

1925

KENYA

126

C.O.
52126
20 NOV 25

FROM
NYES, J.

DATE
18th November 1925.

OR CIRCULATION :-
Mr. *Bostwick*
Mr.
Mr.
1st U.S. of S
W. Sturges
2nd U.S. of S
3rd U.S. of S
Secretary of State

CLAIM FOR LAND.

Relates circumstances in which he was promised a farm in respect of his services in conducting a punitive expedition in 1901.

Previous Paper
48104
copy to Sec 1279 com 23 DEC 1925
23 DEC 1925
copy to Sec 1279 com 23 DEC 1925
23 DEC 1925

MINUTES
W. Sturges
You told me after I had mentioned 48169 that you had met Mr. Boyes in Kenya & heard of his claim. Can you add anything that will be helpful in dealing with it, please?
Reference is made to land by other means and that returns the promise for special grant.
(W. Sturges)
Herewith a copy of his book "John Boyes, King of the Wa-Kikuyu". It is quite interesting reading, but no doubt greatly magnifies his exploits. The Kikuyu

Subsequent Paper
Gov 2231/26

further fact is reproducible & was
 apparently investigated mainly by Mr. Boyes
 as the Kellogg natives had never submitted to
 him, see page 113. Mr. Boyes is a disappointed
 man, because he now finds that others have
 made fortunes out of the land in Kenya, while
 he, although one of the first white men there,
 has only a small coffee farm. He is still,
 as when he wrote his book, very anti-Government,
 anti-missionary and anti-education for
 natives. He is quite a good fellow of his
 type, but I think there must be many
 who have rendered much greater services
 to the Kenya Govt. than he & have not been
 presented with free farms or any of the
 senior administrative offices who have retired
 lately.

J. A. Calder

23.11.25

The book is extremely interesting. Mr. Boyes should
 be a man of exceptional courage, but he shows
 timidity in the district (which he depicts)
 of the large administrative & the colonial
 Indian. His regime among the Kellogg
 was somewhat less satisfactory.
 I hope I will meet Mr. Boyes in
 return to the Boer's Ministry.
 Local morning
 24.11.25

Book returned to
 Mr. Calder 19/12
 L.A.

Mr. Boyes is a good man but he has no claim
 on the Government. It has been to some extent managed to provide for him
 C. J. ...

MR. JOHN BOYES

A Visit to England

Mr. John Boyes, says a York-
 shire paper, is visiting England for
 the first time in fourteen years.
 He is accompanied by his wife and
 two sons. It is understood that
 one of his main objects in going
 to England was to arrange for the
 publication of a further book of his
 adventures, dealing especially with
 elephant-hunting in the Congo, his
 experiences as the first white man
 to make the long trek through
 Abyssinia to the Kenya country,
 and his journeyings through Ger-
 man East Africa. Another reason
 which has brought Mr. Boyes to
 England is that he has been ap-
 proached about the filming of his
 book, 'The King of the Wa-
 Kikuyu'.
 The journal continues:-
 Mr. Boyes recounted with
 much amusement the changes that
 have taken place since he first knew
 the Kenya country. The spears
 and shields have been put away
 for more peaceful pursuits, and
 only at some special events or
 at the Government House in Na-
 robi do the natives don war dress.
 Some of the big chiefs with whom
 he entered into blood brotherhood
 have passed to the Happy Hunting
 Ground, while their sons drive
 about in 2500 motor cars with na-
 tive chauffeurs. Now everything
 is different from the pioneer
 days consequent upon the progress
 of education - a subject upon which
 Mr. Boyes feels very strongly.

UP-COUNTRY FIRES

52126

185 Coltman Street,
Hull.

18th November, 1926.

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The Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,

I have received a letter from Lieut. L. R. Stanley M.P. to send you information about a claim for land in Kenya Colony. It dates back from 1901 when I went out as guide and intelligence officer under Capt. Wake C.M.G., D.S.O. East African Rifles on the Kalayere Punative Expedition. I joined the expedition at Naivasha and the reason I went was because I was the only white man that had ever been there and knew the country I took my whole Safari with me which consisted of about fifty men my own rifles and ammunition I also secured 3,000 Volunteers some of my friendly Natives and after seven weeks of hard fighting I managed to put the whole country in order and incidently shooting the rebel Chief Kasusa myself in a cave. I never received any remuneration for my services but was promised a farm and received a letter from Capt. Wake stating that it had been placed on record at headquarters but up to date have not received any satisfaction although I have seen different Governors of the colony in the matter

Enclosed please find copy of letter received from East Governor Sir Robert Coryndon but the land office in Nairobi have all the papers in connection with this matter.

Yours faithfully,

John Bayes

Government House,
Kenya,
East Africa.

(Copy)

30th December, 1934.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

I have given full consideration to your application for another farm at Myeri and have read through all the papers.

As I told you at the time you spoke to me, I am afraid that there was little chance. Your services were rendered a very long time ago as things move in Kenya, and even if I and my Executive Council did recommend a grant, I am sure the Secretary of State would not agree. The circumstances are so unusual owing to the lapse of time that the matter would have to be referred to London.

I am sorry that under the conditions I am afraid I cannot help you in this matter.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) Rt. Coryndon.

Downing Street, S.W.1.

19th November, 1925.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Ormsby Gore asks me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th of November which is receiving his attention.

Yours truly,

Private Secretary.

JOHN BOYES ESQ.

19 DEC 1924

Widow's 16/12/24
Allen 17
Bolt
Allen 17
Hackburgh
Mandle
Ligon
dy. Gore
Larendon

Kenya
2nd

22 December, 1924

RAFT.

Sir

Wes Esq,
Boltman St.,
Well

In reply to
~~I am etc. to ask the~~
W.M. Dundy Esq

~~receipt of yr. ltr. of the 18th.~~

of has. ~~in~~ regarding your
claim ~~for~~ a grant of land
in ^{Kenya} ~~acknowledgment~~ of your

~~services with the Malaya
punitive expedition in 1901.~~

Sent
Dec 24/24

Drafts

to inform you that
a copy has been sent
to the Gov. of Kenya for
his observations. A further
copy will be sent to you on the
receipt of the Gov's reply

I am, etc.

(Signed) W. C. BOTTOMLEY.

Bottomley 16/12/25
Allen 17
Bottomley 18

End

Ans'd
2231

23 December, 1925

Sir,

RAFT.

ya

I have etc. to tr. to you,

12/19
Jugg

for your obsons., the accy.
copy of a lr. from Mr. J.
Boyer, with enclosure,
regarding this claim ~~for~~

no.
2126

a grant of land in
Kenya. Have to

aflo

AMERY