

Commander Cole called the other day & he asked for a priority certificate on the ground that he was an approved claimant for a land grant. I explained that priority recommendations are not being given to land-applicants - or to any new settlers - He then mentioned that he was getting a year's half pay further allowance - and added that the V.C. Coy had pretty well guaranteed him a passage almost at once if he could get a priority recommendation from us, which very much surprised me. Commander Cole did not mention the Training Settlement now mentioned in his letter.

Our principle has been not to recommend new settlers or open stations new businesses, but this seems part

~~Mrs. Robinson~~ Mr. Robinson

419

Mrs. Cole called yesterday.

Her husband, a Land Allottee, has already gone out to E.A. - She wishes to follow with her children (two), and a Governess, as soon as possible after the 1st of January. I explained that though I thought she & the children might be recommended for passage, I was afraid the Governess would not be, unless there were strong grounds, medical or other wise, for an exception being made in her case. Mrs. Cole then gave the following reasons for requiring a Governess. She herself is going to join her husband on the farm, leaving the Governess & children in Nairobi; when the house on the farm is ready the children will join them, with the Governess. The Governess refuses to take the children out alone, so that Mrs. Cole cannot go out herself with the children & Governess. She is taking out flax-seed & other things for the farm, so cannot delay sailing, especially as one of the children is delicate & if there

sailing is postponed they will be young
through the Red Sea at the most unhealthy
time -

I think her reasons are genuine and
sound and am inclined to recommend
the whole party, though it will be
a slight exception to our rule about
medical certificates for Government
nurses. Seeing Mrs. Cole & hearing about
her ^{on} future activities, I could not ask
her to produce a medical certificate to
say that she ^{was unable, on} ~~was~~ medical grounds, to
take the children out alone!

I recommend the whole party also
if she is at Windsor Road
working

I explained, of course, that we were not
in a position that long she might have
to wait even if recommended for priority

Dec 11
30 10 19

Recd

31.10.19

W.C.D.

31.10.19

at home

July 25th 1919.

C O
43532

To:-

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE for the COLONIES.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit an application for Priority certificates for passages to British East Africa on behalf of the following persons:-

Miss Alice Debenham.
The Hon. Mrs Grant.
Commander A.L. Coke D.S.O. R.N.

In support of this application, I beg to put forward the following particulars:-

Miss Debenham, The Hon. Mrs Grant, Commander and Mrs Coke have formed a private syndicate for the purpose of starting at the earliest possible moment a large experimental farm in British East Africa, conjointly with a Training Settlement for Educated Women, and a private Boarding School (these latter in co-operation with the leading emigration societies at home).

It is imperative for the initiation of the scheme that the members whose Priority Certificates are now applied for should represent the syndicate as soon as possible in the Protectorate. Furthermore, I, the undersigned, have been granted one year's half-pay by the Admiralty from July 15th, 1919, for the purpose of proceeding to British East Africa, and, unless I can be given a Priority Certificate for my passage, it will be impossible for me to ^{assist in carrying} ~~carry~~ out satisfactorily the ~~in~~ inauguration of the scheme within the specified time.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Anthony Coke

412

Downing Street,

31st July, 1919.

My dear Anderson,

You will be glad to hear that we are issuing a priority recommendation for Commander Coke, R.N., Mrs. Coke and Miss Dettingham. Commander Coke is being informed of this decision officially.

Yours sincerely,

Sir R. Anderson, K.C.M.G.

26th July 19

STAMFORD HOUSE, WIMBLEDON COMMON.

S. W. 19.

TELEPHONE 445.

413

Dear Colonel Thurny,

Commander Cote R.N.

has sent me a copy of an
application for Priority Passes
certificates to British East
Africa which he has made
of the Colonial Office
in behalf of himself
the Hon. W. Grant and
Miss Alice Debenham.

Miss Debenham I
have known personally for
years as a very capable &
experienced agriculturist. He

2.

411

STAMFORD HOUSE WIMBLEDON COMMON
S. W. 19.
TELEPHONE 445

Recently she & Commander Coke
 have been studying Agriculture
 at Cambridge with a view to
 this ^{new} venture. I know of
 Mrs Debenham & my brothers
 report on Commander Coke
 I should say that any scheme
 they adopted would be thoroughly
 sound & would be developed
 with ability, energy & good
 business sense. in short that they
 would be a valuable acquisition for
 Africa. Much therefore as I
 dislike straying outside the
 strictly official channel do
 I advise to give work by

Copy

CAIUS COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE.

25th, 1919.

415

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Copy

July 25th, 1919.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Handwritten signature]

5th Aug 19

ARDTARAIG, BY SANDBANK, ARGYLL.

416

Dear Tommy,

So many thanks
for letting me know of
the issue of a Provisional
Certificate to Commanders
Coke Mrs Grant &
Miss Debenham. It
will relieve them of a
great anxiety & I know