

EAST AFR. PROT

30664

Recd  
Aug 17 AUG 14

429

30664

E. A. Corp'n Ltd

COTTON INDUSTRY

1914

6th August

Last previous Paper.

Points out danger to, owing to requisition of staff for military purposes and stoppage of railway and steamer transport. Asks services of staff may not be requisitioned except in case of imminent local danger and that transport of cotton may be treated as a matter of urgent public interest.

Mr. Reed. Sir G. Fiddles.

After speaking to Mr. Parkinson I interpreted this to mean that the B.S.A. Corporation's staff are volunteers & that their public & private duties clash. We have never heard, <sup>officially</sup> except from Major Lyffett, that the Railway service has been interfered with & we know from the Govt. that the steamers on the lake are in full working. Therefore it must be the Corporation's supervising staff which has failed.

We can't help every firm which finds itself crippled in this way, but cotton has a special position & I am inclined to telegraph to the Govt. as to the requisition to the

See for ref. 18 Aug '14.  
Consid. 18 Aug '14.  
Surv. consid. - 26 Aug '14. Govt 31.8.14/11.

Last subsequent Paper.

31819

suggesting that as far as may be  
consistent with military Engineering  
possible those who would otherwise  
be engaged in interviewing the  
handing of the cotton crop should  
be allowed to do so. - v. inf. S.S.A. C.  
that name is comm. to C.S.  
with the Gov. 17.8.14

H. J. R.

17/8/14

Pr. 17.8.14

at hand

Ed. W. S. M.

# British East Africa Corporation, Limited.

Secretary:  
F. T. FREEMAN.  
Representatives in Manchester:  
COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION,  
15, CROSS STREET.  
PHONE: LONDON WALL 8176.  
GRAMS: TAAL AVE, LONDON.  
ABLES: INCREASE, LONDON.  
ODES—A.B.C. 5TH EDITION.  
AND AT  
MOMBASA.  
H EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.



96, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, August 15th 1914.  
E.C.

In your reply please refer  
to No. \_\_\_\_\_

450

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,

As suggested by Mr. H. J. Read, I have the honour to confirm my conversation with him at the Colonial Office last night.

Yesterday, the 14th. inst. we received the following advice by cable from our Mombasa Office -

"Our business disorganised Staff requi-  
sitioned Military Naval duties Cotton  
now rotting Lake ports awaiting trans-  
port, have approached Governor. Cox"

The signer of this cable is Mr. Cox, our Acting General Manager in Africa. I should add that on 7th. inst. we heard by wire from Mr. Cox that the Railway services of the Uganda Railway were suspended, and asking if he should continue work at our Cotton Ginnery Factories in East Africa and Uganda. I saw Mr. Read and Mr. Bottomley the same afternoon, and understanding that it is certainly the desire of the Secretary of State that industry and business should, as far as possible, be kept going in the Protectorates, we cabled reply on 7th. inst. to Mombasa that they were to continue cotton ginning energetically. Yesterday's cable, as above quoted, is no doubt intended to be read by us as an answer to our instruction of the 7th. inst.

I beg to state that we have in East Africa and Uganda Cotton and Cotton Seed stocks to a total of about 12,000 bales, of which about 9,000 still remain to be ginned and got away from

the Factories on the Uganda side of the Lake, while about 451  
3,000 are understood to be in transit <sup>from</sup> between our Factories on  
Lake Kioga and Lake Victoria to the coast for shipment. We  
have something like 4,000 tons of Cotton Seed ginned and unginned  
in the Country. These stocks have a total value of something  
between £125,000 and £150,000 sterling. Unginned cotton deter-  
iorates rapidly, and Cotton Seed, whether ginned or unginned,  
quickly becomes absolutely valueless if exposed, and even loses  
value quickly <sup>even</sup> if protected by sheds. In addition to these  
sources of heavy financial loss, the delay in ginning and getting  
the produce shipped home is costing us very heavily indeed for  
interest on the financing of the stocks.

The situation as per these cables has been discussed  
by our Directors and by the Executive of the British Cotton  
Growing Association, and I am desired by both bodies to state  
that if ginning by our own staff and transit to the coast by the  
Uganda Government Steamers and Railway cannot be very quickly  
resumed, the losses will be so great as to absolutely endanger  
our financial position. Further, unless the stocks can be  
got out ahead of the new native crop harvest, due to commence  
in November, it will be impossible for financial and staff rea-  
sons, to authorise our people to buy new crop from the natives.

I should further add that any jeopardy to the financial  
position of our own Corporation must also affect such concerns  
as the Bukedi Cotton & Trading Co. Ltd. etc., with whom we work,  
and who are to a large extent dependent upon us, both financially,  
and for various services on the spot. Seeing that Messrs. Hansing  
& Co. (being a German firm,) will not be able to buy new crop of  
cotton, and that the other British Cotton Companies in the Coun-  
try will be suffering in the same way as ourselves, if cotton  
ginning and transit is held up now, you will, no doubt, agree  
that the welfare of the Cotton Industry of Uganda is to-day very  
much at stake, and along with it, a large part of the Railway  
revenue and of the Customs revenue <sup>as</sup> derived from import goods

for purchase by natives with the proceeds of their cotton crop.

I also informed Mr. Read that our Mombasa and up-country offices are concerned in the maintenance of overseas shipping in our capacity as Agents of the Union Castle Line, and that if our staff is taken away for Naval or Military duties, it is not easy to see how we are to carry on the shipping work.

We have, of course, instructed our Mombasa Office that our staff, at every point, is to co-operate to the utmost with every request of the Government, but we beg to ask now that - except in case of imminent local danger, the services of our Cotton, Shipping and Engineer staff, on which the carrying on of our most urgent business vitally depends, should not be requisitioned by the Government, and that their work may, indeed, be even assisted by the Government in any local difficulties. Also, that the transit of Cotton and Cotton Seed over the Lakes and Uganda Railway to the coast may be treated as a matter of urgent concern in the public interest.

Of course, all I have put forward in this letter is as much on behalf of the other British Cotton Companies, as of ourselves. All British Cotton Companies are co-operating in these matters.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. Leighton  
Managing Director,

M. J.

30664/1914

E.A.P.

435

Sent 3.10 pm 18.8.14  
R.C.

18 August '14  
Aguda

DRAFT Telegram

Govr. Nairobi

As far as may be  
facilitatis marshallit

MINUTE.

- Mr. Harper 18/8/14
- Mr. Bottomley 18/8/14
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Ames 3/8/19

consistent with  
consecrari

military exigencies

suggest that those  
sluggard

who would otherwise  
totalisons

be engaged in  
edictions

suppression of  
anaphance

PTO

superwising the handling

of the cotton crop  
offert

should be allowed to  
affiancer

to do so  
doggrass

repeat this to  
relimado

for yllanda  
glibness