

KENYA

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COLONIAL

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B.E.A.D.O.C. LTD.

1920

30th July

Minutes and 1st tel to Gov enquiring as to reported dismissal of Col Ridge and as to financial position of the Society

previous Paper.  
no 36983

Registered for record. minutes within.

Mr. Parkin Son

Mr. Macnaghten telephoned today to ask if we would send a reminder to Gov, as they are receiving several enquiries.

Yr. for Govt. hereafter

I should like copies of both our letters sent to Mr. Macnaghten - if you agree

To Gov tel cons 30th July 20  
Star to Gov tel cons 30th July 20

23rd 24th  
23rd 24th  
23rd 24th

subsequent Paper.

37880

Colonel Amery

Mr. H. Read.

Tuesday

at the opening of ~~the~~ meeting of the  
 Overseas Settlement (as Mr. Macgregor  
 called it) and Mr. Turner spoke  
 in the name of - & landed in - He pointed  
 out that having had time to refer to the  
 paper I could only say that he had been  
 unable to use the information given in  
 about Col. Ridge by the Ministry of  
 Agriculture.

141

As to this paper in connection with  
 Mr. Dale in 39610/19. It was decided  
 (R/3457/19) that he could not take  
 objection to Col. Ridge, & we expressed  
 ourselves to meaning that there was no  
 hole & corner business about in spite -  
 there was a 40 acre parcel at  
 the meeting which ought to have, & the  
 was (in 50418) possible for removal  
 one resolution passed by a two-thirds  
 majority.

Col. Ridge has been discussed in the  
 by a...

Finally, a 50416, was passed that  
 every member had been warned in various  
 ways.

(the footnote)

432  
C. H. Amery  
39610/14

MEMORANDUM:

East Africa Disabled Officers Colony Ltd.

This is a group of 75 ex-officers, selected by the Ministry of Labour (Appointments Dept.), whose purpose is to cultivate and manufacture FLAX in British East Africa.

60 of the group are already engaged in planting their first crop and settling down in B.E.A., and the remaining 15 are in Ireland studying flax manufacture.

Finance:- The first working capital of the Colony was raised by each member paying £500. into the general fund. Many of the members had considerable difficulty in raising this sum by borrowing amongst their friends and relations.

The Colony are understood to have received (or to have been promised) a grant or loan from Lord Haig's Funds; Lord Byng's fund is apparently prepared to pay a part or the whole of the cost of the first supply of seed; and the Board of Agriculture are prepared to pay each man a Training Grant.

Personnel:- The scheme was launched under the Managing Directorship of Colonel RIDGE, who claims to have been appointed for three years at a salary of £1000. p.a.

Captain TREVOR-HILL joined the group subsequently, and claims that on arrival in B.E.A. he found that Ridge had been dismissed by the Colony and Trevor-Hill appointed in his place. Ridge denies knowledge of this transaction, and claims his right to £3000. Ridge is in England.

There are apparently two experts with the Colony in B.E.A. - Professor GRAY and Mr. LILLY.

Present Situation:- A report from the Colony dated June 1st says that the land is entirely suitable, 50 acres already sown and 500 acres expected to be sown by September.

But the experts report that only 5% germination has been obtained from the seed.

Owing, chiefly, to confusion as to who is the responsible head of the concern, the various grants mentioned above have not been paid. Trevor-Hill reports serious shortage of working capital, and that individual members of the Colony are in considerable straits.

Conclusion:- If the Colony is not to end in disaster, it is evidently essential that the question as to who is the responsible head of the concern should be settled without delay. Those who are making grants of money from Funds should know to whom they are to pay, and how the money is to be expended.

It should come within the scope of some properly constituted Committee or Department to watch and protect the interests of such ventures as this.

\* Colonel Ridge appears to have been appointed Managing Director in the first instance in spite of the warning of the department who employed him during the War as to his complete inefficiency

points, including the fact that the War was the first time that the Government has guaranteed the scheme or made any financial contribution to the cost of the scheme either by way of a grant or of the scheme as a whole.

Of course it can't leave the matter there. I think we should like to the Gov. asking exactly what is the position.

As to Col. Ridge - how far the scheme is in straits - is it better to have a report on the state of the scheme, and then to see what can be done.

The object of the report is to get the Gov. to see that the money is not to be obtained for the Colony, and that the scheme is a failure.

24/7/20

H. J. R.

24/7/20

for Mr. ...

Sent to me  
20 July '20

DRAFT Telegram

Ans'd 430B

Nairobi

MINUTE.

- Mr. J. W. G. 30.7.20
- Mr. P. H. 30.7.20
- Mr. C. 30.7.20
- Mr. G. 30.7.20
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Road.
- Sir G. F. 30.7.20
- Col. Amery.
- Lord Milner.

setback  
30 July

Disabled Officers Colony

parliament

what is the position as regards

Ridge

extended  
to what extent

in scheme in straits

stagnant

token money

Can you suggest any way in which

overseas

other than financial grant

chologue

Colonial Govt can assist silver

what sum if it would be obtained

...  
...  
Society ... 43A  
...  
...  
...  
Society ... 43A

operations  
in this country would set

scheme on paper footing

MILNER

Co/37804/20

range

sent 4 30 hours  
with

arabists  
Aug. 23

DRAFT Tel

reimburse

Should be glad to receive

daily report & by letter  
jetbreak

50 July revised

MINUTE

- Mr. Officer 218 20
- Mr. Parkman 218
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. H. Lamborn
- Mr. H. Bond
- Mr. G. Fiddes
- Mr. A. Myers
- Mr. Milner

Officer Colon

milner

in wife's file  
at address of Co.  
in this file