

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.

C. O.  
8486



No. 8486

Recd  
Per 9 MAR 08

Governor. No. 1  
Adm Conf

(Subject.)

1908

Destitute Immigrants

Last previous Paper.

Transmits statements of three of them  
cannot absolve Mr Fawcus from blame for  
his share in the matter

(Minutes.)

Mr Read Informs the B. E. A. Union  
that as from the Gov's further  
report on the matter it does not  
appear that the Union in its  
corporate capacity was responsible  
for inducing these immigrants  
to go to the S.A.P. & that the  
Gov states that he has not  
& did not intend to reflect  
on the Union & that accordingly  
H. L. fully acquits them of  
all blame in the matter

Send Mr F  
Tell Mr Fawcus in reply  
to 41398 that the S.P.

To Mr Fawcus  
Copy comes for inf Conf 7 Apr 08

Subsequent Paper.  
H. P.  
12780

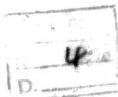
has now received a report on the matter  
& that it would appear that in  
the case of Mr. Rogers & Mr.  
Johnson were induced to migrate  
to the country on representations  
by Mr. Fawcett as to the quality  
of the land to be assigned to them  
which proved to be fallacious.  
That Lord Elgin has not doubt  
that Mr. Fawcett was ignorant of  
the actual character of the land,  
but that H. L. considers that he  
ought to have informed himself  
more exactly as to its character  
before inducing these persons to  
leave of their lands in this  
country. 1102 10/3

in return

So much - although I think that  
we are letting Mr. Fawcett down rather  
severely. Yours truly to the friends  
J.R.

11 3

Wm. Nich. Esq.



30.3  
at me

E.A.M.



439

Governor's Office,  
Nairobi,  
January 31st 1908.

~~EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.~~

(CONFIDENTIAL (10))

(Incl. 4)

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch Confidential of the 6th of December last, I have the honor to forward the statements of three of the settlers alluded to in my despatch Confidential (61) of the 10th of September last. †

2. The extent of the allegations made in the despatch above referred to was that I was unable to exonerate Mr. Pawcus from the responsibility for a state of affairs which had occasioned a serious loss of money to a number of respectable hard working people, and which had left them disillusioned and practically penniless in a strange country. I certainly had no intention of reflecting in any way on the British East Africa Company and I should be exceedingly sorry if they were to receive that impression.

3. Mr. Pawcus has derived no benefit from this settlement scheme and he was presumably actuated by motives of philanthropy, but I cannot see how this absolves him from criticism in the matter.

4. A perusal of the four letters will show you how far Mr. Pawcus was instrumental in causing these settlers to arrive at their final decision to emigrate, and it is not too much to say that without Mr. Pawcus

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

Mr. Dewhurst  
Jan. 13th 07  
do.  
Jan. 31st 08  
Mr. C. V. Rogers  
Jan. 15th 07  
Mr. Fisherwood  
Jan. 31st 08

66410-613 x no. 415582 + no.

definite assurances that they would obtain suitable land, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Isherwood would never have given up their occupations and left England: even Mr. Dewhurst, who owns to having come to East Africa entirely on his own responsibility, speaks clearly as to where "the information regarding the possibilities of development" had emanated from.

5. The locations assigned to Mr. Rogers and Mr. Isherwood were clearly unsuitable, being without wood or water, and in the absence of these two essentials, an analysis showing the suitability of the ground for cultivation is of little value.

6. I am quite unable to admit, as Mr. Fawcus suggests, that I have misinformed Your Lordship in this matter in connection with which there has been a good deal of feeling expressed locally. Mr. Fawcus was apparently ignorant of the true character of the land in question, but this is no excuse: it was on his assurance that this party of 21 persons made their venture, and his responsibility, I would submit, was enlarged by this assurance.

7. Mr. Fawcus being ignorant of the true character of the land, which he proposed to assign to Mr. Rogers and Mr. Isherwood, should not, under the circumstances, have given the assurances he did: he cannot, however, disclaim all responsibility for the unfortunate results which these assurances helped to bring about.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,  
humble servant,

*W. G. B. S. S.*

*Richard W. W.*

ENCLOSURE No. 1

Despatch *Copy* No. of *Jan. 31*. 1907

441  
8486

Kyambu, *Recd*  
9 MAR 08  
13 June 1907

~~COPY.~~

Sir,

I have been asked by Mr. McClure if I would furnish you with a statement of the circumstances which induced me to come out to this country. I have pleasure in giving you the following particulars:-

Before I left England I was employed by a firm of which Mr. Fawcus was a Director. The Manager, who, I may say, was a personal friend of mine, had several interviews with Mr. Fawcus regarding British East Africa. My friend gave me the gist of these conversations, which inclined me with a desire to leave the old country and try my fortune in a new.

I then had an interview with Mr. Fawcus and asked him if he could find me anything to do on his Estate, he said that I might probably look after the books of the Estate, but he would see his partner Lord Hindlip, the result was that I became appointed, and I had also 800 acres of land given to me on the Estate. The remuneration for my work was very small but still quite sufficient to supply our wants. I spent most of my time on the land, but I found it was no use sticking to the land without a big capital, hence my desire to get something more remunerative both for myself and family.

I have heard a rumour that there is a possibility of some sort of action being taken against the Lord Hindlip and Fawcus' Estates Limited what for I do not know, all that I can say is, that I came out entirely

W. Hobley, Esq.,  
Nairobi.

on

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on my own responsibility and paid all my own and family's expenses.

My brother-in-law Mr. Isherwood has done the same, although I advised him not to come out here without a large capital.

A few other families have come out since, whom I do not know and several more intend to come.

The information regarding the possibilities of great development in this country which these various families obtained emanated from one source viz: the above Manager referred to and Mr. Fawcus, but I do not think any of them were advised to come without capital and certainly not by Mr. Fawcus.

I have not any correspondence relative to this subject from Lord Hindlip or Mr. Fawcus.

I am, &c., &c.,



R. Dewhurst.

copy.

Encls. 2 in no  
No. 2  
Coy. 1/10 of Jan. 31, 1908

Nairobi, 443

January 31st 1908.

8486

Dear Sir,

As requested by you I have pleasure in giving a few more details as regards my reasons for coming out to this country.

On arriving at Njoro in July 1906 I along with Mr. Arthur Morris (who is now the Honourable H.B. Cole's Bailiff) went on the land on the Lord Hindlip and Fawcus Estate Limited, 200 acres each being allotted to us. This land was situated 4 miles from Njoro Station between Njoro and Nakuru. We had each  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile river frontage. The river which was named Njoro River was about 200 yards from the Railway, the land being therefore in the Railway Zone and which I considered very good for agricultural purposes. There was no timber however within 3 miles, and we found that during the dry season the water in the river ran underneath about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile higher up, nearer Njoro. Personally I don't think that either Lord Hindlip or Mr. Fawcus knew about this when the land was given to me.

I settled on the land until February 1907 when I got my present situation. My reason for giving up the land and also my position as Book-keeper for the Estate was on account of two members of my family obtaining situations in Nairobi and I wished to be near them.

In January of last year when Mr. Fawcus was here I asked him if he could find some more land adjoining ours, for several families (my brother-in-law Mr. Isherwood included, who intended to settle down in this country and who had been disappointed as regards land applied for

by

C.W. Hobley, Esq.,  
Nairobi.



by Mr. Pavens in the Thika District.

He then made arrangements for them to have a plot 4 miles square about two miles nearer Nakuru, than the land I was occupying. This land was just outside the Railway Zone, along the banks of Njoro River. The piece of land was divided into 8 portions of 320 acres with a river frontage of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile each. Three of these Mr. Isherwood and myself intended to take and the remainder distributed as follows:-

Messrs. W.L. & A. Morris (2 plots), Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Howarth (1 plot each) as per rough sketch enclosed).

It was the intention of both Mr. A. Morris and myself to vacate the portions allotted to us in the first case and take land with the rest so that we could all cooperate together. I did not intend to go on this new part until the arrival of my brother-in-law whom I expected to be out in February. In the meantime I obtained my present billet and therefore did not examine the new allotment.

When my brother-in-law arrived on March 5th with the full intention of going straight on the land I asked him not to proceed beyond Nairobi until he had thoroughly examined the land, because I had been informed that it was stony.

Mr. Isherwood had been in Nairobi a short time when he proceeded to Njoro to inspect the land. His report was that it was no good, he found that a bed of stone ran underneath most of it near the surface. No water during the dry season and no timber within 3 or 4 miles. He then decided to give up the idea of taking land and try to get employment.

Mr. Rogers came out at the same time as Mr. Isherwood.



(5)

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Mr. W. L. Morris, Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Howarth were informed how matter stood and advised to stay in the old country.

Yours faithfully,

~~Sd/-~~ R. Dewhurst.

Copy 10 of Jan. 31. 5

Nakuru,

June 15th 1907.

Dear Sir,

I willingly comply with your request that I should set forth the circumstances under which I was induced to come out to this country.

In July 1906 I learnt that Mr. Fawcus, of the Fawcus and Hindlip Estates Limited, was interested in land in British East Africa and was disposed to grant an allotment of land to a limited number of intending settlers.

Six gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of Manchester held frequent meetings on the subject of the offer obtained all information regarding the country and its prospects and were quit satisfied from assurances given in the course of interviews held with Mr. Fawcus, that he would fulfil his definite promise to settle us on suitable land.

Nothing really definite as to the particular part of British East Africa we were to go to was promised, but Molo and Molo districts were mentioned.

Mr. Fawcus intended visiting British East Africa in October and would then decide and let us know.

At his request Powers of Attorney were forwarded on by us to him in which we empowered him to apply for 1,000 acres for each member of our party.

The six gentlemen referred to represented families aggregating about 40 members and it was their intention to work their holdings on the co-operative principle; i.e. in buying and selling their produce collectively and purchasing necessary agricultural implements and oxen to be used in common though each member was to be free to grow what he liked.

No money was actually paid to Mr. Fawcus, though when the powers of attorney were forwarded out, we undertook to remit cheques for survey fees, nor can I honestly say that any special inducement was held out to us by Mr. Fawcus to get us out to Africa. till neither I nor others who have undertaken the venture would have embarked upon it had we not had the definite promises on the part of Mr. Fawcus that we should go straight on to suitable plots of land.

In a personal interview I pointed out to him the serious step it meant to me, and he distinctly assured me I need have no anxiety. On the strength of this I took immediate steps to wind up my business affairs and in January 1907 set sail.

Upon my arrival at Mombasa I learnt that Mr. Fawcus had recently returned to England, but I received a plan indicating the district and particular plot of land "320 acres in Njoro" allotted to me by Mr. Fawcus.

In due course I found that the 2,500 acres which Mr. Fawcus had placed at the disposal of myself and friends, at Njoro, were absolutely valueless for the purposes of agriculture, as both wood and water were absent, and to my great chagrin, I found myself stranded in a strange country, with a large family without a home to go to.

I had spent a considerable part of my capital in coming out and in providing myself with necessaries in the shape of portable house, implements &c. only to find they were encumbrances so long as I had no land to go on.

I cannot fix any responsibility upon Mr. Fawcus but I blame very much his action in allowing me and others to incur the great expense, risk and hardships, we have undergone.

I did not imagine he was posing as a philanthropist in offering to transfer 2,500 acres of his Njoro land to us.

3.

the price he had paid; but that as a business man it would be profitable to secure a number of families settled on his estate.

I won't venture to fathom his motives in assigning to us suitable land which none of our party is likely to take up. Those of us who have ventured our all and suffered bitter disillusionment by crediting the promises of Mr. Fawcus, will have to re-shape our plans and seek employment.

I have duly warned those members of our party still in England so that if they should still decide to make the venture out here, they will do so with a full knowledge of the facts.

In conclusion I desire to record with gratitude the great address and consideration shewn to me by the Land Office, which many of my difficulties have been lightened, but of late my resources have been crippled by the inevitable delay in securing land and founding a house, so that instead of carrying out my original purpose, I shall be compelled to remain in a situation.

93.

Yours faithfully,

Ed/- C.M. ROGERS.

ENCLOSURE No. 4

In Despatch *Aug. 10* of *Jan. 31* 1908

8486

Nairobi

Rs. 2  
4/9  
9<sup>th</sup> MAR 08

January 25<sup>th</sup> 1908.

~~copy.~~

Sir,

At your request regarding my coming out to British East Africa I furnish you with brief particulars which induced me to come out.

1. My brother-in-law, Mr. Dewhurst, mentioned to me having had an interview with Mr. Fawcus in Manchester regarding British East Africa and he told me what he really thought of the country, that the climate was good and that the ground would grow almost anything "make your fortune in a few years". So myself along with Mr. A. Hodgson and Mr. W. Morris had an interview with Mr. Fawcus in his office in Manchester and he told us the same as he told Mr. Dewhurst, and that he would find us land "good" so that we could all be together; so I ~~was~~ came out on the understanding that the land would be found us, so that we could be all together and that it would be good, but on my going to examine the land which he had allotted to us on the Njoro river between Njoro and Nakuru I found that same was barren and no water or timber nearer than two or three miles so I decided that it was of no use to me, so I informed the agent that it was no good and he agreed with my verdict - this was in April 1907.

I may also state that I gave up my business in Manchester and lost a lot of money in doing so, to come out to British East Africa. I brought out with me my wife, two sons, one daughter, mother, two maiden sisters, 1 married sister and her husband and also other-in-law.

The annexed sketch shows the approximate land allotted to us.

Yours truly,

D. W. Isherwood.

C. W. Hobley Esq.,  
Nairobi.

8486

~~Handwritten scribbles~~



*Insert*

Dear Sir  
1<sup>st</sup> April  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 1908

DRAFT

to Crown Sec.  
Hon Sec.  
B. S. A. Assoc.

MINUTE.

- Mr. B. S. A. 3/1/3
- Mr. King
- Mr. J. J.
- Mr. Astor
- Mr. King
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin

Closed 2/2/08

In further reply to your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> of November last, I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to inform you that he has received a further report from the Gov. of the E.A.S. on the subject of the circumstances in which certain persons emigrated to the Protectorate.

2. It does not appear, from this further report, that the B. S. A. Association in its corporate capacity was responsible for inducing the persons in question to go to the E.A.S., and the Governor states that he does not and did not intend to reflect on the

604/15  
Copy for use

Amice  
3. In these circumstances, his  
Lordship gladly acquiesces  
the Hon<sup>ble</sup> of all  
Name in the matter.

Jan, 75

(Signed) C. F. LUCAS.

8486



~~For~~ ~~2/25~~ 451

29th  
March 1905

DRAFT

W. P. James, Secretary

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~Thompson~~ 1/3
- Mr. ~~Red~~ 1/3
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Andrews
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir P. Hopwood
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin

Clear 1/3

In further reply to  
your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> of  
November I am directed  
by the Earl of Elgin to  
advise you that he has now  
received from the Governor  
of the S.A.P. a report on  
the circumstances in  
which certain persons  
emigrated to the Protectorate.  
It would appear from  
this report that Mr. Rogers  
and Mr. Johnson were  
induced to emigrate on  
representations by you as to  
the quality of the land to  
be assigned to them which  
proved to be fallacious.  
No. 8486.

600. 1/3  
1/3 for 25 x 20