



for the Land Bank the situation would be very much eased.

As things are at present he thinks that the European Unofficials may walk out when the Budget is introduced, which will have serious results and start a lot of propaganda. The position is that many of the farmers in Kenya have come to the end of their tether, have nothing to lose, and are therefore ripe for raising any kind of trouble. He hoped that when a new Governor was appointed the new Governor would be a sound business man who would show himself accessible to the Elected Members, more accessible than Sir Joseph, and would try to get them to evolve round a table schemes for the betterment of Kenya as a whole. Mr. Hoey was careful not to say European settlers or natives or Indians - he takes the view that Kenya has got to stand as a whole and that the natives are just as much a part of the body politic as anybody else, though at the present moment, and in the past, they have not been so important as the Europeans.

My general impression was that if all the Elected Members of Kenya were like Mr. Hoey there would be no trouble, provided that he was reasonably dealt with by Govt. I am also left with the impression that there may be some trouble in Kenya with the wild men. I should like to see the Land Bank get its extra half a million and I should further like to see General Rhodes's Railway policy implemented which means reducing rates after a reasonable reserve has been built up, and getting the reserve by cutting down the at present extravagant provision for renewals. I am, however, really perturbed to learn that there is such trouble between the Governor and

even the saner Unofficials. He has a difficult job, exposed as he is to general insult - and, at that, by people whose character and habits are not such as to call for much respect, which is unfortunately true of the leaders of Kenya - but he is not by nature a very tactful person and he might offend them. At the same time also there is great risk of taking the settler too seriously, and in the past their actions and utterances have not been such as to encourage confidence.

J. I. O. 762  
23.9

*Really interesting record. I too get the impression that we are up against a settler problem, a case where the settler will not bring credit to any bank, certainly not to the C.O. Possibly Sir J. Dwyer's recent suggestion of getting one more Assistant, unconnected with the C.O., may give some promise of a solution, or at any rate help the holders in debt.*

*John*  
23/9/35

Would it be useful if I had a talk with Mr Holy whilst he is over here? I would gladly do so.  
M.M.  
24.9.35

against a brick wall of debt. They have done their best to pay interest to the Banks but are now beginning to lose the capacity for doing that, and the Banks are faced with the prospect of seeing the debts due to them grow and grow without hope of repayment. Mr. Holy's contribution to the situation was that the capital of the Land Bank should be largely increased (I told him that we were considering the proposal to add £500,000 to it and hoped, if we could, to get it agreed to) and to set up a sort of general Board - the Land Bank would do quite well if expanded a bit - containing representatives of the Banks, the more responsible settlers and the Govt., with a view to hammering out some reasonable proposals for relief of agricultural debts, not, Mr. Holy hastened to say, for everybody, but only in the case of the reputable farmer who could make an attempt to recover and whose recovery would be hastened by financial assistance on reasonable terms. He thought that if such a Board were set up the Banks would be only too willing to scale down the liabilities due to them and might even carry out such scaling down to a very large extent.

We then got on to rather more controversial topics. He said, speaking very frankly, that while he liked the Governor very much indeed he thought that his attitude towards the Unofficials was at times exceedingly tactless, while if approached out of hours, even by men like himself who were members of Council, on matters relating to the country, he either failed to understand or simply refused to discuss. Further, a bad impression was made in Council from time to time by the way in which the Govt.'s spokesmen would

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J. I. O. 7  
23.9

Very interesting record. I too got the impression that in all up against a settler "gesture" a comp monte which will not bring over to anybody, certainly not to the C.O. Possibly Sir J. Byrne's recent reputation of just now and visitant, unimpaired with the C.O., may consequently furnish a solution, or at any rate keep the headache in check.

J. I. O.  
23/5/35

Would it be useful if I had a talk with Mr Hoey whilst he is over here? I would gladly do so.

M.M.  
29/1/35

3

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would at times return blank negatives. He instanced the last occasion on which the question of Kenya's debt had been raised, when instead of giving a reasoned explanation of the debt, how and when it had been contracted and why it could not be repaid, the Treasurer simply contented himself with saying that Mr. Sandford was going on leave and would discuss the question in London. I told Mr. Hoey some of the facts about the debt in order to show him that we had been considering the question here and that the Govt. of Kenya had been considering it, and he said that he, for one, fully realised all this but that if the Govt. representatives of Council had only chosen to get up and say it the <sup>truth</sup> ~~situation~~ on that point would be ended and the Unofficial Members would cease their attacks, because they would then be satisfied, either that something was being tried or that nothing in fact could be done without making the situation worse.

Another suggestion of his was that the Unofficial representatives on the Executive Council might be increased from two to three or four. As things are at present the Governor recommends the leader of the Unofficials, whoever he may be, and one other, and that hardly gives scope enough for representing the various shades of opinion among the Unofficials. He thought that if they got a little more representation on Executive Council, which would enable them to see how the wheels of Govt. go round, and if they got the increased money  
for

C.2 (Nominal)  
(Executive Council)  
Kenya Co.

23/9  
S. J. S.

At the suggestion of Mr. McCrae, Mr. A. G. Hoey, one of the Elected Members in the Kenya Legislative Council, representing the plateau district, called <sup>on Tuesday</sup> ~~the~~ morning and had a long talk about things in general in Kenya and in particular in regard to the Colonial politics. It was understood that the talk was in no sense official and that we had the right to refer to spades as spades, while Mr. Hoey was not going to use in evidence against us anything that we might say.

As a result we had a very frank and interesting discussion, extending over about an hour and a half. Mr. Hoey is of opinion that feeling in Kenya between the European population and the Govt. is getting exasperated. He said that, rightly or wrongly, the opinion had got abroad that the governmental machine was much too costly and would have to be cut down. I pointed out that it was difficult to do so without upsetting essential services, and that as regards the emoluments of officials there was a great deal of misunderstanding and that they could scarcely be reduced further without serious detriment to the Public Service of Kenya, while there was a risk that the official population would get disheartened. I pointed out that no good was served by the persistent propaganda, articles and correspondence appearing in the "East African Standard" and telegraphed home to the press in this country. Mr. Hoey agreed with me but said that the "East African Standard" was regarded as nothing but, to use his own words, "Grogan's Gazette" and was simply used to represent the views held by

Mr. Grogan

Mr. Grogan and the extreme 'left wingers' of Kenya. He himself fully realized the harm that was done by the tone of the "East African Standard" but he said the fact had to be faced that the harm was being done and has been done <sup>and he</sup> but thought that Govt. would be well advised to make some attempt at overhauling its machinery.

He said that if something could be stated to the effect that the sons and daughters of residents in Kenya would be considered for appointments in Kenya it would go a long way to relieve the friction between the official and the settler. Mr. Freeston and I pointed out that with unified Colonial Services the trouble would be that anybody appointed in Kenya would simply stay there, which would do them no good. Mr. Hoey hazarded the suggestion that Kenya should be cut right out of the Colonial system and left to run itself. He did not mean by this any kind of self-government, in fact he realized that self-government for Kenya would be impossible for generations, but what he meant was that it should be regarded as a unit left very largely to staff itself with its own children, with, of course, a stiffening of sound people from outside. He admitted that they had some very good officials in Kenya without whom the country could hardly have functioned.

He then got on to finance. His general opinion was the same as that held by most of us - that the Kenya farmers are up against

Sir J. Mackay  
Sir C. Wintombly

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With reference to the S. of S. minute I think that on the whole it would be a good thing if he could find time to see Mr. Hoey. That gentleman represents the moderate element and does not hold with the wild men and a talk with the S. of S. might do much good.

The objection is of course that to see the S. of S. might give Mr. Hoey too much an idea of himself and of the importance of the settlers generally and further that the Governor might resent it. But I don't think Mr. Hoey is at all the sort of man to get inflated ideas - he didn't attend that way - and the Governor would not I think object. (Anyhow the S. of S. can surely see anyone he likes!).

So, if the S. of S. can manage it I advise that Mr. Hoey be asked to call.

(I haven't an address for him and he leaves by air on 9 October but we can get him through Mr. James Dyer Crad at the Sports Club or very likely through the National Bank of India.)

J. S. W. Head

2.10.

*his address is  
A. Sports Club*

Mr. Hoey is one of the oldest residents of Kenya (at a figure I shall say some 1907) - I do not think that an interview with him would upset either side of the Governor. I welcome this suggestion.

W.S. 2.10.

I agree (or I shall very much like to be present - but perhaps that might not be so good for official)

*John*  
3/16

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Mr. Hoey —

3-10-35

A.C. Hoey —

4-10-35

Accepts invitation for discussion at C.O.  
on 8-10-35.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

S. J. saw Mr. Hoey on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Oct.  
P. H. C.

J. P. [unclear]  
16/10 at [unclear]

2. 298 [unclear] [unclear]  
R. 50 [unclear] [unclear]

3

J. McHae —

12-11-35

Trs. letter in orig from Mr. Hoey  
expressing appreciation in regard of the  
interview accorded him.

Executive Council  
Suggestion that unofficial  
representation be increased  
from two to three or four.

P. H. C.  
[unclear] 18-11

18-11

W. Hoey [unclear]  
[unclear] 53.

San [unclear]

W. S.  
18-11-35

Est. Hoey  
18/11/35

190 [unclear] (3)

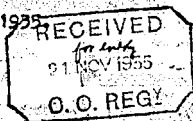
W. S.

3  
LASIS  
(REGISTERED)

8  
FIBRE PRODUCTS

JAMES McCRAE, WELLINGTON FOUNDRY, LEEDS. 1.

12th November, 1935



Dear Mr Flood,

I did not have an opportunity of seeing Mr. Hoey after his discussion with the Secretary of State, but a letter has come from him by this mail, and from what he tells me I have every hope that good results will come from those informal talks.

This letter for you was enclosed in mine with the request to hand it to you. However, I don't expect to be in town for some time, so I will post it.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.E.W. Flood Esq, C.M.G.

Colonial Office,

London. S.W.1

212A  
1935

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TRADING: "HOEY, ELDORET"

TELEPHONE No. 50.

P.O. BOX 50,

ELDORET,

KENYA COLONY.

18th October, 1935.

---Flood, Esq.,  
c/o The Colonial Office,  
London.

Dear Mr. Flood,

I have just arrived back in Kenya by the last airmail. One of the first things I wish to do is to write to you and tell you how greatly I appreciated the opportunity which you so very kindly afforded for a discussion over Kenya affairs. More so do I wish to thank you for being so good as to arrange for an interview between the Secretary of State and myself. It was indeed kind of you to provide a person like myself with the opportunity of a heart-to-heart talk with the Secretary of State.

I may say that I found the Secretary of State extremely sympathetic and attentive to the many points of view which I put up to him. Naturally one could not expect to reach an agreement on all points, but I hope the effect of the interview will be to endeavour to reach a closer understanding on the many vital problems which affect Kenya.

Thanking you again so much, and with kindest

regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*A. C. Hoey*

7  
END