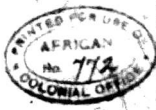


DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 18497-

C O
18497
REC'D
30 MAY 05



No. 270
1905
May 14
Previous Paper
No. 3

(Subject.)

Land grant to H. Chamberlain

Two copies correspondence with H. Chamberlain re: copy.

(Minutes)

Mr. Reed
Copy to F.O. with copy
of disp on 14773 with ref. to their
letter of 3 May L.F.
Done: Staffer in Red print

Yes - print
11691 9/14773
SR + other
H.R.

Staff (Ranfins)

M.C. J.C.

Dr. Harris to be

at once
H. J. R
3/4

S.C.

S-R

Copy - disp on 14773 to F.O. on 14/5/05

F.O.
A.F.M.

63
18897
Rec^d
No. 35-44-55

Commissioner's Office,

Mombasa,

May 4th 1905.



Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 41 of February 3rd to the Marquess of Lansdowne, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information copies of correspondence which has passed between Mr. R. Chamberlain and myself on the subject of his land grant.

note
11-5 a p
Chamberlain
24
Chamberlain

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

S. Stewart

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Whitehall Street,

10497

Elementary 30 MAY 05
29th April 1905.

To
Sir D. Stewart, K.C.S.G.,
H. M. Commissioner,
British East Africa.

Sir,

With reference to my interview with you on the 24th instant I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to confirm by letter the terms of my grant as now amended.

I understood you to say that, in stating in certain letters addressed by me to the public press, that I was compelled by Lord Lansdowne to spend £5000/- on the reduced area of 20,000 acres, I was in error.

You further stated that I should be expected to spend on development a sum of money which would be reduced from £5,000/- in the same proportion as the reduction of the acreage, i.e. about £3125/-.

In reply to your statement on this point, I expressed my regret for having unintentionally misrepresented the terms offered to me, and for thus having done an injustice, however slight, to the Foreign Office authorities.

To this observation you replied that this was not the only injustice I had done in making the representations I have thus far made, but that you did not wish to discuss the subject.

Small as the matter appears, I attach considerable importance to a clear understanding of all details in connection with this miserable business. It has not yet been explained to me why the original contract was repudiated, nor why 12,000 acres of my land have been

wrongfully

wrongfully taken away from me; and it is my intention, in my petition to the House of Commons to make a definite charge of corrupt practice against a definite person in the Foreign Office.

On reference to my papers, I find that my statement in the letter published by the "Morning Post" was perfectly correct and that it accurately represented what had thus far been communicated to me.

On November 28th 1904 you cabled to me the following message:-

" Lord Lansdowne offers you 20,000 acres
" leasehold on Enderit at half an-anna per acre
" with option of purchasing 6,000 acres at one
" rupee per acre subject to original conditions
" as to expenditure of capital."

In my letter to you dated February 8th 1905 I wrote as follows:-

" Under the settlement thus imposed upon me I
" obtain less than two thirds of the original
" grant on condition of spending the same amount
" of five thousand pounds on the reduced area,
" as contrasted with 25000/- to be spent by Lord
" Delamere on His Lordship's grant of 100,000
" acres."

In reply to this letter you merely acknowledged its receipt on March 15th last without correcting or making any observation upon the misapprehension under which I laboured. The arrangement by which the amount to be spent on development is reduced in proportion to the reduction of acreage was first communicated to me by you at the interview on the 6th instant.

I have &c. &c.

Ed/- Robert Chatterton

Commissioner's Office,

Nairobi,

May 4th 1905.

Sir,

I beg to inform you in reply to your letter of 29th ultimo that you are correct in thinking that you are required to spend three thousand, one hundred and twenty five pounds instead of five thousand pounds in developing your estate, the amount having been reduced in proportion to the area leased.

With reference to your request that I should explain to you why the original contract was repudiated, I regret that I am not in a position to give you any further information than that which you have already received in the correspondence which has passed between you and His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. As to the petition which you state you are forwarding to the House of Commons I have only to say that that is purely a matter for your own judgment.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
D. Stewart.

W. Chamberlain, Esq.,

Wimborne.

H. R. ...

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1001

1877 - 1878

...

1877