

East Africa Post.

8176

REC'D  
REG'D 9/12/15

8176 ~~Secret~~

Major Register

Belgian Operations

1815

Military Strain for Congo

Feb. 18<sup>L</sup>

Since his views are to the origin  
of the leakage of information

Last previous Paper

7408 J

was ~~Blatt~~ by Dr. J. Anderson

We cannot omit this further  
Major Register is sure that the  
B.S.O. Corp. is not to blame, and  
after all, it is the Belgian  
Gov't on both sides of the  
leakage is due to ~~the~~ action

Copy of to be to ~~the~~ (L.P.P.)

19.2.15 Equ 19/2/15

H. J. R.  
19/2/15

at me  
Ch 19.2.15

Next subsequent Paper

9226 J

# British East Africa Corporation, Limited. 412

Secretary:

E. T. PRESCOTT.

Representative of Messrs. J. & F. COOPER, GARDENERS & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

15, CROSS STREET.

TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 5170.

TELEGRAMS: TAAL AVE, LONDON.

CABLES: INCREASE, LONDON.  
CODES—A.B.C. 5TH EDITION.

AND AT  
MOMBASA.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTION SOCIETY.

306, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, February 12th, 1915.

C.O.

In your reply please refer

to No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL.**

Dear Rand,

Replying to your personal letter of yesterday, informing me that Mr. Owen Grant now in East Africa, has spoken to our Mr. Cox, and in conversation shown that Mr. Grant is aware that quantities of military stores are being sent to Belgian Congo Government, I think I can throw some light on how this gentleman comes to have information etc.

Mr. Grant is the manager of the BECHUANA EXHIBITION in B.E.A., but in addition to that interest, he is a partner in a small concern, known as the Congo Estates Co. Ltd., which has a depot at Masindi on the road between Lake Chioga and Lake Albert, and runs transport service on that road. Their Masindi man is constantly going over to the Congo, and no doubt knows many Congo officials. Clearly he may have heard there that such movement of stores etc. was likely to take place, for Mons. Renkin showed me a telegram from the Governor General in the Congo, in which the latter reported to the Belgian Colonial Office, at Le Havre, that he had received an application from the Congo Estates Co. to be appointed their transport agents for such traffic. Mons. Renkin further showed me a copy of his reply, in which he cabled to Stanleyville that the Congo Estates Co. was "unimportant", and that the services of the Corporation had been arranged for to handle the matter.

I have no doubt that the Congo Estates Co. man at Masindi or beyond had heard from some Belgian official of the general purport of Mons. Renkin's cable, and that he has let Owen Grant know of it, and that this is how the latter came to tell Mr. Cox

that his information was from London, it being the case that Messrs. Benkin's telegram was despatched from London during his stay here just three weeks ago. This interval of time would suffice to enable the information to reach Mr. Grant.

There is just one other possibility, namely, that Mr. Grant or his Congo man having heard that such stores were going out, may have wired to their London agents, who are, I believe, Messrs. Bolus & Co., asking the latter to approach the Belgian authorities with a view to getting the business for Mr. Grant's Company; and that Messrs. Bolus may have made such an application and been told that arrangements had already been made.

But for these two possible explanations, I can see no way at all how the news could have leaked out. Our own communications have throughout been kept secret, cables having been passed through yourself, as you know, and letters on the subject not having yet reached Mr. Cox from this end. Our letters with shipping documents etc. in this matter, are all sent under secret cover, with the usual double envelope, and to be opened by Mr. Cox alone, so that when such letters do reach Mombasa, there will be no possible leakage there.

Thanking you for letting me know so promptly on this important subject,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Amherst

H. J. Ross Esq., C.B., C.M.G.,

Colonial Office,

Downing Street, S.W.