

1921

E. AFRICA

28068

FROM INDIA

DATE JUNE 1921

RECEIVED JUN 11

FOR CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

LAND SETTLEMENT FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

Devi-Officer's orders, respecting claims of Indians and laws of Governor.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle.
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Road. 8/1/21
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- W. Wood
- Mr. Churchill.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

6 of C  
13875  
20.

Sir H. Road. W. Wood

You should see this

new trouble

? Party W.O.S.

8/6/21

H. J. H.

8/1/21

Accountants.

Sw. S. v. 21  
anna

[W. Wood's attention was drawn to the report of 2 lines nothing further can be said]

W.O.S. 8/6/21

And. 500 2 June 21

Handwritten signature

Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.

31st May, 1921.

Dear Bottomley,

Will you refer to my letter of 26th May which enclosed an extract from the paper read by Polak on the 23rd May. I understand that his statements were based on the recent memorandum from the President of the East African India National Congress to the Prime Minister, an extract from which is enclosed herewith. Perhaps this will enable you to trace the matter referred to.

Yours sincerely,

*Swinton*

W. C. Bottomley, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.1.

Whitehall,

London, S.W.1.

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Colonial Office,  
S.W.1.

Extract from Memorandum to the Prime Minister by the  
President of the East Africa Indian National Congress  
dated 11th December, 1920.

X X X X X

6. At the outbreak of the German War many local Indian residents offered themselves for military service. Some were formed into Combatant Companies and sent out on active service. Many were joined departmental services in connection with the war and did their bit along with the Europeans. Even Compulsion was applied to Indian motor drivers and many of them were sent to the field. And yet when the time came to distribute rewards the Indians were most shamefully treated. A soldier settlement scheme was formulated for the sole benefit of the European ex-soldiers and more than 1500 farms were allotted to them under it. It must be well known to all who have had any connection with the campaign in East Africa that the Indian troops played a very important and decisive part in the protection of this Colony and the acquisition of Tanganyika Territory, which has been from time to time recognised by the Generals in the field as well as the Home Government.

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7. And yet when a request was made that Indian ex-soldiers should also be given land, the reply was given that any land available would be given to European applicants, and if there was any residue it would go to the natives of the country. The following is the extract from letter No.19285/10 dated the 18th March 1919 from the Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government on this point:-

"2. In reply I am directed by His Excellency to inform you that, in all probability, the land which is available for settlement will be insufficient to meet the needs of all the European applicants who are themselves ex-soldiers."

"3. Should, however, there remain any land available after provision has been made for the above, I am to say that in His Excellency's opinion, the Arabs and Africans of this country would have the first claim on any such residue".

Not only this but Sir Edward Northey actually made preposterous suggestion that the big Indian Landowners on the Coast should provide land for Indian soldiers.

Whereas,

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Shereens.

Whereas, although there are a number of European settlers admittedly holding far more land than they can ever hope to develop, to the extent altogether of several million acres, no suggestion was ever made to them that they should part with even a portion of it for the benefit of their countrymen. On the contrary over million acres were opened up on extraordinary cheap terms for development by European soldiers.

x x x x



Whitehall,

London, S.W.1.

25th May, 1921.

Dear Bottomley,

18.5.21

The enclosed telegram may be of interest in connexion with the continuation of the discussions next Saturday.

As regards the Uplands the telegram appears to indicate that Indians might perhaps be content with freedom of transfer without challenging the 1908 policy of confining original grants to Europeans, which has now practically worked itself out.

At the same time as regards Crown grants open to Indians they ask that "more and better land should be made available". Presumably this claim relates to land for the settlement of any Indians already in Kenya who desire to settle on the land. On the other hand its object may also be to obtain land for Indian ex-soldier settlers from India (though the Government of India did not think that any of the latter class

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would be attracted to Tanganyika, it is possible that there might be ex-soldier candidates for settlement in Kenya). In this connexion you will remember Resolution No. 14 of the Eastern Africa Indian National Congress held in November 1919:-

"That this Congress appeals to the Local Governments  
 "to require the services of the Indian soldiers  
 "who took part in the local campaign, by making  
 "them grants of land in the same way as is done  
 "in the case of British soldiers of European  
 "descent".

This particular grievance was mentioned in a paper read by Polak last Monday to a meeting of the East Indian Association. What he said is given in the enclosed extract. The Secretary of State has asked what the allegations made in the extract refer to. Have you any information as to the alleged "official reply" to the request "that Indian ex-soldiers should be given land" and the alleged suggestion that "big Indian landowners at the Coast should provide land for the ex-Indian soldiers"?

Yours sincerely,

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Yours sincerely,

*W. Gordon*

Extract from paper read by Mr. Polak before the  
East Indian Association 23rd May 1921.

Perhaps the most flagrant case of inequitable treatment was that meted out to Indians in connection with the soldier settlement scheme. Generals in the field, as well as His Majesty's Government, have paid a tribute to the important and decisive part played by the Indian troops during the East African campaign. But when this scheme came to be formulated, it was learnt that it was to be confined entirely to European ex-soldiers, for whom 1,500 farms, comprising, I understand, over a million acres of the best remaining land in the country, were set aside and have since been taken up. When a request was made that Indian ex-soldiers should be given land, the official reply was that any land available would be given to European applicants, and if there were any residue it would go to the natives of the country. Sir Edward Northey, the Governor, added insult to injury by making the preposterous suggestion that the big Indian landowners at the Coast should provide land for the Indian ex-soldiers. No such suggestion had been made, regarding the European ex-soldiers, to the European resident and absentee landowners

COPY OF TELEGRAM

From *Viceroy, Commerce Dept. to Secretary of State for India.*

Dated Simla, 18th May, 1921. **631**

Received 22nd May, 1921. 10.a.m. **624**

6506. Following telegram received from President East Africa Indian National Congress. Begins:- Round Table conference. We made every effort arriving agreement without avail. Franchise. Our demand common register, of equal communal representations, offered even English education test and property qualifications <sup>(for)</sup> voters. Europeans refused. Government offered five seats which insufficiently represent Indian interests. Segregation. Agreed no commercial segregation. Europeans admit residential segregation not based on race or sanitary grounds, but social considerations of Professor Simpson's Theory, consequently repudiated both by Europeans and Local Medicals. Segregation nowhere else in world, its introduction inevitably productive lasting race hatred, bitterness, also economic loss. There is no evidence absence of segregation disturbed social convenience. Land. Europeans claim highlands their preserve, but in past both highlands and lowlands given mostly to Europeans, consequently Indians should be allowed facilities acquire land highlands and lowlands by free transfer, and governors veto abolished. Kenya not the only country for Europeans; vast areas in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and elsewhere, from which Indians virtually excluded. Indians therefore claim special facilities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika. Land being offered us in lowlands, vast portion useless. Vast number Indian soldiers fought for defence these territories, creating paramount claim to land for Indians. More and better land should be made available. Strongly urge immediate representation. Conference discussion now proceeding in London. Ends.

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29068

Quoted by Mr. Holtomley's  
deputation

DRAFT.

J.C. Walton Esq  
I.O.

MINUTE.

Dear Walton.

June 9/2

Mr. A.C. Blyden

Mr. K. M. J. 2-6-22

Mr.

Mr. Grindle.

Sir H. Lambert.

Sir H. Road.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Col. Amery.

Mr. Churchill.

Wm

Thanks for the note  
of the 31<sup>st</sup> May with the  
extract from the  
memo. from the  
President of the E. of  
India National Congress.

We do not seem  
ever to have had  
a copy of the

Register

Chief Secretary's letter No.

19285710 of the 28<sup>th</sup> of March

1919 (in fact, there was no  
reason why a copy should have

been sent to us) but there  
is no doubt that the letter did  
X ~~in fact~~ ~~not~~ ~~embody~~ ~~the~~ ~~views~~

~~of the Governor.~~

~~of the Governor.~~

~~views indicated~~

~~embodied in the~~

~~letter. The telegram~~

~~was also sent for~~

~~if you think it necessary~~

Yours sincerely

(92) W.C.B.