

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

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REC'D
2 MAY 11

Land

Answer

Date

May

previous Paper.

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207. Mr. Guinness, — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that the present Home Secretary, when Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated that the settlers in the British East Africa Protectorate should hold their land on terms making it a marketable and mortgageable security; and whether he will explain why banks in the Protectorate are not willing to make advances on the security of unimproved land held on lease. [Wednesday 3rd May.]

W. Fiddes.

I have made repeated attempts to get information as to the alleged statement through W. Churchill's Private Secretaries, but so far, they tell me, they have been unable to get at him on the subject. It is stated in Lord Elgin's despatch on the land question of the 19th March 1908, par. 4. (p. 30 of Cd. 4117 herewith) that the settlers are naturally anxious that the land on which they spend their labour should be a marketable and mortgageable security.

So that this is evidently the view of H. M. G. who is very likely M. Churchill, who was much interested in the land question did at some time or other say something of the kind.

Reply (subject to anything that may be heard from M. Churchill in the interval)

I have no official information as to the statement attributed to my right hon. friend, [in which, however, I see nothing to which exception can be taken]. ~~passive~~ ^{are not prepared to} ~~assert~~ explain the principles ^{which} ~~are~~ ^{guide} the banks in the Protectorate ~~and~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be} in their business operations.

* has been
revised
draft

HAB
May 2

H. G. S.

A. 2. 5

I do not know whether these words
 were used by my Rt. Hon. friend but
 they undoubtedly appeared in the Lord
 Elgin's despatch laying down the policy
 of a revisable lease of 99 years -
 a policy ^{with} which these words are fully
 consistent.

I have no information as to the action of
 Banks in the Protectorate

J. 2.5.11

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Official Report 3

Mr. HARCOURT: I do not know whether these words were used by my right hon. Friend, but they undoubtedly appeared in Lord Elgin's despatch laying down the policy of revisable leases of ninety-nine years—a policy with which these words are fully consistent. I have no information as to the action of banks in the Protectorate.

Mr. GUINNESS: Was this system submitted to the Legislative Council?

Mr. HARCOURT: I should like notice of that question.