

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

INSTITUTE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS

JBG-63
East Africa High Commission
(18) The East African Timber
Advisory Board

Washington, D.C.
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Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The East African Timber Advisory Board was appointed by the High Commission late in 1949. It has the same Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Administrator and the Economic Secretary of the High Commission, as the Production and Supply Council and the Industrial Council. Like the Production and Supply Council, it has liaison with the East African Railways and Harbours Administration through a member nominated by that Administration. Other members of the Board include the Conservators of Forests of the three mainland territories and one member nominated by the Governor of each of those territories, presumably to represent the logging and timber milling industries. The Board has purely advisory powers and its main objective is the coordination of the policy of the mainland governments in regard to the quality control of timber exports. It is required "to advise the Governments on general policy regarding the production, distribution, utilisation and export of timber and other forest products."¹ The Board held its first meeting in 1949 and since then has met two or three times a year. The Office of the Director of Produce Disposal, the executive officer of the Production and Supply Council, provides the secretariat of the Timber Advisory Board as it does for the Industrial Council.²

With a view to establishing the reputation of East African timbers in overseas markets, the Board drew up and recommended to the three governments for parallel enactment a model bill providing for the control of quality of exported timber through its inspection, grading and marking on an East African basis. In 1950 Uganda and Tanganyika enacted parallel ordinances based on the Board's model and Kenya enacted a parallel ordinance in 1951. Grading and marking rules, requiring the use of marks "E.A.U." recommended by the Board, were subsequently made by the territories.

The Board has also dealt with pest control and wood preservation. It approved a draft paper on this subject in 1951 and recommended that the governments publish it as a prelude to possible legislation to enforce anti-pest and preservative treatment of timber by saw-millers. The Board has also been concerned with the standardization of nomenclature - the compulsory use of fixed trade names for specified timbers and forest products. It has given attention to transit storage for timber at the ports. A sub-committee was set up to study means of obtaining more adequate statistics on timber and forest products. Efforts of the Board to persuade the territories to adopt uniform internal controlled prices had not succeeded by 1951.

Sincerely,



John B. George

F.S.

Footnotes

1. Mitchell Despatch, par. 20 (See sources below)
2. JBG-61 on East African Production and Supply Council and JBG-62 on East African Industrial Council.

Sources

East Africa High Commission, Interterritorial Cooperation: Work of the East Africa Central legislative Assembly, Despatch No. 1/52, 19th May, 1952, from F.E. Mitchell, Chairman, East Africa High Commission, to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Colonial Office, Annual Report on the East Africa High Commission 1949.

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