

1924

KENYA

473

C O
54791
REC 24 NOV 24

FROM
RAMSDEN, E. R.

DATE
22nd November 1924.

IN CIRCULATION :-

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

TEA CULTIVATION.

Asst. U.S. of S.

W. S. Hooley

States that Kenya appears to offer suitable conditions for development as a tea producing country, and suggests that he should undertake investigation on the spot.

Perm^t U.S. of S.

Part^r U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

Mr. Ramsden was introduced to me by Col. Martin, C.A. I could not tell him much about tea in Kenya & in the course of our talk I omitted to ask him the important point whether it requires more, & more skilled, labour in picking than coffee. I enquire that I do.

On his side he has omitted an important point, which I specially asked him to put in his letter, of the value which he attaches to his services.

As a mail leaves on Thursday we might send out a copy of this

*Copy to Gen. 1221 Cont. 29 NOV 1924
And
to A.W. Hill. Hooley
Tel. Jan 2 Jan/25 207/25*

Subsequent Paper

56684

letter to Gov. & will have
 the result of
 a general as to the
 Roundan's satisfactory
 beyond degree his services
 to be obtained either as
 a visiting expert to
 advise & report generally
 or as an adviser to be
 retained for a period of
 years. And will be in
 telegraphic reply (Mr.
 Roundan wants an
 early decision).

Then will be very the
 Govt is being cancelled
 & will be terms, & will
 & Hill, Mead, of the
 proposed & one of the
 terms or can find out
 anything of the Roundan
 qualifications for the work.

W. S. 25/1/22
 O. S. 11
 at once

C.O.
54791
NOV 24

27 Canning Road

Addiscombe.

Croydon.

Nov: 22/24.

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The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Colonial Office.

Bowling Street.

Sir.

Referring to my conversation with Mr Bottomley on the 20th inst. on the subject of tea cultivation in Kenya Colony, I have the honour to bring the following to your notice for your consideration

The consumption of tea throughout the world having increased greatly since the war, partly due, no doubt, to the presence of British troops in many countries where previously tea drinking was practically unknown, and, in case of the United States of America, to the large number of visitors to this country both during and since the war having acquired the tea habit, there is every indication that, unless production can be increased, there is likely to be a shortage of tea on the market in the near future.

In this connection the figures quoted below, and supplied by the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, will be of interest.

But for the fact that Russia, which in 1914 imported from this country 146 million lbs of tea, last year imported only 18 million lbs, the demand would now have exceeded the supply, as the total output of tea was 20 million lbs less in 1923 than in 1914.

	1914.	1924.
Imports of Tea into Great Britain:	374,484,235 lbs.	457,199,253 lbs.
Imports of Tea into U.S.A. & Canada:	127,605,924 "	136,224,129 "
Exports of Tea to Russia:	146,000,000 "	18,000,000 "
Exports of Tea to Other Countries:	118,000,000 "	134,000,000 "
Total Output of Tea:	766,000,000 "	746,000,000 "

Prohibition in America is no doubt affecting the demand for tea in that country, and it is more than likely that the increase of 10 million lbs in 1923 over 1914 is only the beginning of the upward movement.

The present tea producing countries, India and Ceylon, cannot be relied upon for any great increase in production. The available land suitable for tea cultivation in Ceylon has all been taken up, and India, in that respect, is practically in the same position.

Under these circumstances, and if the supply of tea is to be brought into line with the rapidly growing demand, other fields for growing the commodity will have to be found.

Recent enquiries which I have made into the conditions prevailing in Kenya Colony point to there being in that country a field favourable to tea cultivation.

Before, however, such large amounts of capital required to develop tea estates to the point of remuneration could be invited into the colony, the conditions, soil, climate, transport and labour, would have to be investigated and verified on the spot by someone thoroughly conversant with the requirements of the industry.

I suggest that, should the Government of Kenya Colony regard favourably the advent of the tea industry, with its necessary large capital, into the country, they should make use of my practical knowledge as a tea planter of experience, and retain me to investigate and report on the possibilities in the various districts of the colony.

I should be prepared to place my entire services at their disposal for such a period as they considered necessary.

I have had twenty years experience in tea cultivation in Assam, and during that period have had considerable practise in the selection of suitable soils and conditions for the cultivation of tea.

I have also planted and controlled from its inception one of the most modern and successful estates in Assam, that of The Bordubi Tea Co. Ltd., whose Agents in London, Messrs Geo. Williamson & Co., 138 Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. will answer any questions in regard to my experience and general fitness to conduct the suggested investigations in Kenya Colony.

Should the suggestion meet with your approval, I shall be ready at any time to discuss the matter personally.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient servant.

E. P. Ramdun

R 54791/24

Kenya

G. D.
27 NOV
D 28

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DRAFT.

Handwritten scribbles

Nov 1924
- 1 DEC 1924

R. Ramsden Esq

Sir,

I am to ack the recd of

MINUTE.

Mr. Burt Nov 26

~~Mr. Becking~~

Mr. Buchanan Esq

~~Sir G. Davis~~

~~Sir G. Grindle~~

~~Sir H. Head~~

~~Sir J. Masterion Smith~~

~~Lord Arnold~~

~~Mr. Thomas~~

Your letter of the 22nd of
Nov, in which you offer
your services in connection
with the cultivation of
tea in Kenya, & to inform
you that the Govt is being
consulted on your offer.

3dflo

In the meantime

I am to request you to
state the terms, on
which you would be
prepared to either ^{pay a} visit
to Kenya ^{or} report generally
on the prospects of success-
ful cultivation of the plant
or as an adviser to be
retained for a period of

years in the service of the
Port of the Colony as an
adviser on agricultural
tea cultivation.

3. It will be understood that
nothing is to be done in a
hurry, and it is to be borne in
mind that the object is to
secure the best possible results
for the Colony.

(26) Mr. C. B. B. B.

R 54791/24

Kenya

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DRAFT.

Office for Mr
Pottamley's
signature
Hill Coy, Lt, F.R.S.
Director, Royal Botanic Gardens,
Kew
MINUTE.

Mr. Burt Nov 26
Mr. Mackay Dec 26 f
Mr.

Sir C. Dyer
Sir G. Grindal
Sir H. H. H.
Sir J. Macartney Smith
Lord Arnold
Mr. Thomas

~~Confidential~~

Nov 19 1924
- 1 DEC 1924

Dear Sir

We have received an
offer from Mr. C. R.
Ramsden of his services
to visit Kenya
as an expert in con-
-nection with tea cultivation.
He
writes from 27 Canning
Road, Addiscombe, London,
and states that he has planted

3df

controlled from its inception
one of the most modern &
successful estates in Assam,
that of the Bordubi Tea Co.,
Ltd, whose agents in London
are Mess^{rs} Geo Williamson
& Co, 138 Leadenhall Street,
E.C. 3. -

I shall be glad if you
to learn whether you know or
can find out anything of Mr
Ramsden's qualifications &
suitability for the work.

Yours sincerely
(Sd) W.C. Robertson

R 54791/24 Kenya

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DRAFT.

1221

Mr Ramsden

MINUTE.

Mr. Bell Nov 26

Mr. ~~Wheat~~
Mr. ~~Wheat~~

Sir G. Dugg

Sir G. Girdle

Sir H. Reid

Sir J. Masterton Smith

Lord Arnold

Mr. Thomas

Ans
Ans
1786/15

29 Nov 1924

These
transmit to you

a copy of a letter from Mr
E.H. Ramsden in which
he offers his services in
connection with the cultivation
of tea in Kenya.

I shall be glad to
learn by telegraph whether
if the results of enquiries

W. Ramsden 22 Nov
54791

which are being made
as to Mr Ramsden is
satisfactory, you would
desire his services to be
obtained, either as a
visiting expert to advise
& report generally or as
an adviser to be retained
for a period of years.

LSA

(Signed) L. S. AMERY.