

EAST AFR. PROT
30784

C.O
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Magadi Soda
Co., Ltd

MAGADI SCHEME

1914

17th August
Last previous Paper.

States as to withdrawal of engines and instructions to send white staff home. Asks if any change in position so that engines etc may be released for work on Magadi Railway. Enquires also as to steps taken to protect property.

Tel. (copy) to Gov., E.A.P. 18 Aug. ←
Answer 20 Aug. 14

Dr. J. Fildes

8ft. com

H. J. R.

18/8/14

S R E A

Last subsequent Paper.

S. a. Secret

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REC'D
17 AUG 14

Shell House,
25/27, Bishopsgate,
LONDON, E. C.

17th August, 1914.

To the

Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,

WHITEHALL.

435

Sir,

MAGADI RAILWAY, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

The Contractors who are completing the railway for the Magadi Soda Company inform us that, by order of the Government, all the Engines have been withdrawn to Nairobi except one which may work to 28 miles.

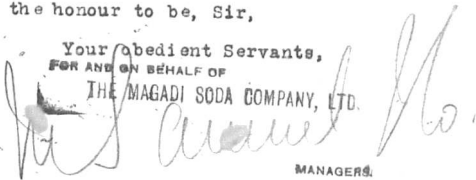
Further, their Local Manager has informed our Manager in East Africa that they have received instructions from London to close down and send all the white staff home.

While, at a juncture like the present, we have not the least desire to press forward business interests when there are other matters of far greater importance to be dealt with by the Colonial Office, we venture to inquire whether there is any change in the position in the British East Africa Protectorate which would enable the Government once more to release the Engines and railway stock so that the work may be proceeded with on the Magadi Railway. In such a case we may be able to advise the Contractors, Messrs. Pauling & Co., Ltd., to that effect, and thus avoid the withdrawal of their staff and the closing down of their works, which cannot but have the result of causing a grave delay to the completion of the railway and the erection of the works, and may even possibly bring about the abandonment of the Company's enterprise in East Africa.

May we further ask whether it is possible to ascertain that notwithstanding the withdrawal of the Engines and Stock from the line, steps have been taken by the Government to safeguard the works of the Company at Magadi and their property on the railway from native or other depredations.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE MAGADI SODA COMPANY, LTD.



MANAGERS.

436A

E.A.Secret/69

Downing Street,

20th August, 1914.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th of August on the subject of the Magadi Railway, and to inform you that he has ascertained from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate that steps are being taken to protect the line and the works at Magadi.

2. The Governor considers, however, that resumption of work on the line should be delayed for a short time.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

2.2. S.A.P.
30784

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R. 1. AUS
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to D. from please
14/8 437

DRAFT.

Telegram (Copy sent)
Governor
Nairobi.

Substance cyphered &
sent by Mr. Read. 18/5/14
18 August.

MINUTE.

Mr. Read. 18 Aug.

Mr. Sir G. Fiddes. 18th at once

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

Handwritten vertical note: "Handwritten in 18. Sent by - 19 August"

Paulings propose to

close down work Magade
and home white staff.
Is there any prospect

of rolling stock being

allowed resume work

shortly. Have any steps

been taken safeguard

at Lake railway and works Magade

for cover