

KENYA

X. 4174

11 MAY 1926

DATE

393 16th April 1926.

33

R'S DEPT
RTHCOTE

ULATION

PASTORAL LEASES IN LAIKIPIA.

Forwards copy of report of Board appointed to advise on ----- together with his comments and requests to be informed by telegraph whether approved.

*S/o Corresp with Bug Gent. Sent Attached
(Record of interview with Mr Sandbach Baker)*

S. of S.
S. of S.
y of State
Previous Paper

Wabosomony	12/5
Mostrating	13/5
FEAD	14/5
Room 3	17/9
in allen	
Room 3 (mail)	23 SEP 1926
XEA	

358/25
10 May 1926
Reminded to see 910 com. 23 SEP 1926

Subsequent Paper

C. 7458
Majin Laminje
10. 10693 (Panchikha)

C/16083/00
Melwa
Yakusate
(X) X. 1034(1) (Panchikha Karte)

The conditions for these extensions are materially the same as those approved on 10358/25. I notice that ^{under} paragraph 3 (3) there will be an option for lessees to retain their long agricultural lease for their existing holdings and take the additional area on "short grazing lease". I do not know (and it does not much matter) whether this "short grazing lease" relates to the 30 years' pastoral lease now proposed or to the annual grazing tenancy which has been in vogue hitherto.

The previous proposal for the new pastoral lease was 33 years; the reduction to 30 years is immaterial.

It is fortunately not necessary for us to review the local Government's selection of the individuals. I do not see any objection to the small excesses per head which are proposed over the 7,500 acre limit laid down here instead of the 10,000 acre limit proposed locally.

There is ~~the~~ special case of the Laikipia States, a syndicate of 4 men who now hold 9,592 acres. Under the scheme ^{they} are to have 6,830 acres extra making in all about 4,000 acres per head. That is all right, but it is suggested that, in addition, they should be given a block of dry farms amounting to 26,923 acres provided that they run a pipe which will supply these farms with water. It seems at least possible that the pipe line is needed for developing their additional 6,830 acres and that, subject to suitable terms for the use of the water, the additional block might be leased to other people. The grant of this additional block is still under consideration and we are to hear further about it, but I think that we might reasonably add to the telegram which is asked for in

the sense of my draft.

With regard to paragraph 6 of the despatch I do not see quite how paragraph 15 (4) of the report concerns the Sambaru question. Paragraph 15 (5) certainly concerns that question and we must wait for the Governor's further despatch. When he left England he proposed to examine the Sambaru question on the spot at an early date, but he certainly has had no opportunity of visiting that region so far.

W.C. Somerville

13.5.26.

C.S. B.S.

Office

See on B/X F 3751 as to

the John Boy's application under this scheme.

W.C.S. 29.7.26

Remind for Lt. J. J. ...

... ..

... ..

... ..

W.C. Somerville

16.8.26

See next page ...

Mr. Somerville

The replies - see p. 15 (3) }
have come to 4874/26 and para 3
of that despatch - that the application
for these particular factors has not
yet been submitted to S.G.S. who
was recently informed by the Governor
that a further despatch would
be sent about this application.

(The writer & Mr. Bower have
called at the office on a previous occasion

- see 36325/25

Steel

27.2.26

Yes (N.D. that they have gone
after 6.30 across out of this
scheme already)

W.C. Somerville
2.7.26

John Bower

I have had several visits from Mr. Boyes who has still heard nothing of the fate of his solicitors application. When he last called he was anxious that I should speak in his favour to Mr. Denham and Mr. Harrison, the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

I spoke to Mr. Denham yesterday, and he promised to look into the matter on his return to Kenya. He strongly advised that I should not mention it to Mr. Harrison whose capacity for taking a hand in things in which he is not immediately concerned is not helpful.

The above has been verified on X 73751

W.S.S. 2/4/46

Mr. Sandbach Baker who is anxious to bid for one of the blocks when auctioned in accordance with para. 15 (4) of the Committee's Report called on the 26th November and asked as to the position, and he said that he had recently left Kenya and was told just before his departure that the question of the auctioning of these blocks had been referred to the Secretary of State, and that they were expecting a reply any day when if the Secretary of State has approved immediate notice of the auction would be given. For some reason which is quite obscure the Colonial Government apparently intended to hold up the auction of these blocks until the Samburu question was settled. The Governor's despatch with regard to the Samburu came home in 7233 and a reply was sent on the 6th November.

I

I told Mr. Baker that I could only imagine that that was the reply for which the Colonial Government was waiting and that it would shortly be in the hands of the Governor, but that the auctioning of the particular blocks about which he was enquiring had already been definitely approved. I understood that he was going to telegraph, and that he was very anxious not to lose the opportunity of bidding.

W.N.Kee

28/11/46

ha

Enclosures of

Lakipia Estate Ltd
Kenya

CAVALRY CLUB,

127, PICCADILLY, W. 1.

8. 7. 20.

38

Dear Crumley-Gore.

Thanks for your
letter.

When the report comes
in perhaps the enclosed
letter + photos might interest
who ever deals with the case.
to show the earnestness + effort
being made.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Surt

re Laskipia Estates Ltd
 Rumuruti
 Kenya

THE BATH CLUB,

54, DOVER STREET, W.I.

July 8/26

Dear Kurt,

I have just got back

my partner's letter from my
 father & send you a few
 extracts.

My son has given up his
 appointment in Cachar &
 is going to Kenya as early
 as possible.

As you are so hard up for keep
 for our sheep & cattle you have
 got permission to temporarily
 occupy the 7 parcels I wrote to
 you about. As my son is a

~~EXHIBIT~~
No. 1

Perhaps they might
go into the papers
of the time being.

Adm.

10/7/26

XCA

813 10-7

train engineer asked
 if the water supply could
 wait until he got out to
 attend to it. My partner
 replied dated April 28th 1926.

"I should be only too glad to
 let you do the work but"
 "do not see how we can wait
 so long. You see most of our
 land is waterless save for a
 few pools in the "Mutara"
 in the rains. Farm 2442
 which we bought (end of Jan^y
 1926) is an exception for it is
 watered by a spring away

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 1926) is an exception for it is
 watered by a spring away."

THE BATH CLUB,

34, DOVER STREET, W.I.

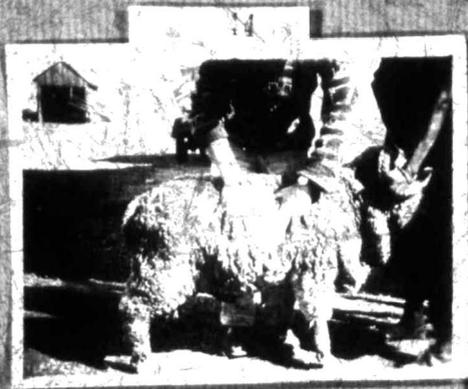
"from the river but lambs
 " will eat up the grass there
 " and if we do not have other
 " grass for them I go to see
 " there how to get lambs from
 " starvation as we had last year
 " I saw sheep & lambs dying last
 " year where there was grass
 " and no water and I saw
 " where there was no grass
 " and I don't want to see that again
 " I have called in Hughes AMICE
 " who is now taking levels etc
 " & is drawing up a proper scheme
 " for us & I am getting the material

4

THE BATH CLUB,
54, DOVER STREET, W.I.

" for pipin etc as we must
 " get on with all possible
 " speed to keep our sheep &
 " cattle alive during the dry "
 " season "

That I venture to think shows
 how urgently we need this
 law
 Yours truly
 Joshua Bowen



C.O. 5. 21. 21

~~E.A. Dyer~~

~~WJ~~

43

E.A. Dyer

What reply?

~~X CA~~

Answer

29/6/26

A.B. Stanley

~~CA~~

There are 11

that called

here some time

ago, 25 or there

for 29

~~to see~~

answered:

see also

4/7/26

h3

28. 6. 26.

Dear Ormsby-Gore.

Could you please let me know if the application of the "Ukipia Estate Ltd" Kenya for 5,923 acres plots ^{Nos.} 2409 to 2415, 2550 + 2691, has been submitted and approved. I understand that it has been recommended by the Commissioner of Lands and forwarded & recommended to the Governor of Kenya, Sir E. Grigg. I am on behalf of a friend of mine, Bower and his son Capt Bower M.C. both of whom served with distinction in the war.

They already have over 11,500 acres and 15,000 sheep; & have had the area surveyed for irrigation by a Mr Hughes,

28. 6. 26.

Dear Ormsby-Gore

Could you please let me know if the application of the Mkipia Estate Ltd Kenya for 923 acres plots Nos. 2409 to 2415, 2550 + 2691, has been submitted and approved. I understand that it has been recommended by the Commissioner of Lands and forwarded & recommended to the Governor of Kenya Sir E. Gigg. He is on behalf of a friend of mine Bower and his son Capt Bower M.C. both of whom served with distinction in the war. They already have over 11,500 acres and 15,000 sheep, & have had the area surveyed for irrigation by a Mr Hughes

... is a present - warning a
... and that the native
is not affected in this part.
They hope for Colonial Govern
help in acquiring this land
require it for fresh pasture a
withering their farming.

They are all grateful for you
Kenya and although you pr
did not touch this particula
his influence has been great
naturally wish to take advan
t, which is what I fancy y
where the people are sound & so
Bower is now in England an
would bring him to see you if
with.

hoping you are fit after your
that good results will come
t - as I am sure will be the

Yours

Arthur Burt

186. 11.

COPY
4174/26
GRAM. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor
of Kenya.

(Sent, 11.10 a.m., 14th May, 1926)

.....

14th May.

Your despatch of 16th April 393-
Laikipia farms proposal approved, but in writing
further with regard to Laikipia estates extra grant
should be glad if you would consider whether,
if pipe line is necessary for development of
their additional area under approved scheme,
the block of dry farms could not be available
for other lessees on suitable payment for
use of water.

AMERY.

Bottomley. 13.

And

*Ans'd
10093
2
27*

RECEIVED
R 7 4 MAY
D 15 11

- J. Harding.
- Sirachey. (S) *clona*
- Shuckburgh.
- Grindle.
- Davis.
- Wilson.
- Ormsby-Gore.
- of Clarendon.
- Amery.

~~40~~

*Could be sat
J.C. 11-10 a.m.
14/5/26*

14 May

Your despatch of 16 April 393

clona
AFT. Telegram.
nor,
robi.

Laikipia farms proposal approved,
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 other

other lessees on suitable payment for
use of water.

KENYA

No. 393



X. 4174

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 54
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

6th April, 1926.

Sir,

With reference to the late Sir Robert Coryndon's despatch No.127 of January 29th, 1925, and your telegram of March 26th 1925 on the subject of a scheme for the issue of Pastoral Leases in Laikipia District, I have the honour to inform you that the Board appointed by the late Governor to advise on the scheme generally and to submit recommendations for definite allotment of land to individuals has now reported.

2. A copy of the Board's report is forwarded for your information and as you will observe they recommended the allotment of 174,444 acres to the owners of 50 farms in the Laikipia and North Nyeri Districts. The farms concerned which fall within the administrative boundaries of the latter district are of the same type as these in the Laikipia administrative district. As you are no doubt aware the plains stretch eastwards of the Uso Nyiro river and the whole area has been treated as one geographical unit.

3. The Board's report was considered in Executive Council on March 29th and the Governor concurred in its advice that the definite allotments of land detailed in Appendix I should be approved and that the special cases mentioned in Appendix II should also be approved subject

to/

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

ON/

to there being no Departmental objections: the case of the Laikipia Estates will of course be submitted for your prior sanction.

4. There are a number of grants proposed in Appendix I which exceed the maximum of 7,500 acres specified in your telegram of the 28th March, 1925, and these are submitted for your covering approval. The majority of these but slightly exceed that limit and the Board was satisfied that in each case the grants recommended constitute the minimum economic unit.

5. The six cases in Appendix I of the Report against which appear numbers ringed in ink represent farms which have been amalgamated and are now managed as one concern. The total relative grants now proposed when divided by the number of farms do not exceed the limit of 7,500 acres to each individual; except in the cases of Kessara, Roberts & Campbell and the Laikipia Estates, and in these cases the Board was satisfied that the minimum economic unit has not been exceeded, but as the grants exceed 7,500 acres they are reserved for your covering approval.

6. While advising general adoption of the Board's report Executive Council considered that the special recommendations in paragraph 15(4) and (5) should be held in abeyance pending the settlement of the Samburu question. With this view the Governor concurred and is addressing you shortly in a separate despatch in regard to that question.

7. The Governor shares the views of his advisers and of his late predecessor that the scheme which has been initiated holds high promise of prosperity in this part of the Colony and he will watch with great interest and take such steps as may be possible and desirable to encourage the growth of the wool industry which the scheme has rendered practicable

on a larger scale than has hitherto been achieved. He trusts that you will accord your sanction to the detailed grants and would be glad to receive that sanction by telegraph.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. P. Lathrop
GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

The Board consists of the following members appointed by Government:-

- The Commissioner of Lands (Chairman).
- The Director of Agriculture.
- The Resident Commissioner, Kukumuti.
- The Lord Delamere.
- Captain J. E. Conroy.

2. Its instructions are to enquire into applications for increased grazing facilities applied for by the present Laikipia pastoralists whose holdings, it is contended, are in many cases too small to form economic units for pastoral purposes.

3. In the event of extensions of land being granted by Government the terms on which they can be acquired and held have been laid down by Government as follows:-

(1) The pastoral lease shall be subject to the following conditions:-

Term - 30 years.

Rent - 5 Cents per acre for the first 10 years.

10 Cents per acre for the next 10 years

20 Cents per acre thereafter.

Development :- Each lease to be subject to a covenant that the lessee will within 5 years from the date of the title be maintaining upon his block stock up to 25% of its carrying capacity, and 50% within 10 years from such date. The authority adjudging on the land's carrying capacity to be the Commissioner of Lands and the Director of Agriculture.

(2) The holders of pastoral leases shall have the option until 31st December, 1925 of converting their pastoral leases into ordinary agricultural leases for 999 years under the Crown Lands Ordinance 1915, on the following conditions:-

The capital value of the land held under pastoral lease shall be assessed. The lessees will be required to pay the full stand premium and revised rental charges, the latter being subject to further revision in 1948, 1975 and in following periods of 20 years. The lessee will, however, be allowed to pay the stand premium in ten equal annual instalments free of interest in accordance with Sections 28 and 29 of the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915.

- (3) It shall be optional for lessees to retain their existing 999 years' title and take up additional areas on short grazing lease.
- (4) In the case of unalienated farms which are declared to be agricultural in Miscellaneous Plan Cadastral No. 97, these are to be put up to auction at the earliest opportunity and not included in this scheme. This excludes those farms marked "25 agricultural".
- (5) In the event of applicants electing to take out 20 year leases in respect of their original holdings no purchase money shall be payable on reconversion to a grant for 999 years.
- (6) Back rent payable on existing holdings which are converted into 20 year leases shall be at the existing rate of 20 Cents per acre.

We have been further instructed that the standard unit (including extensions) should be taken as 7,500 acres.

4. The Board has visited the area under review and personally interviewed whether at Rumusuli, Nanuyki or Nairobi, nearly all the applicants. It has also traversed, whether in its entirety or as represented by some of its members, the whole area from forest line on the Aberdares on the one side, to the forest line on Mt. Kenya on the other, and as the

result of its investigations submits this Report. Appendix I gives our detailed recommendations farm by farm, Appendix III is a map illustrating them, and Appendix II supplies certain further recommendations referred to in paragraph 15.

5. Proprietors of 144 farms, totalling 615,000 acres approximately, applied to the Board for extensions. We recommend that 30 of these farms, aggregating 175,000 acres approximately be granted extensions totalling 175,000 acres approximately. Of these last 27 are held by original allottees under the Soldier Settlement Scheme; 3 are soldier settlement farms purchased from the original allottees and 6 are Soldier Settlement holdings in which the original allottees have retained an interest.

6. In the allocation of additional areas the Board has been guided by two main factors:-

- (1) The economic unit in particular areas.
- (2) The use likely to be made of any grant by particular applicants in the light of the use made of the present holding.

7. Accepting 7,500 acres as the economic unit in Laikipia District generally, 5,000 acres roughly has been taken as the equivalent unit in Ngobi and North Kenya areas. In the latter area those farms lying between the Timsu River and the mountain have been considered already sufficiently large. West Kenya farms, apart from a few some distance down the East Nyiro River have also been placed in this category.

8. Farms to the North of the Timsu River and having a frontage on it, and farms below the North Kenya escarpment have been classed as of slightly less value than the others in North Kenya.

9. The Board has been aided in its decision as to what are "agricultural" holdings (or perhaps more correct

result of its investigations submits this Report. Appendix I gives our detailed recommendations farm by farm, Appendix III is a map illustrating them, and Appendix II amplifies certain further recommendations referred to in paragraph 15.

5. Proprietors of 144 farms, totalling 515,000 acres approximately, applied to the Board for extensions. We recommend that 25 of these farms, aggregating 175,000 acres approximately be granted extensions totalling 175,000 acres approximately. Of these last 25 are held by original allottees under the soldier Settlement Scheme; 19 are soldier settlement farms purchased from the original allottees and 6 are Soldier Settlement holdings in which the original allottees have retained an interest.

6. In the allocation of additional areas the Board has been guided by two main factors:-

- (1) The economic unit in particular areas.
- (2) The use likely to be made of any grant by particular applicants in the light of the use made of the present holding.

7. Accepting 7,500 acres as the economic unit in Laikipia District generally, 5,000 acres roughly has been taken as the equivalent unit in Ngohit and North Kenya areas. In the latter area those farms lying between the Timau River and the mountain have been considered already sufficiently large. West Kenya farms, apart from a few some distance down the Oaso Nyiro River have also been placed in this category.

8. Farms in the North of the Timau River and having a frontage on it, and farms below the North Kenya escarpment have been classed as of slightly less value than the others in North Kenya.

9. The Board has been aided in its decision as to what are "agricultural" holdings (or perhaps more correct

mixed farming propositions) by the classification made by the Local Committee in connection with the applications for a railway to Thomson's Falls. To this list the Board has also added those farms lying between the Kaya River and Nyeri.

10. In cases where an area is more than a hundred or two hundred acres in excess of the accepted economic unit the applications represent more than one unit or more than one member per unit.

11. There is one large acreage in the North Kenya District, but in this instance the land applied for is below the escarpment, and the additional area consists of only one farm which it would be difficult to subdivide.

12. There are three in the 7,500 unit area whose total area after the proposed total allocation will be less than half the maximum unit.

13. In the first of these the applicant held only a small area obtained from a soldier settler allottee for fulfilling the necessary conditions and as a means of livelihood carries out ploughing contracts. In the second case the applicant owns half a farm and applies no more than the uncessed allocation; while in the third instance the proposed allocation is good pastoral land in Manyuki Township.

14. Of the rejected applicants whose rejection is not covered by the above general reasons, two are farmers, three have not submitted formal applications, one has sold the major part of his farm, one has sold his soldier settler farm, and one bought at the question of the economic unit had been through a farm which had been put up for sale at the time of an adjoining owner. Three other rejected

hold small arable areas adjoining Kenyuki Township.

The Board has taken into consideration the fact that an applicant holding an area elsewhere in the country from which he derives his income is not in the same case as those whose total holding is in Laikipia.

15. The Board further has special recommendations to make:- (Vide Appendix II for further details).

- (1) That Melva Syndicate be granted the area (2,000 acres approximately) which they have long rented from the Forest Department. The water on this area is of such importance to them that without it the stock carrying capacity of their holding (22,000 acres) is practically halved.
- (2) That the exchange with the Forest Department sought by Messrs. Topham and Hodgkinson be effected as already recommended by the Commissioner of Lands and Conservator of Forests.
- (3) That, in view of the fact that they undertake to run a pipe from the Serohi River and thus water the dry block of farms, viz. L. O. Nos. 2550, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413 and 2691, behind their present holding which are not the subject of applications, a direct grant of this block (26,923 acres) be made to the four members of Laikipia Estates on the condition that the pipe line is laid within a short period from the date of the grant. This land which would otherwise remain idle can be brought into profitable use. Particular importance is attached by the Board to the granting of this application. The Board examined this application closely and were satisfied that the applicants would contribute substantially to the development of the pastoral area under review.
- (4) That to satisfy the demand from those who have very much overstocked their present holdings, but

whose holding cannot be classed as an uneconomic unit
the balance of the unalienated surveyed land be
auctioned in blocks of suitable size.

- (5) In conclusion reference must be made to several cases where the requirements would hardly be met by the present available surveyed land and the Board strongly urges the early alienation of large blocks of land (varying from, say, 40,000 to 100,000 acres each) in the country to the North of Laikipia. This recommendation is made, however, not as applying specially to present Laikipia farmers, but to throw open land to the public demand.

16. The Board has so far as practicable confined itself in its recommendations to the 7,500 limit: in a few cases this has been somewhat exceeded (as the appendices annexed hereto show) where it would be impracticable to leave a detached and useless fragment of land unalienated. Finally it should be noted that the Board while taking the "economic unit" as its prime factor has not neglected the claims of original soldier settlers in comparison with other applicants. It thinks however that the Government must at least to some degree, a responsibility in all cases where settlement scheme has been founded on an uneconomic basis and on a large scale, though in fact the problem of other than soldier settlement alienations does not arise. In Laikipia such important factors as the great distance from railways and the very large scale of the allotment areas place this particular district in a category which has other parallel in the Colony. We recommend therefore the Government in administering, as it has decided to do this wide and wholly pastoral area in an unusual and manner, should also take a broad view of the persons concerned and not treat the heirs and successors in

a different manner to the original allottees. We understand indeed that Government has decided to make no such differentiation.

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17. Capt Coney signs this report only on the assumption the Government has already decided that both original Soldier Settlers and their successors are equally entitled to the same privilege of extension. ^{in respect of both} Otherwise he considers that auction would have been a better method of relieving the present difficulties.

- (Sgd.) H. T. MARTIN.
- (Sgd.) ALMY EDM.
- (Sgd.) JOHN E. CONEY.
- (Sgd.) DELAMERE.

Allocations as proposed in paragraph 2 in
 respect of Soldier Settlement Farms.

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(Starred names indicate amalgamations of
 farms by partnership).

Applicant	Area Held in Laikipia, Acres.	Area, Proposed Allocation, Acres.	Total Area, Acres.
s.	2,030	4,944	7,034
ton	4,053	2,974	7,027
Roberts Campbell. (2)	6,700	2,009	15,788
ewood.	1,757	4,111	5,878
week.	5,756	1,744	7,500
ker.	3,496	4,458	7,954
Armstrong.	2,452	4,657	7,118
H. Edwards,	4,998	2,207	7,205
Acid	2,192	4,657	6,849
elle.	3,800	4,124	7,924
rrard	2,233	4,500	7,333
is.	4,295	1,000	5,295
e.	4,588	2,480	7,068
non	3,728	1,937	5,665
nwood	3,729	2,035	5,764
Phillippe	2,006	3,387	5,393
Phillippe	2,200	4,710	6,910
iele	2,699	3,300	5,999
n	2,237	4,007	6,244
erford	2,011	5,000	7,011
son	4,717	2,207	6,924
er.	2,200	4,007	7,207
na.	1,886	5,901	7,787
	4,675	2,270	7,142
a.	4,608	2,270	6,878
erve.	700	2,393	3,093

Applicant	Area held in Ltd ship. Acres.	Area Proposed Allocation. Acres.	Total Area Acres.
A. E. & W. Randall	2,012	1,493	3,505
Clelland Scott	4,860	2,161	7,021
de Bruin	1,844	2,000	3,844
Luis	4,012	2,500	6,512
Swan	1,500	4,114	5,614
Sharp & Stewart (2)	4,500	3,790	8,290
Lyrie	4,730	2,393	7,123
Anstey	1,300	4,310	5,610
Mrs. Napier	1,998	2,224	4,222
Kerny	1,852	4,347	6,199
Carlow	3,063	2,265	5,328
Powys	3,610	4,323	7,933
Murrell	2,640	2,265	4,905
Wilson	3,700	1,500	5,200
Pents	1,427	3,020	4,447
Appleby & Llewellyn.	4,020	2,480	6,500
Holford Walker.	1,326	2,290	3,616
Artlett	3,965	75	4,040
Meruma Limited. (2)	4,400	4,511	8,911
Alkipia Estates (4)	9,592	6,630	16,222
C. & C. A. Forrester.	4,300	4,913	9,213
Marshall & de Vock	4,412	3,627	8,039
Law Bros. & Matthias. (6)	9,125	7,914	17,039
Boverts and Milton (2)	6,800	4,630	11,430

Details as to Special Recommendations: vide last paragraph on Page Three.

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(1) NELWA SYNDICATE:

This Syndicate consists of 5 members all original allottees under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. They hold at present 22,000 acres (8 farms) which they use chiefly as a dairying proposition and have fully stocked up. The addition of the 1,000 acres recommended would enable them to double their herds, as unless they can secure the water on that 1,000 acres a great portion of their farm will be too far from water to be of any use to them.

(2) TOPHAM & HODKINSON:

Hold 6,900 acres on which they have 325 cattle and 367 sheep. If the exchange with the Forest Department takes place Messrs. Topham and Hodgkinson will give up 2,332 acres of forest for farm L.O. No. 2612, the area of which is 3,700 acres. This will make their holding of a size suitable for the district in which it lies.

(3) LAIKIPIA ESTATES:

This Syndicate consists of 4 members, two of whom are, and a third soon will be on the farm, and is a case where considerable capital is being held up until sufficient land can be obtained. On the property there are at present 400 cattle and 3,000 sheep. Of the latter the losses through lack of grazing during the past lambing season were abnormally high (50%

of lambs) though the total milk supply of the farm was used to augment the ewes milk.

The scheme suggested, and which they ⁶⁶ undertake to carry out immediately they are assured of obtaining sufficient land to warrant the expense, will improve the value of the block of farms behind their present one to such an extent that the Board cannot urge too strongly their recommendation that this grant be made.