

KENYA

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NOV 20

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CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN THE PROVINCE

1920

Sept

previous Paper

Trans statement re for ... in reply to enquiries re

33519

50569

Mr. Battersbee
Mr. Battersbee

Para 3 & 4 must be admitted that the Govt has done what it can to help the new settlers what the latter really want though is a free gift of land and there will always be some not satisfied with the prices cannot be encouraging to new settlers but if it is realized that steps are being taken to prevent profiteering.

Para 6 & 7 ... complaint since we would very despr - from Capt. Fitzgibbon

15 Nov 20
1632

3365/22

It is clear from no doubt that he was
not satisfied for life in China.

Copy to his Plant privately

was expressed.]

(S) 5.11.20

It would have been better if
of the fact had been his statement
in the form of a memo.

(As proposed)

1925

5.11.20

W.C.S. 6.11.20

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My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 973 of 13th July, forwarding a copy of a letter to the Overseas Club and Patriotic League commenting very adversely on the conditions of life prevailing here for new settlers, I have the honour to append a statement for use by Your Lordship as a reply to this letter or to similar communications.

2. As notified to Your Lordship in my despatch No. 1029 of 21st instant, it has been decided to reduce the price of farms under the Ex-Soldier Settlement Scheme by $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and to check further the valuations comparatively farm with farm, with a view, if found necessary, to reductions in individual cases. The mortgaging of farms held under this scheme has also been approved and the Governor is to be given discretionary power to make exemptions from the limitations imposed by the Ordinance, in special cases, particularly from the time limitations,

where

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

9359
50569

where undue hardship would otherwise be suffered. It will be seen that those who have been allotted land under this scheme are being allowed very considerable concessions and are obtaining their holdings on highly advantageous terms. The original prices of the farms were in most cases most reasonable and now, under the revised conditions enumerated, it will be competent for the Governor to make every allowance for those whose land has been shown to be over-priced.

4. The chief cause of complaint of the scheme inside the Protectorate has been the fixing of an arbitrary date after which no applications would be accepted. This was however a most necessary precaution, since otherwise it would have been impossible for the Land Department to obtain definite settlement of the scheme in a reasonable time, and to know what reserves of land, if any, it could have to use in satisfaction of claims on account of useless farms. In a number of cases where allottees had cause to be dissatisfied with the quality of their farms, they have been given the choice of other land which has been available and every possible step has been taken to accommodate successful applicants under the scheme, as far as local conditions have allowed.

5. As Your Lordship is aware the rupee has been stabilized at 2/-, and consequently fluctuating in the exchange rate are no longer possible.

in various difficulties.

9. That certain of them have expended their available capital unwisely on their first arrival is unfortunately correct, but this I submit is no judgment on the scheme in principle, nor is the fact that certain allottees were personally and in character unsuited to life here under the conditions prevailing and as a consequence incapable of "making good".

I have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's
humble, obedient servant,

Edward Watney

GOVERNOR.

30/5/20 363/20

456

Kenya

signature

Handwritten initials

12 Nov. 1920

Dear Plans

DRAFT.

With ref. to the letter from the Overseas Club & Patriotic League

which you received on the 16th of June which we referred to Kenya

at your request, I enclose a copy of a despatch which we have now had from the Gov. containing his views on

Stant En

U.S.O.F

MINUTE.

Office 8.11.20
Battersea

- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambart
- Mr. H. Read
- G. Fiddes
- L. Amery
- Ed. Milner

5/11/20

Handwritten notes at bottom

Kenya fs required

Nov. 1920

~~2/2~~

Kenya

no 11
for matter

Off 8/1/20

Mr. Battersby

Off

Sir,
I have a to-ack. the
receipt of your check No. 1071
of the 30th of Sept. and to
thank you for the info
which you have furnished
with regard to conditions
in Kenya for new settlers.

I remain