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War-Guaranty Scheme for Disabled Soldiers

1919
July
previous Paper
3998

In copy of rules of Society proposed to be formed, requests approval. Prices details in capital subscriptions. Requests scheme be started soon.

~~Mr. Pittman~~ Colonel Ambery
~~Sir H. Wood~~

However anxious we may be to assist the scheme, the fact we have to face is that it is a one-man scheme on of Lt Col. Ridge. Lt Col. Ridge was found "sick and casual" by the Dept. of Agriculture & we find that Dept. knows "he has little real knowledge either of the agricultural or the factory side of these operations." We have found that his estimates are inclined to be too favourable, that he represented us as approving his estimates.

I have made great comments on the same and submitted what Col. Ridge would had been

copy of 7 12 Aug 1919
p. 343

subsequent Paper
507/42774

My consultation with Governor. It is necessary in a
glance that it is a cooperative society and for some
all power rest with the Managing Committee
against which there is really no redress and
there are elaborate provisions, to ensure that
Col Ridge shall be ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~person~~
entitled to sit on the Board for the first time
and that the Managing Committee should be the
first brought acquainted with him. There are
also sufficient covenants provided to enable
the Managing Committee to ensure themselves
against loss in the event of the failure of
the trust.

I should like very much to know
how many of your views were present at the
meeting and how many are in the committee
that was elected for what sort of inducements
or in case of your support Col Ridge held
out to the officers who are said to be
inimical to you. It would need a lawyer to
draft the Rules so as to ensure adequate
provisions for sufficient power to the
Board in general meeting plus the right
of the Board to remove or suspend the Board of
Directors like the East African Selection
Board - as the Land Settlement became,
the general Manager should be appointed by
Board with a single eye as to his fitness.

Govt. shall have a general control over the
 country's accounts. The Managing Committee
 shall include representatives of the three
 Govt. Dept's. M. J. Pennington
 I think we should read off
 the list of the obligations & say we cannot
 say that we consider the scheme likely to be
 successful if it is conducted on the lines
 proposed, but that if they wish an attempt
 to be made to settle disabled officers in E. Afr.
 and we consider it should be attempted on the
 lines indicated above. Ask if they agree & would
 be prepared to help in the selection & training
 of the officers etc.

JH
 7.7.19 211

These are the Rules referred to in my
 minute of 11 June on Gov/32082. Before
 we pass final judgment on them we
 must compare them with the model - Rule
 which presumably supplied under the U.K. Act
 referred to. W. Calder is looking into this.

His comments, with which I agree
 generally, are naturally influenced by the
 different accounts we have had of
 Lt. Ridge; but generally the scheme seems
 to set up an authority independent
 of the Government for -

out in E. Africa?

you see

an association

22nd July, 1919.

My dear Bottomley,

As you are a Director of the Board of Agriculture, I am sure you will be glad to know that the Board were in a position to offer his services as Chief Camp Commandant under the Flax scheme. His appointment was for a period of six months and when the six months ran out he was allowed to depart. I understand, however, that the then Director of Flax Production told him verbally that he had not discharged his duties in such a way as to induce the Board to consider prolonging his engagement or taking him on in another capacity. In the circumstances I suggest that if you have to get him out of the chief post under the scheme you should tell him simply that you have come to the conclusion that his general knowledge of administration, finance, and technical experience of the flax industry are not sufficient. He was, I believe, a first year

11, AURICOL ROAD,
WEST KENSINGTON, W. 1.

10th July 1919.

To The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Referring to the proposals for the a new Colony, of which a copy is already in your hands, and to an interview of to-day we now beg to hand you a copy of the rules of a Society proposed to be formed under the Industrial & Provident Society Acts 1893-1913; For the purpose of carrying it into effect.

We are given to understand that as soon as the approval of the Colonial Office can be given to our proposals, the Ministry of Labour will permit the selected Officers to proceed with their training and make the appropriate allowances for the purpose.

It is also necessary that we should be reasonably assured that the Government of the Protectorate will be prepared to approve of the grant of the land referred to in all proposals to a Society formed on the lines indicated in the draft, which is so far as we know the only Society at present formed to assist disabled officers to make a start in the Colonies and which has assumed its present shape to enable this assistance to be given in a form calculated to insure the commercial success of their venture.

We accordingly beg to apply for the necessary approval and desire to add to the facts and figures contained in our former proposals the following additional information, which we have already given you verbally:-

The proposals were accepted at a meeting of disabled officers held in London on June 17th and a Committee was appointed to carry this scheme into effect, and have held several meetings.

Capital Subscriptions to the full amount of six hundred pounds per member have already been secured from the contemplated number of officers subject to their selection being approved in the manner contemplated by the proposed rules.

The Committee have been successful in securing the assistance of several officers of special experience in the work contemplated

including an officer who has seven years experience as a farmer in British East Africa. Another officer has practical experience of the district in Ireland, and including two military officers, one who has several years practical experience of farming in Scotland and the other a highly qualified technical expert at an Agricultural College.

It will be noticed that as soon as their training is approved the allowances of each of these officers will be increased to £175. per year for two years, and a training grant will also be payable of £50. per year.

We need only add that it is important in order that a start be made in British East Africa in due season, that no time is lost in completing the necessary steps to start the enterprise.

We have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

W. Hughes Ridge

Chairman for Committee.

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