further investigation of the disease rather than in groping in the dark with quarantine regulations.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE said that the Hon. Member seemed to be under the impression that the whole of the item of £1,200 was to be spent in connection with East Coast fever. It had as a matter of fact been put on the estimates with a view to spending it as follows:—Quarantine Officer £300, Production of rinderpest serum £400, East Coast fever £400, Fences £100.

Moreover a certain sum of money would be returned from the expenditure allocated to East Coast fever because the Department now charged Rs. 3 per head for immunising cattle sent to the Boma. The sum now asked for rinderpest serum was smaller than that of last year, but rinderpest was still with them, and he expected it would be for some time to come. With regard to the scientific study of East Coast fever, he might say that the Government pathologist was carrying out experiments in connection with that disease, and a sum of £400 had been included for the purpose. He would like to take that opportunity to say that the supposed large sum of money which had been spent on quarantine was special expenditure in connection with the reduction of diseases generally, and in that expenditure of capital a revenue had been obtained by the Department. They had sold for cash fencing wire to the value of Rs. 32,000 and they had issued to settlers on easy terms of payment wire to the

value of Rs. 42,000. In addition to that revenue which had still to come in, other £2,000 had been received from the sale of livestock; they had also got about £2,000 worth of wire and other material lying in stock; so that it was clear that the money which had been put down for expenditure in connection with East Coast fever had not been spent directly on that disease.

VOTE 25 (£3,490).—GAME DEPARTMENT.

Game Department.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said he noticed from the Hon. Treasurer's statement that there had been a drop in miscellaneous receipts. Was it a fact that the purchase of ivory from natives would cease on 31st March, 1912? He presumed that this referred to cow ivory and small under-weight bull ivory. Most of them to-day were in favour of the preservation of elephants, as far as they could be preserved, but if the Government no longer purchased ivory he thought it would result merely in a loss of trade. Most people were strongly in favour of the closure of the system, but he himself was of opinion that it would merely cause a diversion of trade into other channels, and that the Government would suffer loss, the ivory being diverted to the German and Italian borders, and so to other people. He would like to ask the Game Warden for further information on that point.

THE PRESIDENT said that with the permission of Council he would call the Game Warden and ask him to state his views on the matter.

THE GAME WARDEN then gave a short summary of the history of the ivory trade in the East Africa Protectorate and showed that in many cases the Government was actually losing money over the purchase of ivory at a fixed rate of Rs. 4/- per lb. owing to the fact that much of this ivory was not worth Rs. 2/- per lb. He pointed out that the genuine old ivory handed in by natives was therefore not worth the money paid for it, while the really valuable ivory handed in had been comparatively recently killed, probably with the object of selling it to Government. It therefore remained for Honourable Members to decide whether the comparatively small sum obtained from the purchase of ivory (approximately £3,000 a year) was worth the encouragement this system gave to natives to kill elephants. He was of the opinion that the closing of the system would make little or no difference to the smuggling of ivory over the borders, because the native traders who engaged in this traffic had never obtained permission to sell ivory to Government, so that the only difference the system of purchase by the Government made to them was that they had to pay the Government price for their ivory,—perhaps rather more than they would have otherwise paid.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said that, after having heard what the Game Warden had said on the subject, he was quite satisfied that the system ought to be discontinued.

THE PRESIDENT said he had previously had an opportunity of seeing the Game Warden's report on the subject, and he was of opinion that the time had come when they should seek to do away entirely with that trade in so far as Government was concerned.

VOTE 27 (£24,504).—SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

Survey Department.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT asked whether any information could be given as to what land was available for settlement, which had not already been allotted, and how soon it was expected to open up additional areas. He was constantly asked when there would be some land available. Certain plots in the Kenia Province had not yet been allotted; these were not in a reserve of any kind and were suitable for growing coffee and other expensive crops. He also understood that there were several vacancies in the Survey Department last year and that it was very difficult to get men to fill these posts because the pay was so low. He asked what arrangements were to be made in the future for getting surveyors to carry out the work, and whether arrangements could be made to get these surveys done as quickly as possible.

THE PRESIDENT said that the main area of land which the Government had under consideration for surveying was the vacant area which existed near the Nzoia River, in the District of Mount Elgon, and it was already in hand in so far as survey, but not cadastral survey, was concerned. He was afraid an exact date could not be given as to when cadastral survey would be undertaken. The delay was owing to the many vacancies which had occurred, and the work could

not be undertaken by the Royal Engineers. With regard to cadastral survey many of the men who had come out, although they were surveyors, were not suited to the class of work which had to be done under very difficult conditions in East Africa, and the pay was not always attractive. Every effort had been made to introduce Government surveyors from Australia and South Africa and they were now in a measure succeeding. A free hand would also be given to the Director of Surveys in the matter of salaries. With regard to land for the more valuable crops in the Kenia Province, Government had had its attention drawn to the fact that there was some land, which two years ago was not considered very attractive, lying between that belonging to Mr. Swift and that belonging to Sisal Ltd. down towards the junction of the Tana River. The survey of this land would be taken in hand, and a report made as to its value from that point of view, in which case a certain number of smaller plantations might be available there.

VOTE 29 (£20,217).—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE PRESIDENT said that Council would remember that the Vote for the Public Works Department had been cut down somewhat ruthlessly by himself two years ago, and it was necessary to re-adjust in so far as might be found desirable up to the minimum with which the Department could carry on. These were the recommendations of Mr. McGregor Ross who had now taken over the Department.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT asked if the Director of Public Works could give any information as to when the road between Fort Hall and Embu would be open for cart traffic. Embu was one of the largest markets, but traders in that district had great difficulty in conveying the grain to Fort Hall because at present porter transport only was available; and in view of the fact that the Thika tramway would be ready within 12 months he would like to know if there was any possibility of that road being ready for cart traffic to take produce to the end of the Thika tramway.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that the enquiry would come more correctly under the consideration of Schedule 31, vote for "New Roads and Bridges," and he would prefer to defer his reply until then.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON asked whether in the estimates for new buildings erected by the Public Works Department any percentage was added for general supervision charges, enabling a true comparison to be drawn between contract work and work done by the Department itself. It was alleged that if a true statement of all the expenditure was made, outside contractors would have a chance of building at as low a price as the Department itself, but in the estimates of buildings no allowance was made for supervision charges.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that the reply to the question was that a sum appeared in the estimates for the cost of new buildings which were required. This sum contained a proportion varying according to circumstances from $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 4% , which was actually spent upon supervision, over that contained in the Public Works Department schedule; but the prices appearing in the Estimates did not take account of charges coming under the schedule of the Public Works Department. The existence of the Department to a greater or lesser extent was necessary in view of the fact that there had been in the last 7 years new buildings erected in the Protectorate to the amount of £249,341. In addition to that, other works including roads to the value of £78,097 had been constructed, and some organisation was necessary for the preservation of these existing works in a state of efficiency. That being the case, the Public Works Department schedule as now considered was utilised in that direction as well as for the execution and control of new works, the votes for which were required in addition to charges covered by the vote now being considered for the Public Works Department.

THE HON. DR. A. E. ATKINSON said that he did not grasp the whole meaning of the explanation and asked the Hon. Director of Public Works to amplify his statement. Did he mean to say that 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was all that was allowed outside the actual cost of the materials and the actual workmen employed? Was no proportion of the items "wages of artisans," "upkeep of carts, lorries &c." debited against each vote, or was only a small proportion of the engineer's salary included in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that in the case of the vote for "Wages of Artizans during sickness and while travelling" the whole of such expenditure had hitherto been met from the actual sums of money available for various building works, and it was on account of objection being taken to that course, which falsified the cost of works in the direction of exaggerating them unduly, that the charges had now been introduced into that schedule as a special sum. It had hitherto been spread over works. Other charges—carts, lorries, &c., had not been distributed over works; that was a separate charge which Government allowed for work executed with them.

THE PRESIDENT said the point was whether any comparison in the cost of houses erected by contract and by the Public Works Department was really fictitious in so far as it did not contain all the charges which a contractor would enter. The staff of the Public Works Department had to be kept up as it was necessary for maintenance. When extraordinary works were to be undertaken a special staff was created and everything was charged to a special vote. The staff was also available for the construction of houses. Was it suggested that in every case, if they did not include all these various items and a proportion of the Director's salary, they could save more money by going outside? It would mean giving away money. If a man had a very large contract he did not employ an engineer; he employed only an architect and a builder. He did not know whether the architect's fees were added. He himself did not see how there could be a fair comparison in that way.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that Government made no charge for the drawings of buildings.

THE PRESIDENT said that in the case of sickness it should be put under general charges. He questioned whether there would be any difference between Public Works Department estimate and a building contractor's estimate. He presumed contractors' estimates exceeded the Public Works Department's own estimates?

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that when tenders were called for public buildings the tenders received in the majority of cases exceeded the amount for which the Public Works Department could have done the work.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked whether the contractor was given the work if his tender exceeded that of the Public Works Department by a small amount.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that as a rule the contractor would not get the contract, unless it happened that it was a matter of inconvenience at the time for the Department to undertake it.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that the builder started with a 10 per cent. duty on the material.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY said that the builder in many instances got the contract.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that the whole question was as to who could provide the best article for the lowest sum of money which Government had at its disposal to spend. If Government could provide a better article it naturally could not give out the contract.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said he considered that if the contractor's estimate was 10 per cent. over that of the P. W. D. he should be given the contract, because he had already paid to the Customs 10% duty on the material.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that there was another consideration, *viz*: that if the work was given out to contract it required more continuous supervision than if it were done by a Government Department.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON: Why?

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: Because a contractor is naturally liable to introduce into his work, if permitted to do so, methods calculated to increase his own profits from the contract. That is the case all over the world.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked whether a contractor who sent in a tender which was only 10 per cent. above the P. W. D.'s own estimate would secure the order.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied in the negative and said that he was only concerned with the money which was placed at his disposal. He had to get the best return he could for that money.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that after that he could not see how it was possible for contractors to get on. However he did not wish to labour the question.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON asked whether any information could be given in regard to skilled native labour.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied that the supply of skilled African labour was improving. They had quite a number of apprentices in their workshops and in the various offices who were now as good as many of the Indian artisans imported from India. They had started the systematic training of Africans under European supervision. There was not much progress to report so far, but it was fully anticipated that they would turn out yearly a number of artisans quite as skilful and as useful to the Department as the average Indian. The boys were indentured for 3 years and on expiry of the indenture they would not be bound to continue in the Department if they could get higher wages elsewhere but would be at liberty to obtain work wherever they chose.

VOTE 31 (£46,814).—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

Public Works
Extraordinary.

The President, referring to this vote, said that certain figures had required to be altered. The reason for the change was that he had cut down the estimates for major works very materially, and when the Commissioner of Police became aware of the great reductions made in his estimates he said that it was absolutely necessary to provide quarters for the Police at Mombasa, more especially on account of the health of the European Inspectors concerned.

THE HON. MR. J. H. WILSON said that the Hon. Treasurer had omitted to carry out his promise with regard to a native hospital in Mombasa.

THE PRESIDENT said that as soon as the Secretary of State's approval was secured provision would be made for it.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, replying to the Hon. Mr. Swift's question (p. 16) said that the vote for new roads and bridges was spent in instalments during the course of the year, every item of the sum being referred to His Excellency for approval before the work was commenced. The Provincial Commissioner, Fort Hall, had made strong representations as to the desirability of having the Embu road opened for cart traffic, and His Excellency had already had the project before him. It was very probable that during the next financial year the streams on that road would be bridged in such a manner as to take cart traffic. His Excellency had not come to a definite decision, but the project would be put forward in the next financial year.

THE HON. MR. T. R. SWIFT said that he trusted in the event of the rivers being bridged towards Embu a bridge similar to the one which had been built on the Tana River would not be erected as it had cost over £1,000, and he thought he was right in saying that it was only fit for cart traffic up to one ton.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that the bridge referred to would carry 4 tons, and the bridge over the Nzoia River, now being erected, 10 tons.

THE PRESIDENT asked what an ordinary bridge would cost compared with a suspension bridge.

THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that an ordinary bridge would cost more on account of the trouble in erecting piers and staging in midstream. In the case of the Tana River bridge referred to there was also considerable trouble in construction on account of the river being infested with crocodiles. Suspension bridges could be erected rapidly across streams on lines of communication where the volume of trade had not reached its stable proportions, and could be removed and used elsewhere when it became necessary supersede them by heavier types.

VOTE 35 (£68,500).

Magadi Railway.

THE HON. TREASURER moved that a sum of £68,500 be inserted in the estimates. This sum was a portion of the £350,000 sanctioned for expenditure on the Magadi Railway. The item would be made up as follows:—

£		
Regrading	...	11,100
Engines (6)	...	33,000
Bogies (40)	...	12,400
Buildings	...	1,800
Water supply	...	8,200
Brake vans (5)	...	2,000

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, seconded.

The question was put and carried.

The Council resumed its Sitting.**Prisons Bill.**

THE HON. ACTING CROWN ADVOCATE moved a resolution to withdraw the second reading of this Bill.

THE HON. ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY seconded.

THE PRESIDENT intimated that the Bill would be withdrawn until the next session of Council. It had been drafted by the Crown Advocate who would return from leave shortly and it had been considered advisable to wait his return before proceeding further with it.

The question was put and carried.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.