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App. for
New Zealand

1914

B. Feb

Land Grant in E.A. Prot.
Appn of Mr. R. Hess

at previous Paper.

A copy letter from Mr. Hess & comments relating to
Appn that matter may be considered in proper quarter
& requests to be info. of result in order to reply to Mr. Hess.

W. Keith

R. Hess

Asst. Off. Dist. Secy

To B. B. B. B.

C. O. 5797

Mr. G. F. F. F.

(A) 12.2.14

I have communicated the correspondence
on this matter to the Land Office.
The Land Office
for the first said that the application was
not receivable and before Nov. 24, 1910
had suggested application to Land Chamber
but then preferred to wait for further
without any encouragement from
the Land Office & with little if any
from the Kaiotei Solicitors (we have
not got his constant view, to them).

When in Oct. 1913 he finally decided
to apply for land chamber the matter

subsequent Paper

W. 1000-210, 43,000, 12/13, A. B. W.

System had been introduced, it was
published in the Govt Gazette of 15.2.13

This case differs from that of S. Forbes
in that there is no allegation of a
purchase of land in Kachipia & no
suggestion that he has suffered
damage.

The reference in the letter to the
machinery for allotments, to take
place in 6 months must be to
the Special allotment to be accorded
to the Kachipia class only. ~~though it is~~
~~not clear how this can have been~~
~~settled previously.~~ If completed by
2 Oct. (i.e. by 5a comp. despatch)
& arrangements are already in
progress.

I do not think we need refer this
to the Governor.

I inform the HCA that since February
1913 the auction has been adopted
as the regular means of disposing of
Crown land & the L.A.A. and that all persons
applying to the land are required to
take this course. The other land found
out that he has appears to have ~~disputed~~
deliberately decided not to (have) applied
himself to the office of land, other than
the Kachipia, made to him in NO. 1910
and that he has no complaint if
when he does make a general application
he finds the conditions for acquisition
changed. And he might add that the

reference in Mr. Kern's letter to an
allotment of land shortly to be placed
before them to relate to the

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Special arrangements necessary to
satisfy the claims of those holders of
land in the West who had to give
up their holdings in order to make
room for the Indians.

W.B.

18/2/14

Return original documents in
Mr. Kern's letter keep copies,
✓ send copy of everything before
for info. AT.

So proposed? - He has no cash.

H. J. R.

18/2/14

Alone

19.2.14

Summary of correspondence

1. 15.4.10 Agric. Dept. to Mr Kerr
Gives general info on the Protn
No offer of land & no mention of
Lankipia
2. 5.8.10 Mr Kerr to ~~Land~~ Solicitors
Encloses deposit of £5 in application
for 5000 acres Lankipia They to apply.
3. 3.9.10 Land Officer to Mr Kerr
ack & deposit Has heard from
Solicitors & will keep deposit pending
definite instructions from them
4. 3.9.10 Land Officer to Solicitors
District not yet open & application
cannot be entertained. What should
be done with deposit?
5. 26.9.10 Solicitors to Mr Kerr
Please copy of no. 4, to which
they had replied asking for the deposit
to be returned till the district was
thoroughly open
6. 24.11.10 80 Land Officer has informed them
that the deposit could not be
held on site of Lankipia. It
could be held as a deposit for any
other allotment area or refunded.
Mr ^W later, had asked them what was
to be done with the money.
They asked for instructions.

7. 7.3.11 80 Lich. letter of
19 Dec (not here). has delayed
answering in the hope that the
Lichipria could be shown open at
early date. As prospect of this &
have applying for refund of £5,
at the same time asking as to
prospects of Lichipria being
shown open. If he counts them
favorably for Lichipria when open
L. should send Minutes of Meeting.
8. 11.11 80 Lich. letter of 10 Oct (not here)
Agreeing that L. has no interest.
Lichipria probably not closed & be
shown open. Will write later.

9. 16.9.12 80 Lich. letter of 1.9.12
✓ Minutes of Meeting done and
Land Office further on to Lichipria
prospects - he can't think it will be
less than 6 months. He will not
get priority.

10. 25.9.12 80 Land Office says
"Lichipria prospects are indefinite
as ever. Every reason to suppose
it will be opened up next year but
nothing definite."

14.10.13. Solicitors to Land Office.

If Lichipria still not
available ask for land

elsewhere at next allotment

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12. 31.10.13 Land Office to Solicitors.

L. on the Lichipria application
must bid at auction



WESTMINSTER CHAMBERS
13 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON S.W.

13th February, 1914.

5797

REC'D

RECEIVED FEB 14

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner to enclose herein copy of a letter addressed to him by Mr. Robert Kerr, a former resident of New Zealand, now in Johannesburg. The subject of his letter, it will be seen, is with regard to an allotment of land which he wishes to obtain in British East Africa, and the correspondence in original which he has forwarded and which I send herewith will explain the matter.

If Mr Kerr's letter and the correspondence he sends can be considered in the proper quarter, the High Commissioner would be obliged and he would be glad to learn the result to enable him to reply to Mr Kerr's letter. With your reply perhaps you will kindly return to this Office the original correspondence which Mr Kerr will of course wish to have sent back to him.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

[Signature]
Secretary to the Department.

The Under Secretary of State,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
Downing Street,
S.W.

Copy.

P.O. BOX 2584, JOHANNESBURG

December 2nd

1913. 5797

REC'D

REGD 16 FEB 14

Sir,

I am taking the liberty of writing to you on the subject of an allotment of land which I wished to obtain in British East Africa and enclose herewith the correspondence which has passed between my solicitors in Nairobi, B.E.A., and the Land Office there with regard to the matter.

As you will see, the first correspondence took place as far back as April 5th 1910, and, as matters seemed to be getting no further forward, I took a trip up to Nairobi in October last only to be informed that it was impossible for the Land Office to entertain my application and if I required land I must purchase same at an auction sale (see letter of October 31st 1913). Now Sir as you yourself have been years in Parliament in New Zealand and have held the most important position that any Member could be honoured with, viz., Prime Minister, I think that if you read through this correspondence you will agree with me that I have not had a square deal, and as a New Zealander who came out herewith a New Zealand Contingent during the late S. African War I appeal to you for your kind assistance in bringing this matter before the Colonial Office and seeing if my name cannot be put on the list for grants of land which will be allotted in about six months' time.

Of course I know that I am asking a great favour of you and my only grounds for doing so are that we are fellow countrymen and that it is impossible for me to apply to the High Commissioner of South Africa Sir Richard Solomon (whom I knew personally) as he is now

now dead and his successor is not yet appointed.

I may say that I took my discharge in South Africa at the time of peace and have been living in Johannesburg since that time and I am well known to either or both of the following gentlemen, Senator W.K. Tucker and Colonel Sir Aubrey Woolls-Sampson, M.L.A., should any reference personal or otherwise be required.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind assistance, and trusting to hear from you in the near future.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) ROBERT KEHR.

To the Hon. High Commissioner for New Zealand.

Y.
1/2a.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

15th April, 1911.

R. KERR, ESQ.,

3, BOX STREET

JOHANNESBURG.

SIR,

In reply to your enquiry regarding agricultural prospects in this Protectorate, I have the honour to give you the following information:-

The Country may be, for practical purposes, divided into three belts -

- (a) Coast
- (b) Highlands
- (c) Lake.

the various classes of agriculture being carried out according to Tropical, Sub-tropical and temperate conditions prevailing.

(a) and (c) Coast and Lake Belts. The districts of the Coast, along the Tana and Juba Rivers, and around Lake Victoria Nyanza. These are tropical regions producing cocoanut, rubber, Maize, SimSim, Rice and Cotton, Tobacco, fibres and Ground Nuts, all of which promise well for a local and export trade.

(b)

(b) Highlands. Extending from about 300 miles along the Uganda Railway to the descent to Lake Victoria (50 miles from Kisumu, the Lake Port). This area comprises large tracts of agricultural and grazing land, capable of producing remunerative crops and rearing stock of all classes.

The following are the chief crops under cultivation:- Maize, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Potatoes, Coffee, Linseed, Lucerne, Fibres, Beans, Peas, Mung, Ground Nuts, etc., all of which do well in their respective districts.

Stock, comprising Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs and Ostriches are successfully raised.

The market for Stock and Agricultural Produce is at present good, but with the development of our agricultural resources it is only to be expected that prices will drop.

Government Farms have been established at the Coast, Mazeras - in the Highlands, Nairobi (general), Naivasha (stock) - Lake District, Kibei - for conducting experiments in the various products of the country: and information regarding agricultural subjects is supplied to settlers through the medium of a Quarterly Agricultural Journal.

Rainfall There are two seasons, referred to as the long and short rains; the former occurs from April to July and the latter in October and November.

The

The rainfall for 1909 registered at

Mombasa	62.68
Nairobi	30.50
Kisumu	33.84

and there is a range of temperature through the Protectorate of from 40° to 99°.

Agricultural implements etc. may be purchased in the country, a number of the large home firms being represented.

labour. This is somewhat indifferent in quality; but on the other hand the wages paid (Rs. 2 to Rs. 5) are low

I have etc.

(sd) L. CARPENTER

for Director of Agriculture.

Box.2584 JOHANNESBURG

August 5th, 1910.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing in this registered letter to you an order for £5.0.0. for a deposit on an application for a section of (5000) five thousand acres of land in the Likiep District, British East Africa, which I wish you to make on my behalf to the Land Office, Nairobi and also an order for £1.0.0. for you to take your expenses out of.

I have been advised by Dr. Robert England Kerr, The Oval Jeppestown to write to you to get you to make the application for me, I should like the land to be suitable for sheep and agricultural purposes and I should consider it a great favour if you would inform me at your earliest convenience when the selection of the land takes place, so as I can make some arrangements to get somebody to select the land for me.

Trusting that you will receive this safely and awaiting a reply.

I am etc.,

(sd) ROBERT KERR

MESSRS HARRISON AND MEAD

SOLICITORS, NAIROBI, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

L.1625 LI/EE

LAND DEPARTMENT
NAIROBI

3rd September, 1910.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your Money Order for
Rs.75/- in respect of an application for land.

Messrs. Byron and Harrison, Solicitors, have
communicated with me on the subject, and the above-
mentioned sum has been placed to your credit pending
definite instructions from this firm.

I am etc.,

(sd) C. A. CAMPBELL

for Land Officer.

W. H. KERR, ESQ.,

P.O. BOX No. 2594,

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA.

Y.

1625/LL/LL.

LAND DEPARTMENT

NAIROBI

3rd September, 1910.

Gentlemen,

Re R. Kerr.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo applying for 5000 acres at Laikipia on behalf of the above named gentlemen.

The district in question is not yet open for allotment, your application, therefore, cannot be entertained.

A money order for Rs.75/ has been received from your client, and I shall be glad if you will kindly inform me what it is desired shall be done with this amount.

I am etc.

(sd) G. H. CAMPBELL

For Land Officer

MESSRS BYRON AND HARRISON

NAIROBI.

252
Y.
NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

26th September, 1910.

Dear Sir,

We duly received your letter of the 8th August and money order for Rs.15 for which we thank you, and in accordance with your instructions put in an application for 5000 acres for you in the Laikipia district. We send you a copy of the reply we received from the Land Officer, to which we replied that it was best if they would hold the Rs 75/- for the deposit until the district is thrown open. We have this morning received your second letter of the 6th instant and we will let you know when we have anything further to report.

Yours etc.,

(sd) BYRON AND HARRISON

BLT KEM, ESQ.,
P.O. Box, 2584.

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA.

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

24th November, 1910.

Dear Sir,

We hope you received our letter of the 26th September. Subsequently the Land Officer wrote to say that he could not accept the Rs.75/- you sent as a deposit on a farm in the Laikipia district but it might be accepted as a deposit for any open allotment area - or it will be refunded. The Land Officer has written us a second time today wanting to know what we wish done with the Rs.75/-.

We shall be glad to hear your wishes as we cannot very well advise you not knowing if you have any preference for one locality here over another. Possibly you may know some one here whom you could rely on to select a good farm for you.

Yours etc.,

(sd) BYRON AND HARRISON

T. KERR ESQ

BOX 2584

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA.

COPY.

NAIROBI

EAST AFRICA

7th March, 1911.

Dear Sir,

Laikipia application.

We duly received your letter of 29th December last but delayed answering in the hope there might some prospect of the above District being thrown open at an early date.

As however we now fear there is very little prospect of this we are applying for a refund of your deposit at the same time asking if we can be given any approximate date. Shall we retain the deposit when refunded or send it to you and do you wish to make an application when the district is thrown open. If so it would be well to send up a short Power of Attorney, which should be attested by a Notary Public or Magistrate, in favour of ourselves or anyone else you may select to apply in your name.

Yours etc.,

(sd) BYRON AND HARRISON

KERR, ESQ.,

BOX 2584

JOHANNESBURG

TRANSVAAL.

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

6th November, 1911.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo. We agree that at present the only thing to do is to let things stand. There is no good land to be obtained from Government just now and the Laikipia land will probably be the next to be thrown open, which you would care to take up. We will let you know how things go on here as regards opening up the country and will await your further instructions.

Yours etc.,

(a) BYRON and HARRISON

C. REED ESQ.,

Box No. 2684

JOHANNESBURG.

COPY.

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

16th September, 1912.

Dear Sir,

We are today in receipt of your letter of the 1st instant with the Power of Attorney enclosed and note what you say. We are writing to the Land Office again just to remind them of your application and to enquire about the opening of the Laikipia district.

We personally do not think it can possibly come before 6 months are over.

As regards your application you will come in with anyone else when the district is opened as you get no priority.

Yours etc.,

(sd) HARRISON AND SALMON

ROBERT KERN, ESQ.,

Box 2584,

JOHANNESBURG.

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

23rd September, 1912.

Dear Sir,

Referring to our letter of the 16th instant we have today had a reply from the Land Officer that he is "as indefinite in his knowledge about Laikipia as before but there is every reason to believe that this land will be opened up next year - however nothing definite can be stated."

That is all we can get. We will endeavour to keep you advised however.

Yours etc.,

(sd) HARRISON AND SALMON

HARRISON, ESQ.,

P.O. BOX 2594,

JOHANNESBURG.

14th October, 1913.

Sir,

R. Kerr, Application for land Laikipia.

We beg to draw your attention to our former correspondence hereon, the Serial No. of your letters being L.1625.

As you will see, our client's application was originally made in the year 1910 when a deposit of Rs.75/- was paid by our client but subsequently returned to us as there appeared to be no probability of the land being available within a reasonable time.

Our Client now writes us again enquiring as to the position and suggests that, if the Laikipia is still not available, he should be allotted a farm elsewhere.

We accordingly have the honour to make a formal application on behalf of our Client that he be allowed to select a farm from the next allotment, if no suitable farm is available at present, and that in view of the long standing nature of his application for Laikipia, that he be charged only Survey Fees and cost of deeds in accordance with the former practice.

We understand that such an application as the present has to come before His Excellency the Governor and we shall therefore be glad if you could bring it to his notice at an early date, when we should hope to have the advantage of your recommendation.

We have etc., (sd) HARRISON, SALMON & CRESSWELL

HONOURABLE

THE LAND OFFICER.

LAND DEPARTMENT

NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

31st October, 1913.

Gentlemen,

R. Kerr. Application for land, Kaimipia.

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant I regret to inform you that it is impossible to entertain your application.

Should your client require a farm, it will be necessary for him to purchase same at auction, of which due notice will appear in the Official Gazette.

I am etc.,

(sd) J. E. ALEXANDER

for Land Officer.

SRS HARRISON, SALMON AND CRESSWELL

NAIROBI.

~~46~~
MO

5797/1914

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New Zealand
EAP

25 Feb. 1914

The Sec. Office of the
DRAFT

The High Commissioner
for New Zealand

25 Feb 13
Sir,

I am here to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter of
the 13 of February, on

MINUTE

Mr. Harper 20/2/14
Mr. Bottomley 20/2/14
Mr. G. Fiddler 21/2/14
Mr. H. Just.
Mr. J. Anderson.
Mr. Emmott.
Mr. Harcourt.

~~and to inform you that the~~
subject of the application
of Mr. Robert Merr for
an allotment of land
in the EAP and to
L.H.V.

and to inform you that since
Feb. 1913, public auction
has been adopted as the
regular means of disposing
of Crown land in the
North and that all
previous applicants are

original enclosures
(shaping copies)

Copy 162 25 Feb 14

[P.T.O.]

required to ^{bring an action} ~~take the~~
^{order to} ~~cause~~ to acquire land

2. I am to point out
that Mr Kerr appears to
have deliberately decided not
to avail himself of the offer
of land, other than in
Laikipia, made to him
in Nov. 1910, and that
^{there is no good cause}
he has ~~no ground~~ for
^{against the Govt on the ground of}
complaint, if when he
^{an alteration in the}
does make a general
application he finds the
conditions for acquisition
of land during the three years which have
~~changed~~ elapsed.

3. I am to add that the
reference in Mr Kerr's letter
to an allotment of land shortly
to take place would appear to
relate to the special arrangements
necessary to satisfy the claims of
share holders of land in the Mts
who had to give up their
holdings in order to make
room for the Masai on their removal to the ^{new} Northern Reserve.
The originals to your letter are returned.

[I think we have
cause to object that
reference to his general
holding for the purpose
of his field or for his
to come "for the land
without an action
Oct 1911