

1934

1934

23334

KENYA

C0533/452

23334

Mr. F. H. Jordan.

Requests for employment or financial concessions.

Previous

26257
4666

Subsequent

Reg 297 91
F. Hood 26
S. C. Bottomley 20/1
R 307
247

Governor Byrnes 587

20 Nov 34

Ed
Nominal

Trans. a further letter from Mr. F. H. Jordan on which he renews his application for employment & requests that if that is not possible he may be granted certain financial concessions. States that Mr. Jordan has been informed that outstanding debt may stand over for 12 months ^{at the} ~~is~~ unable to receive further concessions.

E.A. Dept.

Mr. Jordan renews his application for employment and requests that failing this he may be given certain financial concessions.

The Governor agrees that he is debarred by reason of his age from employment under any Colonial Government.

Would you consider the other question ?

(SGD.) D. L. TOVEY

17.12.34

Wojdan is indebted to first parent^s
and Grand parents. At the 31 December
1933 the debt amounted to Shs. 15,800.
(£790). He offered to surrender
to first portions of his land in
liquidation of the debt, but the
offer was contingent on his
getting a loan from the Land
Bank.

The attitude of the Land Bank & Board
described in para 6 of the despatch
is not unreasonable. On the
face of it ~~Wojdan~~ there is
little hope of the debtor improving
his financial position. The Govt.
has agreed to the debt standing
over for a year and is unable
to recommend any further
concession.

In the circumstances
I request the Governor to
cause Wojdan to be informed
that the Govt. has ^{received} ~~considered~~
his offer and regrets that
he is unable to offer him
employment or to give directions
in the sense desired in the
last sentence of Mr. Jagan's
letter.

C. H. Rossini
11/11/34

or to refund the sum he has paid for rent
and to take over the improvements he has made
in his farm. He owes Government some £790
for rent and stand premium. But the Land Bank
does not consider him good enough security
for a loan, and he has no prospect of getting
any assistance from Government. I do not see
what can be done in this case, but to accept the
Governor's recommendations and inform Mr. Jordan
accordingly, that, in view of his case, the
C. of C. cannot offer him employment and regrets
that it cannot see his way to invite the
Government of Kenya to make any refund or to
take over his farm.

J. E. W. Kent

26/1.

There is no help for it

[But I am surprised to find from
the application that he has been in
Kenya since the Kenya scheme was started.

I thought he was transferred (with
Mr. H. E. Townsend & others) some 1955.]

W. C. D. 26.1.55 c.c.

To Kenya, 88 (1 annexed) 30 1935

23334/3a

C. O.

Mr. *Dever* 29/11/31
Mr. *Breaston*

Mr.

Mr. Parkinsop

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

C. O.

30

1/1

Amney, 1931

DRAFT.

Memorandum
No. 88
for

I have etc to acknowledge
the receipt of your despatch
No. 587 of the 20th of November
1931 in which you
forwarded a further letter
addressed to me by
Mr J. H. Jordan together
with your views thereon

I shall be obliged
if you will cause
Mr Jordan to be informed
that in view of his
age I am unable to
offer him employment
and that I regret that
I cannot see my way

FURTHER ACTION.

Write the Government of
Kenya to reimburse him
for the sums which he
has expended on rent,
or to take over his
premises.

Shave etc.

OFFICE LISTEN.

KENYA.

No. 587



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

RECEIVED
14 DEC 1934
G. O. REGY

RECEIVED
15 DEC 1934
COL. OFFICE

Sir,

no 2

26234
H.H.

Amend (2)

With reference to your despatch No 689 of the 25th August, relating to an application by Mr. F.H. Jordan for employment, I have the honour to transmit a further letter addressed to you in which he renews his application for employment and requests that in the event of this not being possible he may be given certain financial concessions.

2. Mr. Jordan's land holding is on the border of European Settlement adjoining the Vata Plateau. He has suffered heavily by reason of depressed markets and drought, and has been unable to meet his rent and Stand Premium liabilities. His outstandings in this respect at the 31st December, 1933, amounted to:-

Rent	Shs.	4,180,	-	00
Stand Premium	Shs.	11,620,	-	00
TOTAL				
	Shs.	15,800,	-	00

3. A proposal for the liquidation of his debt to Government by the surrender of portions of his land was submitted by Mr. Jordan during the present year, and was recommended for approval by the Advisory Land Board. But Mr. Jordan's application to the Land Bank for a loan, upon the success of which that proposal was contingent, was refused, and Mr. Jordan has been unable to put forward any satisfactory alternative proposals.

/4.....

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
MAJOR SIR PHILIP GUNLIFEE-LISTER, P.C., G.C.B., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

4. In paragraph 4 of his letter Mr. Jordan refers to a decision that the Kato Plateau was part of the white highlands; this is incorrect. The Kato has never been part of the white highlands, and was in 1928 declared to be open for settlement irrespective of race and was subsequently excluded from the declaration of the highlands made by the Sub-Committee of Executive Council in 1928.

5. In paragraphs 5 to 7, Mr. Jordan appears to be referring to the grant made, subsequently cancelled, to Kamba Ltd., in which he held some interest. This area is not included by the Kenya Land Commission in their definition of the highlands, nor was it included in the 1928 definition mentioned above. In this connection it should be explained that by arrangement with Kamba Ltd., who had applied for 25,000 acres on the Kato, each of the five members of the Syndicate having a fifth interest, 4,000 acres were granted direct to Mr. Jordan and his interest in Kamba Ltd., was reduced from a fifth to the twenty-first. It is on this area of 4,000 acres that his outstanding Standard Bonds is due.

6. On page 4 Mr. Jordan suggests in effect, that the Land Bank Board rejected his application for assistance because the Kenya Land Commission had recommended that the Kato should cease to be available for white communities. A point of fact is that his application was refused on economic grounds as will be seen from the following quotation from a letter by the Acting Treasurer:-

"I wish to state quite frankly the position as the Land Bank Board see it. The Board share the view of the Commissioner for Local Government, Lands, Settlement and Mines, that Mr. Jordan is a hard-working farmer. But they doubt very much whether the farming operations upon which he is engaged....."

"engaged are an economic proposition as they stand or are likely to become an economic proposition unless supported by substantial financial resources. Mr. Jordan is growing sisal and coffee. He has, apparently, some 420 acres of sisal and 100 acres of coffee and his property is capable of considerable development under both crops. From what source does Mr. Jordan hope to be able to finance such further development?"

"His farms are situated some 50 odd miles by road from Muka railway station. Can he market his sisal with any prospect of profit? His transport costs will be very high.

"The land is said to be sandy and suitable for sisal. But the Land Bank Board doubt whether coffee growing in such soil and at such altitude can be regarded as a proved proposition.

"Furthermore from the point of view of the Land Bank Board it will be realised that property situated where it is is not one which could command a ready sale in the event of default unless communications were greatly improved."

7. As a result of a recent interview, Mr. Jordan was informed by the Commissioner for Local Government, Lands and Settlement, that the claim for the outstanding debt would be permitted to stand over for 12 months. I feel myself unable to recommend any further concession, and am unable to agree to Mr. Jordan's suggestion that Government should reimburse him for the sums expended on rent and for the value of experiments on his property. Acceptance of his suggestion on these grounds might well open the door to other similar claims, where the recommendations of the Kenya Land Commission have the effect of bringing the native reserve boundaries nearer to European.....

European Settlement than hitherto.

8. I agree that Mr. Jordan would appear to be discharged by reason of his age from employment under any colonial government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,



BRIGADIER-GENERAL,
GOVERNOR.

Nzukis, I

THIKA.

31st. October, 1934

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
Through The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,
N A I R O B I.
KENYA COLONY.

Sir:-

Further to my letter, which I note should have been forwarded through the Government of Kenya, I shall be grateful if you will consider the following:-

I am the original Settler on the Yata Plantation ^{P/afau}
(there are only two) where I have been for fourteen years.

I obtained a soldier settler farm here by arrangement and immediately applied for adjoining land; as the suitable soil for coffee, sisal or stock was on this Crown land, while the permanent water was on the soldier settlement farm. I considered there should be no difficulty in getting the additional land as half a million acres of adjoining Crown land earmarked for white settlement required pioneering.

The question of settling the Yata with Indians was brought up and disposed of by the decision that the area was part of the Highlands and reserved for White Settlement. Other difficulties also arose, the particulars of which I have forgotten but I think it was due to some general instructions from the Secretary of State and I considered the risk of planting 100 acres of coffee on the sandy soil of the soldier settlement farm was necessary although it suffers more from drought and needs more feeding than coffee on loam.

Eventually Mr. Mortimer of the Land Office informed me he did not think I should get the Grant unless I proposed something which would benefit the Government. As a result I worked out the first scheme for watering the Yata by means of a furrow from the Thika River; interested some friends experienced in sisal and with them saw the late Sir Robert Coryndon. He said he had just been enquiring what could be done with the Yata, and had received no useful suggestions.

He considered the scheme we had put up a very attractive one and, but for the provisions of the Land Ordinance, 1915, would have allowed us to proceed; as it was, he said he would see what could be done. He died shortly after.

My subsequent mistakes which arose through being too careful of the interests of those who were helping me led to a delay of some years, but grants were agreed to in 1929 though with a clause restricting the ~~growth~~ land to growth of fibrous plants only. Government has since agreed to delete this Clause when payment can be resumed.

When the slump came I had planted 400 acres of sisal and finished my cash. Although the sisal is ready to cut by using small machines, the price is still below cost, when, as in this case, the machinery has still to be purchased.

Sisal is, of course, going through a bad time but it is almost certain that, with the aid of science and invention, it will recover in a few years on a wider basis.

The Yata is capable of an output of over 50,000 tons per year.

With coffee the difficulty has not so much been low prices as the persistent run of bad seasons with reduced and inferior output, as one bad season means two bad crops. Quite what two bad seasons consecutively will mean we are now to learn.

In order that the situation as regards coffee growing here should be understood, the following notes seem necessary:-

Coffee Arabica is said to have been introduced into Arabia from Abyssinia in the 6th. century, A.D. and to be now, in general, grown under irrigation. (See records of the Botanical Survey of India) This (after 1300 to 1400 years) surely proves that coffee grows well under irrigation. On the other hand, we know from statistics that over 60% of the coffee grown under natural rainfall only, is inferior in quality, also that the country where it has been grown longest in this way, i.e. Brazil, produces the poorest coffee.

In Kenya, where the rainfall is light (25 to 30 inches) the soil in general is less acid than when the rainfall is high, also extreme soil acidity is a very serious problem as regards coffee growing.

See Bulletin No. I of 1930 Department of Agriculture Kenya Colony, also Journal of the Royal Society of Arts for November, 3rd, 1933, and a paper read by William Howell, C.B.E. D.I.C. F.I.S. Director of Amami Agricultural Research Station.

Both papers show that Coffee roots barely exist in soil more acid than P.H. 5.20 while between P.H. 5.50 and P.H. 7.0 the roots thrive.

As far as I have had tests made the Red Loams of the Yata give P.H. values between 5.89 and 6.30 which is very satisfactory.

There has been no soil survey of the Yata as far as I know and the analysis that I had made was unsatisfactory owing to the soil having been sunbaked with resultant loss of Nitrogen before it reached the soil chemist. Still the quantity of fine and coarse sand were found to be well within the limits of a loam as defined by Sir Edward Russell and the soil described as similar to some of the coffee

soils of Donyo Sabuk and Ithanga.

It is obviously similar to that of Ngoliva, 100 miles distant, which all authorities agree is a good coffee soil.

The Humus content here and at Ngoliva is also similar, here 7.8%, there 9.0%. The humus content of the sandy soils here is quite different, being 2.0% to 3% only.

There are many thousands of acres of this Red Loam scattered over the Yata, which would be accessible if the district was watered by furrows.

The value of such soil under irrigation would be in normal times from £20.0.0 per acre undeveloped up to £100 per acre under permanent crops.

During the last few years all my proposals for raising money have been turned down, and the general result has been not to know from month to month how to get through the next financially; sometimes labourers have had to wait six months for their pay, while it has been necessary to charge natives for grazing, with the result that those who wished to swindle had only to report to a zealous D.C. and trouble ensued.

The decision not to grant any agricultural credits here may have been right on economic grounds up to the time when I put forward proposals for building a dam and planting 100 acres of coffee on the loam soil where it could be irrigated; but from then were only justifiable for other than economic reasons.

It has since become publicly known that the Land Commission recommendations may very seriously affect the situation for the whole district.

I understand they have classed it all as unhealthy and not a part of the Highlands.

The Commission took no evidence on this point from those vitally concerned and any such decision would be contrary to facts for, with the exception of

two valleys and a few other parts, the district is quite healthy when ordinary precautions are taken, while the hills near what would be the Town site and which would be the residential quarter for town residence are not only healthy but have a delightful climate.

A careful study of Available topographical maps will, I believe, convince any engineer that there is only one first class railway route between Nairobi and the Coast, also that this route passes through the Yata; it seems, therefore, to be inevitable that a railway will some day be built here, and that unless the district is developed there will be a dead haul of 300 miles which will be equivalent to a perpetual tax on nearly all the inhabitants of Kenya Colony and Uganda.

I believe that the only race capable of saving this situation is our own. After what I wrote to the Land Commission on the subject of combined power and irrigation with water from the Tana, it seems necessary to say it is generally realized that something must be done to educate those natives who live in dry districts to use water for irrigation and I believe that taking the water out of the Tana anywhere below its junction with the Thika and using some of it for this purpose would not be opposed to larger development schemes on that river but would in reality prove to be the first step in making them possible as the education of the natives in the use of water is of paramount importance.

If the recommendations of the commission are carried out it means the end of white settlement in this district after grants have been made for that purpose for there can be no railway until the present Uganda Railway cannot handle the goods, (at least a generation) and consequently transport will always be so expensive that it will be impossible to raise the funds for development, also making it much more

difficult for me to recover from the setback of bad times and seasons; I having to raise money for further development to recover, this, while you will undoubtedly be building on my work of showing how the district could be developed by utilising the water which you will be utilising in such a way that the district will not benefit as it should and, as far as I can judge, I shall not benefit at all even if some of the furrows pass through my land.

I need to remember that I have been fourteen years trying to get land to develop and that as regards general purposes I have only got to the stage that it is promised me if I can pay amounts which the seasons and times have made impossible, and which future prospective events would seem to make more difficult still, also Englishmen do not like free gifts and benevolence forced out of them and when circumstances make the avoidance of those gifts and benevolences necessary we do not know what to expect next.

Under the circumstances I feel that I can only ask you to try and find me employment elsewhere. Should this not be possible I hope it may be possible to refund the sums I have paid for rents, etc., and to take over the improvements I have made on the farm and in the district at an agreed valuation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. Indau

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I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. Indas