

EAST AFR PROT

27347

C.O.

27347 110

Rec

Reg. 14 Aug 09.

Governor. No.

399

1909

July

Previous Paper.

n.s.

19507

Petition from Indians at Nairobi.

Submits adverse reports respecting terms of their leases.

Mr. Butler.

This paper has been waiting since 14 Aug. for the previous papers, including the petition itself, & these have only just been ~~sent~~ discovered.

after several pages of generalisation on the position & treatment of Indians in the P<sup>te</sup>, seven requests are made.

(i) Present 10 yrd. leases to be made into freehold

The Land Bd + Col. Montgomery are against this, & I think we need not consider such an ~~part~~ requests.

(ii) Present leases if not freehold, be converted into 99 year leases.

Again the Land Bd. is against this, as they seem to have a principle that allottees are to have small plots on short leases.

A. &amp; S. N. - 20067/27 - 2000-1109.

Subsequent Paper

12631/18

August 6/14, 14 Oct 14

ground on which the memorial demands  
consideration is the statement in par. 5  
(the memorial is with Gov. <sup>19507</sup>) that the <sup>14.1A</sup>  
memorialists were induced & encouraged  
to take up <sup>the</sup> land by the officers and the  
"authorities" and were led to believe  
that they would get better concessions  
and easy terms when the question  
of the distribution of land at Nairobi  
and elsewhere was taken up.

I would simply tell the Govt.  
that, unless there is any substance in  
his allegation, he should inform the  
President of the Indian Association that  
the S. of S. has carefully considered  
the memorial, and can only confirm  
the reply made to it by the Govt. of the  
S. of S. in the letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup>

Yes, he should do so in  
sympathetic terms :-

J.P.  
6.10

Yes. J.P.  
7.10

Proceed as proposed

29.7

W. Parkinson

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 399

(Incl. 1)

Governor's Office,

Nairobi 2734/

July 20th 1909.

REC<sup>d</sup> 14 AUG 09

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My Lord,

*MS*  
*19507*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 335 enclosing correspondence respecting a petition emanating from certain Indians occupying plots of land in what is known as the Nairobi Swamp.

Col. Montgomery  
Mar. 13th

2. The minute by the Commissioner of Lands, on which Mr. Monson's letter of March 18th was based, is attached, and I trust that Your Lordship will agree that the considerations urged therein, though they may not have been perhaps explained as fully as they might have been in the letter in question, are of sufficient weight to justify a refusal of the petitioners' request.

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

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,  
humble servant,

*J. J. G. G. G.*

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 399 of July 20, 1909

27347

REC-14 AUG 1909

MINUTE.

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I am sorry that the Indians' Memorial has not been dealt with for so long. I wished to obtain the Land Board's opinion on it, and this was furnished last month.

The petitioners are lessees of plots in the Nairobi Swamp. They hold under 10 years leases. Their requests are as follows:-

(1) That the 10 years' leases should be converted into freeholds. The Land Board is against this request and so am I. There is no reason why these valuable market garden plots should be freeholded.

(2) The next request is that if freehold cannot be given the leases may be extended to 99 years. In this also I am in agreement with the Land Board that the request should not be sanctioned.

We have decided that Asiatics are not to get agricultural land in the highlands except in small plots on short leases.

(3) It is stated that the present rents are very high and should be reduced.

The rents are not too high. It has not been shown that the memorialists are losing money by paying them. Indeed I believe that if the leases were put to auction we should realise much higher rates.

(4) It is asked that the land may be utilised for residential plots. This has been objected to and rightly. The conditions are that the land is let for agricultural purposes.

(5)

145  
(5) It is requested that the irrigation from the Nairobi River should be controlled by the Government. This is reasonable, and I have asked the Honourable Commissioner of Public Works to assist us in drawing out a scheme.

(6) It is asked that an Indian may be appointed to the Land Board, and another to the Sites Board of Nairobi. The Sites Board has ceased to exist.

I do not recommend the appointment of an Indian on the Land Board at the present time. If we ever have local Land Boards one might be appointed for the Coast Board.

(7) Reference is made to agricultural advances (takavi) as made in India to help farmers to make improvements. I do not think such advances are necessary or desirable in this country. We expect persons taking up land to have sufficient means to develop it.

Sd/- J. MONTGOMERY.

Commissioner of Lands.

Nairobi,

March 13th 1909.

C. D.  
12

aug / 27 347

S. A. L.

512

146

DRAFT.

S. A. L. N<sup>o</sup>. 614

Gov. Ginnard

long

14 Oct 1809.

MINUTE.

Sir,

Mr. Parker 11/10

Mr. Parker 12/3.

Mr. Fiddes.

Mr. Just.

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Col. Seely.

Lord Crewe.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Jackson's despatch N<sup>o</sup>. 399 of the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, transmitting a minute by the Commissioners of Lands on the <sup>reposal</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Relation~~ <sup>Relation</sup> of ~~from~~ certain Indian's occupying plots of land in what is known as the Navaho Swamps

2. I am  
The of

the distribution of land  
at Nairobi and  
elsewhere was taken  
up. 146A

3. Unless there  
is any substance  
in this allegation  
I should be glad  
if you would inform  
the President of the  
Indian Association  
that I have very  
carefully considered  
the Memorial, <sup>but</sup> ~~that~~  
that I regret  
that I can only  
confirm the reply  
which was made  
to it by the Govt.  
of the East in the  
letter dated the 7th

of March last.  
You will I am sure ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> satisfied