

EAST AFR. PROT.  
38589

38589  
REC'D  
DEC 12

W. Baker

Date  
1912

5 Sec.

previous Paper.

15366/4

and front.

Refers to repeated appls for land in Prot.  
(copies enclosed), & asks that promise of large  
area made by the Church in 1907 may now be  
fulfilled. (Covering ltr. from the Church to Govt.  
See enclosed)

W. Bottomley

W. has read & sent to the Land Bank  
on Friday last. They complain  
of the large amount of land having been  
granted, and that they were misled,  
and in consequence all kinds of papers  
for their application having been submitted.  
It is very difficult to get on with  
them, and they have to point out to you  
and then the application was to be  
the best the only thing that they seemed

copy 1912 2nd issue 15366/4

subsequent Paper

40258

certain about what they ought to  
 have done land somewhere & at once.  
 Mr. Head asked them if they could  
 point to any document definitely  
 promising them a part of land,  
 but the only document that they  
 could produce in the least approaching  
 a promise was Sir C. Blith's letter of  
 15 April 1904 (enclosed 2) - and  
 the promise of 10 square miles (a  
 statute between them & others in the  
 same area) contained in his letter  
 was made subject to the consent of  
 the Land Commission - which  
 apparently was not given. After  
 some discussion and opinion on the  
 part of Mr. C. B. to be interested  
 which they had not the authority to

he was in fact advised (it appears  
 from the enclosed letter from Sir C. Blith  
 that Sir C. Blith did not intend himself  
 to give them a land scheme (see p. 49))  
 the land to be taken had, if they  
 could find us a copy of Sir C. Blith's  
 letter and any enclosure connected  
 with it, we would be the better  
 to deal with the matter.  
 All that they have done is  
 send us a copy of his letter  
 and copies of various other applications  
 for land in different places & at  
 different times. With regard to  
 the date of their application (which for  
 giving a lease of first class, fourth  
 class, or 2nd class - but not for grazing  
 rights in the Kames Forest - enclosed 3)  
 we have from previous papers, which  
 I put up later, that it was impossible

plant them and other eggs  
 to the other three were so small  
 equally good reasons for leaving to  
 spare them. It appears from said  
 that Mr P.B. has really added  
 for a part of land in West Kenya,  
 and it would seem from Mr Baker  
 Wright's view that he shall shortly  
 hear from his former wife regard  
 to his application

All that he can do is to send  
 out a copy of Mr P.B.'s letter of the  
 enclosure to his father and ask for  
 a reply to the various applications  
 and his reasons for refusing them  
 and inform Mr P.B. that we are  
 consulting his father

1915  
 J.P.

already  
 the  
 the  
 the  
 the

Not Read.

- I understand that Mr & Mrs S. Baker are  
 coming to London and that you wish me to see  
 them. I think I can only ?
- (a) With regard to the case (West Kenya) application  
 say that we shall be glad to work the case however  
 things are going on but that we are unable to  
 accept them in view of the interview with  
 Mr & Mrs Baker's previous statements  
 cannot be decided on the side in favour  
 of the existence of the applications re.
  - (b) With regard to past applications generally,  
 say that if they desire it we will begone as  
 to the reasons for them not being granted what  
 they asked for but that the material they provided  
 is hardly full enough for us to go on
  - (c) With regard to the C. S. list, ask whether  
 they proposed the matter further at the time
  - (d) Say that we learn that Mr Churchill certainly  
 took a sympathetic interest in their operations  
 but that he is unable at this distance of time  
 to furnish a detailed statement the account they give  
 of the interview

Dr G. Fielder

Dr G. Fielder  
 Mr Summitt saw them a few weeks  
 ago & from what he told me of the interview,  
 the account of it in the L<sup>g</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec.  
 is fairly accurate.  
 With regard to the last part of the L<sup>g</sup>  
 the 4<sup>th</sup> of Dec. to wit March, they assumed me  
 that Mr Churchill had promised them the L<sup>g</sup>  
 & asked me to consult both him & Mr. May

30th Aug 1915

I told them that, if Mr Churchill had done so,  
 it was a national fact, but that I did not  
 think it likely that he would remember anything  
 about it after the lapse of time, & that, in  
 any case, the promise if made would no doubt  
 be on record in the Public. I certainly found  
 them so proud for thinking that the  
 matter could be settled up without refer-  
 to the Public, or would be settled up  
 their favour - or, needless to say, that the  
 grants settled with me.

H. J. K  
 11/24

Mr Botemley had letters so warmly  
 when he sees them and I begged that  
 he would draw someone into him

alone  
 Mr W  
 11/24

Saw Mr Mrs S. Baker at the  
 request of Mr Cartwright Watson who  
 ran away as soon as he had brought  
 them here (knowing the kind of  
 interview as I suppose). So far as  
 I can remember their claims as  
 to the grant seem wholly unsatisfactory  
 and I think to them was in effect,  
 that the matter must be dealt  
 with locally & that, as they had  
 been so successful in their operations,  
 they would have as good a chance of  
 getting a ~~first~~ grant as any other  
~~mere~~ applicants; but that there had  
 been delays in dealing with requests  
 for land & this might account  
 for their applications not having  
 been dealt with up to now.

My impressions were, that  
 the interview was a waste of  
 time & that I did not understand  
 why people so successful in  
 agricultural operations were so  
 extraordinarily successful with land  
 applications & (3) that the grey  
 mare was the better horse.

11/22

~~Mr. Sandbach Baker~~ <sup>Faded</sup>

Mr Sandbach Baker called <sup>today</sup> this morning accompanied by a Mr <sup>Goosen</sup> Goosen(?) whose son, I understand, would probably accompany Mr Baker on any new venture. Mr Batterbee kindly assisted me at the interview. The conversation, which lasted 1 1/2 hours, chiefly turned on the fact, according to Mr Baker, that the original lease in 1901 for the Homestead Block contained a clause promising that if he remained on that land for three years he would have what may be described as "most favourable" treatment in any application which he might make for a larger grazing area. The only copy of this lease is locked up in a safe and Mr Baker has the key, but thinks, however, there must be somebody there who knows about it.

With regard to the letters which he has sent as to his applications in 1902 and 1904, he insisted first of all that ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> 1901 and 1904 letters were identical, and were based upon the clause of his Homestead lease referred to. He had to admit, however, that the 1902 "Bamboo Forest" letter was not identical with the Homestead lease because the three years had elapsed, and he took pains to point out to him that in both the 1902 and 1904 letters <sup>the</sup> grazing areas were not so much as he thought. He insisted that he did refer to the Homestead lease in his application, but could not say whether he actually put it in his application, nor could he say whether he had made any reference to the Homestead lease in his application, but rather thought not.

With regard to the last 1904 letter that mentioned Charles Elliott and the reference to the conservation of the Sub-Commissioner for the Forests grant, he said that nothing further had occurred, because the region in question was much disturbed; he was <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ wait till things were

were here settled, and finally the land was given to owners. I suggested to him that, in the absence of any new application and in the presence of applications from others, when the district became settled it was not to be expected that the local authorities would consider that he <sup>was still</sup> ~~was~~ in the field.

With regard to the alleged promise made by Mr Churchill in 1907 he insisted that the promise had been made and that Mr Barton Wright was present at the interview. I took occasion to point out that Mr Churchill had not been able to confirm the statement as to the promise, and also that Lord Emmott and Mr Read had given a somewhat different account of their interviews with Mr and Mrs Baker, especially in the matter of the decision of the Governor being necessary. Mr Baker said that about the same time as Mr Churchill's visit, Mr Ainsworth had made a verbal promise that if they gave up 1500 acres of grazing land leased in Mrs Baker's name, they would be given a larger area elsewhere. The land was given up, and nothing had happened. I expressed my surprise as to their parting with <sup>1500 acres of</sup> land without anything in writing.

With regard to the present application for land in the West ~~Kaitake~~ <sup>Kaitake</sup> district, Mr Baker was anxious that it should be understood that he was still claiming preferential treatment on the ground of the clause of his Homestead lease made. I asked whether he had this clear in his application. He said he had not, but thought they knew about it.

I pointed out that <sup>they</sup> here know about the Homestead lease clause; that Mr Barton Wright seems to be the sole source of definite information as to Mr Churchill's pledge; that Mr Ainsworth could only confirm the statement as to the 1500 acres, and that the circumstances underlying his present application, if understood at Nairobi, were certainly not understood here, <sup>and</sup> which made it absolutely impossible

impossible for the matter to be <sup>considered</sup> ~~dealt with~~ on this side. He stated that he had been informed ~~by~~ the Protectorate that the application must be held up for decision by the Home Government, but, as Mr Patterbee pointed out, this was only because all land questions were just now in a state of suspense.

In closing the interview I said that if Mr Baker wanted us to do anything, he really must state his case fully in writing, and I suggested as heads for an official letter:-

- (1) An account of the contents of the Homestead lease clause.
- (2) A definite statement as to Mr Churchill's alleged promise with an explanation that Mr Barton Wright could support it.
- (3) An account of the arrangement with Mr Ainsworth for the 1500 acres matter.
- (4) A statement that his present application was to be regarded as based upon the clause of the homestead lease, and that he expected preferential treatment on that account.

As regards what we should do I made it quite clear

- (1) That we should be prepared to send his letter as a statement of his case to the Governor.
- (2) That I was absolutely certain that the Secretary of State would not tell the Governor that if Mr Baker's statement were substantiated he ought to have what he had applied for.
- (3) That I should propose to recommend that the Governor should be told that if the statement were substantiated he would no doubt bear them in mind in considering Mr Baker's application, and
- (4) That in any case the matter would have to be dealt with as part of the general problem of the Protectorate and not separately.

*Mr. Patterbee*

*13/1/12*

Please correct or add or confirm as you see necessary  
*U.C.S. 13/12*

*Mr. Patterbee*

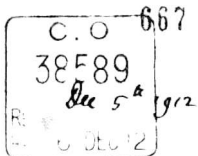
*I believe I have been asked to have account of the interview, I have nothing to add 13/1/12*

Plan for the manuscript

Partly

alone

Pr. 167  
12



My dear Read,

Mr & Mrs Sandbach Baker  
have appealed to the Post Office  
in collection of the interest  
referred to in the enclosed letter.

Neither Mr Churchill nor I  
can pretend to remember the precise  
details of what was arranged  
but Mr Churchill, who was greatly  
impressed by the energy & skill  
shown by Mr & Mrs Baker in  
their ~~of~~ forwarding operations, &  
certainly excited himself to



Scheme for them the grazing land  
to which Mr Baker refers, &  
understood that the Government  
intended to make them a larger  
grant for more extended cultivation  
at a later date.

We hope therefore that you may  
find it possible to meet their wishes.

Yours very sincerely

W. H. R. G. S.



669



C. O.  
48888991  
38889

Dear Mr. Read,

If you will visit York...  
...of the National...  
...Churchill's Secretary...  
...view with Mr. Churchill...  
...you will find the understanding...  
...Churchill gave me 500 acres of...  
...until our large area of land...  
...see that we had applied...  
...We returned to Toronto...  
...definite from you one way...  
...square which was promised...  
...so now only ask for 20,000 acres.

Yours faithfully,

Marie A. Handford B. K.

HOTEL VICTORIA,  
DUNDEE PLACE

THE HOTEL VICTORIA, LONDON  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, BIRMINGHAM  
THE CLARENCE HOUSE  
THE CLIFTONVILLE HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, LONDON

THE GORDON HOTEL, LONDON

THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, LONDON  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, BIRMINGHAM  
THE BURLINGTON HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM  
THE ROYAL HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM  
THE LONDON HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM  
THE GRAND HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

COMMUNICATIONS "VICTORIA" LONDON

TELEPHONE NO.  
WMO. 6399  
CABLES AT A. A. B. C.

670

LONDON, Dec. 5th. 1912.

THE GRAND HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, BIRMINGHAM  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, LONDON  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, BIRMINGHAM  
THE HOTEL METROPOLITAN, LONDON  
38589  
REC'D  
DEC 6 DEC 12

H. L. Read Esq. C.M.G.

Dear Sir,

As requested by you I send herewith various copies of our applications for land in B. E. A. during the last 11 years. Being unable to obtain anything satisfactory after Sir Charles Eliot's retirement, we asked for and were granted an interview by Mr. Churchill when he was in Nairobi in 1907. Mr. Barton Wright was present and explained to Mr. Churchill the state of affairs, going so far as to say we had been harshly treated by the powers out there. Mr. Churchill at once granted us 500 acres of Extra Grazing to keep us going, and promised us a large area of land as soon as we could take it up. We have come home to get this promise fulfilled and if you see Mr. Churchill and Mr. Marsh they will remember all about the matter and confirm it. It is amusing to see some of the answers we get to our application, in the light of the present day seeing that some of this same land has since been given to new comers who have done nothing for the Country, the one received to day is on similar lines, viz referring the matter to someone else.

671

We were careful in making our present application to find out that the land now applied for was vacant, our lawyer informs us by this mail that it is still so, and unapplied for. Lord Emmott at our interview last October said there was no reason why we should not have the land, but every reason why we should and this is the honest opinion of many members of the House of Commons, who know us and the work we have done in B. E. A. during the past 11 years. There is no doubt we have been very harshly and badly treated, by the men in power in East Africa.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Sandbach Baker*

---

L 4401 WT/WT.

Land Department.

Cairo.

British East Africa.

9th November 1912.

30589  
REC'D DEC 12 1912 672

Sir,

~~SA. 1000. 100. 1000. East Africa~~

With reference to your letter of the 17th ultimo  
herein, I beg to inform you that under the Colonial Office  
regulations, I am precluded from writing direct to that  
Office, as requested; but I have had a copy of your letter  
under reply forwarded to the Honourable Chief Secretary, for  
such action as he may direct.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R.E. Wright.

Land Officer.

F. Sambash Bahar, Esq.

c/o The National Bank of India, Ltd.

Bishopsgate Street.

London.

England.

Received Dec. 6th, 1912.

75/13

No 4168.  
J.

Land Office.

Nairobi.

18th October 1906.

C. O.
38589
REC'D
REGD 6 DEC 12

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, addressed to Mr. Powell of the Agricultural Department, I am directed by the Commissioner for Lands to inform you that your application to lease the Government Farm, Nairobi, in the event of its being available for disposal, has been noted

Should the Government therefore at any time abandon the farm as a whole or portion of it, you will be duly communicated with.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

E. L. Waring.

Acting Land Officer.

Sandbach-Baker Esquire.

The Homestead,

Nairobi.

Copy.

674

Downing Street.

24 October, 1906.

Private.

C. O.  
38589  
RECEIVED  
OCT 26 1906

I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant on the subject of your wish to acquire the Government Farm land and buildings adjoining the "Homestead" estate Nairobi and to inform you that the Commissioner of the East Africa Protectorate will be asked to furnish a report on the matter.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient servant.

R. L. Antrobus.

Mrs M. J. Sandbach-Salovey.



Copy.

675

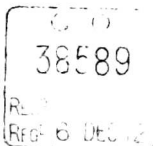
Downing Street.

24 October, 1906.

39024/1906.

Private.

Madam,



I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, on the subject of your application for grazing rights in the forest adjoining the "Homestead" estate, Nairobi, and to inform you that the Commissioner of the East Africa Protectorate will be asked to furnish a report on the matter.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant.

H.L. Antrobus.

Mrs M.J. Sandbach-Baker.

From C.F. Elliott, Esquire  
Conservator of Forests.

*For C.F. Elliott*

676

To, F. Sandbach Baker, Esqr.  
The Homestead, Nairobi.

Dated Nairobi, March 28rd, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your application for the lease of Rubber producing forest land in the Kenia Province, I have the honour to inform you that I have consulted the Sub-Commissioner who is of opinion that it is premature at the present moment to enter into any negotiations for the disposal of rubber forest. The knowledge available of the rubber producing tract, of the conditions of its growth, and of its value, are all exceedingly vague: moreover a very large area which used to produce rubber has been devastated by the natives.

2. In these circumstances it is evident that any proposals for leasing rubber areas must be kept in abeyance pending exploration, and further knowledge of local conditions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

C.F. Elliott.

Conservator of Forests.

*and from note, in the ...*

Nairobi.

677

July 31. 1902.

G.O.  
38589  
JUL 31 1902

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 18th INST. and addressed to Mr. McDiellan in which you apply for Ten Square Miles of the Bamboo Forest I assume that you require a concession of 10 miles for the purpose of working the Bamboos, will you please inform me exactly what your intentions are and I will have the matter brought before the Acting Commissioner for his consideration.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

John Ainsworth.

H.M. Sub-Commr.

F.S. Baker Esq.  
The Homestead.  
Nairobi.

Copy.

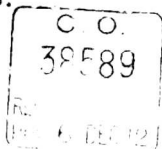
No. 1358

Land and Survey Office.

678

Nairobi.

11th April, 1906.



Sir:-

With reference to your letter of the 22nd February,  
I beg to inform you that your application for the land  
referred to therein cannot be entertained.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

R. B. Wright

CHIEF SURVEYOR AND LAND OFFICER.

F. Sandbach-Baker Esq.

Nairobi.

Copy.

679

LAND DEPARTMENT,

Nairobi.

23rd. November, 1906.

C. O.
38589
RECEIVED
6 NOV 21

Madam:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd. October last, and to inform you that the contents thereof have been duly noted.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant.

E. L. Waring.

Acting Land Officer.

Mrs. Sandbach Baker,  
Hotel Victoria,  
London. W.C.  
England.

Copy.

630

No. 155/06

Agricultural & Forestry Department.

Nairobi,

February 23rd, 1906.

E.O.  
38589

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your application for 50 sq. miles of forest land in the Mandi district. As all applications have to be first submitted to the Land Officer your letter and plan have been forwarded to that Officer.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

Andrew Linton.

Director of Agriculture & Forestry.

F. Sandbach Baker, Esq.

The Homestead.

Nairobi.

Copy

Commissioner's Office.

681

Nairobi.

April 15th 1904.

C. O.
38589
RECEIVED
21st 6 0/10/04

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 13th, in which you seem to apply for an area of one hundred square miles on and about Mt. Kinangop for rubber collecting. If you will refer to the Notice respecting the Lease of rubber areas published in the Gazette of April 1st you will see that this is the maximum area allowed. It is an area which could only be given in well known districts and to a concessionaire willing to put up a large capital. It is quite impossible to make such a grant in the Kinangop district, which is little known, as it would apparently embrace more than the whole mountain. But as stated in the letter from Mr. Monson of March 29th you can subject to the consent of the Sub-Commissioner take up an area of about ten square miles under the terms of the notice referred to above. Areas of about this size are worked on the Coast and in Uganda.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant.

C. Eliot.

Sandbach Baker Esq.  
The Homestead.  
Nairobi.

*My wife sends me best wishes*

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

KENYA PROVINCE.

Fort Hall 17 Mar. 1904.

682

*Added to file  
Mr. Sandbach-Baker  
11.12.12*

From H. M. SUB-COMMISSIONER

Mansa.

To V. Sandbach Baker Esq  
The Homestead,  
Nairobi.

Subject: Rubber Forest.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 16th Feb. 1904. regarding taking up the working of the Kinangop Rubber Forest. It is highly improbable that land can be found as per your plan. I have forwarded your application to Mr. Elliott who will no doubt communicate with you.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

H.M. Sub-Commissioner.