

The UNDER-SECRETARY for the COLONIES (Colonel Seely). I am afraid that I cannot undertake to answer the first part of my hon. Friend's question without knowing definitely to what concessions it refers. With regard to the second part of the question, proposals are now usually being made for the development of the resources of the Protectorate which involve outlay on the part of the Government in the initial stages, but my hon. Friend may rest assured that no such arrangement will be entered into without the most careful consideration of a subject safeguarding the interests of the Government. In the case of a very important proposal which is now under his consideration, the Secretary of State has appointed a Departmental Committee to go into the matter and advise him as to the action which should be taken.

Mr. J. D. REES. May I ask whether the obligations which the Government have already incurred towards private syndicates or parties can properly be brought before Parliament as qualifications of the matter?

Colonel SEELY. That is rather an elaborate question. If the hon. Member will give me a specific question I will inquire into it.

See 110 f. 19846 p. 100.

East Afr. Prot.
1908

Office or Individual

Commons

1909

7 June

Next Previous Paper

1499
1500
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1502
1503
1504

East Africa Syndicates Concessions

Mr. Cathcart Wason. - To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will state the nature of the concessions granted to the East Africa Syndicate in East Africa; what consideration was received by the Government in respect thereof; the number of Masai Natives that were deported from the concession; and approximately the number of inhabitants and livestock on the lands six years ago and at the present time; and whether he is satisfied that the syndicate and other concessionaires in East Africa have fairly fulfilled the conditions under which large tracts of land were obtained and the Natives removed therefrom. (Thursday 10th June.)

for oral reply

Mr. Reed

I cannot find any record of concessions granted to the Syndicate except that near Nairasha and the lease of Lake Magadi. We cannot find any details as to the removal of Masai from the former concession. There is, on the other hand, correspondence as to a modification of the boundary of the concession in order to give the Masai access to Lake Abolossa (see East Afr. Prot. & previous papers), but we cannot hardly use this as a counterblast. The reply is bound to be a long one.

Copy sent down to Francis 31st 10.15
 written for 10.15 & put in 10.30

1890 - A & F W - 20004/26 6,000 - 11-28

Next subsequent Paper

11 of 12
1909

will need careful drafting, so I submit my attempt at it on the annexed sheet

SAB

June 8

W. H. Anderson

So. Africa

8/11

Yes, I do not think that the summe can be improved. The reason appears (although that can hardly be his intention) is want to elicit a testimonial in favour of the Syndicate. We must be on our guard against saying that we are satisfied with what they have done, although they have done a good deal in the way of introducing sheep etc. They have not done all that they would like to do, but that may not be altogether their fault.

Lord Cromer

to the Secretary of the East Africa Syndicate

induced him to withdraw the two letters he had done which I think to be in agreement to us

more cordial and acceptable than the present

J. S. 96

H. H. 4 A P. 1888

811

The East Africa Syndicate are the lessees of an area of 500 square miles of land in the neighbourhood of Mavasha. The terms of the lease will be seen from the form of lease printed at page 200 of Command paper 2100. The Syndicate also hold a lease of the soda deposits known as Lake Magadi. The consideration reserved to the Government in this case is 5% of the profits earned by the lessee from the working of the demised premises.

I am unable to state without reference to the Protectorate what number of Masai were transferred from the area covered by the Mavasha concession to lands elsewhere, or the number of the wholedads and live stock on that area six years ago. I would cause enquiries to be made on this point and communicate the result to you as soon as possible.

case of the Lake Magadi lease, I am not aware that there has been any disturbance of the natives or their needs.

~~The Secretary of State is not prepared to say that the expectation that rapid development of the Protectorate would result from the grant of leases of large areas has been fulfilled, but he is not in a position to state that the Syndicate have failed to comply with the terms of the lease granted to them.~~

In reply to the last part of my hon. friend's question ^{in regard to} while it is ^{no question of} impossible ^{determine} now to say whether or not for the prosperity of the country, and the ^{welfare} happiness of the natives has been promoted or hindered by the grant of leases of large areas, I may say the present ^{policy} of the Colonial Office is generally opposed to the grant of ^{the} very large concessions.

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9.6

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granted to them.~~

1880
1881

In reply to the last part of my
hon: friend's question ^{whether it is}
^{possible now to say} ~~whether it is~~
~~possible now to say~~ ^{determine} how
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the happiness of the natives has ^{been}
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the present policy of the Colonial
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grant of ^{the} very large concessions.

9.6.
9.6.

Official Report 10 June 1919

Colonel SEELY: The East Africa Stock Exchange has been in a state of 100 square miles of land in the neighbourhood of Naivasha. The term of the lease will be seen from the form I have printed at page 24 of Command paper 2190. The syndicate also hold a lease of the soda deposits known as Lake Magadi. The consideration received by the Government in this case is 5 per cent of the profits earned by the lessee from the working of the demised premises. I am unable to state without reference to the Protectorate what number of Maori were transferred from the area covered by the Naivasha concessions to lands of their own in the number of the allotments of stock on that area six years ago, and in the present time. I would be very glad to be made on both points and communicate with my hon. friend. In the case of the Lake Magadi lease I am not aware how there has been any disturbance of the natives in their lands. With regard to the last part of my hon. friend's question, it would be most desirable that I should be empowered to give an adequate answer within the limits permissible for a Parliamentary reply.

MR. ALTHAM WASON: Will the hon. member be good enough to enquire of the Government whether any scheme is being considered for the purchase of the

concessions under which the very large concessions have been made, with the honest carrying out.

Colonel SEELY: I can assure my hon. friend that the Secretary of State will see that all reasonable requirements are carried into effect.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: It would be a good thing if the Government could give some information to the syndicate of the number who have been transferred of their lands, and also of the incidents of their transfer.

Colonel SEELY: Sir Gilbert, I am a gentleman who is in the business of stock raising and a year ago set on the Government of the Protectorate, and under the Foreign Office I carried out the work of a year, but I am not sure that I can give any information on the subject of the will be glad to give any information.

MR. WILKINSON: Will the hon. member be good enough to enquire of the Government whether any scheme is being considered for the purchase of the

Colonel SEELY: I am not sure that I can give any information on the subject of the will be glad to give any information. Perhaps he would be good enough to enquire of the Government whether any scheme is being considered for the purchase of the

Read.

Draft to O.A.C. herewith

J.P.B.

June 11

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[Handwritten scribble]

DRAFT

S.A.P. (7/0316)

msd 3050

15 June 1909

[Handwritten signature]

MINUTE.

Mr. Butler June 11

Mr. Read 11

Mr. Just.

Mr. Antrobus. 12

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood. *[initials]* 12.6

Col. Seely.

The Earl of Crewe.

[Handwritten signature]

~~... ..~~ *[Handwritten signature]* *[initials]*

~~... ..~~

I have the honour
to transmit to you
the accompanying copy
of a proposition put in
the House of Commons
on the 10th of June
with regard to the
concessions granted
to the East India

... .. 37108-15

Syndicate, and of
the reply which
was made about
[unclear] have to
request that you will
inform me what
number of Masai
were removed from
the area of 500 square
miles covered by the
Syndicate's concession
in the neighbour hood
of Narvaska and
Gilgal, that when
approximately, the
numbers of
inhabitants and
live stock on that

and what are the
numbers now.

3) You will no
doubt make it clear
in your reply whether
Masai were removed
from this area
specifically for the
purpose of the
concession or as part
of a more general
movement of the
Masai into Reserve,
and advantages
were secured to the
Masai in return
for their removal.