

EAST AFR. PROT

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re Feb.

previous Paper.

39174

Nairobi Electric Lighting Co.

Report interview with Mr Baylson. Cannot say whether he is or how he intends to dispose of the property, but gathers that if matters were submitted to arbitration he would advise to any decision.

Mr Butler

In our despatch of 23rd Feb on 39174 he informed the O.A. that the S.O.S. was of opinion that the further course of the question should be deferred until he had reviewed and considered the details proposed with the Municipality of Nairobi which we have asked him to forward to submit. And I do not think that it is of any use for

Subsequent Paper

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the ... see him ...
H.B. 2/

We cannot refuse to see him if he calls or asks for an interview. I understand that he is going to do this shortly. But I think our attitude should be that the S of S cannot enter upon any discussion of the proposals which Mr. Bayldon has made, or may make, until the question of the constitution and powers of the Municipality of Nairobi has been settled.

H.B.

March 23.

H.B.

23/3/23

You can see, with advantage, what is being done.

H.B. 23

Mr. Butler ...
the morning ...
to write

H.B.
23/3/23

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.



24th February 1911.

NO. 10 (CONFIDENTIAL).

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Sir,

With reference to my despatch Confidential, dated Downing Street 17th December 1910, Mr Baylden, the Managing Director of the Nairobi Electric Lighting Company, saw me on my return to-day.

2. He was naturally anxious to know the position of his Company as the result of my visit to England since he is proceeding to London to-morrow. I was only able to inform him that the question of the Nairobi Electric supply depended upon decisions which were about to be taken with regard to the status of the Municipality of Nairobi.

3. You will be aware that Mr Baylden primarily proposed to dispose of his Company's property to Government at a certain price, an offer which he withdrew and for which he substituted in November 1910 an application both for an additional extension of the period of his contract and for the grant of the use of further water powers on the Thika River to carry out a larger scheme.

4. I think it would be advisable for you to see

Mr

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

1606 20

Mr Baylden during his visit to England. I cannot quite make out whether he will now be willing to dispose of the property, but I gather that if the matter was submitted to arbitration he would abide by any decision.

5. It appears to me in every way desirable that the Municipality, if granted any large powers and the right of contracting a loan, should be enabled to take over this enterprise. It would not, however, appear advisable that any definite arrangement should be made with Mr Baylden without consultation with me beyond your possible concurrence in the idea of an arbitration should it be finally decided to acquire the enterprise.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,


GOVERNOR