

EAST AFR. PROT.

7639

C O
7639
FIELD
OFFICE
14 MAR 10

1910
12 Feb.
previous Paper.

Native Settlements on European Farms
in Kiyamba District

Submit proposals for breaking up the settlements
& locating the natives in the Kikuyu Dist. compensating
them by granting remission of hut tax for five
years.

Mr Butler

There can be no question I think as
to the wisdom of these proposals taken
^{in the interests}
~~from the point of view~~ of the settlers &
the natives. A native settlement in
the midst of a white population is
instructive from every point of view.
But the former price is no estimate as
to the loss of revenue, which the proposed
remission of the hut tax will involve
and is the least possible for the Government

copy 150 words 24 March
copy for reminder 507 23 Aug.

subsequent Paper.
76392

without figures, as Sir P. J. ...
ought to have

Telegraph rack

HAB

12/3

W. Read

I think we ought also to enquire how many natives are affected, what extent of land will be released, whether they will be agreeable to the removal on the payment of adequate compensation. It might have been worth while to ask whether the amount of the compensation on some considerable part of it, could not be recovered either from the settlers whose lands it is proposed to relieve of the natives; but I see that, in sec. 31(3) of the Crown Lands Ordⁿ of 1902 it is expressly provided that any land within an area leased which has been in the occupation of natives shall, on ceasing to be so occupied, pass to the lessee.

HAB

March 21

Mr. Fisher

Enquire of the Govt. as proposed,

but do it by despatch?

H. J. R. 21/3/11
P. V. 21 22.3
atmen

C. O.
7633

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MAR 10,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

February 12th 1910.

No. 69

296

My Lord,

The question of the desirability of permitting natives to occupy land on European farms in the Kyambu District, surrounded on all sides by the property of white settlers, has been under consideration lately and it is to my mind most necessary to terminate the existing condition of affairs.

2. Under Section 31 of the Crown Lands Ordinance 1902 many farms were leased to settlers on which native villages and holdings existed; in some cases the Government lessees have compensated the owners but in others this has not been done, the lessees preferring to retain them on their farms so as to ensure a permanent labour supply.

3. However advantageous this arrangement may have been in the past, it has now, owing to the rapid natural increase of the natives, the spread of cattle disease and the difficulty of maintaining proper administrative control resulted in a situation of serious difficulty.

4. Many of these settlements are nothing but nests of thieves most conveniently situated for robbing

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF CREWE, K.G.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

robbing their white neighbours. It is moreover impossible without a large and quite unwarranted expenditure to control movements of stock by these natives, and there is little doubt that the recrudescence of East Coast Fever which I recently reported to Your Lordship is in a large measure due to this cause.

5. For these two reasons alone it is, I think, most desirable that the settlements should be broken up and the natives located in the Kikuyu Reserve; once this has been done there should be no further difficulty for the natives who remain will do so as tenants of such settlers as wish to retain their services as labourers, and can claim no rights of ownership over the land which they occupy. The settler is fully aware of the disadvantages of a heterogeneous native settlement and would not permit one to be formed on his land.

6. There is, I think, no doubt as to the necessity for this step, the question daily grows more acute and requires immediate treatment, the difficulty is to find the money for compensation.

7. It has been estimated that £5,000 will be required to buy out the rights of the natives and in the present state of the Protectorate finances it is impossible to find this sum; the remission of hut tax appears to offer an alternative and I have therefore the honour to submit for Your Lordship's most favourable consideration that the natives should be located in the Reserve without delay and that compensation in the form of remission of taxes for

five years should be granted them in return for their enforced removal.

8. I am most clearly of opinion that this proposal is in the best interests of both parties: the question will be dealt with before it reaches a more acute and therefore more difficult stage, the settlers will benefit by the removal of the natives, the natives will be compensated and will obtain fresh settlements in the Reserve and all possibility of friction will be removed.

I have the honour to be
Your Lordship's humble,
obedient servant,

W. G. ...
GOVERNOR.

Gov. E. A. P.
7639

~~Secretary~~

Gov. E. A. P.
24 March 1910

DRAFT.

A. P. N^o 150

Gov. Sir P. Girouard

Recd 26/3/10

Sir,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Barker. March 22.
- Mr. Read. 22
- Mr. Fiddes.
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

I have the honour
 to ackn. the receipt
 of your despatch N^o 69
 of the 12th of February,
 in which you propose
 to transfer to the
 Kikuyu Native Reserve
 a number of natives
 at present occupying
 land on European
 farms in the

Kyamtu district.

2 ~~Before I can~~

In order that I may
be in a position to
form a clearer opinion
as to the desirability
of the step proposed,
I have to request
that you will inform me
how many natives are
affected by the proposal,
what is the extent of
the land now occupied
by them, whether they
are prepared to consent
to the removal on
the payment of
(or the remission of taxation &
compensation) and
what annual loss
of revenue would

be involved by the
remission of taxes
as proposed in the 7th
par. of your respects.

I have or.