

1911

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Official

Date

Interview between Secy of State and  
Sir P Girou

6 Jan

at previous Paper.

Subjects discussed - Land Public Buildings, Masai  
Tarubi Municipality, Loan, Staff, Military, Railway  
Rates + Jubaland

W. Fiddes

I have thought it best to have  
this registered, & to have the  
references made on the appropriate  
papers. All the questions dealt with  
are, or soon will be, in train, with  
the exception of the question of native  
passenger rates on the Railway.

We went to the Treasury on  
the subject of Railway rates generally  
in August last on Gov. The question  
of native passenger rates was mentioned  
in para. 8 of that despatch. In spite  
of two reminders, we have not yet

to see as memo 10 Feb

been able to get a reply out of the Treasury. I believe, from an official discussion of the matter, that the Treasury are contemplating giving the Govt a free, or at any rate a freer, hand in the matter of native passenger rates, whatever may be their attitude on the other points.

I think the proper move is now to press <sup>the Treasury</sup> for a reply to our letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of August on 25332. If in their reply they allow freedom in the matter of <sup>native</sup> passenger rates, well & good: if not, we can then press this point specifically in pursuance of Mr. Harcourt's promise to Sir P. Groom.

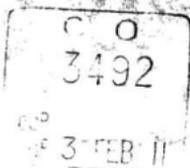
It would, I think, be a mistake to raise the <sup>question of</sup> native passenger rates separately at once. The Treasury would think that we were not keen about the other points dealt with in 25332, & would think that they could with impunity hold firm on those points.

HAB

Feb. 4.

Yes diff. alone

J.P. Groom



Mr. Harcourt

If you can see that the letters which  
represent the conclusions arrived at, they  
had better go to the dept. for their guidance.

P.M. 27.1

This is a correct & admirable summary

H. 28.111

Mr. Reed

Answer to something relevant (I  
suppose Mr. Reed has given a list of points)

P.M. 30

Interview between the Secretary of State and Sir Percy Girouard on the 26th of January, 1911.

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PRESENT.

The Secretary of State.

Colonel Seely.

Sir Percy Girouard.

Mr. Fiddes.

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Mr. Harcourt invited Sir Percy Girouard to bring forward the subjects which he wished to discuss.

I. LAND.

*dic*  
*26/82*

Sir Percy explained the history of the present position of legislation on this subject. He stated that the settlers were strongly opposed to the revision of rents after 33 and 66 years, and rightly or wrongly there would be a very bitter feeling in the country if the existing position was upheld.

Mr. Harcourt observed that there was a strong feeling that the country as a whole should get a share in improved values and that this seemed the best way of securing it. In his opinion present holders would not be damnified.

Sir Percy raised the question whether the revision of rents had actually been included in leases granted since May 1908 (in other words, whether the regulations of 1908 had been regarded as a dead letter). It was agreed that the point as to the actual terms of the lease should

should be cleared up after the meeting by reference to Colonel Montgomery and the Local Conveyancer.

[Colonel Montgomery was subsequently spoken to on this point, and he stated that no new leases have been or could have been granted since May 1908 in as much as land is granted on occupation license in the first instance subject to development over a period of three years which obviously has not yet expired. He adds that in most cases, if not in all, persons applying for occupation licenses were warned that the conditions of the 1908 regulations might be applied to the leases when issued, although, in consequence of an opinion of the local legal advisers, no express reference is made to them in the license itself. The license states that the lease will be granted subject to the conditions obtaining at the time of its issue.]

Mr. Harcourt finally stated that he could not depart from the terms of Lord Elgin's despatch, though it was not necessarily a decision for all time. He wished to make Sir Percy's position as easy as possible, and therefore proposed to write a despatch in which he would state that Sir Percy had fully represented to him the case of the settlers, but that he was not in a position to depart from Lord Elgin's despatch which commended itself to many people in this country. Indeed the policy seemed fairer to the settlers themselves than to ask for higher rents which might stop development. Consideration would be given to any cases of present holders which appeared to call for it on equitable grounds, and the policy would

would be reviewed hereafter on any actual evidence of injury to the prospects of the Colony.

## II. PUBLIC BUILDINGS

428/11  
 Sir Percy Girouard would be glad to have these but it is not a matter that interests the colonists who would rather see any money available spent on matters which would directly benefit themselves.

It was decided that the question should not be raised for the present. The Governor might possibly be in a position to make some proposals on next year's Estimates.

## III. THE KASAI

428/11  
 Sir Percy stated his opinion that if no change were made in the direction of moving the northern section to the southern reserve there would be serious trouble within the next five years. He explained that, after discussion, an agreement, which was now in his possession, had been signed by the Chiefs but that he had refrained from signing it until the northern Chiefs had seen the land which it was proposed to add to the southern reserve. These Chiefs, after seeing the land, expressed themselves as not satisfied with it and the agreement has, therefore, not been proceeded with. The present position was that, while the Chiefs would have moved at the beginning without demur and while they would now go if ordered by the Governor to do so, it was not likely that they would go voluntarily.

Sir Percy expressed his opinion that if the cattle of the Kasai increase as they are increasing at present there is bound eventually to be a conflict

between

between the Masai and either the whites or the Wakikuyu.

Colonel Seely explained the circumstances in which the Secretary of State had stopped moving the Masai pending inquiries. To move them in the face of the opposition which would be raised here would be impossible.

Sir Percy said that the policy of leaving things as they were involved the eventual splitting of the Masai into two tribes, but he acknowledged that the northern portion could not be <sup>said to be</sup> in favour of coming south. He then read portions of the report of the Provincial Commissioner on the attitude of the Chiefs in connection with the agreement, and the Secretary of State decided that on that report he could not defend the proposed move and the situation must, therefore, remain as at present.

#### IV. MUNICIPALITY.

The next question was that of handing over to the municipality <sup>of Nairobi</sup> certain assets in the shape of rents ~~and~~ Government land which would enable that body to raise a loan.

In answer to a question from the Secretary of State Sir Percy explained that the net amount which would be lost to the Protectorate revenues would be about £800. He explained that he did not propose any change in the situation of the Council, and he illustrated the difficulties of the present situation by mentioning the case of the Nairobi Electric Lighting Company which prevents farmers

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farmers irrigating their lands. This Company would be bought out by the municipality <sup>if it</sup> after he could raise the funds for the purpose.

Mr. Harcourt stated that he was prepared to approve of the general principle and that he would wait for the details which Sir Percy proposed to submit, after which he would put to the Treasury the surrender of such Crown lands as could be spared after due provision had been made for the prospective needs of the Government.

#### V. LOAN.

Sir Percy stated that he regarded three measures as vitally necessary to-day. (1) The Mombasa water supply, to cost £99,000; (2) the Thika tramway, to cost £60,000; and (3) the Kilindini pier to cost £100,000. He stated that a Glasgow firm had offered to erect a grain elevator at a cost of £70,000 and a pier to cost £100,000 in return for a subsidy of £4,000 per annum, or to put up the elevator without subsidy if the pier were erected by the Government. The matter had only recently been mentioned to him and he was, therefore, not in a position to give more than an outline of the proposal.

The Secretary of State invited Sir Percy to put forward the three schemes in detail for his consideration.

#### VI. THE PROTECTORATE STAFF.

Mr. Harcourt stated that, in particular, he agreed with Sir Percy's proposed reorganisation, but that there was a difficulty at present with regard to the disposal of certain individuals.

VII. MILITARY.

*CC*  
*2419*

This matter was left for discussion with Colonel Seely in the coming week as the Secretary of State would be in attendance at Windsor when Colonel Thesiger arrives and, therefore, would not be able to take part in it.

VIII. RAILWAY RATES.

Sir Percy Girouard referred to the practical disadvantages in having to obtain previous Treasury approval as regards the details of these rates.

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*5332*  
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The Secretary of State offered to raise with the Treasury the question of native passenger rates, so as to leave the Governor a free hand to fix such rates as would bring natives on to the Railway instead of, as at present, walking hundreds of miles by the side of it.

IX. JUBALAND.

*CC*  
*2140*  
*11*

The proposed cotton scheme in Jubaland was discussed generally. It was decided that it was unnecessary to approach the Italian Government at the present stage of initial experiment.

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*A 28 11*

Co. E.A.P.  
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10 Feb. 1921

Sir

I am etc. to request you

to write the attention  
of the ... of the Masonry  
to the letters from the

Order of the ... of ...  
the ... of ...  
and of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Dec  
last relation to the

question of planting  
to the ... of the E.A.P.

order discussion in hand  
notes in the ... history

Mr. Harcourt would

to please to ...  
with the ... of the ...  
at the ...  
(Sd) ...

DRAFT.

Secretary to the  
Masonry

MINUTE.

- Mr. ... 8 1/2
- Mr. Butler 8
- Mr. Fiddes 10
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Coz.
- Sir C. Lucas.

- Col. Seely.
- Mr. Harcourt.