

EAST AFR. PROT
33519

C. O.
33519
REC'D
JUL 3 1920

CLASS
SERIAL
NO
1920
JULY
Foreign Paper.

CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN PROT.

Sends copies of corres. with Editor of Journal of Overseas Club & Patriotic League for reference to Govr. Would be glad to have a copy of his reply.

Mr. Parkman
Mr. Bottanley

Off for course herewith
as directed by Mr. Bottanley

(2) 107 2

Recd

Subsequent Paper.

54363

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C. O.
33519

REC^d
REC-8 JUL 20

Mr. Bottonley, *R*

^{3 copies}
~~Herewith a copy~~ of correspondence regarding conditions in the East Africa Protectorate.

You proposed to send out a copy of the extract enclosed in the Assistant Editor's letter and ask the Government for a statement of the present position.

We should be glad to receive a copy of the Government's reply.

G. P.

774

OVERSEAS.

32 33519

The Official Monthly Journal of the Overseas

Club and Patriotic League.

REC. 8 JUL 20

General Buildings,
Aldwych London.

W.C.2.

The Secretary,
Oversea Settlement Office,
57, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

16th June, 1920.

Dear Sir;

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter we have received from one of our members.

I should be so grateful if you could let me know whether the views expressed in it are correct, or if not, perhaps you would kindly tell me to whom I could pass it on.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) Hatha Davies,

Assistant Editor.

Extract from a letter from Nairobi, B.E.A.,
written last January 1920.

The whole thing is disappointing and worrying
 that there is little that can be done here with prices as they
 are and the rupee at 2/6 and going higher. Land is dear and
 that of all proportion to its value, food is a scandal in what
 they call a farming country with milk at 1/50 Rs. per gallon
 3/9 English money. Butter the same price per lb., bread
 and flour is 10d. per lb., mutton 1/6 and beef 2/- per lb.
 shops and other business places are charging at the same rate
 for an article which they sold for five rupees, or six shillings
 and eightpence before the War, they now ask ten rupees for in
 spite of the fact that ten rupees is not thirteen and fourpence
 but twenty-five shillings.. I sent into Nairobi for a small tin
 of tinned milk, a thing worth five shillings even at present prices
 in Home, and they charged me fifteen rupees, or English money
 £2.0.0. At this rate, what are the poor new arrivals
 to do? A common tumbler is 3/- or 4/-, a kitchen
 sink and saucer 5/- or 6/-, and so on in proportion. No wonder
 the new settlers are all stranded, most of them ruined. Some
 of the settlers who had been allotted farms (at a price) arrived
 on Xmas Day last, and already one has blown his brains out, six
 failed to land at Mombassa, four left the ship at Marseilles and
 are back, and nearly all the balance who have enough money left
 for returning home at the first opportunity. One man with his
 wife and child arrived, as I said, on Xmas Day with £2,000
 representing his whole capital. He had been told all about this
 wonderful country, and how easy it was to make money! He got to
 the farm after buying some necessary articles, camp kit, etc.,
 and found the farm was like and the price it was valued at by
 the Government. He is now back in Nairobi with £40. in the world!
 The exchange in money and high prices have taken the rest. Many
 are working in shops and living in the Native quarter, because
 they cannot afford anything else. The whole thing is a disgrace-
 ful scandal, and means terrible suffering in a strange land for
 these miserable people, and when sickness and disease comes
 along there is no hospital for any of them and only a small
 private nursing home which charges you 700 rupees a month or
 nearly £100 at present rate. It is all very wrong and must end in
 a scandal, but the Government here needs money and therefore takes
 every advantage of the present influx of new people, and has put
 the price up of land and everything else has gone up also. The
 change is now about 100 per cent increase and there is no hope
 of much business for them when £100 equals only Rs. 800 / instead
 Rs. 1500.

88760/1920.

3rd July, 20.

Madam

I am directed by the Oversea Settlement Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th June forwarding for their observations an extract from a letter written in January last, from Nairobi regarding conditions in British East Africa.

My Committee understand that, as regards therate of exchange and the complaint that the Government has put up the price of land, the information contained in the extract does not represent the situation as it is to-day. As a matter of fact, the Governor of the Protectorate has recently given directions, which will greatly relieve the new settlers, for the revision of the prices of farms and for the postponement of payments.

The official information available does not enable my Committee to deal satisfactorily with the rest of the letter. No doubt there was profiteering and a shortage of supplies when new settlers began to arrive in numbers after the war, but it seems certain that had the state of things been so serious as indicated in the letter, representations would have reached the Colonial Office on the subject. Only one returned settler

Assistant Editor,
"Scene"

has/

has called at the Colonial Office. He had returned to take his wife out and appeared to be well satisfied with the country. My Committee are forwarding a copy of the extract to the Colonial Office and they understand that that Office is consulting the Governor as to present conditions in the Protectorate.

Yours faithfully, D.

(Sgd) G. F. Plant.

OS of 33579/20

S.A.P.

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Int

13 July 1920

Sir,

I have n. & transmit to you, for your consideration,

the acc. copy of correspa.

regarding certain statements

contained in a letter to

the Overseas Club and

Patriotic League with

respect to the conditions

of life for new settlers in

the S.A.P.

2. The statements are

clearly in many respects

out of date. They

DRAFT.

Amend
54363

A.P.

no. 973

Worthington

MINUTE.

Mr. Jeffries 10.7.20

Mr. Parkinson 10.7.20

Mr. Bolton 10.7.20

Mr. Grindle

Sir H. Lambert

Sir H. Read

Sir G. Fiddes

Col. Aubrey

Lord Milner

for consideration

Editor Overseas to S.A.P. 16 June 20

no account of the changes
which have been made in
the currency of the Prot.,
or ~~of~~ of the revision of
the prices of the farms
allotted under the S.A.C.S.
scheme which you have
undertaken to effect.

3. I should be glad,
however, to be furnished
with a statement of the
present conditions in the
Prot., with special reference
to the position of new settlers
arriving under the ~~the~~ Soldier
Settlement Scheme or otherwise,
which ~~if of a~~ ^{necessary} ~~reassuring~~ nature,
~~could~~ ^{could} be used by the O.S. Ctee.
for the ^{reassuring} ~~reassuring~~ ~~reassuring~~ of
intending settlers.

(Signed) MILNER