

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 28240

28240
REC'D
AUG 06

Individual

1906

30 July

Previous Paper

22025

Handwritten notes on the left margin:
avoid of being
copy of 22025
21 Nov 1906

Subsequent Paper

32269

(Subject)

Consent to Mr A. M. Jewange

Give history of notes leading to the grant of a piece of land to Mr A. M. Jewange for the purpose of building an hotel. Also copy of notes may be sent to Port etc.

(Remarks)

Mr. Antabus

This is rather a poor start for the plaintiffs' case, but we must now see whether they will be able to make good their complaints of the Land Office & the Commission.

Send copy of Off. 22025 + inc. with copy of this to the Comm. for report - & inf. Mr. Currie that a copy of the comm. has been sent to the Port for report?

A. J. R.

2/8

Handwritten signature and date: 20/10

2/10/06

C. J. ...
 East India United Service Club,
 16, St. James' Square,
 July 30th, 1906.



The Under Secretary of State,
 Colonial Office.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 22023/1906, dated the 28th instant, and enclosures. In reply I give the facts relating to the concession of a piece of land to Mr. A. K. Jeevanjee by the Railway for the purpose of building an Hotel.

2. I must first explain that when I arrived in East Africa in 1903 there was no Hotel worthy the name in Nairobi, and I saw that a proper establishment, capable of giving good accommodation to travellers was essential for the development of our tourist traffic. I therefore (with the approval of the then Commissioner) let it be generally known that the Railway would give rent free a suitable plot of land in the inner Railway zone (i.e. the small area of land around the station, the control of which is vested in the Management) to any person or firm who would satisfy me that he or they would erect a really first class Hotel. I approached Messrs. Smith, Mackenzie on the subject because they were then the only European firm in the country who had the necessary capital behind them to build a large Hotel. They, however, declined

to

to do so. I did not advertise the offer because I considered it inadvisable to do so, but I think I am correct in stating that a paragraph to the effect appeared in the local paper, and all these persons in East Africa at that time who were thinking of going into the hotel business were well aware of the offer. Before Mr. Winearis began to build the Norfolk Hotel (in 1904 I think) I had many conversations with him on the subject, and I was very anxious that he should build it on Railway land, but it did not suit his arrangements to do so.

3. I will now deal with Lord Hindlip's memorandum.

Paragraph 1. This refers to the Land Office.

" 2. Mr. Gaisley had an interview with me on the subject and I assured Mr. Gaisley that if a Company or Syndicate was formed to build a large Hotel, I would very favourably consider an application for a site on Railway land. Mr. Gaisley was perfectly satisfied with my reply, and if he can be consulted, I am perfectly certain he will corroborate what I state. Lord Hindlip's statement that the application was refused is untrue.

Paragraph 3. This refers to the L.O.

" 4. ditto.

" 5. I knew nothing about this.

" 6. No interview between Colonel Sadler, Messrs. Currie and Anisuth ^{in 1904} and Mr. Jeevanjee at the Commissioner's house ever occurred. The statement that it was held is absolutely untrue.

Paragraph 7. The 4 acres are not being given to Mr. Jeevanjee rent free. Speaking from memory the evening

after

after I had arranged to give Mr. Jeevanjee the land I had four or five gentlemen to dinner and the matter came up in ordinary conversation. This is evidently to what Lord Hindlip refers.

Paragraph 8. Vide paragraph 2 ante.

" 9. Ditto.

" 10. I know nothing about this.

" 11. Ditto.

" 12. It seems to me Mr. Sandiford's action was perfectly correct.

4. In conclusion I can only add that after Mr. Jeevanjee had made his offer to me to build an Hotel I asked Mr. Gailey to come and see me. I explained to him the nature of Mr. Jeevanjee's offer and enquired whether the Syndicate he represented at our previous interview was in a position to make a firm offer because I would prefer to get one firm than rather than accept Jeevanjee's. Mr. Gailey told me they were not in a position to make an offer and he did not see any immediate prospect of their being able to do so.

I then put the whole matter before Colonel Sadler and accepted Mr. Jeevanjee's offer with his full approval.

5. I have probably stated sufficient to show that Lord Hindlip's memo is, so far as the Railway is concerned, not a true statement of the facts. I shall be obliged if a copy of this correspondence be sent to East Africa for record.

(HILD) H.C.

30/7

6 East

28740

755

DRAFT

msd 39585

17 August 06

East Africa Prot.
No 505.

Sir,

Dear Sir

Comm. Mt. Kenya Saddle Club.

I have the honor

MINUTE

to transmit to you for report, the accompanying copy of correspondence on the subject of the concession of land to Mr. A. M. Jeevanjee at Narobi, for the purpose of building an hotel

- Mr. Scoffham. 13/8.
- Mr. Lead. 14/8
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cor.
- Mr. Luoa.
- Mr. Graham.
- Sir M. O'Malley
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin

memo received from Lord Kinross 28 July (22023)
 I have been 28 July (22023)
 W- have been 20 July (28240)

Yours

2 aft

C East.
28740.

756

H. F. Currie Esq.

Sir,

August 6th

Ind

Mr. Scoffham. 13/8.

Recd. 14

I am to ack.
the receipt of your letter
of the 30th ultimo on
the subject of the concession
to Mr. A. M. Jevanjie
and to inform you that
a copy of the correspondence
has been sent to the
Commissioner of the East
Africa Protectorate for
report.

J. H.

(32) E. P. L.