





22, YONGE STREET,

ST. JAMES'. S.W.

August 10th, 1900.

Dear Mr. Jeffries,

Following on our conversation this morning, concerning my affairs in East Africa, I herewith submit a written statement, as desired. I should be extremely grateful if you would kindly give this matter your personal attention by cable, as it is most urgent.

Yours truly,

W. H. ...  
...

C.O.  
39710

22, HYDER STREET,

ST. JAMES'S, S.W.

August 10th, 1920.

EAST AFRICA.

To: The Secretary of State,  
The Colonial Office,  
London.

Dear Sir,

Following on my personal interview this morning, with reference to the Title Deeds of my estate, No. 167, Sirgoit Eldoret, Uashin Gishu Plateau, British East Africa, I have the honour to submit this my most urgent appeal, for support at your hand.

In December 1916 I purchased land on Farm 167 from Captain Gordon Hewitt, who holds this farm on occupation license from Government (Ordinance No. 612 of 1915). Since this date I have visited East Africa with a view to encouraging the output of flax in the Colony, to the benefit of my several neighbours and myself.

I have sunk in round figures £10,000 in development, equipment and a flax mill during the last year.

By virtue of the Government Ordinance of March 1920, fixing the Rupee at 10 to the £ sterling, I have incurred an automatic overdraft at the Standard Bank Eldoret, for which I was not prepared. On my return to England, May 1920, I drafted a Company for the introduction of more capital, but I now find myself entirely at a standstill, being unable to raise a temporary loan from the Bank, or to raise capital from any source whatsoever because the East African Land Office have not yet issued the main Title Deeds of Farm 167 to Captain Gordon Hewitt.

On my arrival in East Africa, July 1919, Captain Hewitt, myself, and our lawyers received the assurance of the Land Officer at Nairobi that the Deeds would be issued, as yet we have not received them.

Captain Hewitt finds himself involuntarily holding up our industry to his disadvantage, as he is himself a neighbour, and he is also unable to satisfy other intending flax growers on this Farm 167 to whom he has <sup>sold</sup> and intends to sell, plots of land in the vicinity of my Flax Mill, by reason of the fact that the main Title is not yet forthcoming from the Land Office.

My present position is most deplorable, my native labour and manager are without funds, though I am in a position to introduce extensive capital at once on the Title Deeds being deposited at the Bank at Eldoret.

My neighbours are relying on me to erect my mill, and develop flax in their neighbourhood, and they are at present asking me what acreages of flax they should at once start to put in.

I can do nothing for myself or them without my Deeds.

Captain Hewitt has been endeavouring to obtain them for a year, with no success. I might respectfully point out that I have done everything in my power to develop the flax industry in East Africa to the benefit of myself, my fellow settlers, the home markets and my new home in particular. I would therefore be more than grateful if a cable could be sent to His Majesty's Governor in Council, in East Africa, direct, with the humble request that the main Title of Farm 167 be handed forthwith to the Standard Bank at Eldoret, in the name of Captain Hewitt, and that this Bank be advised without delay that the matter has their attention, with a request that our affairs be considered favourably by them until such deeds are forthcoming.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant.

*[Handwritten signature]*

54210/20

Kenya

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Draft

19th Aug. 1920

Approved  
40835

DRAFT.

C. B. Mundy

MINUTE.

- Mr. Jeffries 13.8.20
- Mr. Parkinson 14
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Bond
- Sir G. Fisher
- Col. Amery
- Lord Milner

Copy sent 1926. 23 Aug. 20. M/40835/2

I am a. to ack. the receipt of your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Aug., regarding his assistance in obtaining the name of the title deeds of

farm no. 167, Uasin Gishu, in the Kenya Colony,

which farm you have purchased land from Capt. Gado Hewitt for the purpose of growing flax.

2. That similar will be prepared & sent a telegram to the Gov. of Kenya on the subject, if you are prepared to pay the cost, and

will sign the enclosed undertaking  
& that effect. The Mt. would be  
to the effect that you had  
complained of the delay in  
issuing the title deeds, which  
is placing you in a serious  
financial position; it would convey  
your request that the deeds may  
be handed to the Standard Bank  
of Africa, Eldoret, in Capt. Gordon  
Hart's name and that the Bank  
may be informed immediately that  
the matter is in hand; and it  
would enquire whether it was  
possible for this to be done, or,  
if not, what is the reason for  
the delay in the issue of the deeds.

3. I am to explain however,  
that it would be preferable  
to send a copy of your letter

deeds bank for

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

to the Hon. Secy. of State, 481

with a request for a telegraphic

as the Colonial

Govt. will be a letter

perhaps better able to

appreciate your position if

your full statement of the

case is sent to them;

and I am to request you

to state whether you would

send this, or whether you  
address

adhere to your request that

a telegram should be sent.

I am,

**W. H. R. READ**