

EAST AFR. PROT

C O
42101

42191

For H.K.

1915

12 Sept

Last previous Paper.

Labour supply

Sends letter from Mr. H. Carnifal calling attention to difficulty in obtaining labour for concession at Malindi. Hopes that something might be done to remedy matters

Mr. G. Fildes

At the best of times labour is scarce in the district & question of the position has of course not been improved by the large demands of the military for camels.

Copy of the same to you for report - + inf. Mr. Wilson. Just that we are consulting the Govt?

H. J. R.

a letter accompanying letter 14/9/15

P. 16. 9. 15

at once

16. 9. 15

Handwritten notes: 20 Sept 15, Copy for Mr. Carnifal, 25 para 16 2009 1915

Next subsequent Paper.

B/48894

~~1915~~
19/15

~~90~~

195

CRANESDEN,
MAYFIELD,
SUSSEX.

September, 1915

C. O
42191
REC'D
SEP 13 1915

Dear Steel-Maitland,

I venture to write
to you because I believe
you have been invited to see by
some one who is situated in
the British East Africa. I have
personal knowledge of the circumstances

~~2/9/15~~

~~2/9/15~~

195

CRANESDEN,
MAYFIELD,
SUSSEX.

September 1915

C. O
42191
REC'D
13 SEP 15

Mr Steel-Maitland

I venture to trouble
you with this letter
as it has been written to me by
a friend who is situated in
the British East Africa. I have
personal knowledge of the circumstances

to which it refers. I see
well aware of the many
which Government assistance
the above matter is
attained. It is however
possible that a long
in official practice

Section I have to be taken
into the paper

196

London
14th

L. B. P. Post. Date 14 Sept 1905

Each time I read the letter
with this hope

196

Leicester

1-9
1-10-54

to which it refers. I am
well aware of the many
difficulties which Government
concerns in labour matters is
faced. It is however, there is
possibility that a long
political pact might be

H. B. P. Post. Oct 10 Sept 1954

London, E.C. 4th, September 1915

197

Dear Mr Wilson Fox,

I know that your long connection with the Chartered Company must have given you exceptional experience with all matters relating to Colonial enterprise, and it has occurred to me that I could not appeal to a better quarter for advice in connection with an Estate in British East Africa in which I have been interested for many years past. I regret to say, I look like reverting to jungle work, unless prompt steps can be taken to get over the existing labour difficulties.

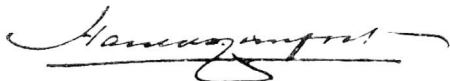
The property to which I refer consists of an Estate of 10,000 acres, situated on the Sabaki River close to the Port of Malindi, British East Africa, and is held under a 15 year lease from the Government of the Protectorate at a rental of, approximately, £ 100 per annum. No efforts have been spared by those connected with the undertaking to make a success of the venture, and, up to date, something like £ 30,000 have been expended upon development, including the erection of a fully equipped Cotton Ginnery at Malindi. The undeveloped area consists to-day of 1000 acres of Rubber, the trees upon part of which have been tapped during the past two seasons and tapping operations upon the whole 250,000 to 300,000 trees should have commenced in May last, but, from the latest advices received, (July) it appears that there is no possibility of procuring the necessary labour either locally or by 'up country' recruiting for even the necessary weeding and cleaning of the property, much less for the purposes of harvesting the rubber, for which latter a force of from 300 to 400 men at least would be required.

I realise that at circumstances this year are abnormal in the Protectorate and that large numbers of natives who, under ordinary conditions, would have been available for estate work are now required by the Government for various duties necessitated by the presence of a large number of troops in the Protectorate. But, at the same time, I cannot help feeling that if the Government Officials received instructions from home to render assistance to planters in procuring labour instead of placing difficulties in the way, (which I regret to say has been my experience in the past) that the existing trouble could be overcome and a sufficient force of labour to ensure the tapping of at least part of our rubber area could be obtained.

Does it not seem to you a pity that in a British Protectorate, from which valuable crops could be obtained as the result of private enterprise, some encouragement should not be given to those who risk their capital in the development of Government property?

I hope you will forgive my troubling you with so long a letter for I know how valuable your time is, but if you could see your way to put the matter before some high official in the Colonial Office who is interested in seeing our Colonies progress, it might even, if possible to save this property from following in the course of five or six others to the immediate neighbourhood which I could cease and reverting to jungle after the expenditure of large sums of money and years of energy and care.

Yours very truly,



H. Wilson Fox Esq.,
2 London Wall Buildings,
E.C.

F. 42191/1915

ESP

RECEIVED
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193

~~ESP~~

20 Sept 1915

DRAFT

ESP

No. 687

Mr. H. C. Belfield

Ans. 2097/15

Sir,

I have the honour
to transmit to you
the acc. copy of a
letter from Mr. Wilson
for forwarding a
letter from Mr. Cornfoot
on the subject of the
difficulty in obtaining
labour for his concerns
at Malindi, & to request
that you will furnish me
with a report on the
matter.

17/19/15

Recd 17

8

2 dfts

(Signed) A. EDGAR LAW

Draft
Q
8

F. 22191/1915.
E.A.P.

Communications on this subject
should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,
and the following number quoted—

199

Downing Street,
20 Sept. 1915

H. Wilson Esq
F.O.S. 17/9/15
Mr. Read 17

Sir,

I am directed by ~~the~~ ^{Thomas Law} Secretary of State for the Colonies to
acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th of Sept., forwarding
a letter from Mr. H. W. Cornfoot
on the subject of the difficulty in obtaining
labour for his concession at Malindi,
and to inform you that ~~copy has been forwarded to~~ the Governor of the
E.A.P. is being ~~for the consideration of~~ consulted
on the matter.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. SEDGWICK

(Signed) H. F. READ

For the Secretary of State

Drafts