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Kenia Forests

Report prepared in connection with the several applications for concession - notes on the conditions suggested by the Government. The first of these appears to deal with the communication, the construction of railway, and the deposits of minerals. The second deals with the conditions of any concession.

W. D. D. D.

The following has been submitted at the instance of a long time. I doubt whether anything will come of it. I fear that the great will be unworkable in a large state until the railway is brought nearer to it by a road. I have  
P. D. D.

Col. Seely  
to GeneralH.  
7.1.11

I should not depend much on the organizing capacity or commercial intelligence of the "Maitland River" Co. H. 7.1.11



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Downing Street

3rd January, 1911

SIR,

Kenya Forests

With Mr. Read I have to-day seen Lord Warwick Lord Brooke and Mr. Moreton Frewen, M.P., to discuss the position with reference to their application for a forest concession on the slopes of the Kenya Mountains. The correspondence on this subject closed with the despatch of the Secretary, No. 632, dated 21st of October, 1910.

Mr. Frewen appeared to be of opinion that, if sufficiently good terms, and he mentioned (1) not less than 100,000 acres, (2) a royalty not exceeding that conceded to Messrs. Brown and Kingham, (3) a railway rate not exceeding 4d per ton mile, could be conceded, it would be desirable to definitely ascertain from large lumbermen in Canada the possibilities of developing the forests, the character of which is more or less well known from Mr. Hutchinson's report.

The whole issue of the matter appears to rest upon that of communications. The Kenya forests are at present situated about 100 miles from the nearest railway station and though it may be possible for Government to construct a light railway, as from Nairobi to Fort Hall, within the next few years if funds are forthcoming,

Your Secretary of State  
for the Colonies

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the remaining of would have to be built entirely for timber purposes and would fall upon the shoulders of anybody wishing to develop the forest. As matters stand to-day a sum of between four hundred and four hundred and fifty thousand pounds would have to be found before anything practicable could be done in the development of an export trade in the timber.

It appears to me that the construction of a railway within a definite period should be made a sine qua non in the granting of any concession and that we have a clear precedent in the matter in the terms offered to the Lagadi Railway for the development of gold.

If Mr. Brown, who I understand leaves for America tomorrow, is able to show on his return that qualified lumbermen are prepared to consider the exploitation of these forests, I consider that the primary step to be taken would be the despatch of a competent lumberman to examine the existing conditions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

*W. Brown*

*If on his return he is unable to obtain favourable proposals I would recommend the holding up of any formal concession or licence until further proposals have approached the point of which negotiations are ready to be entered upon.*

*W. Brown*