

1924  
~~1923~~

KENYA

C.O.  
6065  
7 FEB 24

FROM *Geo  
Coryndon*

DATE  
*Conf. 4th Jan, 1924*  
*6.*

FOR CIRCULATION :-  
Mr. *Boltonley*  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Asst. U.S. of S.  
*+ [Signature]*  
*18/4/24*  
Perm<sup>r</sup> U.S. of S.  
Part<sup>r</sup> U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

85  
*Kenya Coffee Plantations*  
*to*  
*consider encouragement*  
*of scheme inadvisable.*

Previous Paper

*M.6*  
*44547*  
*'23*

MINUTES

*Mr Holm's suggestion for dealing  
with enquiries is not really  
very helpful.*

*We have to consider*

- (i) what if anything we are to  
say to the Company itself;*
- (ii) the terms of our promised  
further letter to Messrs. Stoneham;*
- (iii) what in general O.S. Dept.  
are to say to engineer.*

*as regards (i), I think that  
in view of Mr. Barham's letter  
attached to 44547/23, we  
have the Co. to make the next*

*To Stoneham, Leno - 22 FEB 1924*

*[Handwritten signature/initials]*

Subsequent Paper

*Re S. 301/25*  
*M.I. 19705/26*

*copy  
sent*

move.

(ii) - (iii) require caution.  
We must not - especially  
on the somewhat meagre  
evidence before us - lay  
ourselves open to the  
charge of "crabbing" the  
Company: at the same  
time where if not to  
the Govt. are the public  
to look for unbiased  
advice.

Perhaps we had  
better say that the S.G.S.  
cannot undertake to  
give advice as to  
the financial standing  
of a Company or as to  
the ability of a Company  
to carry out the promises  
which it may make  
in its public announce-  
ments: it is for their  
interest to make  
enquiries on these points  
and

and decide for them-  
selves as a result of  
their enquiries. Generally,  
the S.G.S. is advised that  
coffee planting in Kenya  
requires to be undertaken  
on a fairly large scale  
if an income sufficient  
to support a European  
family is to be  
realised.

for

? So reply to

messrs. Strickham &  
Mr. Brownish to see  
Mr. afterwards.

C.J.G. 22.24

At all events it seems fairly  
clear that nothing is known  
locally against the bona fides of  
the Company. But the  
dedicated and its evidence  
are very perfunctory. Besides

Have already (if I understand  
the barometer correctly) taken  
up land under the volume, &  
anything on the actual position  
& business would have been  
useful.

In Jeffries' proposed letter to  
Mr. Sturtevant comes, I fear, a  
little badly after our telling  
them that we were waiting for a  
rebuttal. But I would write  
as he proposes, & when he gets  
them ready, put them off on to  
Mr. Sturtevant, who will be here in a  
few weeks.

Wash. 18. 2. 24

at once

H. J. R.

1874/24

Mr. Brewster has seen

our note attached

H. J. R.  
12/3/76



OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OFFICE.

34, CLEMENT'S INN,

LONDON, W.C.2.

24.  
Dear Mr Jeffries.

We have made

careful note of the  
contents of enclosed  
report - Kenya Coffee Plantations Ltd.

A file is now instituted

for further use

Very truly yours

Yours Sincerely  
Austen Brownie

KENYA.

No. 6.

CONFIDENTIAL.



83.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA

7th January, 1924.

My Lord Duke,

With reference to Your Grace's Confidential despatch of the 12th September last, I have the honour to report that the small 10 acre subdivisinal scheme there mentioned has not been further pressed beyond the original application, and that there has been subsequently presented another scheme which provides for allotments of between 31 and 561 acres each in area.

2. I attach a memorandum by the Director of Agriculture dealing with the economic aspects of such holdings.

3. The delay in replying to Your Grace's despatch is regretted. The operations of this Company have been brought to the notice of this Government in another connection on which further enquiries have been necessary. There does not appear at present to be grounds for any Government action on the matter, but it would appear inadvisable to give any encouragement to their scheme.

I have the honour to be,  
My Lord Duke,  
Your Grace's most devoted and  
most obedient servant,

*R. T. Compton*

GOVERNOR ~~IN DEPUTY~~

HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.,

*M. G.*  
*44547*  
*23*  
Memorandum.

MEMORANDUM BY THE HON. DIRECTOR OF  
AGRICULTURE.

\*\*\*\*\*

The advertisement to which the Secretary of State has drawn attention offers attractions and proceeds along lines adopted by Land Development Companies in different countries. Their interests are usually and primarily financial, and they develop the property largely with the money advanced by investors. These investors under a 10 ac. or similar scheme do not become settlers, indeed under the scheme of this Company as originally laid down residence was not permitted on the 10 ac. block.

As to the returns, if any, which such investors may get in the future I am unable to offer an opinion at present. In any case the share of profit on a 10 acre portion of a coffee plantation would be a comparatively small one.

It would appear, however, that the Company has now revised its original proposals and that settlers are being sought for holdings of about 100 acres, and on payment of £14 per acre - half down and half over 4 years - the Company undertakes to plant 40 acres of coffee; also to cultivate a further 40 acres. In my opinion, even under that larger scheme the profits are not likely to be sufficient to support a European family.

I would not advise the Secretary of State to give schemes of this kind his consideration, rather would it appear advisable to indicate to enquirers that they should satisfy themselves as to the offer made and the conditions -

( 2 )

conditions attaching thereto.

Sd. Alex Holm.

24/12/23.

( 2 )

conditions attaching thereto.

Sd. Alex Holm.

24/12/23.



For 6065/24 Kenya

6  
20:58  
21

22 Feb 1924

DRAFT

sent  
K.

426/24 with further reference to your

Messrs. Honeham Sons.

letter No. 4763 of the 2nd of Jan,

MINUTE.

Mr. Bux Feb 14.

Mr. Jeffries 19.2

Mr. Boltanley 20/2 f.

Sir C. Davis

Sir G. Grindle

Sir H. Read

Sir J. Masterton Smith

Mr. Ormsby-Jones

Duke of Devonshire

regarding the Kenya Coffee

Plantation Ltd. ~~amts to~~

2. you will appreciate that <sup>the S.P.S.</sup> ~~say that he~~ cannot undertake to prospective investors

to give advice as to the financial

standing of a company or as

to the ability of a company

to carry out the promises

which it may make in its public <sup>in his opinion</sup> announcements. It is for

those interested to make

I am to inform you that he has now received the despatch from the Gov. of Kenya which the Duke of Devonshire decided to await before deciding what reply could properly be given to your letter of the 24th of Oct.

inquiries on these points  
themselves and to  
decide for themselves

what action they should

take <sup>in the light of the</sup> as a result of their

inquiries

On the general  
question of the prospects  
of success for persons

3. I am to advise generally  
undertaking coffee planting  
in Kenya. I am to say

that Mr Thomas is advised

that <sup>the</sup> coffee planting in Kenya

requires to be undertaken

on a fairly large scale if

an income sufficient to support

a European family is to

be realised.

(Signed) H. J. READ