

DESPATCH

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1905
25554

(Subject.)

Mr R. Chamberlain's grant of land

The nature of another similar letter from
Mr Chamberlain to have effect and why of the
(the Committee) reply to it

(Minutes.)

Mr Reed
Deh with 26822

W. J. R.

W. J. R.
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Subscription Paper

2607

217

C. O. 26807

Commissioner's Office,

Mombasa, June 23 1905



June 23 1905

No. 260

Sir,

With reference to the last paragraph of my despatch
 No. 545 of 19th instant regarding Mr. Chamberlain's grant
 of land, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a
 copy of another insolent letter which that gentleman has
 addressed to the Land Officer. I instructed Mr. Barton-
 -Wright to reply to the last part of this letter, and
 answered the first part myself. I enclose a copy of my
 letter herewith.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Stewart

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies

Downing Street,

LONDON.

* No 26033

151

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C. O. 1
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Elmenteita,

20th June 1905.

To

The Land Officer,
Nairobi.

Sir,
In February 1904, under a contract made with me by H. M. Commissioner I became the proprietor of 32,000 acres of land on the Kadarit River, the boundaries of which were precisely defined in a schedule attached to the agreement. The Marquess of Lansdowne H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has since dishonestly broken that contract. Acting on instructions from Lord Lansdowne, H. M. present Commissioner has by threats and force, compelled me to accept a "settlement" of my claim against H.M. Government in respect of this land grant.

Under this "settlement", H.M. Commissioner engaged to have the area of 32,000 acres, as granted to me with boundaries defined in the schedule of the agreement, surveyed into farms of 5,000 acres each, from which I was to select an area of 20,000 acres.

I have been on the ground for two months. This week I expect a shipment of several tons of fencing wire and I want to know what to do with it, and in what other directions I can proceed with the work of development without the necessity of placing any further confidence in dishonest persons.

I must therefore request you to place before me without further delay a survey of the original area from which I can make my selection of 20,000 acres under the "settlement".

It

It will be further necessary for a Government Officer to point out to me the usual beacons. I understand that the survey was completed a few months ago by a Mr. Cahill and I am greatly surprised that I have been kept waiting so long to my inconvenience and loss.

Yours etc., etc.,

(Sd.) Robert Chamberlain.

Enclos 2

Commissioner's Office,
Nairobi,
June 26th 1905.

Sir,

The Land Officer has shown me your letter to him of 20th instant in which you see fit to use the most abusive and undignified language when alluding to the Marquess of Lansdowne, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to myself as Commissioner of this Protectorate.

This is the second letter I have seen lately in which you refer to Lord Lansdowne in an insolent and offensive manner, the first one being addressed to the Acting Sub-Commissioner of the Naivasha Province; and I beg to inform you for your future guidance that, unless you can word your communications in proper terms, you will receive no answers from either my officers or myself beyond simple acknowledgements.

I am, etc.,
(Sd.) D. Stewart.

Chamberlain, Esq.,
Elmenteita.

Mrs. H. Chamberlain

Enclosure No. 2

In Sir D. Stewart's Chamberlain

No. 360 of June 25th 1905.