

EAST AFR. PROT

C O  
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14/5/18

Foreign Office

1917

8 Dec

Last previous Paper

Complaint of the Malawates

resp. alleged ill-treatment by An. Officials  
whom engaged in taking consignment of cattle  
from Abyssinia to Karoko  
Send dep. to Adis Ababa & ask for  
full investigation & report.

Mr. Read

Adis Ababa  
No. 22819

McCall & Edmondson are  
Veterinary Officers. Hopecraft is  
probably Hopecraft, an unofficial,  
no doubt temporarily employed.

? Send to O.D. a copy of the W.

letter, with particulars of the other  
incidents, and ask him to  
fill enquiry into the case and  
to report to us as soon as possible.

Copy of despatch to the U.F.

Wes. of 17/12

at once

H. J. R.

10/2/17

Copy (with 1<sup>st</sup> and only) to Mr. G. O. ...  
Copy at 6.30  
Mr. G. O. 15/12/18  
See 22819/18

Next statement Paper

See 22819

22819

C O  
60332  
REC  
TO DEC 7

FOREIGN OFFICE

December 8th, 1917.

Under further communication  
the subject, please quote  
No. 230559/1/W,  
address  
and to any person by name,

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Sir:-

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to transmit to you, herewith, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Long, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa relative to a complaint addressed to him by a Greek merchant, Mr. Salavrakos, concerning the treatment which, according to his statement, he received at the hands of certain officers in the British East Africa Protectorate when engaged in taking a consignment of cattle from Abyssinia to Nairobi.

*Oct 28*

I am to express the hope that Mr. Salavrakos' complaints will be fully investigated by the competent authorities in East Africa and to request that Mr. Balfour may be furnished in due course with a copy of their report on the matter.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient  
humble servant,

*Maurice de ...*

Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

93.

BRITISH LEGATION,

Adis Ababa.

C. S. P. Y.

28th October, 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have sent to the Acting Governor of the East Africa Protectorate with regard to a complaint received from a Greek Merchant who took a consignment of cattle down to Nairobi from Abyssinia.

The Government of the Protectorate have for many years appealed to this Legation to do all in its power to encourage the export of cattle and mules to East Africa and in 1911 thought it worth while to send Mr. Sturdy to Adis Ababa to study the question on the spot. In pursuance of their wishes I have always encouraged merchants of known standing to obtain permits from the Government here to export stock and have given them letters of recommendation to our frontier officers to give them every facility and to forward them on to Nairobi. It is therefore somewhat discouraging to find that in two important cases merchants arriving at Nairobi have had stock seized by the military authorities at prices far below the sum which had to be paid per head by the consignor for the original purchase <sup>cost of</sup> transport and that all their protests were met with insult and abuse and in the case of Mr. Salvaratos apparently even with blows.

In the case

Right Honourable

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR, O.M., M.P.,

etc. etc. etc.

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In the case of Mr. Manoulakis I recovered the sum of £185 from the Protectorate Government and I trust that complete reparation will be made also to Mr. Salvarakos for the loss which he incurred and more especially for the treatment which he received for which there can be no possible excuse.

Mr. Manoulakis and Mr. Salvarakos are both merchants of good reputation and the latter is well known to the officers on the frontier to whom he has rendered many services. I would also point out that the price of good cattle in Abyssinia would be from £.25 to £. 35, and that heavy baggage would necessarily have to be paid in Adis Ababa before a permit to export could be obtained and legal chiefs would expect a present before the cattle were allowed to cross the frontier, so if we add to this the cost of transporting the stock through the very difficult country between Moyale and Nairobi and the inevitable loss of animals, which in this case amounted to some 25%, the estimate of the cost price of Rs. 110 per head delivered at Nairobi, as stated by Salvarakis, does not appear to me excessive, and therefore the seizure of 161 of the best cattle at Rs. 60 per head was obviously a gross case of injustice.

It may be said that in time of War the Military Authorities have the right to requisition stock at an average price but I would venture to raise the question whether this ruling can be made to apply to the trade property of foreign subjects brought in from a neutral country under circumstances of peculiar difficulty.

It is essential, in the interests of the future trade between East Africa and Abyssinia, that this point should be cleared up and that an investigation should be made into the truth of the

accusations

accusations brought against Captain Edmondson and Captain Hopcraft also Lieutenant MacCall as, if they are unduly dealt with, the credit of the Protectorate Government in Abyssinia will be irretrievably damaged and the reputation of the British Officer for straight forward dealing and courtesy lowered to a most undesirable extent.

I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to the Acting Governor at Nairobi.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

with the highest respect,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*W. G. Thompson*

Copy  
✓22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1917.

Sir, ✓

I have to-day received a letter from a Greek Subject Mr. Salavrakos who in 1914 left Greece with a herd of 1,500 cattle for East Africa via Mozambique, copy of which I enclose herewith for your information, stating that his cattle were commandeered by Lieutenant MacCall at prices far below what they had actually cost him and that he himself was insulted not only by Lieutenant MacCall but also by Captain Hopegraf to whom he appealed and that he was also struck and abused by Captain Edmonson.

You will remember that I wrote on September 29, 1916 to His Excellency the Governor about a very similar case in which Mr. Manolakis complained that the mules which he had taken down had been seized at prices far below their market value and that when he protested he met only with insults from Captain Edmonson.

In both these cases the owners of the mules and cattle in question were respectable merchants who had been recommended by the Legation to the East African Authorities and had been encouraged to open up this trade in response to the urgent appeals which have been so often addressed to me by the Governor of Nairobi with regard to the pressing need of both mules and cattle in the Protectorate.

Mr. Salavrakos

C. BOWRING, ESQ., C.M.G.,

etc. etc. etc.,

Acting Governor,

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Mr. Salavrakos is unfortunately unable to give me the names of any other witnesses beyond Mr. Buchanan but I trust this gentleman may be able to supply the deficiency. No receipts were given for the 161 cattle taken but the amount of Rupees 9660 was paid by cheque on the Bank of India. The names of the Europeans taken down by Mr. Salavrakos to Nairobi are Mr. Cadoviles, Mr. Krusos and Mr. Michmelopoulos, all of whom are, I believe, well known at Moyale.

If, as I have no reason to doubt, Mr. Salavrakos' story is substantially correct I can only say that the conduct of the officers concerned appears to me to have been disgraceful and unless full reparation is granted the credit of the Protectorate Government in Abyssinia will be irretrievably damaged.

It is too late for me to stop the consignment of 500 mules which is now leaving here for Nairobi and I can only trust that the owners will meet with that justice and civility which they have a right to expect from British Officers.

I must however add that, until this incident is cleared up and a full understanding has been arrived at with regard to the rights of merchants taking down cattle and mules from Abyssinia to sell in the open market, it will be impossible for me to take any further steps towards <sup>encouraging</sup> concentrating this trade.

I am forwarding a copy of this correspondence to H.E. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

*W. H. Murray*

248x

Adis Ababa.

Copy.

28th October, 1917.

To,

His Britannic Majesty's Minister.

ADIS ABABA.

Excellency,

I have the honour to report to your Excellency the following facts to which I beg leave to request your kind attention.

Financial circumstances having compelled me to leave my country and relatives many years ago and having wandered from one place to another I happened at last to come to Abyssinia in 1910 and went to the province of BORONA and established myself in the town of Hariro trading up to the year 1914. During my four years stay there, the various officers of H.B.M. Government and particularly Captain Barrett and Dickinson and Mr. Glenday at Moyale addressed themselves to me on various occasions asking small favours, among which was the request of supplying them with Abyssinian Ascaries and I have always tried to conform to their wishes. I have done so without any material benefit to myself and with the only satisfaction that a chance was given me to serve in my own small way these British Gentlemen.

It was with a view to working more widely with the British possessions in East Africa and with the idea that I could appear in some way useful to the British Authorities there, at the same time to benefit myself (for the great pains which I have had during my long stay in the interior of this uncivilised country that I came to Adis Ababa and succeeded after many troubles and heavy expenses in getting a permit from the Abyssinian Government to export to British East Africa a large quantity of skins and furs.

When I left Adir Ababa I had with me besides the Government Permit a letter of recommendation from your Legation to the British Authorities in East Africa and was hopeful that my long and risky trip, to which three other Europeans accompanied me, would be successful. Your Excellency knows, no doubt, very well the character of the Abyssinian Race and you may imagine in a certain way the tremendous difficulty of the task. I wish only to state that out of 1800 animals I had with you when I started about 400 hundred were lost on the way.

The British Officers whom I met between Moyale and Nauro have all been very kind to me and my faith and admiration towards British Justice and politeness increased in my mind immensely. I had reached the Lake Kippier where I asked from the Nairobi Authorities for a permit to sell my animals there and which permit I secured. Doctor Sturdy offered me Rs. 55 per head, which offer I had to decline unhesitatingly explaining to him that each cow cost me Rs. 110. The bargain did not take place and I then left Nauro. Nauro having secured from Doctor Sturdy another permit allowing me to proceed to Nairobi where I could get a better offer for my animals. On the basis of this permit I addressed myself to Messrs Newland Farlton & Co., Ltd., at Nairobi who undertook to sell the animals by auction and fixed as date the 1st Oct., 1915. In the meantime I chose 161 of my best and fattest cows and took them with me to Gilgil, where I arrived on Novr. 27th. I found there Lieut. MacCall, who asked to buy this lot offering as price Rs. 60. per head. I explained to Lt. MacCall that all my cows cost Rs. 110 each and that his offer was out of the question. To this Lt. MacCall became wild with anger and ordered his soldiers to take my animals by force being unable to resist I did not attempt the least objection to the unlawful act of this officer though I was obliged to see him displaying his military prestige I could not for a minute lose my faith towards British Justice. I went to Nairobi

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and called on Captain Hopagraf to whom I reported with respect what happened between me and Lieut. MacCall and asked for a certain satisfaction. But this gentleman replied insultingly adding that "If it were the Greek Government there and an Englishman the holder of the animals the Greek Government would have taken them from me by force without paying a single penny". Being for many years in the Interior of Africa I could not know if the Greek Government has become a company of bandits, and only dared to remind Capt. Hopagraf that besides being Greek Subject nothing connects me with the Policy of the Greek Government. The result was that the 161 cows which I had chosen among the whole lot in order to get me benefit out of them were taken from me by force at a rate of Rs. 60 per head while as I mentioned above their actual cost was Rs. 110.

But this is not the end of my torture. I could not secure a permit to sell the rest of my cows and after months of unnecessary delay I succeeded in securing Messrs Howell to transport them from Nairobi to Gilgil where I had to have them examined by a Veterinary Surgeon. As I was having the animals led there I saw some natives driving them with heavy sticks mercilessly. With painful effort I protested against this cruelty on tired animals and cows in a difficult physical situation. To my great surprise and horror I saw the Chief Surgeon Captain Edmondson take a stick from the hands of a native and he hit me twice the head in the presence of the Manager of the East African Syndicate, Mr. Buchanan, and other Officers and killed me.

To come back to Lieut. MacCall I wish further to state that I was asked to sell to him 45 calves at a certain price to which I agreed. He promised to take every of them in 2 or 3 days and after my having warned

mainly for 40 days I was compelled, on account of the expenses occurring daily, to sell them to another person. Lieut. MacCall having learned that I had sold the Calves asked me to go before him. He abused me using the worst expression and was about to give me a blow on the head which I avoided happily.

They tried all means to do me harm and kept me four months at Nairobi without allowing me to return to BORDA for no reason whatever. I had at last to come back via Mombasa, which was for me a more expensive trip than if I had returned by land.

My extra expenses including those of three European and five native assistants, during the four months that I stayed unnecessarily at Nairobi, were per person daily, viz :- Rs. 2700 per month, making total for the four months of Rs. 10800. To this should be added Rs. 8050 - which is the difference of cows which were purchased from me against my will at Rs. 160 per head instead of Rs. 110 they cost me. My total claims amount to Rs. 18850 in all.

I beg to leave to your kind discretion the amount of my just claim and give me moral satisfaction for the singular and unspeakable difficulties suffered in East Africa during my long and painful stay

etc. etc.

Sgd. M. SALAVRAKOS.

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ansd 22817

file

DRAFT

14 Dec 11 - 1917

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Eat  
110 940

Sir

MINUTE

- Mr. Branley 12/11
- Mr. Robinson 12/11
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...

I have the honour to  
 refer to you the acc copy of  
 a letter from the 20 enclosing  
 a copy of a despatch from the  
 Minister at Paris relative  
 relative to a complaint by  
 a French merchant, Mr. ...  
 concerning his alleged ill  
 treatment at the hands of  
 certain officers of the Post.  
 The enclosures to Mr. ...  
 despatch consist of his letter to  
 you of the 20<sup>th</sup> of October &  
 the letter to him from the ...

20. 8 Dec  
(1st copy)

W. A. ...

of the same date

I have to request that you  
will cause full enquiry to  
be made into the circumstances of the  
case & report to me in the  
as soon as  
month ~~at the earliest possible~~

2.

1877

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