

EAST AFR PROT

5734



Governor 71  
Procurator

Date.  
1912

1st January

Last previous Paper.

40342/11

TRANSFER OF MURPHY'S FARM TO SISAL LIMITED.

States further as to reasons for sanctioning transfer. Agrees use of part of holding as a shooting lodge is not altogether satisfactory but it would have been difficult to have taken legal exception to the transfer on this ground. Concurs as to the undesirability of making any further grants to Sisal Ltd.

Mr G. Fildes

Part of

The 3 pictures referred to in 40372/11 are in Mr Smith's hand at Eastleigh. The property adjoins that of Messrs. Swift & Rutherford & I saw something of it when I paid a visit to the latter. ~~Photograph~~ Part 3 is not very convincing, but there is no doubt that the 2 are being really good work, as stated in para 4, & I should like the matter kept open.

Both of these Estates ought to develop rapidly when the Thika tramway has been completed. At present they are some 40 miles

road from Nashville, & in the near  
future is almost impossible. The  
tramway, when completed, will replace  
30 miles of this road transport. ~~North~~  
~~of Green~~ ~~now~~ ~~Script~~ & ~~Put~~ ~~land~~  
but ~~at~~ 1000 acres at a total of  
13,000 under soil & are turning  
out 9-10 tons per week, on which  
they expect to make a profit of  
£16 a ton. I heard from Mr. Handing,  
who came to see me a few days ago,  
who is <sup>helping to finance the concern</sup> ~~managing~~ that they had  
just formed a Syndicate with £20,000  
to clear & plant up <sup>with soil & beans</sup> 7,500 acres  
of their property situated right at  
the terminus of the White tramway  
& that the work was being put  
hand at once.

Put by?

H. J. R.

29/11

\* £2000 a year profit on 1000 acres!

A. Bruce

Vol. 2/3

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41812

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

January 31st 1912.

No. 71

348

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 749 of the 29th ultimo relating to the transfer of Mr. Duirs' farm to Sisal Limited.

2. I sanctioned the transfer in question as the records of the Land Officer showed that development to the extent of 4720 had taken place on the farm and this fulfilled the condition specified in paragraph 4 of my despatch No. 161 of April 7th, and my opinion justified me in acting on your despatch No. 262 of May 1911.

3. I admit that the utilization of this part of your holding as a site for a lease by Sisal Limited is not perhaps altogether satisfactory but I was advised that legally it would be very difficult to take exception to the transfer on the ground that the development effected was not of an agricultural nature, as it would have been impossible to prove that the buildings could not have been used in connection with farming operations.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

1117-20

4. Moreover Sisal Limited have done and are doing really good work, maintain a considerable European staff and are making a genuine contribution to the progress of the country.

5. I quite agree, however, that the area which they now hold is more than sufficient for their requirements for some time to come and I entirely concur with your view as to the undesirability of making any further grants to them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

  
GOVERNOR.