

1925

KENYA

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Date

6th July 1925.

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INDIA OFFICE

Circulation

Mr.

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3rd U.S. of S.

4th U.S. of S.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

RESERVATION OF LAND IN LOWLANDS FOR INDIAN AGRICULTURISTS.

Fwd tel from Govt of India intimating that it is not proposed to depute an officer to inspect the land. Consider no useful purpose would be served by pursuing matter further.

Please see also for 28435 as to the non-Indian scheme.

On this point, the only question is whether we should definitely withdraw the 1923 offer, or say that Indians will be left free to apply on the same terms as they now have for land outside the highlands, or keep the matter open for a few months.

Sir E. Grey thinks that Indian settlement opportunities for Natal might be available, + we need not shut the door

Subsequent Paper

Was 40728

It will be best considered the matter

? Send copy to Gen. O.P.S.



Gravel

INDIA OFFICE,

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WHITEHALL,

70756

6 July, 1922.

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,

COPY OF TELEGRAM(Copies
circulated)From Viceroy, Department of Education,
Health and Lands, to Secretary of
State for India.

Dated Simla, 24th June, 1925.

Received 24th June, 1925, 4 p.m.

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783-S. Education Department 352. With reference to your telegram No. 3354, dated 28th November last. Temporary reservation of areas in the lowlands in Kenya. We have carefully considered the proposal in consultation with Emigration Committee of the Legislature. Latter consider the land offered to be unlikely to attract a colonist: since it is marshy in some parts, waterless in some, exposed to ravages of tsetse fly in others, and generally expensive to clear. Educated opinion in India would regard acceptance of the reservation, even on temporary footing, as acquiescence in the principle, the application of which in the uplands if we have been consistently opposed, and therefore, as likely to weaken Indian claim to reserved land policy. The objections to this effect have been presented to important public bodies with reference to the Indian National Congress, the Indian National Liberal Federation, the Indian National Association and the Indian Sabha, and have also been strongly held by the majority of the unofficial members of the Legislative Committee of the Legislature. In the circumstances, we do not think it advisable to proceed with the idea of sending an officer to Kenya to inspect the areas in question. Such a step would almost certainly antagonise the Assembly, reverse the agitation in the country over the Kenya issue, which is rapidly now fermenting, and generate atmosphere wholly hostile to scheme, even if it were reported by officer to be feasible or attractive.

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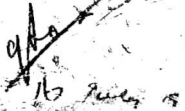
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