

EAST AFR. PROT

Nigeria

36574

C. O.

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REC'D  
NOV 6 1909

Governor. No.

and Book

1909

Crown Lands Office.

14 Oct

Last Previous Paper

Calls attention to Part 5 dealing with Reservations  
of lands for use of natives & tribal questions  
of adoption, similar legislation in Nigeria

28/10/09 Nigeria

Mr. Strickley EAST AFR PROT Ord<sup>o</sup> 46/10/09  
H. J. R.

... by the ...  
... all the ...  
(perhaps ...)  
... a little more detail as to the ...  
application of the "trust system" - Sect. 98 of Draft Bill  
Ordinance below. In Nigeria there is no part of  
a part of the land being made a "reserve". The whole  
country would have to be put into the hands of Trustees -  
presumably the Nigerian Govt. It was often said

by Sir P. Girard that the ideal arrangement  
in N. Nigeria was that the Govt. should be regarded  
as trustees of the national lands of the people. But  
if they are to be formally constituted trustees I expect  
our Belgian and other critics will say that it is  
a dodge, & that the Govt. have become owners of  
the soil in part of no name. (This is true  
we propose to insist on it as a condition to be accepted,  
that no enjoyment of any land is valid without the  
consent of the government & that the land is  
subject to the control of the Govt.)

C.S.  
Nov. 12

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Mr. P. Robinson

in 1914 and 1915. I have papers on the subject  
in the V. & A. records, volume 11, page 222 and 223.

P.S. 16

July 10. 3

NAIROBI. British E. Africa.

11th October 1909.

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My dear Strachey,

With reference to my final Minute on the Land Committee's report, you will remember that I took strong exception to the Preamble, and was of opinion that it did not sufficiently protect native interests. I would like most particularly to call your attention to the proposed Crown Lands Ordinance for East Africa, Part 5. - Reservation of lands for the use of natives.

The problem is somewhat different here owing to the presence of the white settler, but if it is found desirable and necessary to dedicate native lands for the use and support of members of such tribe, and if you further appoint trustees to have care and charge of the management of such land, I think it would appear equally desirable and necessary to do so in Northern Nigeria, where the natives have claims - and legitimate claims - over practically every square yard of the country, and where, moreover, we are not liable to have any influx of white settlers at any future time. And the trustee system appears to me to give you a line for action, and I trust that it may be adopted.

I would see no necessity to carry out what was proposed here with regard to Native reserves, and that is to dedicate them to the use of one particular tribe for ever - thus precluding any exchange as between tribes, or at least making the exchange one of considerable difficulty with the members of the tribe. Read will be able to show you the Ordinance I mean.

I hear from Wallace that matters are going quite smoothly and satisfactorily in Northern Nigeria.

I trust that Lugard's and my political memoranda, which carry policy down to 1909, may be accepted as a basis in policy, and the general conclusions arrived at not be upset without grave reason. You have had continuity in administration and policy for over 11 years, and it would be fatal to the interests of the natives and their contentment if this were materially departed from today or in the future.

I was very sorry not to see you before I left, and hope you had a good holiday. I have begun to settle down here and will try and write you later.

Yours sincerely,



Chas. Strachey Esq.  
Colonial Office,  
LONDON. S.W