

1923

KENYA

60657
14 DEC 23

FROM
BAYNE, MRS B. M.

DATE
UNDATED

FOR CIRCULATION :-
Mr. *Robtson*
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.
Perm^t U.S. of S.
Part^r U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

SUBJECT
LAND SETTLEMENT FARM

Is very anxious to retain a farm. Requests replies may be obtained from Land Office to questions submitted.

Previous Paper
500
57889

MINUTES

to Mrs. Bayne - 20 DEC 1923 - BOK
Copy extract to Gov. 12. 3 Jan 24
B
62643
123
62643

Mrs. Bayne called yesterday and left the attached notes, which speak for themselves. Her attitude is perfectly reasonable, according to what she has been told about the farm. The attitude of the Kenya Govt. is only reasonable on the assumption that Capt. Mark Smith is deceiving Mrs. Bayne and inventing or misrepresenting the authorities which he quotes. I cannot see what object he would have in doing this.

Subsequent Paper
B
62643

It is only right that we should

should get to the bottom of this business. Mrs. Bayne is justified in asking for a plain answer to the questions she puts in these notes and 57889 does not supply the material for an answer.

I am inclined to think that we shall get further if we send a -o letter, either to Sir R. Wignall or to Mr. Martin, enclosing copy of the notes and asking for material for a reply. We could, I think, say that if the information supplied to Mrs. Bayne by Capt. Marsh Smith is correct it seems to us that she has a case for an exchange.

If however we are to pursue the matter officially we

had better get Mrs. Bayne to write an official letter a copy of which can be sent to the Gov.

I should add that Mrs. Bayne has received from the Land Office a claim for rent in respect of the farm. She is quite prepared to pay if the sum is all right, but not, of course, if it is worthless.

I promised that we would let us know the position & what further action if any she should take. She asked that if necessary she might be granted

with public interests.

Ak.

17/12

Let us have drafts. I
fear that the scheme
has left the colony with
a heritage of which they
are frankly afraid. It
is so they should frankly
tell us so.

Went 17.12.23
adone

in interview with Sir
H. Read.

C.P. 15.12.23

Mr. Huxford

Subject to your views
I think we should proceed
by Debatel (with account
series below in cell) -
by a by writing to Sir Huxford
to make things clear.

The £1000 point is very
important.

W.S.J. 15.12.23

Mr. Huxford

I agree

The £1000 representation would
as it is in the despatch, be
simply ignored. But afraid from
that it seems to me it will be
difficult to defend a refusal to
make an Exchange, assuming that
there are suitable forms shall be available,
that the answers to the B's questions are ready.
Perhaps a private letter (in addition
to the despatch) may persuade the
authorities to deal with this case in
a humanistic spirit but with a desire
to help the B. so far as is considered

Capt. David Smith states Aug 2. 1923

This farm (1524 W) could grow ^{3c} nothing but grass which is only roughly grazing at that. It is entirely covered by stone.* The Lumbwas removed their cattle from it because peculiarly infected with E. Coast fever.

(*If this is correct it could not be called "good grazing")

"This farm was offered to a Mr Cliff in 1910 by the Government for nothing & Mr Cliff's report says "I did not think it worth even that" "He goes on then to tell the truth about the farm."

"It is a farm that most local people know about as being worthless"

am very anxious to retain this or
 other farm but before deciding I shall
 be much obliged if the C. O. will ask the
 Land Dept^t again for a reply to the
 questions which have been asked, as
 to the farm & its possibilities -
 Under the circumstances which have
 arisen I am justified I think in
 asking for a reply to the following
 points before paying rent or capital
 for improvements.

In the opinion of the Land Dept^t is this
 one of those which a settler might
 reasonably expect in return for work
 & the necessary capital to get at
 least a livelihood?

(At the time of allotment, seeing
 that this was a definite Government
 scheme for the benefit of settling
 the possibility of any other sort of
 farm being included on the list
 did not occur to me)

In the information sent by Cap^t
 Arch Smith correct, especially with
 regard to Mr. Clift - did Mr. Clift - refuse
 the Government offer on the ground

of the worthlessness of the farm.

Does the Land Dep^t consider that the suggested purchase price of £1000 put upon the farm in 1919 was then a fair estimate of its value?

M.I.60657/23 Kenya.

C. D
12 DEC
1928

128

DOWNING STREET,

20 December, 1928.

Dear Mrs. Bayne
Madam,

DRAFT.

MRS. B.M.BAYNE.

With reference to your ^{our}
talk the other day
~~recent interview at the C.O.~~

MINUTE.

~~I am sorry to say~~
I ~~am sorry to say~~ ^{am sorry to say} that you
I think that your best
course will ^{be} to
should write officially to ~~this~~
the Under Sec. of State setting out
Department regarding the enqui-

Mr. Whittaker. 12.23.

Mr. Jeffries. - 12.23.

ries which you wish to be made

Mr.

regarding your farm in Kenya.

Sir C. Davis

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

I am, etc.,

Yours truly
(Sd) G. Jeffries

Q to for my signature
GJ

LTC

19/12
GJ