

1924

KENYA

C.O.
25932
30 MAY 24

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Date
29th May 1924.

461

FOR CIRCULATION:—

Mr. LAND GRANTED TO SETTLER, INVOLVING DISPLACEMENT OF NATIVES.

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S. *HC 53/27m*
***Q.** Mr. Edmund Harvey, — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that proposals have been under consideration by the government of Kenya Colony for the grant of a large tract of land of over 100,000 acres to a prominent settler in exchange for land previously granted to him; that these proposals would involve the displacement of a numerous Native population; and whether he will take steps to prevent any such grants until the commission has visited the Colony. [*Monday 2nd June.*]

Perm' U.S. of S

Parl' U.S. of S

Secretary of State.

Oral reply

Previous Paper

Q20
12466

To K.C. 2593

MINUTES

The reference ^{*is a case,*} ~~is made~~ to the proposed Belanere Exchange (see Gov 12446) ^{ON} which we have refused approval pending further information. The area is over-stated, as *(and Belanere's application for 100,000 acres was reduced by the Colonial Government to 65,000 acres.*

The land forms part of the old North Masai reserve from which the Masai were removed to the new southern reserve as a result of the 1910 and 1911 "moves." It was, later, part of the area to be allocated under the 1919 Ex-Soldier Settlement Scheme and it comes within the category of "larger unoccupied space" mentioned in 12446. There is therefore no reason to believe ~~that~~ there are any natives on the land but if there are, they must be few and they must have ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~there~~ ^{there} since the Masai move.

This question of the natives outside the reserve,

Subsequent Paper

Q98
12585

17 JUL 1924
6 San Kenya 749 on
date of 25/23/24

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

reserve and in particular of natives on land which is destined for European is difficult from the point of view of the interests of the natives and we are ~~then~~ taking care to see that we get the Governor's views on the subject. In law we have ^{the} right to remove them with no more compensation than the value of growing crops and, as this particular district is pastoral, that matter does not arise.

The creation of ^a ~~the~~ reserve implies that the land is to be available for others than natives and it is obvious that if any area which contains a few natives scattered about is to be held ^{with} for Europeans the sooner we say that no European need go to Kenya the better. Personally I should deplore such a decision.

I think the principle is of too much importance to make it possible to avoid a firm ~~stand~~, and I put in a draft accordingly. I may point out that, if Mr. Harney's principles were adopted, we should not now be able to carry out the arrangements by which the holders of the Mwele Concession are to have land near Voi. There are natives on the land in question

they do not suffer, but the proposed Mwele exchange would have to be dropped if it were ^{decided} ~~assumed~~ that the natives in question could not possibly be moved. 462

The question also involves the assumption that, if there are any natives on the land proposed to be given to Lord Melanere in exchange, they would necessarily be removed. In many cases the European is only too glad to have natives living on his land and the question of their status is the subject of ^{elaborate} ~~elaborate~~ minutes on another paper.

6.00
51.5.24
H. J. H.
31.5.24

For official records see on
Luff 2003

Sir
25932

463

Howning Street,

May, 1924.

*With the Hon. member's permission,
I will answer his two questions together.*

DRAFT. *Reply to*

E. Harvey

2 June

MINUTE.

Mr. Bottomley 31 5.24.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

+ Sir H. Read. 31/5/24

Sir J. Easterton Smith.

* Lord Arnold. 24/5 at once

~~Mr. Thomas.~~

The proposal referred to by the honourable Member, which concerns 63,000 and not 100,000 acres, have not yet been approved pending the receipt of further information from the Governor.

24 From the information available, it is clear that any native population in the area must be very small and of recent date, and it is not necessary to assume that any of the natives would actually be displaced.

My Hon. friend has not yet decided the
3. I am not aware what terms of

reference

reference the Secretary of State has in view for the proposed Commission, but it would hardly be possible to justify the cessation of all alienation, if advisable on other grounds, of land outside the Reserves simply on account of the presence of a few isolated natives.

As regards alienation of land in Native reserves in Kenya, I can assure the hon. member that there is no possible chance of any alienation of these lands or transfer of these Native populations in order to provide concession of land for settlers.

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