

1 ——— D.A. Smith ——— 25th Oct. 47
Anushii

Enc. copy covers with Kenya Land Dept. regarding his application for land in Laikipia. His application was refused: asks that this decision be reversed

Mr. ~~Wiseman~~

The question of the Laikipia Land was gone into by a commission appointed by the Gov. The reason for the turning down of Mr. Smith's claim is probably (as shown in §15(a) of their report (flagged booklet). Anyhow any complaint sh^d come thro' Gov.

A personal letter returning Mr. S's letter to Enclosure & informing him that any complaint must come thro' Cd. Sect - Kenya.

Cp. Section 21. XI

Circumstances have changed since then.

This game is very similar to that of the Boyes - see letter therein in X 10300. It is a copy of the last draft of this. It is worth a similar long & detailed pt.

in D. in the last case we have referred the local authorities. 94 objections were referred.

20/11/47

I suppose this is being held up, with other things

visited the Native Land Trust held
as through (£10350) and I am
not sure whether individual cases
of this kind necessarily fall within
the scope of that arrangement. (We have
just got 2 deals with
the Oil by the proposals
for the Land Trust.)

Robert Simons
28/11/27

As regards A, I thought
it just possible that his family
were still a private M.P.
when he visited Anusha. But he
accepted the post of U.S. of S. on 12.11.24
& was at Anusha about 23.11.24.
So that we can't take that explanation

Robert Simons
28/11/27

I think A has been misunderstood.
I do not gather that even he himself
thinks that he was invited to write
about his / rooms three
times, or thirty years, after the
Commission visited Anusha.

Robert Simons
Yours very affectionately
W.S.S. 28/11/27

As regard A. I remember telling a meeting
of settlers at Anusha to speak freely and say
what complaints they had of any at that
time & on that occasion.

To Lanchester, 28/11/27 (no. 2002)

Mr. Wood. 30/10

Alternative 8/11

Mr. Lewis

Qto. for Mr. Lewis's sig.

Mr. E. J. Harding.

Mr. Stuckey.

Downing Street.

Mr. J. Shuckburgh

Mr. G. Grindle.

sent per ~~Director~~ November, 1927.

Mr. G. Davis.

Mr. S. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

WO 1.12.27

Dear Sir,

Earl of Clarendon

Mr. Ormsby-Gore has received

Mr. Amery

your letter of the 25th October regarding

DRAFT.

CONSON.
v. minute.

your application for further land in Kenya.

D.A. SMITH ESQ.,

He wishes me to tell you that

he fears he cannot intervene in the matter

of the ^{farm} extension scheme in Laikipia. The

Committee which allotted the land

disappointed 94 applicants in satisfying

it, and it would be quite impracticable

to re-open the matter.

It is of course open to you

to petition the Secretary of State ^{officially}

through the Governor of Kenya. If you

decide to do so, your petition will have

the fullest consideration, but you will

realise

realise that many of the other unsuccessful
applicants probably regard their cases as
being as deserving of success as you do.

Yours very truly

(Sgd) Anthony Bevir

DONALD AGGOTT SMITH
VIGHERS ESTATE
NEASE OLMOYNI
ARUSHA
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
EAST AFRICA.

October 25th 1927. 4/1

RECEIVED
21 NOV 1927
COL. OFFICE

The Rt. Hon W. Ormsby Gere M.P.
Houses of Parliament.
LONDON.

Sir,

During your visit to Arusha in 1924, a number of settlers met you at Mr Ulyate's coffee farm.

In the course of conversation you invited communications from persons who had complaints against the local Governments.

I now avail myself of your invitation, and wish to place before you copies of correspondence between the Kenya Land Department and myself. This correspondence will, I think, prove to you that I have been very unfairly treated in what is known as the Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

My application for land under this scheme was not granted, no official reason being given. I was later unofficially informed that my application was not granted as my farm is in the so-called agricultural belt. In my letter dated November 2nd I pointed out to the Land Department that my farm is not an agricultural farm, and I asked that my farm

Hand See 27

A

DONALD ROBERT SMITH
 VICKERS ESTATE
 SANGU, ULMOTONI
 KRUENIA
 TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
 EAST AFRICA

be examined and reported on. I have had no reply to this at date; in fact none of my letters have been replied to.

Not one acre of my land is under cultivation at date and in my opinion none of my land is fit for anything else but grazing.

Since January 1920 I have been grazing my stock on Mr W. Rooken-Smiths farms. Mr Rooken-Smith has decided to start farming in Laikipia, and has warned me that he requires all his land next year. This means that I have only 2000 acres on which to graze nearly 1000 cattle and 1500 sheep. ~~Smg~~

In my letter to the Land Department, dated June 25th I applied for a temporary grazing license over 5000 acres of the late Ndaragwa Estate which adjoins Mr Rooken-Smiths farms. No reply has as yet been received regarding this application. Owing to Veterinary quarantine regulations I am unable to move my cattle, and unless I can get grazing adjoining the land I now use it is likely that I will lose a large number of cattle from starvation during the dry season from December to March.

I now appeal to you, Sir, to see that I get fair and just treatment. I only ask for the same privilege as was granted to others whose farms were overstocked, and who were unable to buy more land. Government has given away thousands of acres of land under this scheme, and it seems

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DONALD ABBETT SMITH
VICKERS ESTATE
HQARE OLMOTSWI
ARUSHI
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
EAST AFRICA

very unfair that my application should not be granted.

I trust that you will give this matter your earnest consideration, and if you consider that I have sufficient grounds for complaint, I trust that you will give the necessary instructions to have my application for extra land reconsidered.

I apologise for taking up so much of your valuable time.

I am, Sir,

yours obediently

Donald A. Smith

COPY

Department of Lands.

P.O.Box 339.

Nairobi.

17th April, 1927.

Ref.No.L/19543 "A"

Sir,

Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

With reference to your application for additional land under the above scheme, I regret to inform you that the same has not been approved.

I am, Sir,

your Obedient Servant

H.R.Haggis

For Commissioner of Lands.

*a Smith Co
10 Apr 27*

C O P Y.

P.O. Arusha. 4

May 17th 1928.

The Commissioner of Lands.

P.O. Box 339.

Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

With reference to your No L/19543 "A" dated
April 17th.

I regret that my application for additional
land under the above scheme has not been approved, and I will
be greatly obliged if you will inform me on what grounds my
application has been refused.

I would like to point out that the farm allotted
to me under the Soldier Settlement Scheme is among the smallest
"B" farms in Laikipia, being slightly over 1200 acres in extent
further an area of 160 acres river frontage was cut off this
farm and was allotted to Mr S.L. Jenkins as an "A" farm. This
left my farm as a dry farm and I was obliged to buy Mr
Jenkins' farm No 806 A at a very high price to secure permanent
water for my farm No 808 B. My farm is now overstocked and
although there are thousands of acres of grazing land lying
idle in Laikipia I will be forced to sell my stock unless I

May 19th 1926.

(2)

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secure additional grazing land.

I have not get sufficient stock to enable me to sell a portion and buy more land.

I trust that you will reconsider my application for additional land and that you will see your way clear to grant me at least sufficient land to graze the stock I now own.

Is it possible to obtain a list of the successful applicants for land under this scheme.

I am, Sir.

Yours faithfully.

Donald, A. Smith.

Note. No reply has been received to this letter.

COPY.

P.O. Arusha.

November 2nd 1926.

The Commissioner of Lands.

P.O. Box 339

Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

With further reference to my letter No 61 dated
May 19th.

I understand that my application for additional
land under the above scheme has been refused on the grounds
that my Sold er Settlement Farm No 808 B is an agricultural
farm.

If the foregoing is correct, then an error in
description has been made, as this farm is a waterless stock
farm without a possibility of producing crops.

It would be interesting for me to know by whom
this farm was described as an agricultural farm, as, to the
best of my knowledge this farm has not been examined, neither
have I been asked to express any opinion in the matter, and it
seems unfair that I should be penalised to the extent of not
being granted any extra land through an error in description
made by some person unknown to me.

Farms higher up the Abedare Mountains with a
heavier rainfall have been extended, in fact all owners of

November 2nd 1926.

(2)

Soldier Settlement farms in my immediate vicinity who applied have been granted extensions of land.

As stated in my letter of May 19th my farm is over-stocked, but I have not got sufficient stock to enable me to sell a portion and buy more land.

Could your committee arrange to have my farm examined and reported on? If so Mr G.C. Aggett of Rumuruti who holds my power of Attorney would point out my boundaries.

I will be greatly obliged if you will place this letter before your committee when next it sits, and I trust that my application for an extension of land will be reconsidered.

I am, Sir,

Yours Faithfully

Donald A. Smith.

C O P Y.

Department of Lands.

P.O.Box 339.

Nairobi.

4th January 1927.

Ref.No.L/I3948.

Sir,

Re Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

I regret that through an oversight your letter of the 2nd November, 1926, does not appear to have been acknowledged earlier.

I am not yet in a position to reply definitely regarding your application but it is hoped to address a further communication to you shortly on the matter.

I, am, etc.

H.R.Harris.

For Commissioner of Lands.

D.A.Smith Esqr

P.O.Arusha.

C O P Y.

Department of Lands.

P.O.Box 339.

Nairobi.

6th September 1927.

Ref.No.L/I3948.

Sir,

Re: Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

With further reference to your letter of the 25th June, 1927, I have to inform you that Government has under consideration the question of auctioning Laikipia land at a lower rent than the 20 cents laid down in the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1925, in which case you would have the opportunity of bidding for such land as you require.

I hope to write to you further in this connection at an early date.

I am, etc,

H.R.Harris.

For Commissioner of Lands

D.A.Smith Esqr.

Ngare Olmatony.

P.O.Arusha.

C O P Y.

P.O.Arusha. 16

October IIth 1927

The Commissioner of Lands.

P.O.Box 339.

Nairobi.

Dear Sir.

RE: Laikipia Land Extension Scheme.

With further reference to your letter No.L/I3948 dated September 6th.

1. If it has been definitely decided to sell Laikipia land by auction, has Government taken into consideration that fact that those who were favoured by an extension of land and who have sold either their original holding or their extension are now in a position to out-bid those less favourably situated.

2. Mr W.A.Recken-Smith on whose land I have been grazing my stock for the past seven years, has now decided to return to Laikipia and start farming on his own account. Mr W.A.Recken-Smith considers that his land has been very much over-stocked and he is desirous of giving it a rest prior to settling there. This means that I have only 2000 acres on which to graze 1000 head of cattle and 1500 sheep.

3. In view of the fore-going a favourable reply to paragraph 2 of my letter dated June 25th re a temporary

October 11th 1927.

(2)

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grazing license on the late Ndaragwa Estate will be appreciated. Owing to quarantine regulations I am unable to move my cattle, and as the late Ndaragwa Estate adjoins the land my cattle now graze on, it would be the only land suitable to me for grazing purposes.

4. I still cannot understand why my application for extra land was not granted. As pointed out in my letter to you dated November 11th the farm granted me under the Soldier Settlement Scheme is not an agricultural farm, in fact it cannot be classed as a good stock farm seeing that it is absolutely waterless. I was obliged to buy an "A" farm at a very high price to secure water for this farm.

5. Will you forward to me maps showing Laikipia land as yet not alienated - cost of maps will be paid immediately after hearing from you.

An early reply will be esteemed a favour.

yours faithfully.

Donald A. Smith.

Note. It will be noticed that the Government have not given a definite answer to a single question in this correspondence.

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