

61898

51898  
REC'D  
REG. 26 JUL 1916

Governor 695.  
Belfield

1916  
3rd Nov.

Last previous Paper.  
*see 302*  
*1914*

TRADE COMMISSIONER.

The copy letter from Mr E. Adams, Liquidator of Enemy Firms, suggesting desirability of appointing a Trade Commissioner, and offering his services in that capacity.

Mr. Read,

In speaking of the appointment of Trade Commissioner, the Governor no doubt has in mind the Trade Commissioners maintained by the Imperial Government in the Dominions. These Trade Commissioners are paid entirely from Imperial funds, and their work is to study the possibilities <sup>offered by</sup> the Dominion to which they are accredited for the extension of the activities of the business concerns of the Mother country. I do not know whether it has ever been suggested that this system should be extended after the war to the more promising of the Colonies and Protectorates. For my own part I think the appointment of an officer of this kind is to the advantage both of the Mother country and of the territory in which the officer is <sup>stationed</sup> situated, and that it would be a fair thing to ask both Governments to contribute to the expense.

~~It~~ It is probably true that British firms are not yet doing nearly all that they might to capture the

*Ans. 165. 19 2017*  
*See Gov*  
*copy and 6th (Commissioner) - car - 7 Nov 1914*  
*1914*

Next subsequent Paper.  
*see 2725*  
*1916*

the trade which is or will be going begging as the result of the liquidation of enemy firms in our colonies and Protectorates. It is stated in the enclosure to this despatch that American, Italian, and Dutch firms are doing much more than British firms in this direction in East Africa. Mr. Adams, the liquidator, had a very varied commercial and financial experience before he was specially engaged for the work of liquidation in 1915. I think he would be very useful in the Protectorate in advising the Government and British firms as to the best way of ~~transferring~~ the former German trade into British channels. I think also that he might be very useful ~~indeed~~ in the same connection to the Administrator of the occupied territory in German East Africa, and to British firms anxious to begin operations in that territory. Mr. Adams's term of service as liquidator is just about to expire, if it has not already done so. If we are to get the best possible use out of him, he ought to be continued forthwith in the capacity of Trade Commissioner. It is useless to expect the Board of Trade to decide to employ him in this capacity at the expense of Imperial funds. It is very unlikely that they would make a departure which would be so novel in the case of a Protectorate except as part of a general policy which might conceivably be adopted after the war. If, therefore, anything is to be done, the Protectorate will have to do it. I would suggest that we send the Board of Trade a copy of this despatch and its enclosure, observing in the sense of the parts of this minute marked A, and that we ~~suggest~~ <sup>propose</sup> to them that we ~~should~~ propose to <sup>suggest to</sup> the Governor by telegraph that he should keep on Mr. Adams as Trade Commissioner for a period of twelve months at the Protectorate expense, in order to give time for <sup>consultation</sup> the possibility that the appointment

appointment ~~and~~ be continued thereafter as part of an Imperial policy. Mr. Adams' agreement as liquidator provided for salary at the rate of £70 a month, and I think he ought to be contented to remain on at that figure.

*Jab*

*H. J. R.*

*13/1/17*

The above minute is now superseded by the minute on Admr. 2725, German East Africa, in which Mr. Byatt asks for the services of Mr. Adams as custodian of enemy property in the occupied territories.

*Jab*

*H. J. R.*

*16/1/17*

*Dft reply herewith*

*Jab*

*at once.  
H. J. R.  
17/1/17*

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 895.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

61898  
NOV 3 1916

November 3rd, 1916.

Sir,

From Mr. Adams  
27-10-16

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, for your consideration a copy of a letter from Mr. E. Adams, liquidator of Enemy Firms, in which he suggests the desirability of appointing a Trade Commissioner for the East African Protectorates.

2. The proposed appointment would appear to me to be more a question for Imperial Policy than of purely local concern, but I shall be glad to learn if such appointments are in contemplation.

3. If it should be decided to appoint a Trade Commissioner for this part of Africa I would be glad if Mr. Adams' application could be considered as he would be, in my opinion, a very suitable candidate for the post.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*A. Conroy Bejied.*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

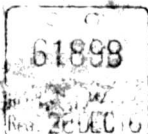
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.



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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

GOVERNOR.

HONOURABLE

BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

INCLOSURE

In Docket No. 206 of 1916

OFFICE

20

NO. 0/S/86/16

LIQUIDATION OF GERMAN ASSETS

MOMBASA,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

20th October 1916.

The Hon'ble the Chief Secretary,

NAIROBI.

Sir,

I have the honour to request His Excellency the Governor to submit to the Colonial Secretary the following suggestion with his comments thereon:-

"That a Trade Commissioner be appointed for the British East African Territories to assist in the capture and retention by the British firms of the huge business formerly in German hands in East Africa, Zanzibar and Uganda and to advise and assist those British firms willing to open up in conquered territory".

2. Such an appointment should be of great assistance to British traders generally in carrying out the determination of the Paris Conference to keep out the enemy traders after the conclusion of hostilities.

3. The duties of the Office could include the usual collation of information and submission of reports for the use of the Board of Trade, the local Protectorate Governments, the Chambers of Commerce, and the commercial community generally. Such work is already receiving the special attention of the United States Government through its Consul in Mombasa.

4. The Officer appointed could doubtless be of assistance to the Administration of the conquered territory in East Africa in advising on matters connected with the displacement of trade.

5. I am strongly of the opinion that no great amount of the trade formerly in the hands of the German merchants is yet firmly held by our own merchants. More has been done by the American, Italian, and Dutch firms in

P.T.O.

in this direction than by our own.

6. I have the honour to request further that in putting forward this suggestion His Excellency will mention that I am willing personally to offer my services, if acceptable, for the appointment of Commissioner. My twelve months experience in liquidating the enemy firms has given me an insight into their trading and methods which would be invaluable to me if appointed.

7. My previous experience of ten years amongst the manufacturing firms in England and five years amongst the importing firms in Australia has placed me in touch with the difficulties of both the manufacturer and the importer, whilst my brief period with the New South Wales Government in London gave me an insight into those of Government Departments.

8. I have been brought into contact with all the important trading firms here. I venture to assert that my appointment would be acceptable in the trade and financial circles of the Protectorates.

9. Such an appointment would enable me to be here to deal with any queries arising out of the liquidations of enemy firms and to deal satisfactorily with the drags of these liquidations which in themselves would not justify my retention of the office of Liquidator after the next few months.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

SD/- ERNEST ADAMS.

LIQUIDATOR OF ENEMY ALIENS.

Gov. 61898 East Afr. Prot.



Downing Street,

19 February, 1917.

*Handwritten mark resembling a stylized '2' or 'Z'.*

**DRAFT**

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 165

Governor  
Sir H. Conway Belfield,  
K.C.M.G.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler
- Mr. Grindle.
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Long.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge

the receipt of your despatch

No. 695 of the 3rd of November last

suggesting the desirability of appoint-

ing Mr E. Adams as Trade Commissioner

for the East African Protectorates.

2. Whilst I still had this suggestion

under consideration, Mr Eyatt, the

Administrator of German East Africa,

applied by telegraph for permission to

utilise Mr Adams' services as the

Custodian of Enemy Property in the

occupied territories. This permission

was given, and I fear, therefore, that

the suggestion made in your despatch

under reply cannot now be adopted.

I have &c.,

WALTER H. ...

*Handwritten note:* In case.