

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.
PATRONAGE
No. 35518

C O
35518
No. 29 of 08

Individual
Re.
908
5 Sept
Previous Paper

(Subject.)

Re-employment

ask for app't. in a judicial capacity
in any Colony where there would be little danger to
his wife's health.

(Minutes.)

Mr Francis Howard -

You should see this. The facts
are mainly correct - but Mr Noble
was not considered very wise or very
capable or it is difficult to place him
in a perfectly healthy climate unless
he be promised "the rest of his life".

I believe Lord Crewe could not
see this presently - but we can only
assume consistently in the sense that I
have already often assumed Mr Noble.
It is enough to see me shortly. A.H.

X M. Crewe
1.30
Sept 2. 10
11.15
P.T.O.

copy sent to Mr. ...

Mr. Harris

I should like to see Mr. Noble when he
calls. It is rather a sad story, and he is
a member of the Union League and the same
circumstances as myself.

3/10

Seen - I will take care that Mr. Noble
has Col. Kedge as desired. But I may
add that Mr. Noble's case is hardly a
sad one, because he is demanding some
means or other appears rather pleased with
himself & his life!

CH

3 Feb.

Mr. Noble will be considered, but
there are many applicants for the
post & not he.

6.8

I have seen Mr. Noble - he seemed
to be a competent person.

J.S.
26.10

Private & Personal

35518

The Secretary of State
for the Colonies

6 (Care) Office Row
Temple St

September 28 1905

My Lord,

May I respectfully call your attention to a personal matter affecting my dealings with the Colonial Office

In March 1905 I received my first appointment from Lord Elgin to fill the post of Resident Magistrate in the British East Africa Protectorate.

Although it is only true to say that nothing was stated in writing to that effect, I was certainly given to understand that in conversation with several officials at the Colonial Office, that my destination would be Nairobi - a healthy and attractive station in the Protectorate - where I need have no scruple in taking my wife to reside.

In this belief I accepted the post with alacrity -

To my great disappointment however I learnt on arrival at Mombasa that the Colonial Office Authorities were in error in stating that our destination was to be Nairobi: already a magistrate had been appointed to that place and was in residence there with his wife & children.

The Chief Justice of the Protectorate pointed out to me that as mine was the most recent appointment, I must submit to be sent to the one unhealthy station in the Protectorate - Kisumu (or Port Florence as it is called) on the shores of the Lake Victoria Nyanza - a locality where malarial and black water fevers were prevalent.

I was therefore obliged in obedience to move to Kummu where I discharged my duties as a magistrate for seven months, until my own health and the still more serious illness of my wife made it imperative to ask leave of the Governor for immediate return to England at my own expense.

This leave was courteously granted and by taking this course I was enabled to save my wife's life, although the death of our child - a direct result of her serious illness - could not be averted.

Prior to my return home I had been in communication with Mr Winston Churchill M.P. who kindly made personal enquiries, ascertained that an erroneous impression had certainly been given me as to our destination and himself wrote a personal letter to the Governor (Sir James Raper) asking if a transference could be effected.

After my arrival in London I visited the Colonial Office. The greatest sympathy was shown me by every official to whom I explained my misfortunes, and I was given to understand that another legal appointment would soon be offered me in a healthier climate than British East Africa.

Two years have now elapsed since my return, during which time I have resumed work as a barrister and steadily followed my old Midland Circuit though I find that my intercal abroad has greatly interfered with my chances of a growing practice in this country.

I am now anxious to resume work for the Colonial Office without further delay, and I would urge as a favour that my name should be put forward to fill the next

120
courteous attention. With Mr. Harris will, I am sure, confirm the accuracy of the facts which I have here set out for your kind consideration.

I beg to remain
Your Lordships obedient servant

Robert E. Noble

Barister at Law of the
Inner Temple
member of the Midland
Circuit -
Sometime Resident Magistrate
at Kisumu in British
East Africa Protectorate

R. B. Noble, Esq.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of

MINUTE.

- Mr. A. A. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- X Mr. ... 8
- Mr. C. ...
- X Mr. F. ... 10
- X Col. ... 10
- X The Earl of ...

to send the receipt of your letter of
 the 28th ultimo on the subject of your
 application for a legal appointment as
 a ... healthier than the East African
 Protectorate

which his lordship is unable
 to make any promise that you will
 be offered a suitable appointment in the
 near future ...
 have ... to inform you that your
 name ... as ... & that your
 name will continue to be considered
 with those of other candidates as suitable

have served in variously, checks
to considerable finish also clean & bright
must also be considered

low

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