

DESPATCH



EAST AFR. PROT.

38019

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Governor

605

1909

22nd Oct

Last Previous Paper

29311

THE MENNONITE MISSION - APPLICATION FOR LAND

The Mennonite Society is practically unknown to the Admin of the Prot; but there is no definite information as to its methods and ideals. Their representative has been asked for references and further particulars. Asks for advice as to the grant of land to so-called missions which are practically private enterprises.

Mr. Read.

I am afraid I know nothing about the Mennonite Mission. We might ask the High Commissioner for Canada whether he can give us any information on the subject, both for our own use and for Sir Percy Girouard's.

The Governor is apparently communicating with the Mission direct, and we therefore need not write anything further to Mr. Harrison. With reference to the last paragraph of the despatch, I think our reply should be that, unless any very exceptional circumstances arise to which the Governor will, no doubt, consult the Secretary of State on each occasion, missions should be treated like ordinary bodies or individuals in connection with applications for grants of land, both as to the areas to be taken up and the terms on which they are to be held, and as to the districts in which each

x Done privately 29/10/09

Hand 733. 3 Dec
Doubt for 778. 31 Dec

Next subsequent Paper
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such grants can be made.

W.B.

Nov. 26

Mr. Fiddes

I agree

H. J. R.

27/XI

Ch. Seely

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W. B.

I agree

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1.12.

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Mr. Butler

The Mennonites migrated from Russia to Canada over 30 years ago receiving assistance from the Canadian Govt. for the purpose, every penny of which was duly returned. They have formed excellent settlers and there are several communities now living in various parts of Canada are flourishing. They do not however mix much with the rest of the people, as their religious views (a sort of combination of those of the Baptists and the Quakers) forbid their taking part in public life. But they are

otherwise thoroughly law abiding and altogether excellent people [who should be encouraged rather than otherwise to settle in the E. African Protectorate - so says Mr. Griffith, the Secretary to the High Comm. for Canada who knows the Mennonites of Canada well.]

I understand from other enquiries I have made that there is not one large Mennonite mission, but several small missions in different parts of the world, and that their missionaries are practically self supporting as they engage in agricultural pursuits.

22.12

W. B. Fiddes

for Mr. Johnson's note, put up the parts bracketed

Dec. 20

alone W. B.

23/XII

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 excellent people [who should be encouraged
 the rather than otherwise to settle in
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22.12

W. ~~Back~~ Fieldes

See the last page at base
 of Mr Johnson's note, marking
 the parts bracketed.

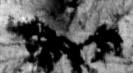
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at home P. 23

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C.O.
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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Nairobi,

451

October 22nd 1909.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 605

~~29311~~

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 552 of the 15th ultimo respecting the refusal of a grant of land to the Mennonite Mission.

2. The Society in question is practically unknown to the Administration of this Protectorate, and we have no definite information as to its methods and ideals. In the absence of any such accurate knowledge reluctance is felt to the alienation of land, which may subsequently be put to purposes of which we could not approve.

3. I have caused a communication to be sent to the representative of the Mennonite Mission asking for references and for further particulars of its objects and aims.

4. The Mennonites are, I believe, well-known in Canada and, as far as my recollection goes, their tenets are in some respects regarded with disfavour by the authorities.

5. I should be glad to receive Your Lordship's advice

H. W. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

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29311

advice as to the course to be pursued generally in cases of this kind. There are a number of so-called Missions which are practically private enterprises and unless great caution is exercised we may be exposed to many difficulties and possibly even to fraud.

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



ACTING GOVERNOR.

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DRAFT

Sal (No 733)

To Sir P. Guonard

8 Dec 1909.

MINUTE

Li

- Mr. Jackson 5/12
- Mr. Bantle 3/6
- Mr. Fiddle
- Mr. Jant
- Mr. Oat
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Howard
- Old. Sully
- Lord. Oat

Present the Honourable
 the receipt of Mr Jackson's
 despatch of the 22nd
 of Oct. on the subject of
 an application by the Mossi
 people for a grant
 of land in the Soudan
 with reference to the
 final part of Mr Jackson's
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to inform you that unless
 any very exceptional cir-
 cumstances are to be met

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report.
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of Canada are flourishing.
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