

1921

687

KENYA

33662

FROM
GOVERNOR
MORTHEY

789

DATE
31ST MAY 1921

TO
CIRCULATION :-

SUBJECT
TANA RIVER CONCESSION
LABOUR SUPPLY

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr. Grindle
Sir H. Lambert
Sir H. Read
Sir G. Fiddell
Mr. Wood
Mr. Churchill

In message position and state of affairs which concessionaires might be able to supply labour. Asks to be kept under review.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

111.9
25649

Minutes of the meeting of the Tana River Concessionaires' Committee held on 25th June 1921.
The meeting was held at the Tana River Concessionaires' Office, Nairobi.
The minutes of the meeting of the 25th June were read and approved.
The Chairman reported that the concessionaires had been informed that the Government had decided to grant a concession for the Tana River scheme.
The Chairman also reported that the concessionaires had been informed that the Government had decided to grant a concession for the Tana River scheme.
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Ans 1091 - 15 July 21
Room 17
2/11

Subsequent Paper

111.9
25649
SRB A

MINUTES

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE

Awaiting a bill from
the Bar.

mb 8 in 1910

Mr. [Name]
Chairman
Mr. [Name]
Secretary
Mr. [Name]
Mr. [Name]

No. 757

3662
3/21
6 11 21

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 521 of the 7th April regarding the proposed concession in Tanaland, and of a despatch from the Government of India containing Sir Benjamin Robertson's Report on the question of Indian settlement in Tanganyika.

2. When I first approached you on this matter in my telegram of December 15th last, I informed you that I stipulated that the Company must prove their ability to obtain an adequate labour supply from sources outside the Protectorate. This is the crux of the whole question. I understand that Baron de Wahrtren has found he could not get labour from China or Java, so must seek for the possibility of getting it from India.

3. I entirely agree with the views expressed by Sir Mordecai Watt and Sir Benjamin Robertson, that Indian settlement of the nature indicated would be most undesirable: this applies equally to Kenya.

4. Baron de Wahrtren's original proposals did not include any idea of permanent settlement of Indians on the Land, and I made it clear to him in

our.....

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON CHURCHILL, P.C., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

L.N. 1/14/64

L.N. 16/9/68

our conversations that I should oppose any such plan. Madras labourers were to work for such periods as the Company might arrange, returning voluntarily at the termination of their contract: it was understood that these labourers were not of the type of Indian who would wish to become permanent settlers outside their own country, but would return home according to arrangements made between them and their employers, voluntarily, and without any system of indenture.

5. I do not see any objection to the Concessionaires being allowed to engage Madras labour, provided that some such stipulations as the following are made:-

(a) That all Indians imported by the Concessionaires shall be bona fide servants of the Concessionaires and shall be paid a living wage while in the concession area;

(b) That the terms of each contract include an undertaking to provide every labourer with a free return passage should he desire to go at the end of the contracted period.

(c) That it be made clear to the Government of India and the labourers recruited that the proposal made by Baron de Wabstrom is not connected in any way with a Government Settlement Scheme for Indians and that the Government of Kenya can make no proposal that any independent settlement scheme will eventuate from their introduction to the Tana Bay concession area.

(d) That the Government of Kenya admits no liability of any kind in respect of these labourers and cannot offer to assist them in any way -- other than by means of the law courts.

(e) That any agreement reached between Baron de Wabstrom and the Government of India be referred to this Government.....

C.O. 335 / 259
 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

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Government for consideration before assent is given to it.

I am most anxious that, with a view to exploiting the resources of this Colony, development in the Tana River ... take place as soon as possible, and ... of the concession, ... upon with the ... should be satisfied. ... Trading Company ... satisfactorily. Other ... which would provide ... of Madras and ... be given to the ... sources. ... how the

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

Al. M. M. M.

Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a stamp or reference number, mostly illegible due to damage.

15 July 194

Sir

DRAFT.

Kenya No. 1091
o.s.

Sir,
I have to act the rest of
in Mr. [unclear]'s
your [unclear] No. 759 of the 31st /

MINUTE.

May regarding the position of the

- Mr. Clark 12/7
- Mr. Parkinson 12/7/2
- Mr. [unclear] 12/7/2
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Bond
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Col. Amery
- Mr. Churchill

position of labour for the
E. Africa Trading Company
proposed concession in Tanaaland.

(2) ~~the position to be~~

~~advise of the progress of~~

~~the matter~~ I enclose for

Co. K. [unclear] 21/6/4
25679/2
[unclear] 25679/2
[unclear] 25679/2

Further connect

~~you inform~~ a copy of ~~envelope~~ ~~attached~~ ~~with~~
~~usually~~

~~which has been addressed to the Baron de~~
WAHRTREU, which shows the format & nature
~~of the matter. No reply has yet been~~
of this matter. I have communicated with
you ~~perhaps~~ as soon as a copy is
received to this letter from the Dept

of the 25th of June, but I will
~~communicate further with you~~
~~upon the same~~

Winston Churchill