

courts of the Prot^o between
the Masai tribe and
the Attorney General and
others

Jan

Commons

1913

8 May

Last previous Paper: 13862

Yes

*20: Mr. Edmund Harvey. — To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether his attention has been called to the result of the sale of Government land by public auction at Nairobi on 7th April last, at which all the plots but two were bought by a single purchaser; whether many of these plots were sold less than a hour after at four times the price paid to the Government; and whether he proposes to substitute for this method of sale some system which will be more likely to meet the needs of small buyers who are prepared to settle upon farms themselves and do not merely buy to re-sell.

EAST AFR. PROT

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REC'D
OFFICE OF MAY 13

Hand sales

Tuesday 27th May
Oral Answer

~~Mr. Harvey~~ Mr. J. Fisher

One point of interest in the sale was on 13th April
I should wish to ask the small (1/2 acre) plots
were sold (at a price), which price, in fact, was
noted by Mr. Harvey, that the plots
were not farms. Not mentioned in the

The first lot at five was 3 months notice of
the sale as he asked on 3/18/05. (The context —
i.e. para. 7 of his memo 27232 — shows that
by land included Town plots in this
matter of notice), and we have therefore
had no opportunity of finding out, e.g.
why an average area of sales (say 8,000
sq. feet) has been fixed instead of the
5,000 sq. feet mentioned in 27232. This

Last previous Paper: 16112

16112

residential plots may, or more or less
work in urban lots, have to be treated differently
from business areas in the middle of a town,
but I think it is a pity we did not hear about
the sale in better time.

One of the principal objections raised by
the Leader (13.2.49) was that the Govt was
entering into the field of speculation by offering
the land at rents ^{to be} ~~to be~~ ^{to be} ~~to be~~ the open
market rates, but would begin the early
commercial results. If however it is with
anybody, what to pay for the land
previously an unworkable price, by the Govt the
rents, cannot be used for any other purpose
on the town, as to building or residential purposes,
unless the idea on the part of the Speculators who
have bought the land is that by covering it
they can force the Govt to subsidise
or to give them the building of a town near
plot. We must wait for the Government's
reply. We know that he does not intend
to subsidise building, and that the
Government will not be that he has the
great objection to the result of the sale.

Partly of the plots had been smaller, the
rents lower, the value of land to be built
also lower, the building could have been
cheaper, but it does not follow either that
the Govt could have ^{profits} ~~made~~ more by the transaction
or that the land would not equally have gone
to the speculators.

The important matter seems to be what
will happen with regard to the re-sale. If
there is a cessation of sale that each lease
should contain a clause giving the Govt

without the former's previous sanction
in writing (the Lease (Bact 29) may
be right in saying that this was inserted
against transfer to Associates (but the
Land-govt's plan). This condition would
be operative as soon as the plots were
knocked down, and if the former
did not sanction the re-sale or did not
give retrospective sanction it seems to me
that the re-sales are invalid, and that
the husband can be made to build his
19 "minimum" house subject to a fine of
£1 a day per mansion for any delay
beyond two years.

I think we had better telegraph to
the Govt asking for his views on the
subject on the result of the sale and
especially on the question of the re-sale
of the re-sale, and discuss the matter
(if we have no despatch by the Government)
as follows:-

"I have had no info. from the Government
as to the result of the sale to which my
hon: Friend refers. I have seen
an account in the local press which
has set out his statements, but I may
point out that the plots in question
were offered for residential purposes
in Kanata and were not for

You will notice on p. 8 of the case of
12 April an account of a sale
of township plots at Eldoret (Nasin
Guthu). The result seems to have been
much the same as at Nairobi.]

G.W.S.
10.5.13

J.W. 13.5.13

Dear Sir
Please see your memo on draft No. 11
of 20th April & by the way I am
to the matter in the last week of the
month of 19 April 17 that the fact was
the consistency of the position with regard
to the resale. The reply must stand?

G.W.S. 20.5.13

Private Secy

J.W. 21.5.13

Official Report 27 May 1913

Mr. HARCOURT: I have no information from the Governor as to the result of the sale to which my hon. friend refers. I have seen an account in the local papers which bear out his statements, but I may point out that the plots in question were offered for residential purposes in Nairobi, and were not farms.

G.W.S.

15/10/1901

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DRAFT Telegram
Governor
Nairobi

Handwritten vertical text: 15/10/1901

sent 6 10pm

MINUTE

Mr. ...	Sabbell	"Lead" immediately
Mr. ... 15 S/13	delegates	by de. lath
Mr. ... 15	tideman	your views as to
Sir G. Fiddes 15	retrospect	result of
Sir H. Just	retracts	val of
Sir J. Anderson	residential	residential
Lord Emmott	plot	plots
Mr. Harcourt	land	land
	Nairobi	Nairobi
	amusement	April 7 th
	discontent	what action has been taken to
	discontent	understand that
	discontent	subsequent
	sales	sales
	resale	resale
	deire	deire
	retained	retained
	resounded	resounded
	about	about
	obscure	obscure
		with your operation on

Handwritten notes on the left side of the table, including "The question of" and "12/4/10" under "resale".

Handwritten notes at the bottom left, including "720 to be" and "The proposed".