

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

C0533/387

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CAMERA NO. ⇨ 19
OPERATOR. ⇨
REDUCTION. ⇨ 12
EMULSION NO. ⇨ 321022
DATE. ⇨ 13/3/72

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THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Project for a collection
of land in the ^{TANA} Tana River

letter a copy of your
letter from the 10 of the 13 August is
ref. to, was sent to you
by my wife No. 652 of the
21 August.

[19]

I enclose also a copy of
the reply which has been sent
to the company's letter of
the 10 August.

Signed: PASSFIELD.

X. 1565/122 4/25/22

C. D.
R 27 AUG
P. 297

Mr. *Adm* 23-8-22

Mr. *Bottomley* 27 f
Sir E. Harding

Mr J. Shuchburgh

Sir G. Grindall

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Ozamby-Gora

Lord ~~xxxx~~

Mr. ~~xxxx~~

3 of 10 *xxxx*

DRAFT

E. Behrens, of
Handelsvereeniging Amsterdams
W. v. v.

Copy to
xxxx

has also to each the
receipt of you that of
in is required from
which it is noted that
your Company do
not, for the reasons
explained in your
letter, propose to
pursue the project
of a concession in
the Tama River
Delta in Korea
for the purpose of

20

The Under Secretary of State

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
LONDON, E.C. 1.

RECEIVED
25 AUG 1929
COL. OFFICE

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that our Mr. Schuitenmaker handed us your letter No. 13086/29 of the 13th inst and beg to thank you for the ample information furnished about the various questions in connection with the concession of land in the Tana River Delta.

You emphasized already in your letter the question of labour supply and this is indeed one of primary importance to us. It is therefore with great regret that you learned from your information that the labour supply is quite inadequate to the extent of work we would require for developing the concession. Importation of Tamil labour may be possible to a certain extent, we think however it can never complete the contingent, we mentioned and which we intended to recruit from local resources.

In the meantime we had the samples of the soil, from the Tana Delta by Mr. Schuitenmaker, analyzed and we are in possession of the results; these show a very high percentage of chloride, which must be regarded as a great drawback.

no. 18
C. Schuitmaker
Colonial Office

the growing of sugarcane on these soils. In case these analyses are of interest to the experts of your Department we shall be glad to send you a copy of same free of cost.

We much regret having to inform you that under the unfavourable circumstances referred to above, we would not be justified in pursuing the Tana River project further.

We beg to thank the Secretary of State for his willingness to ask the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya whether he can agree, that no alienation of the area in question shall be made before the end of 1929. For the reason stated above however we cannot avail ourselves of this offer.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

N.V. HANDELSVEREENIGING "AMSTERDAM"

Reuning

18.27

Mr. Allen 6/18
Mr. Parkinson 7/18/29

- Mr.
- Mr. Bostonley
- Sir E. Harding
- Sir J. Shackburgh
- ★ Sir G. Grindie
- Sir C. Lewis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Stanley Gubb
- Lord Lytton
- Mr. Amery

7/18

8/5
Answer No 20

Downing Street
 C. D.
 8-AUG
 1929
 August 1929

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Dept. of the 13th April, and to the interview with Mr. Beggink and yourself on the 29th of May, I am etc. to inform you that His Lordship has been in further communication with the C.A.G. of Kenya with regard to the application made by the Handelsvereniging, Amsterdam, for a concession of land in the Tana River Belts.

DRAFT For revision.
 G. M. SCHUITENMAKER, ESQ.

(No. 13)
 Copy Sent 6.5.29. 8/1-2.1 AUG 1929

Copy to C.A.G. of No. 17.

(No. 13)

2. The C.A.G. reports that within the area of the suggested concession, there are three Native Reserves, totalling approximately 15 square miles, and also 20 square miles.

miles of land already alienated.

These areas would, therefore, have to be excluded from any concession;

and it is possible that there may be some other areas, though not of any considerable extent, which might also have to be excluded in the interests of the natives.

3. As regards labour, you have already been informed in the letter

from this Department of the 13th April (No. 2)

that the Colonial Government would not be under obligation to assist the Coy.

in any way in the supply of labour for its requirements. It is understood

that the Coy. do not contemplate the introduction of ^{Coolie} ~~Family~~ labour; and that

apart from the possibility of importing family labour for skilled work, to

which reference is made below, it is proposed to use indigenous resources of

labour wherever possible; and to train

(Par. 4 of No. 2)

up skilled labour from them. It is also understood that the Coy. estimate that if they acquire and develop the area, they will probably be in a position to employ 50,000 men when the concession is fully developed.

(No.10)

The C.A.C. of Kenya has reported that it is not likely that more than 8,000 labourers would be obtainable in the Colony and that number only if conditions were very greatly improved.

(No.13)

The S. of S. is also advised that labour from the Tanganyika Territory is not likely to be forthcoming.

(No.14)

4. The question of the importation of Tamil labour for skilled work is one on which it will be necessary to consult the Government of India, but before this could be done, the full Government of Kenya would require information as to the Coy's proposals

(last para 7 am)

regarding

up skilled labour from them. It is also understood that the Coy. estimate that if they acquire and develop the area, they will probably be in a position to employ

(No.10)

50,000 men when the concession is fully developed. The C.A.C. of Kenya has reported that it is not

(No.13)

likely that more than 2,000 labourers would be obtainable in the Colony, and that number only if conditions were very greatly improved. The S. of S. is also advised that labour from the Tanganyika Territory is not likely to

(No.14)

be forthcoming.

4. The question of the importation of Tamil labour for skilled work

(last para 7 Nov)

is one on which it ^{will} be necessary to consult the Government of India;

but before this could be done, the full Government of Kenya would require information as to the Coy's proposals

regarding

regarding numbers, terms of service, and other conditions of employment, to enable the Government to consider what special conditions it would be desirable to impose. (No. 17).

5. As regards the general attitude of the Government of Kenya towards the Company's application, the C.A.G. has stated that any proposal which the Coy. has to make will receive full considera-

tion, and subject to the Coy. agreeing

to terms, *029.* he sees no reason to think

that the Govt. would be opposed to that the concession would be refused. the grant of the concession.

(No. 17)

6. It appears to the S. of S.

question of labour supply
that the success of the enterprise is of primary importance, and he must be dependent on the supply of labour;

and, in the circumstances, he is not

in a position to hold out any expectation that an adequate number of

labourers will be forthcoming. He

must, therefore, leave it to the Coy.

the issue of what is stated above,
to investigate the labour probabilities,

and

and to satisfy themselves whether

in pursuing the project

In order to afford the

opportunity of doing this, the

S. of B. is prepared to ask the

O.A.C. of Kenya to agree on the same

conditions as those laid down in

par.2 of the letter from this Dept.

(No.2)

of the 13th of April that no aliena-

tion of the area in question shall

be made before the end of 1957

I am to be sure that the

would wish the C. to be

municated with accordingly.

I am, etc.

(Signed)

RECEIVED
26 AUG 1929
OFFICE

30
17

Telegram from the G.A.C. of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 3rd August, 1929.

(Received Colonial Office 1.30 p.m. 3rd August, 1929.)

186
No. 4

No. 233. 3rd August. Your telegram of 20th June Tanaland Concession I note that the possible importation of ask skilled labour only is contemplated and should this materialise should require full information as to the Company's proposals regarding numbers, terms of service, and other conditions of employment before intimating what special conditions this Government would impose. As regards other labour consider that the Company should decide for itself whether project is worth pursuing in the light of statement made to them in enclosure to your despatch of 15th April 1929 No. 250.

no. 4

With reference to the first part of your telegram of 30th May 1929 any proposal which the Company has to make will receive full consideration and subject to the Company agreeing to terms see no reason to think that the concession would be refused. This telegram received the concurrence of the Executive Council.

no. 10

Ans d 683 M to P
For ans d 26 Aug

14.31

~~Mr. ACP 20.6.29~~

X. 15850/29 4 mrg

~~Mr. Bottomley 20.6.29~~

- Mr. E. Harding
- Mr. J. Shuchburgh
- Mr. C. Gribble
- Mr. L. Davis
- Mr. S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Lord Loat.

Mr. Amey - *Carman*

92

C. D.
R 21 JUN.
B W

5 p.m. Social Club
20.6.29

DRAFT. Code 121

*James
Mason*

20th June Your telegram of

15 June No. 174 as
 regards TAMIL labour
 Company only contemplated
 possible importation
 for skilled work @ at
 interview here representatives
 made it clear that
 there was no question
 of importing casual
 labour from both areas
 East India @ 27

King is not likely to be able
to supply more than 2000
and if as I am advised
Tampangtha labour not
likely to be forthcoming
proposition wd appear to
be impracticable but

I will await further ~~replies~~ ^{replies}

from you and any
observations or suggestions which
you may have is well

before communicating again
with Company

See

RECEIVED
19 JUN 1929
COL. OFFICE

TELEGRAM from the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
(Dated 15th June Received Colonial Office 3.45 p.m. 15th June, 1929.)

No. 174. 15th June. *no 10*

Your telegram 29th May Tana River Delta. There are three Native Reserves totalling approximately 16 square miles and 20 square miles alienating land in this area which would be excluded from any concession and perhaps some other inconsiderable areas in the native interest. With these exceptions definite assurance desired in paragraph three of your despatch of 15th April No. 250 *no 10* is given.

*Availability
concession
sent 15 June 1929
27
D
m*

I agree that Labour is the crux of the whole scheme but while difficulties of obtaining local labour were mentioned to Schuitemaker no commitment of any kind in regard to imported Labour was given. Chief Native Commissioner considers that 2000 maximum obtainable from Kenya (and) that only if the conditions are very greatly improved. Before replying therefore to the first part of your telegram I am desiring that the Land Board express its views on the subject of possible imported Tamil Labour with a view to the consideration of this particular point in the Executive Council and will inform you as soon as possible by despatch.

RECEIVED
19 JUN 1929
COL. OFFICE

TELEGRAM from the Officer Administering the Government of
Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
(Dated 15th June Received Colonial Office 3.45 p.m. 15th
June, 1929.)

No. 174. 15th June. *no. 10*

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three Native Reserves totalling approximately 16 square
miles and 20 square miles alienating land in this area which
would be excluded from any concession and perhaps some other
inconsiderable areas in the native interest. With these
exceptions definite assurance desired in paragraph three of
your despatch of 15th April No. 260 *no. 4* is given.

I agree that Labour is the crux of the whole scheme but
while difficulties of obtaining local labour were mentioned
to Schuitenmaker no commitment of any kind in regard to
imported Labour was given. Chief Native Commissioner con-
siders that 2000 maximum obtainable from Kenya (and) that
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and will inform you as soon as possible, by despatch.

Handwritten notes:
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X: 15.55 by 29. 4. 29

Mr. *Accid* 29. 5. 29

Mr. *Mr. Bottomley* 29. 5. 29

Sir E. Harding.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir C. Davie.

Sir S. Wilson.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Lord Lovat.

Mr. *Amey*



could not
6.0 PM.

Answer to B
29. 4. 29

may say sup of 15' depth

MR ATO BUNNING and
SCHULTENMAKER

have had interview
here & I gather that
reports on TANA delta
soil are not too

favourable but Company
are anxious to know
whether in principle
application likely to be

~~considered~~ entertained
& whether from their
point of view & proposition

is worth proceeding
with. They state
that if they were to

DRAFT. Code of

important
factors
of soil

To be copied
later

as it passes
to be somewhat
brackish

I satisfied
as to the soil

Nesic. quickly done
in minutes & further
action need

X. 1565 by 29 June

Mr. Accy 29.6.29

Mr. Bottomley 29 June

Sir E. Harding

Sir J. Shackburgh

Sir G. Grindall

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Lord Lonsdale

Mr. Amery



could not
6.0 PM
29.6.29

Answer to 13

may my trip of 15 April
to 210 BLYNK and

DRAFT Confidential

important
farmer
Nation

To be copied
later

as I possess
the somewhat
brackish

If satisfied
as to the soil

Recie. quickly to
be made. Further
action need

SCHUITENMAKER
have had interviews
here & I gather that
reports on TANA delta
soil are not too
favourable but Company
are anxious to know
whether in principle
application likely to be
considered & whether
from their
point of view & proposition
is worth proceeding
with. They state
that if they were to

acquire and develop area
- ~~for~~ they was probably
- employing 50,000 men
when estate fully developed
I in reply to enquiry said that
they had in mind possibility
of KAVIRONDO at Tanganyika
labour. Labour supply was
seen to be ex. of whole
scheme & to be able to have
at very early date by
Telegraph views of your Government
as to source and amount
of labour that might be
available from within Kenya
and also summary of
reply wh. you are sending
on points raised in para
3 of my ltr. of 15 April

Jesse

90
H.M. EASTERN AFRICAN TRADE & INFORMATION OFFICE.

ROYAL MAIL BUILDING

COCKSPUR STREET,
(ENTRANCE OPPOSITE GARDENS)
LONDON, S.W. 1.

28th May, 1929.

Dear Mr. Bottomley,

At the request of the Governor I am writing to you about an interview which representatives of the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" had with Major Dale at this office yesterday.

The Governor has read through the papers and is most anxious that, subject to there being no local objection, they should be given an opportunity of obtaining this concession for experimental purposes. He has asked me to send to you a copy of what took place at the interview and to inform you of his anxiety that something should be done for them, if possible. I believe the representatives of the firm are in London for another day or two and perhaps you may be willing to see them.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Bottomley

W.C. Bottomley, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
Colonial Office.

27TH May, 1929.

E. Bennisik,

Directeur,

Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam",

Amsterdam.

and G.M. Schuitemaker.

Mr. Bennisik and Mr. Schuitemaker called in by appointment.

At the beginning of the interview they told me something of their Company's activities in the way of sugar, sisal and tea in Java, with a capital of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds sterling and a large reserve, etc. I told them, of course, that I had seen the correspondence which had passed between the Government of Kenya and the Secretary of State, etc.

Mr. Schuitemaker was the gentleman who went out to Kenya and Tanganyika on behalf of the Company.

Mr. Bennisik informed me that they had taken samples of the soil from the Tana River area and had done a certain amount of analysis and had found that the soil was brackish. The reports were not too good, but their idea was to grow sugar there if the soil was not too brackish and possibly sisal. The time limit with regard to this particular area expires in a month and, of course, did not give them anything like sufficient time to consider the proposition properly. They are only interested in a very large area of land, such as 200,000 acres, where they can draw up a development scheme and do the thing properly, and in order to complete their proposal they must have a concession for a long time. They would like one for two years and would not consider less than a year.

2.

They would, however, consider an option for a year if they did not complete their experiments, etc., subject to a proviso that they would have to satisfy the Government that they had seriously tackled the proposition in the first year. In dealing with an area of this size irrigation would have to be considered, which means surveying and would take a lot of time before they would be able to develop the whole of their plans. If, however, at the end of a few months they came definitely to the conclusion that the area was unsuitable to them they would at once notify the Government accordingly and would be prepared to hand over the result of their tests, etc. to the Government for the Government's use. At the same time, of course, they would want to know whether they could acquire the land on a 999 years lease, or a 99 years lease to start with, with the option of converting it into a 999 years lease in conformity with the Land Act. If they could receive a concession on the area for two years, or even one year, with an extension, that in the event of their deciding to develop the area certain definite development conditions should be attached, which would be mutually agreed between themselves and the Government of Kenya ^{completed with}

They are very anxious to know where they stand and would like to get an answer "Yes" or "No".

Apart from the Yana River area, if this cannot be given to them they are quite prepared to consider an area of the same size in some other part of the territory and have mentioned the Western Mau area near Kericho. They are also interested in the Makruai Reserve areas, but cannot get any proper information about these areas. The Standard Bank in Mombasa is supposed to have the freehold and referred them to the head-office here in London. When

They would, however, consider an option for a year if they did not complete their experiments, etc., subject to a proviso that they would have to satisfy the Government that they had seriously tackled the proposition in the first year. In dealing with an area of this size irrigation would have to be considered, which means surveying and would take a lot of time before they would be able to develop the whole of their plans. If, however, at the end of a few months they came definitely to the conclusion that the area was unsuitable to them they would at once notify the Government accordingly and would be prepared to hand over the result of their tests, etc. to the Government for the Government's use. At the same time, of course, they would want to know whether they could acquire the land on a 999 years lease, or a 99 years lease to start with, with the option of converting it into a 999 years lease in conformity with the Land Act. If they could receive a concession on the area for two years, or even one year, with an extension, they would be prepared to have attached to the concession that in the event of their deciding to develop the area certain definite development conditions should be attached, which would be mutually agreed between themselves and the Government of Kenya.

They are very anxious to know where they stand and would like to get an answer "Yes" or "No".

Apart from the Tana River area, if this cannot be given to them they are quite prepared to consider an area of the same size in some other part of the territory and have mentioned the Western Mau area near Kericho. They are also interested in the Masrui Reserve areas, but cannot get any proper information about these areas. The Standard Bank in Mombasa is supposed to have the freehold and referred them to the head-office here in London. When

they went and saw the head-office in London they referred them back to Nairobi and they could get no real information about it.

If they decided finally decided to develop the area properly they would probably employ 50,000 men when the estate was fully developed.

Their experience in Java and elsewhere shows that it is necessary for them to look a long way ahead and take up a large area, as their experience proved that when they came west into a country and started development, speculators immediately followed them and brought up all the land round about which they could get hold of and hold it with a view to selling it to the Company at an enhanced price when they (the Company) wanted further land for development.

They also asked me whether it would be possible for them to have an appointment at the Colonial Office.

I told them, of course, that I was not in a position to commit the Government in any shape or form and anything I might say to them was only my own personal opinion, but that to the best of my knowledge and belief I felt sure the Government of Kenya welcomed the entry of large Companies of established reputation their own for development purposes, and I, myself, was prepared to assist them in any way I could and to learn exactly what it was they were wanting. I said I would see Major Dutton tomorrow and have a talk to him and it was possible he might be able to see Sir Edward Grigg and if necessary I might be able to arrange for them an appointment at the Colonial Office on Wednesday, if they could stay until that time. They were greatly obliged and said they would certainly do so. They are a business house and naturally want the matter dealt with in a businesslike way and they, themselves, would not waste anyone's time and

4.
would either definitely turn down the proposition after being given sufficient time to enable them to make experiments, or go ahead with it.

CH 2/26

15656/14
39
9 May 1914

- Mr. Hill 3/5/14
- Mr. P. P. P.
- Mr. Bolton
- Sir E. Harding
- Sir J. Shuckburgh
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir C. Davis
- Mr. S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby Gore
- Lord Epsom
- Mr. Amey

[Handwritten signature]

Sir,

[Handwritten notes]

Refer to my despatch No.

250 of the 15th April

regarding the ^{application} ~~the~~ ~~Commission~~

made by the

HANDELSVEREENIGING, Amsterdam

~~in connection~~ in connection

TANA

and land in the Tana

KERICHO

deltas and Kericho district

and to inform you that,

in accordance with the usual

procedure the C.A. for the

lands were asked to transfer

DRAFT.

Kericho

Confidential

D.A.G.

~~For C.A. 2/5/14~~
1197 ✓

[Handwritten signature]

Confidential enquiries as to

the company name financial

status of the company.

for your information
enclosed is copy

of a letter with enclosures,

which has now been received

for the purpose of
obtaining the

results of these enquiries

Signed: L. S. AMERY

S.O. for Mr Parkinson 40
56 50/4

March 1914

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Bottomley.

Sir E. Harding.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir S. Wilson.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Lord Louat.

Mr. Amery.

DRAFT.

Major E.A.T. Dudgeon

Confidential

9 May 1914

202

44 High Street, London, W.

With reference to

my letter of the 30th April

re the HANDELSVEREENIGING

Amsterdam I would be

very glad to have seen

before you the 1st of

the enquiries which they

as to its financial standing
has made 40 & show

that there is no doubt

that this company is a

private concern for some 7

years or more.

2/1/14

(Signed) A. C. C. PARKINSON



41
7

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.
THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUERIED.

4, MILLBANK,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

O/Kenya 75.

TELEGRAMS: CROWN LONDON
TELEPHONE: 1780 VICTORIA.

RECEIVED
1 MAY 1929
COL. OFFICE

29th April 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 15656/29

No. 3

of the 15th April, I have the honour to transmit
the accompanying copy of a letter, with its
enclosures, from the Department of Overseas
Trade respecting the Handelsvereniging Amsterdam,
of Amsterdam, who have made an application for
land in Kenya.

W. P. C. Conf.
S.W. 1929

In view of the enclosed reports there
would appear to be no doubt that the Company is
a powerful concern possessed of ample resources.

24. 4. 29.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. P. C.

for CROWN AGENTS.

The Under Secretary of State.
COLONIAL OFFICE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE TO THE CROWN AGENTS.

16630/1929.

35 Old Queen Street,
LONDON. S.W. 1.
24th April 1929.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant I am directed by Mr. Douglas Hacking to transmit a memorandum regarding the Hendelayerseniging Amsterdam, of Amsterdam, and copies of despatches, dated 5th December, 1927 and 21st April 1925, from His Majesty's Consul at Medan and His Majesty's Vice Consul at Sourabaya respectively, giving ~~the~~ facts regarding the company on the occasion of the opening of new offices at those places.

Details of the actual production of the various plantations of the company are not available in view of their refusal to divulge particulars even to the Government of the Netherlands East Indies.

A spare copy of this letter and its enclosures is sent herewith.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) CARL C. FANER.

for the Comptroller-General.

5th December 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Manager of the local branch of the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" took the opportunity of the formal opening of their new offices at Medan on the 28th ultimo to make public some interesting details of the activities of his firm in Sumatra. I have extracted therefrom, and give below in as brief form as possible, the principal items of general interest.

2. The Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" is, as you are aware, the wealthiest Dutch Colonial firm, having an ordinary share capital of f.35,000,000 the market value of which shares stands at present at about 80% of the nominal value. The Head Office of the firm, through which most of its purchases are effected, is situated at Voorburgwal 162-170, Amsterdam.

3. The Medan branch of this firm was opened only 11 years ago, since which date the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" has steadily increased its activities here, until the newly opened offices, although unquestionably the most commodious and best appointed business offices in Sumatra, are now in no way beyond the firm's requirements. The firm now possesses 16 large plantations, with a planted area of 26,000 hectares (65,000 acres), while the total capital laid out in the East Coast of Sumatra and Atjeh exceeds 60 million florins (£5,000,000). Noteworthy examples of the construction work undertaken by this firm can be found in its 380 kilometres of light railways and in the erection, a few years ago, solely for the provision of water power for its fibre factories, of a water power

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State,

/ station

for Foreign Affairs,

Department of Overseas Trade,

(Development & Intelligence)

35 Old Queen Street. S.W. 1.

44

station at 3750 HP, at a cost of about f.1,750,000.

4. The firm possesses the following estates in this district.

(i) In production:

- 2 sisal estates
- 3 tea estates
- 1 oil palm estate
- 1 oil palm and coffee estate
- 3 rubber estates.

(ii) Not yet in production:

- 2 sisal estates
- 2 tea estates (including one in Kerintji, Western Sumatra)
- 1 oil palm estate
- 1 rubber estate (in Atjeh)

Of these 16 estates 13 have been developed by the Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam" from the beginning, only three being partially developed when acquired by the firm.

5. The personnel of the firm in Sumatra comprises 314 Europeans, and about 36,000 Asiatic employees, of whom about 33,500 are working in the East Coast Province of Sumatra, forming about one-ninth of the whole plantation labour force of the East Coast.

6. The production of the Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam" Sumatra estates during 1926 totalled about 28,000 tons, the firm's exports from Belawan amounting to no less than 27½% of the tonnage of the produce of European plantations shipped from that port.

7. The present annual expenditure of the firm's local branch is estimated at f.11,500,000 (say £950,000).

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble
Servant,

(Sgd.) H. Fitzmaurice.

Consul.

C O P Y.

MEMORANDUM.Handelvereeniging "Amsterdam"

Owners of sugar factories, tapioca factories, sisal heap, tobacco, rubber, tea and oil-palm plantations in Java and Sumatra.

United Kingdom Agents-

Denbigh Cowan and Co., 14, Chapel Street Liverpool.

Hieman & Co., 29, Mincing Lane, London E.C.3.

The following is an extract from Handboek voor Cultuur en Handelsondernemingen in Nederlandsch Indie 1928.

Established	1st February 1879.
Head Office	N.Z. Voorburgwal 162/170, Amsterdam.
Branch Offices	Sourabaya and Medan.
Capital	f.35,000,000 in shares of £500 fully paid up.
Debentures 4% 1905-1909	f.9,500,000
(of which f.4,750,000 have been drawn)	
Debentures 5% 1916-1918	f.8,800,000
(of which f.1,780,000 have been drawn)	
Statutory reserve 1st January, 1927	f.8,750,000.
Reserve (undertakings)	f.39,854,000.
Extraordinary reserve	f.8,750,000
Dividends	1922 30 per cent
	1923 35 "
	1924 40 "
	1925 35 "
	1926 30 "

C O P Y.

C.A.B. No. 3.

H. B. M. Vice-Consulate,
Sourabaya.

21st April 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on April 18th 1925 the new and very imposing offices of the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" at Sourabaya were opened with all the ceremony customary on such occasions. The entire official and commercial community of Sourabaya were represented in the very large gathering that assembled at 10 a.m. in the new building. The usual toasts were proposed, and many lengthy speeches were made.

I have the honour to forward herewith some facts and figures extracted from the speeches made, concerning the resources and expenditure of the company. The building is reputed to have cost over a million guilders.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) H. C. Walsh.

The Commercial Agent,
British Consulate-General,
BATAVIA.

HANDELSVEREENIGING AMSTERDAM.

Subscribed capital on 1st January 1879 on the establishment of the firm fl. 1,250,000. Capital on 1st January, 1925, fl. 25,000,000 - but the actual capital invested in the business is about 100 million guilders. The H.V.A. are owners of:-

- In Java.
- 12 sugar factories.
 - 2 tapioca factories.
 - 2 fibre factories.
 - 1 rubber and coffee estate.
- In Sumatra.
- 2 fibre factories.
 - 2 oil factories.
 - 3 tea estates.
 - 1 tobacco estate.
 - 2 rubber estates.
 - 1 rubber and coffee estate.
 - 1 coffee and oil plantation.

The sugar factories have a daily milling capacity of 254,000 piculs, a yearly planted area of 29,000 bouwa with 35 1/2 million piculs of sugar cane and 3,900,000 piculs of manufactured sugar.

Estates in Kediri have an acreage of 23,000 bouwa lent by the Government, while in Toeren there is a planted area of 7200 bouwa hired from natives.

In Sumatra there are about 15,000 Hectares under cultivation, while a further 30,000 H A. will shortly be opened.

The European staff in the Dutch East Indies is about 900 men.

Development expenses in Java per annum amount to about 40 million guilders. For Sumatra about 7 million. Of this total about 17 millions is paid as wages and rent to natives, while the European staff receives about 10 million. For shipping produce in 1925 the company has paid over 2 million in freights. Sugar is not shipped by

the

the company, and thus does not come into these figures.

From 1909 to 1924 the capital expenditure has been 18 1/2 million guilders, upkeep expenses 83 million guilders. Of this total about 70 million has been spent in Java as follows:-

Natives, wages etc.	42	millions
European staff	14	"
Government taxes	10	"
Railway freight	4	"

X 15656/29 49

27 APR 30

Section 26
Mr. Parkinson

- Mr. Bostonley
- Sir E. Harding
- Sir J. Shuckburgh
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir E. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Lons
- Mr. Amery

So for Mr Parkinson's eye

Confidential

DRAFT.

Mrs E.A.T. Denton

My dear Denton,

I am enclosing a copy of course about the Handelsvereinizing ^{Amsterdam} & this ~~meeting~~ ^{as to who} as you probably ^{have} know, ^{as to} ~~about the~~ ^{the} making ~~signifies~~ ^{land in} ~~the~~ ^{the} Tana delta & ~~the~~ ^{the} districts. ^{According to} ~~see~~ ^{from} the company's ^{of the} 19 April.

Letter to Sir Edward Grey ^{as regards} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~interest~~ ^{interest} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~hear~~ ^{hear} ~~more~~ ^{more} of ~~this~~ ^{the} ~~subject~~ ^{subject} P. so he ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~do~~ ^{do} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~work~~ ^{work} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~interested~~ ^{interested}

F.P.S. K70 no 113 22 Oct 29
no. 1

To Oag. no 250 15 Apr 29
no. 4

Handelsvereinizing Amsterdam
F.P.S. K70 19 April 29
no. 5

~~provide~~ show this ~~condition~~
~~condition~~

In accordance with our
usual practice we have asked
the Crown Agents ^{for the} to make
~~the~~ confidential inquiries as
to the standing & financial
position of the Company, ^{but}
we have not yet had ^{their} report.
~~to report to the effect of~~
~~as soon as they can~~

Yours sincerely

provide them this course

to them

In accordance with our usual practice we have asked the Crown Agents ^{fully to} make

~~the~~ confidential enquiries as to the standing & financial

position of the Company, ^{but} ~~and~~ we have not yet had ^{their} report.

~~to report to the Board of Directors~~

~~as soon as they can~~

J. [Signature]

N.V. HANDELSVEREENIGING "AMSTERDAM"
AMSTERDAM.
SOERABAJA-MEDAN.

TELEGRAM: AGORA, ROTTERDAM

AMSTERDAM (C) 19th April 1929.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,

London S.W. 1.

Downing Street.

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you, that our Mr. G.M. Schuitmaker handed us your letter No 15656/29 of the 13th inst., contents of which had our best attention and we wish to thank you for your information, that no alienation of land in the Fana Delta, up to a point 12 miles north of Ngao will be made before the 30th June, 1929.

We are in communication with the Private Secretary to H.E. The Governor of the Kenya Colony re an interview which we should like to have about some questions re the Kenya Colony with His Excellency. After this interview we intend to address you again on the matter.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

N.V. HANDELSVEREENIGING "AMSTERDAM".

Alm

(No 2.)

Copy to Kenya

Mr. Eastwood 9/4

Mr. Allen 11/4

Mr.

X Mr. Bottomley 11/4

Mr. E. Hayling

Mr. J. Shuckburgh

Mr. G. Grindis

Mr. C. Davis

Mr. S. Wilson

X Mr. Ormsby-Gore 11.4.29

Lord Lonsdale

Mr. Anson

Downing Street

16 April, 1929

Answer W.13
S.10

Sir,

DRAFT. *Passa*

KENYA

250

O.A.G.

Copy to C.A. 15 APR 1929
Copy to Dept. 20 APR 1929

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No.118 of the 22nd of February, regarding the enquiry made on behalf of the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" with reference to land in the Tana River Delta and in the Kericho District; and to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been sent to Mr. G.M. Schuitemaker in accordance with paragraph 6 of your despatch.

2. You will observe that it has been made clear to Mr. Schuitemaker that the assurance which has been given to him regarding land in

To Mr. Schuitemaker
(dit. herewith)

3 drafts.

the

Mr. Eastwood 9/4

Mr. Allen 11/4

Mr.

X Mr. Bottomley 11.4

• Sir E. Harding

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grenville

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

X Mr. Ormsby Gore *1000 11.4.29*

Lord Lovat

Mr. Amery

Downing Street

April, 1929

Answer 13
S. G.

DRAFT. *Casa*

KENYA

NO. 250

C.A.G.

Copy to C.A.G. 11.4.29
Copy to Mr. G.M. Schuitemaker

To Mr. Schuitemaker

(dft. herewith)

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 113 of the 22nd of February, regarding the enquiry made on behalf of the Handelsvereniging, "Amsterdam" with reference to land in the Tana River Delta and in the Kericho District; and to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been sent to Mr. G.M. Schuitemaker in accordance with paragraph 6 of your despatch.

2. You will observe that it has been made clear to Mr. Schuitemaker that the assurance which was given to him regarding land in

the

Drafts.

the Tana Delta must not be regarded as in any way committing either the Colonial Government or the Secretary of State to the acceptance of any proposals which his Company may subsequently submit; and that any obligation on the part of the Colonial Government, whether as regards the provision of ~~native~~ labour or as regards the maintenance of the present ^{kind of} import duties, in the event of a concession being eventually granted, has been expressly disclaimed.

3. In view of the existence of Native

Reserves along the portion of the Tana River which is in

Section I have to request that, before any further

negotiations are entered into, you will furnish me

of ^{Statements} full particulars, accompanied by a map, ^{showing} of the

exact areas to which the application relates, and of

relations of those areas to the Reserves. I

will also be glad to receive a definite assurance that

proposed alienation will not involve any possible

or claim

in land rights or in any way conflict with the

mentioned in the Note enclosed in my Despatch No. 506

(2 von 10350/27)

to be furnished

of the 19th June 1917; and ~~also~~ ^{with} your observations.

on

the Tana Delta must not be regarded as in any way committing either the Colonial Government or the Secretary of State to the acceptance of any proposals which his Company may subsequently submit, and that any obligation on the part of the Colonial Government, either as regards the provision of ~~native~~ labour, or as regards the maintenance of the present ^{kind of} import duties, in the event of a concession being eventually granted, has been expressly disclaimed.

3. In view of the existence of Native Reserves along the portion of the Tana River which is in question I have to request that, before any further negotiations are entered into, you will furnish me with ^{of} full ^{Statement} particulars, accompanied by a map, ^{showing} of the exact areas to which the application relates, and of the relationship of those areas to the Reserves. I shall also be glad to receive a definite assurance that the suggested alienation does not involve any possible ^{or claims} native land rights for in any way conflict with the policy outlined in the Note enclosed in my despatch No. 506 (2 on 10350/27) dated 16th June 1927; and ^{to be furnished} also with your observations.

on the labour aspects of the proposition, bearing in mind the remarks in paragraph 3(2) of that Note regarding the disposal of lands for types of production not requiring exceptional demand for labour. ⁴ In this connection I note from paragraph 8 on page 5 of the report of the Kenya Advisory Committee enclosed in your despatch that it is the policy of the company to use indigenous resources of labour wherever possible and to train up skilled labour from them.

I also note, however, that Mr. Schuitermaker stated that it might later on be desirable to import skilled Tamil labour from British India. I assume that you will refrain from committing yourself in any way in support of any such proposal, which

would

3

Mr. Allen

X.15656/29 Kenya

Mr.

Mr. B. Harding

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Amory

London

Mr. Amory

Answer No. 7

Confidential

Downing Street,

15 April 1929.

DRAFT.

THE CROWN AGENTS

FOR THE COLONIES.

Fr. O.A.G. Kenya 22.2.29.

To (Byt. herewith).

draft

Gentlemen,

I am etc. to enclose copies transmitted to you, for your own use, the acc. copy of correspondence with the O.A.G. of

Kenya regarding an ^{enquiry} application from the ^{made on behalf of the} Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" with

reference to an application for land in the Colony.

~~2. Mr. Amory with the enclosed~~ Confidential inquiry might be made you will make confidential enquiries

~~and report to me as to the standing and financial position of the Company.~~

I am, etc.

2 I am to request that

Confidential inquiry may be made as to the standing and financial position of this

2

Mr. Seal to J. 29
Mr. Allen 11/24

X15656/29 Kenya

- Mr.
- + Mr. Batemley 11/21
- Mr. E. Harding
- Sir J. Shackburgh
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson

13 April 1926

Mr. Ormsby Gore
 Lord Louis
 Mr. Amery
 J. G. Wilson

Sir

DRAFT.

(17. Scheitennutter, Eng.
 (Hollandische Vereeniging "Amsterdam"
 (Amsterdam))

Apr 10. Gov & C
 copy to C. O.
 copy to Mr. J. G. Wilson

I am glad to inform you that he has received a despatch from the Acting Governor of Kenya regarding the enquiry which you addressed to the Colonial Govt on the 15th November, 1925, as to the conditions on which the Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam" could obtain grants of land for agricultural purposes in the Tana Delta, and in the Kericho area of Kenya.

30/5

2

2. In accordance with the Acting Governor's recommendation in which the ~~Company~~ has concurred, I am to inform you that the application of land in the Tana District, ^{1/2} to a point 12 miles north of Ngao, will be made ^{to the} ~~under~~ 1, 50' June. It is to be noted that no definite action in respect of this ~~land~~ can be given to your Company at this stage. It must be understood that this assurance will be regarded as in any way committing either the ~~Government~~ or the Secretary of State to acceptance of any proposal which your

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Bottomley.
- Sir E. Harding.
- Sir J. Shackleton.
- Sir C. Grenville.
- Sir C. Davis.
- Sir S. Wilson.
- Mr. Grenaby-Gard.
- Lord Lonsdale.
- Mr. Amery.

DRAFT.

* ~~State~~ out out 'Case' 10 20 1/2 1/2 1/2

Company may hereafter submit. It should also be understood that, in the event of the Company obtaining a concession being granted, of land in the District of Kenya will not be under the Company's obligation to assist in any way in the supply of ~~labour~~ labour for its requirements. No such guarantee can be given that the present ~~of~~ tariff of import duties in Kenya will be maintained without modification. The Acting Governor of Kenya states that no undertaking can be given to you as regards land in the Western Province.

area of the (Along) near
Mericho

(Signed) H. D. ALLEN

NOTE.

The Company has asked for an assurance that certain land in (a) the Tana Delta, and (b) the Western Mau Forest Area, will not be alienated within certain periods.

The Colonial Government is prepared to give an assurance (without an option) up to the 30th of June 1929 in respect of "a", with ^{2.17} no undertaking at all in regard to "b". As regards the Tana River area the Company want the area reserved until the end of June ¹⁹²⁹ in order to decide whether to proceed with the matter, in which case they contemplate asking for an option for a period of eighteen months for survey purposes and for the preparation of a scheme, to be followed by negotiations for

(Page 44 b
not incl)

- (1) an option on land for a period of experimental development, and
- (2) A definite acquisition of the land at a later date.

The proposals as regards the Tana relate to an area on the coast and up to about twelve miles above Ngao, the area in which the Company is interested being 250,000 acres, of which 150,000 would be the maximum suitable for planting, with, say, approximately, 100,000 acres under crop (probably mainly sugar) at any one time. According to the Native Affairs Department Report for 1927 "the banks of the River in favourable circumstances are amazingly fertile and admirably suited to growing rice and sugar in large quantities".

(Page 21 not incl)

Page 11

The following points arise:-

- A. Presumably there is no objection in principle to

See paragraph 7 of
despatch.

10350/27

See page 2 of
first enclosure.

Page 11

10350/27

to alienation to a foreign company, especially
as no other application in respect of the land
has ever been made to the ~~Company~~ ^{Govt}.

B. One ought to be able to assume also that
this land is available for alienation under the
"Bottomley-Martin Memorandum" as not involving
any possible native land rights or claims; but

C. ^(10350/27) The maps of the gazetted Native Reserves
show some Pokomo Reserves along the Tana River
and Ngao itself near which the Company would
require an area for water purposes appears to be
within a Reserve. It will therefore clearly
be necessary to make sure that no native rights
or claims are involved. The attached extract
from the Native Affairs Department Report for
1927 seems to indicate a possibility that the
operations of the Company might even be benefi-
cial to the natives.

D. Also in paragraph 3 (2) of the
"Bottomley-Martin Memorandum" relating to the
disposal of lands in urgent demand reference is
made particularly to types of production not
requiring exceptional demands for labour.
According to paragraph 5 on page 3 of the first
enclosure, the policy of the Company is "to use
indigenous resources of labour wherever possible
and to train up skilled labour therefrom", although
"It might be desirable later on to import
some Tamil labour from British India which
the Government is disposed with the Government in due
seasons it would seem necessary to
ensure that the Colonial Government will not
be in any way prejudiced in any matter connected with the
importation of labour.

In itself there would seem no objection

to

to giving the proposed assurance that the land on the
Tana River will not be alienated before the 30th of
June 1929, but it would be desirable to add a proviso
that the assurance must not be regarded as in any way
committing either the Colonial Government or the
Secretary of State to acceptance of any proposals that
the Company may subsequently submit.

G. In case the project is pursued, it would seem
desirable to ask the Crown Agents to make enquiries
as to the standing and financial position of the
Company.

EXTRACT FROM NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1927 - PAGE 11.

+ + +

40. Of the Pokomo all that can be said is that they are still as they were, a small Bantu tribe about 11,000 strong, timid, inoffensive and responsive to any effort made on their behalf but living in conditions which would seem to preclude any progress and which would appear to be more likely to bring about their gradual but ultimate extinction. The water that they drink is micaceous; the land they occupy is at the mercy of the capricious flooding of the Tana; the crops that they grow are subject to depredations of wild animals and to disturbance by their Somali neighbours, and the country that they inhabit is infested by countless myriads of mosquitoes. A few years ago there was some reason to believe that their population was rapidly declining. The estimates for the last few years, however, are fairly constant.

41. It is difficult to see what can be done to improve their prospects. The expenditure of some millions of pounds on the extermination of mosquitoes, on the control of flood water and on the provision of drinking water by boring or condensing might, and probably would, eventually yield an adequate return, as the banks of the river in favourable circumstances are amazingly fertile and admirably suited to growing rice and sugar in large quantities.

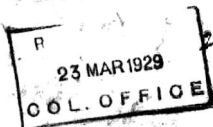
+ + +

KENYA



**GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.**

No. 113.



22nd February, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that an application has been received from Handelsvereeniging, "Amsterdam", with reference to land in the Tana River Delta and in the Kericho District.

2. The Limited Liability Company Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam" established N.Z. Voorburgwal 162, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, is believed to be a powerful Java and Netherlands Indies development Company, and is stated to have a large organisation and a reserve fund of 100,000,000 Dutch florins, and is also said to be entirely Dutch in constitution.

*Hand L.S.O.
Ctys & Co.
to Mr. Schuitemaker*

3. Representatives of the Company have been carrying out preliminary investigations in this Colony and Protectorate during the last 12 months, and have inspected various areas that might be available. They are most interested in the Tana River Delta and the Western Mau area near Kericho. Soil samples have been taken and a mass of information collected in respect of both areas, to be submitted to the Directors of the Company. I enclose a copy of the relative minutes of a meeting of the Kenya Advisory Committee held on November 7th last at which Mr. Schuitemaker explained his proposals.

THE RT. HON. LIEUT. COLONEL L. G. H. S. ALLEN, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

4. A definite application has now been made by Mr. Schuitemaker in a letter of November 15th. - a copy of which is also enclosed - that this Government should reserve the whole Tana River Delta to a point 12 miles north of Ngao until the end of June 1929 by which date the Company will have to decide whether to enter into further negotiations with this Government with a view to conducting more precise investigations as regards the possibility of developing this very large area. If the Company's decision be favourable, it is asked that the option would be extended in order to allow time for engineers and agricultural and nautical experts to submit detailed reports, and for negotiations with Government as regards the terms and conditions on which Government would be prepared to make a grant of land.

5. With reference to the Western Mau Forest area near Kericho, the Company asks that no part of this area be allotted to others during the period of preliminary negotiations in respect of the Tana River Delta land.

6. I have considered these applications in Executive Council and have decided, subject to your concurrence, that the Company should be given an assurance that no alienation of land in the Tana Delta, to a point 12 miles North of Ngao, will be made until after the 30th. June 1929, but that no definite option should at this stage be given to the Company in respect of this land.

7. Further, that no undertaking be given to the Company regarding land in the Western Mau area near Kericho.

8. This decision was in accordance with the advice of the Land Advisory Board which has now been constituted, and there will be no objection to extending the reservation

of this land from sale for such reasonable period as will cover negotiations with Government for the possible acquisition of the land in question, if at the end of that period the Company has proposals to make. It was fully appreciated that the Company was non-British, but at the same time it was borne in mind that no other applications in respect of this land had ever been made to Government and that the land is such as to demand development by powerful financial interests experienced in the development of similar areas elsewhere and that the nationality of this Company should not debar it from consideration.

If you approve of this decision, I suggest that it might be more appropriate and convenient if it could be submitted direct to the Company's Headquarters in Amsterdam.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

62

EXTRACT FROM MINUTE OF KENYA
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 7. 11. 28.

The Chairman explained that Mr. Reijers, of the Handels Vereniging Amsterdam, had made a preliminary survey in East Africa in March last and had now been followed by Mr. Schuitemaker, who, following a technical reconnaissance survey, was anxious tentatively to discuss certain matters with the Committee prior to his return to Holland.

Mr. Schuitemaker stated that he had spent some time in the delta of the Tana River and, as the result of his investigations, was prepared to put forward to his Company preliminary suggestions as to the exploitation of that area. The main crop to be grown would probably be sugar. Experience in East Africa so far had largely been with hard sugar canes, but if the proposals came to a head the bulk of sugar production from the suggested area would have to find export markets, e.g., British India and The Far East, and for that purpose it would be necessary to experiment with soft cane, with which alone the cost of production could sufficiently be reduced to meet the world market prices. In the best interest of production however, it would be necessary to experiment as to the possibilities of crop rotation.

Mr. Schuitemaker explained that there was no proper map of the country, or reliable data as to the flow of the Tana River. His preliminary survey seemed to show that the minimum rate of flow was about 1,600 ft. per second, but before anything could be done towards experimental development in the area it would be necessary to have a proper survey made of the land and to station an engineer

63

-2-

there for at least a year in order to obtain data as to the flow of the River at all seasons and to study questions such as the control of flood water, irrigation possibilities and soil drainage. A considerable amount of work in connection with soil analysis would also be necessary. He felt, speaking in round figures, that the area in which his Company might be interested would be about 250,000 acres, that is, the Tana Delta from about 12 miles north of Ngao down to the Coast. Of this area possibly 150,000 would be the maximum suitable for planting with, say approximately 100,000 under crop at any one time.

In reply to questions Mr. Schuitenmaker stated that in Java, where his Company were largely interested, the Company were granted by the Dutch Colonial Government options for ten years on land for experimental purposes free of rent etc. Thereafter leases were granted for seventy-five years with development conditions on the basis of an increasing scale up to a maximum development at the end of so many years.

In reply to further questions Mr. Schuitenmaker stated that:-

1. Pumping stations along the River would be necessary as the land was generally too low for irrigation canals.
2. An area of land near Ngao would be necessary for purposes of water conservation or flood water control.
3. Assuming that this Company did proceed with the exploitation of the area he thought that it would not float a subsidiary company for the purpose, but, in view of its strong financial position, would finance development out of its existing reserves. The Company had a capital of something like £5,000,000 paid up,

Reserve Fund of nearly double that amount and a free International market in shares which were quoted at a very high premium. There was thus an opportunity for British investors to acquire an interest in the Company by ordinary market acquisition of shares.

4. The Company did not confine its purchases of machinery to any one country. For instance, much of the machinery in Java was British.

5. The output of the Company in Java was something like 200,000 tons of Sugar and 30,000 tons of Sisal per annum.

6. It might be desirable later on to import skilled Tamil labour from British India, which could be discussed with Government in due course, but the policy of the Company was to use indigenous resources of labour wherever possible and to train up skilled labour therefrom.

The Company would on its own sake endeavour to settle as many natives as possible on the estates and would undertake, as it does in Java, to furnish its labour with educational and medical benefits.

7. On recently developed properties in Java the Company had worked on the basis of one factory to about 5,000 acres under cane, each factory costing about £800,000.

At this the Chairman suggested that Mr. Schuitemaker should give the Committee some idea of the terms of acquisition of the land which he would be prepared to submit to his Company. In reply Mr. Schuitemaker stated that he would suggest:-

1. That he should briefly confirm his interview with the Committee by letter to the Hon'ble The Colonial Secretary as soon as possible.

That/

and the Chief Native Commissioner should be invited to attend.

Confirmed.

CHAIRMAN.

G.M. Schuitemaker
c/o Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam",
Amsterdam.

Dar-es-Salaam.

15th. November 1928.

To
The Kenya Advisory Committee,
Nairobi.

Dear Sirs,

Herewith I beg to confirm and explain the request I brought forward at the meeting of your Committee on the 7th. inst. at the Secretariat at Nairobi.

On behalf of my company, the Limited Liability Company, Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam", established N.Z.Voorburgwal 162, Amsterdam, The Netherlands I asked some time ago the Director of Agriculture and the Deputy Director of Agriculture of Kenya for kind information, where my company would be able to obtain lands in order to establish a cultural interest on about the same base as it already developed in some parts of the Dutch East Indies and specially I asked for suitable sugar, sisal, coffee, and tea lands.

Resulting therefrom we had a meeting with your Chairman, the Commissioner of Lands, and 3 areas were appointed to me.

These three areas have been investigated by Dr. P. Wageler and me. Only one proved not suitable for the purposes of my company.

The other two areas are:

1. The Tana Delta near Ngao and Kipini, for sugar;
2. Highlands near Kericho, for tea.

As about the Tana Delta only exist maps on

a big scale, and from former explorations very little is known, we could not obtain all information and details on some important points, which are necessary to give a definitive opinion.

Our visit has given the following impressions:

The area of suitable grounds for sugar cane growing etc., is not so large, as we first expected after the discussions at Nairobi, but we presume, that there is still enough land available for the establishment of a sugar company.

In the dry season there is a reasonable quantity of water available in the River Tana for irrigation, but nearly all of it shall be necessary for the growing of sugar cane on the available land;

The quality of the soil seems to be good for sugar growing, though it is still necessary to make chemical and other analysis of the soil-samples, we took.

However we now already can say, that it will be impossible to grow sugar cane without irrigation.

Without preliminary close detail-survey of the country, good maps and a rather long uninterrupted observation of the high and low water periods of the river it is impossible to say, if the land actually can be irrigated, and what is still more important, if a good drainage can be ensured.

A nautical expert shall have to investigate the possibility of making a suitable harbour for the yearly manipulation of many thousands of tons of cargo at Kipini or another place on the coast;

At present at least twice a year the whole delta is overflowed for a rather long time. When later a part of the land is protected by dikes, the remainder of the at present still uninhabited country will be more liable

to overflowing. It is desirable, that this part of the Delta is also allotted to the same company, which undertakes the development of the Tana-Delta.

In order to make out, that it is really possible to grow sugar on an economical basis, it is absolutely necessary, that some experiment gardens are laid out under the direction of an experienced sugar-planter and chemist. Good experiments will take a couple of years.

From what precedes you may conclude, that there is still a lot of experimental work at high costs to do. I already told you, that my company can only make a start, if beforehand she gets the guarantee from your Government, that during the period of experimental work no rights whatever on land, water, etc., shall be granted to any other person or company. Moreover my company beforehand will come to an agreement for the land conditions etc. to future.

I therefore kindly ask you, to confirm the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" that your Government will reserve the whole Tana-Delta up till 12 miles North from Ngao, till the end of June 1929, before which date the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" shall have to declare, if she will enter into further negotiations with your Government or not. I have to ask for this period because it will not be possible to have the soil-samples analysed before May next year, and moreover I cannot be home sooner for the necessary oral discussions with the Board of Directors.

If the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" confirms, that she will be interested in the Tana-Delta-lands it will mean, that in the event your Government can agree to the principal conditions she will outline, she shall send engineers and experts for further investigation.

Therefore I also beg you to confirm, that

during the period of the negotiations about the principal conditions for land and water rights, the option on the Tana River Delta grounds will be uphold.

Meanwhile it can be made out for which period the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" freely can go on with the eventual experimental and survey work, without loosing the option.

Regarding an option on the Tea-grounds near Kericho, I request you to confirm my company, that no part of the Western Mau Forest Reserve and the Buret Native Reserve will be allotted to others during the period of the negotiations with the Handelsvereniging "Amsterdam" for the Tana Delta.

Concerning the several questions which were asked to me during the meeting about the position of my company, the educational work for the native labour, etc. I hope the information I have already given to you has been sufficient, but in case you might want any more details, I kindly request you, to apply directly to my Head-Office at Amsterdam.

I remain,
Dear Sirs,
Yours very respectfully,

(Sgd) G.M.Schuitmaker.