

1930

Kenya

No. 16299

SUBJECT

C0533/402

Lady boryndon.-

- boryndon Trust Ordinance. 1925.

Previous

1840/1926.

Subsequent

1. Mr. Amery to Lord Passfield 19th Sept.
encls. a letter from Lady Coryndon regarding her pension

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~ To Mr. Amery (1 ack.) 20th Sept.

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~ Mr. E. B. Boyd - minute 20th Sept.

The Govt. of Kenya made - what I at any rate consider generous - provision, absolutely ex gratia, for the late Sir Robert Coryndon's widow and family: see Ordee.No.XXX11 of 1920 in X.F.1840/26, under which the following payments all free of income tax are made:-

*x from Jan: 1910,
so she has to
face a fall in
income very
soon.
WLB*

- To Lady Coryndon £500 p.a. till death or re-marriage
- Master John Coryndon £200 per annum till age of 21.
- Roger Coryndon £200 " " " " "
- Peter Coryndon £200 " " " " "
- Miss Honor Coryndon £100 " " " " "

As to Uganda, the question of ^{or marriage} some grant was raised at the time. It was decided by Mr. Amery on 7818/25 Kenya that the Uganda Government should not be asked to give financial assistance. On 11679/25 the O.A.G. of Uganda telegraphed that the Executive Council unanimously recommended that Uganda should contribute towards providing pension for Lady Coryndon and Family. In reply the O.A.G. was informed that in view of the very full assistance already voted by the Legislative Council of Kenya, the S. of S. had decided that there was not sufficient justification for an additional contribution from Uganda which would set up a precedent for extending assistance given in such a case to territories other than those administered by a deceased Governor at the time of his death.

There

There was personal correspondence with Lady Coryndon (12686/25) who represented that the Kenya provision would not suffice: she was informed (letter of 1.4.25) that "we do see the greatest difficulty in making any suggestion to the Government of Uganda"; and (letter of 7.4.25) she was informed that a telegram had come from Uganda raising the question of a grant, but the difficulty felt was explained and Mr. Ormsby-Gore ended by hoping that she would not press the matter.

Note, therefore, that the decision is nothing to do with Sir W. Gowers and it would be quite wrong for the C.O. to allow any responsibility in the matter to rest on him.

There is nothing which I can find to lead us to change the opinion previously held in the matter. It is the case that Lady Jackson has recently been granted a special pension or allowance of £500 per annum free of tax (just like Lady Coryndon) from Uganda funds: the fact that it is Uganda, not Uganda and Kenya, which pays this supports the view that it is the 'last' Colony (or Protectorate) which should provide special assistance of this kind.

I do not know in what kind of style Lady Coryndon now lives: but I have no hesitation in saying that £1200 p.a. from Kenya free of income tax (let alone the £300 per annum from other sources including the Rhodes Trust) should

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should suffice: there are, for instance, to my knowledge men in the Civil Service with equal family responsibilities and with less money than that to live on - including provision for their own existence.

I would not recommend that any further provision be sought from Government funds for Lady Coryndon and her family; and I hope that the S. of S. will take a definite line against any such suggestion. If so, I think it would be best for a letter to be sent direct to Lady Coryndon by the P.S. (copy to Mr. Amery) to the effect that Mr. Amery has referred her letter to the S. of S.: that the S. of S. has looked into the matter, and that he finds himself entirely in agreement with the view taken in the C.O. when the question of additional assistance from Uganda was raised in 1925; that the difficulty then felt and explained in Mr. Ormsby-Gore's letter to her of 7.4.25 is of equal force today; that she is under a misapprehension in thinking that the decision was taken by, or in any way influenced by, Sir William Gowers; and that the S. of S. regrets that he would not feel justified asking the Government of Uganda to make provision for assistance for her in addition to that already made by the Government of Kenya.

In case Lady Coryndon approaches Sir W. Gowers either direct or through a friend, I think the P.S. should send him for his information copy of Lady Coryndon's letter and the reply - with copies of Mr. Ormsby-Gore's letters of 1.4.25 and 7.4.25 and the telegram and despatch in 11879/25.

Mr. Boyd.
I agree. The real trouble is that Lady Coryndon has not been
all Parkman
22.9.30
etc

able to adapt himself to increased
years - her friends told us at
the time that she would not be
able to.

W.C.S.
23.9.30.

Gentlely
Prue

4 10 Lady Conyngham — 8/10/30
(Encl. to 1 ansd.)
5 To Sir W Gowers — 9/10/30
re ansd. encl. to 1, 4, etc. on 12/6/25
Tel of 13/3/25 on 11879/15 USA 2 etc. on 11879/15 USA
6 To F.S. to Mr. Ainery — 8/10/30
(to 1 ansd.)

DESTIN. UNDER SIGNATURE

Sir. W.F. Gowers. s/o. to Mr. Boyd. 19th. Oct. 30.

Mr. Whitcomb,
2 put by, p.
W. Newdrum.
22-10-30.

J. G. Whitcomb
22/10/30
cc - me

DLB

C.O.

6299/30 54

Mr. Eastwood 3/10

Mr. Parkinson 4/10

Mr. Hottomley W. 2/15/20

Sir J. Shuckburgh. 4/10/20

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

P.S. note

8 Oct 20

~~Dear Sir William Jones~~

Dear Sir William
I am asked to

C.O.
R 6-OCT
D M

but you, for your information

a copy of course with
Lady Congdon, who
has suggested that the part of
the portion of
upwards of £10,000 of financial
assistance in her addition
to that given by the part of the
£12,000 which is, at present, £1200 a
year free of income tax. I also enclose

Copies of earlier course
on this subject

as you will see, the
S.P.S. is not prepared
to entertain the suggestion.

Apparently, Lady
Congdon was under
the impression that you

BDD

DRAFT
Sir William Jones
K.M.G.
Boath Club
Dover St.
W.

To Lady Congdon 11.9 ✓
note to me

To do ✓
J.H.S.

To Lady Congdon 1.4.25 ✓
from W.P.M. for
on 12686/25

To do 7.4.25 ✓
also on 12686/25

To Mr. Oag. Grand 13.3.25 ✓
11879/25

To Oag. Capt 5.25 ✓
11879/25

personally will concerned
in the 1925-26 session the
opportunity has been taken
to correct this mis-understanding.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. B. BOYD.

C.O.

10299/120

4 5
8 Oct 1930

- Mr. ~~Parsons~~ 4/10/30
- Mr. ~~Parsons~~ 4/10/30
- Mr. ~~Parsons~~ 4/10/30
- Mr. Bottanley
- Mr. J. Shackburgh
- Mr. G. Grindale
- Parl. U.S. of S.
- Parl. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

for P.S. sign

~~Jan Lady Compton~~

DRAFT
Lady Compton

2/10/30
Said James 8/10/30
Copy to Mr. Gwynne P.S. 8/10/30

Mr. Gwynne has
referred to Mr. Parfitt
on the subject
of your letter to him as to the
possibility of additional
assistance being given to you
in the way of an allowance from the
Government of Uganda
The Govt of State
has looked into the matter
& he finds himself entirely
in agreement with the view
taken in the Colonial Office
when the question of additional
assistance from Uganda
was raised in 1925. The
difficulty then felt &
explained in Mr. Omsky-Green's
letter to you of the 7th April
(1925) is a question of equal

P.S. will wish to send
a copy to Mr. Gwynne
P.S. ?
Yes. all

1268625

force today & I fear that
you are under a misapprehension
in thinking that the decision
was taken by, or in any way
influenced by, Sir William
Gowers.

(In the circumstances,
Lord Pasfield regrets that he
could not feel justified in
asking the ^{Government} ~~govt~~ of Uganda to
make provision for assistance
for ^{you} ~~the~~ in addition to that
already made by the govt.

of Kenya.

It appears from your letter
that you are under a misapprehension
as to the decision taken in 1968
which you attribute to Sir William Gowers.
I am asked to say that the decision
it was ~~not~~ ^{taken here} ~~for~~ ~~William~~ ~~Gowers'~~
decision & that, in point of fact,
~~it was not in any way~~ influenced
by Sir William Gowers was not
in any way responsible for it.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) E. B. BOYD

September 19th 1930

My dear Passfield,

I enclose a letter from Lady Goryndon which explains itself. I confess I doubt whether there is really any prospect of Uganda's reconsidering its decision. Her case is undoubtedly a hard one, and yet considering the help she has had from Kenya and the Rhodes Trustees she has been more fortunate than others have been who have been left in the same position.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel

Ackd. 20/9/30 Copy enc. to Sir W. Gowers. 2/10/30

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Pucks Croft,

Rusper,

Sussex.

September 11th, 1930.

To the Right Hon. L.C. Amery, P.C.
112, Eaton Square,
S.W. 1.

Dear Mr. Amery,

I hope you will forgive me writing to you, but the fact is I am in great straits. Will you allow me to put the facts before you?

As you know, on my husband's death 5½ years ago, Kenya Colony granted me compassionate allowances: £500 per annum for myself, £200 each for my sons and £100 for my daughter. You, yourself, most kindly endeavoured to procure me further assistance from Uganda, but Sir William Gowers did not see his way to allow this, fearing to create a precedent, having "to consider in each instance its bearing on future cases, not merely of Governors families, but also of those of all other officers who die in harness" - when "it would be hard and invidious to draw the dividing line". As Governors and other officers

do

do not, I think, come under the same Pension Scheme - there being no widows and orphans Pension Scheme for Governors, this argument hardly seems to apply. I did not press the matter further, since I was asked not to do so, and also because I had a small amount of capital from my husband's life insurances.

Beyond my allowances I have £100 per annum. from my father's estate, £100 per annum trust money from my Aunt's estate, and £100 per annum during education years from the Rhodes Trustees - their first grant was paid in December last.

The allowances by no means cover school fees, nor my income, clothing and maintenance of myself and children during the vacation, and all my small capital, save two small investments - unhappily in Australian stock - has been realised to meet these expenses. Besides the ordinary expenditure, I have had to meet abnormal expenses in house repairs, plus very heavy Doctors and nurses fees for myself. Both these items have, each and severally, gone well into those figures. I have been a semi invalid ever since my return

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END

return from Kenya Colony, and did my health allow, my age - 50 - and lack of training would exclude me from taking a job.

I am therefore writing to ask you if you would put me in touch with someone at the Colonial Office who would ask Sir William Gowers to reconsider his decision - for it is quite impossible for me to carry on in view of this depletion of capital and my very bad health.

With kind regards and my apologies for troubling you.

Believe me

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) Phyllis Coryndon.