

EAST AFR. PROT.

50615

REC'D
REC'D 3 NOV 15

50615

Cowan Ed.

1915

2 hr.

Last previous Paper

T
49343

Passports for Engineers
for Local Hemp Plantations.

Sends copy letter addressed to J. & requests assistance in obtaining passports in circumstances explained.

Mr. Bottomley

Mr Cowan called

a day or two ago and spoke about this. He has reason to believe that the P.O. will not grant passports to engineers to leave the country; he was intending to send out two engineers to E.A.P. to supervise erection of plant and dealing with crop. He represented that, if these men were refused passports, the crop would be lost and the industry would suffer. He asked if we would assist in the matter of passports, if necessary. I told him that...

Ans? 10 Nov 15

Last subsequent Paper.

not aware of any objections on the part of E.A.P. to admitting engineers at the present time; and that it was clearly not the wish either of this office or of the F.O. that the hemp & fibre industry shd suffer any avoidable set back. I said that, if he would write, the question of approaching the F.O. would if necessary, would receive consid.

I should not anticipate that the F.O. would refuse passports for E.A.; there may have been particular circ? in the case Mr Cowan mentions. I do not think, therefore, that we need do more now than ackn. this and say that, if any difficulty is experienced by the engineers in obtaining passports, we will consider the possibility of approaching the F.O. in the matter, we might add, however, that the final voice rests with the Passport Dep^t.

A.C. 4/11/15

Mr Head
Mr Bottomley

153

I spoke to Mr Martin

of the Passport Office about this. He says that there is no general rule as to engineers leaving the country, and that each case is considered separately. He said it is true that some engineers (a CA man amongst them) have been stopped because they were wanted for skilled munitions work in this country. The decision rests therefore with the M of M. On an engineer applying to the Passport Office, he is given a form to fill up stating his qualifications &c; the form is then sent over to the M of M, who decide whether the applicant is to be given a passport or not. Thus the decision, and the question of making exceptions, rest with the Munitions Dep^t.

Mr Martin said they had sent Mr Cowan's letter to the M of M asking what reply they should return.

? Perhaps it would be well to ask the F.O. have answered before we reply to Mr Cowan's we can find out what he said.)

6/11/15
If we are going to take a hand we should do so at once; i.e. tell Munitions Dept. that the final authority is one of great importance to the E.A.P. & that we believe that these two engineers will be

Via letter
incl: in this one.

allowed to proceed unless their
retention is imperative. But if we
want in keeping there is no thing where
we shall be able to stop, I should
prefer to tell Mr. Cowan that the matter
must be left to the decision of the
Munitions Dept. to whom, we understand,
a copy of his letter to F.O. has been sent.

(A)

UCS 8/11/15

Dir. G. Fiddes

As at (A) ?

H. J. R.

8/21/15

Mr. Stubbins

your copy sent. Recd. I
concur with Mr. Reed.

P.S. 8/11

I agree
9/11 AS

W. COWAN,
SOLICITOR
AT LAW,
15, WHITE
CHURCH
LANE,
LONDON,
E.C. 4.



154

2nd Nov. 1915.

The Colonial Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,

British East Africa Protectorate

Referring to my call on Thursday morning when I discussed the question of granting passports to one or two Engineers for Sisal Hemp Plantations in B.E.A., I now enclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to the Foreign Office asking them if I might be informed as to whether they will grant passports under the circumstances I have explained to them.

I trust that you will be able to assist us in this matter should any difficulty be raised, as the engagement of these Engineers is of vital importance to the Companies concerned.

One of the Companies is Sisal Ltd. with plantations at Makuyu, Chania Bridge, and at Maragua near Fort Hall. The other is Kenani Fibre Lands Ltd. having a plantation a few miles from Athi River Station on the Uganda Railway.

Yours faithfully,

W. Cowan

21 Nov. 1915.

The Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

Sir,

PASSPORTS

I note that passports are now required for anyone desiring to land in the British South Africa Protectorate.

I have learnt that a passport was recently refused to a merchant for S.E.A. who applied for one to pass through France to join a ship at Marseilles. As the merchant is S.E.A. for whom I act as recruiting Engineer, I shall be obliged if you will kindly inform me as to the position of Engineer applicants for your area for that country.

I called at the Colonial Office and explained the circumstances to some of the officials, who intimated that they were favourable to the granting out of Engineers under the conditions I explained.

The conditions are these:-

Every plantation requiring a Signal Hoop needs the services of a Signal Hoop Erector and for operation of the machinery after it has been erected.

In the case of one of the plantations machinery is on order and will shortly be shipped. In the case of

121
S.A. Hoop
has and you this

The Colonial Office
Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,

PASSPORTS

I note that passports are now required for anyone desiring to land in the British South Africa Protectorate. I have learnt that a passport was recently refused to a merchant for S.E.A. who applied for one to pass through France to join a ship at Marseilles. As the merchant is S.E.A. for whom I act as recruiting Engineer, I shall be obliged if you will kindly inform me as to the position of Engineer applicants for your area for that country.

I called at the Colonial Office and explained the circumstances to some of the officials, who intimated that they were favourable to the granting out of Engineers under the conditions I explained.

The conditions are these:-

Every plantation requiring a Signal Hoop needs the services of a Signal Hoop Erector and for operation of the machinery after it has been erected.

In the case of one of the plantations machinery is on order and will shortly be shipped. In the case of

another the term of the existing Engineer's engagement terminates in January next and my clients have asked me to obtain a man to replace him.

I have two or three applications for these two vacancies before me now, and consider two of them to be suitable. I cannot however engage either of the men until I know whether passports would be granted, presuming that the men's characters were satisfactory.

The matter is urgent because the crop will be ready to be dealt with by the machinery before it is erected if time is lost now.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Colonial Office and shall be greatly obliged if you would take the matter up with them should there be any difficulty in granting passports under the conditions named.

I may add that neither of the applicants are at present engaged in munition manufacture, one of them is rather deaf and is on that account ineligible for Military Service.

Yours faithfully,

10 Nov, 1915

Sir,

I am 2 to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd of Nov., relative to the question of the grant of passports to engineers whom it is proposed to send to B. E. A. in connection with the Sisal Hemp Plantations.

(2) In reply I am to state that the matter must be left to the decision of the Munitions Dep^t, to whom, Mr Bonar Law understands, a copy of your letter to the F. O. has been sent.

DRAFT.W Cowan Esq., M^l C^l E. R.

MINUTE.

Mr. Cooke 9/11/15

Mr. Bottomley 10/11/15

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Mr. Steel-Waldand.

Mr. Bonar Law.