

EAST AFR. PROT

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REC.  
REC'D 30 DEC 14

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Mogadi Sida Co.  
Lpi

Compensation Claim

1914

29 Dec.

Last previous Paper.

Gov  
405

In respect of interruption of Co's work due to military operations. Files extracted from local Corres. rep. report to which Co's property has been used for military purpose, & submit that claim is reasonable.

Li. G. Fiddes

Att: rest & say that we will consult the for<sup>r</sup> again on the subject - & copy of corresp.<sup>ce</sup> to the for<sup>r</sup> for report, with refer. to our inf. desps. of 16 Dec: on

for  
47405

H. J. R.  
31/12/14

Chom. P. 1.6.15

Copy sent for Gov's 15 Jan 15  
For ansd. 12 May 15 for 1919/15

Next subsequent Paper.

Gov  
10194/15

# THE MAGADI SODA COMPANY, LIMITED

M. SAMUEL & CO. MANAGERS.

TELEGRAMS: "SODAGADI, LONDON"  
TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 1883.

52202

Shell House, Recd  
25 & 27, Bishopsgate, Dec 14

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
THE COMPANY.

London, E.C. 29th December 1914

To the  
Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office, S.W.

593

Sir,

We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th December 1914.

We beg respectfully to point out that our advices from East Africa state very clearly that the work of our Company has been most seriously interrupted and delayed by military operations, and that the branch line from the Uganda Railway to Lake Magadi has been devoted largely, and for a time, exclusively, to military traffic. The station at Mile 26 has become an important military base and we would point out that the use of the line up to that station by the forces of His Majesty's Government cannot fail to affect the free use of the portion of the line beyond that point. We give you below extracts from letters and cables from our representatives in East Africa relative to our contentions:-

5th August 1914. Mr F.A. Ross the Company's Resident Engineer to Messrs Livesey Son & Henderson, the Co's Consulting Engineers.

.....Martial Law proclaimed, Uganda Railway orders Nicker to get all his rolling stock to Nairobi. Also removing all his labour. This meant the abandonment of Buildings etc.etc. at Mile 75.

Mr Symonds made Captain of the Magadi Defence Force.

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42405

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Owing to the withdrawal of Rolling stock all native labour removed to Junction and sent to their homes or to Nairobi..... Great pity that the Government have stopped our work as they have done....."

8th August 1914. Mr Guy Symonds the Company's General Manager in E.S.A. cables, as follows:-

"Martial Law Magadi considered danger area all Rolling stock withdrawn to Junction Guards left Magadi and all Stations on the Line most Whites enrolled in Defence Force for protection of Line and District"

\* "All work stopped"

12th August 1914. Mr Guy Symonds the Company's General Manager in E.S.A. writes to Mr Samuel Samuel, the Chairman of the Magadi Soda Company Limited:-

....."What has taken place since the outbreak of war is shortly this. On Monday the 3rd instant the Government informed Mr Hicker that if war broke out between Great Britain and Germany it would be necessary:-

- (1) To withdraw all rolling stock and engines from the Magadi Line and send them to Nairobi.
- (2) To cut off the Water supply to the Railway. He was further informed semi-officially that all Europeans would have to go into Nairobi. On the 5th instant Mr Hicker received a wire informing him that war was declared and instructing him to act as directed. I went to Nairobi the day this wire was received and saw the O.C. Troops and was able to persuade him to allow our Europeans to be brought back to Mile 28 and not to Nairobi. This suited us very much better as we have our hospital and our houses there, and moreover we had sufficient rations for whites for two or three

months. When I say whites I include all Messrs Paulings' staff. At the same time the O.C. Troops informed me that the Government looked upon Nagadi district as one of the four danger points of B.E.A. and while he appointed me O.C. Nagadi District he instructed me to raise a Defence Force for the defence of the Line and also to use such means as I could to gather information as to any movements taking place on the German border to the South of the Nagadi Line. Martial Law was, of course, proclaimed and I was given authority to commandeer any stores which I required for the Defence Force.

12th August 1914. Mr Nicks (Messrs Pauling & Co the Railway Contractors' representative) cables to Messrs Livsey Son & Henderson the Co's Consulting Engineers:-

"By order of Government engines withdrawn to Nairobi except 1 engine which may work to 25 miles. 3000 boys paid off uncertain when work start again cable instructions"

13th August 1914. Mr H.L. Sikes (The Nagadi Soda Co's Water Works Engineer in B.E.A.) writes to the Consulting Engineers:-

"All work was however stopped by order of the Government between Mile 25 and the Lake on August 5th 1914"

26th August 1914. Messrs Pauling & Company (Contractors to the Nagadi Soda Co. Ltd.) writes to the Col:-

"The Government as you know have stopped the work beyond Mile 25 in consequence of the War and withdrew our Engines to Nairobi and consequently there was no other course left open to us but to withdraw our men and suspend operations for the present..... It may

interest you to know that we have just heard that the Uganda Railway Authorities are working Military trains over the "Magadi Line"

9th September 1914. Mr Hickey cables to Messrs Livesey Son & Henderson to the effect that the

Government have supplied a few hundred boys to work up to 28 miles and have promised to supply others, but little work is possible owing to Military trains running"

9th October 1914. Mr T.A. Ross to Messrs Livesey Son & Henderson:-

....."The position out here has changed very materially since the War broke out. Mile 28, Kadja, is a large Military Base and the first section of the line is a military line and likely to remain so for some time to come. Paulings' coal has been requisitioned and is being used in military work and will be repaid by the Uganda Railway. Again questionable if Military will allow trains to run through to Lake for a considerable time to come.

15th October 1914. Lieutenant Col: Ward General Officer Commanding Troops East Africa & Uganda Protectorates to Mr Guy Symonds the Co's General Manager:-

....."Magadi Junction to Mile 28 Troop trains and Troop Freight trains will be running for some time....."

Notes by Mr Guy Symonds on the question of running traffic to the Lake for the Company

"I saw Col: Ward Chief Staff Officer and he is prepared to give us permission to work this traffic for a fortnight provided that the Military traffic from the Junction to Mile 28 (which will increase to a large extent during the

next four months) is not interfered with. "As we only require 5 out of the 17 trains to run from the Junction to the Lake we should not interfere with the Military traffic to any very great extent."

October 15th 1914. Handed to Col: Ward a letter embodying the above terms to which he drafted a reply giving us the required permission.....  
Copy From the General Officer Commanding Troops East Africa & Uganda Protectorates

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 15th October 1914 I have to inform you that the Magadi Branch Line, below Mile 26 may be used in any way that the interests of your Company demand.

2. From Magadi Junction to Mile 26 Troop Trains and Troop Freight trains will be running for some time; beyond these no Military interference with this Section is contemplated.

Yours faithfully

(Signed) L.E.S. Ward  
 Lieutenant Colonel  
 Chief Staff Officer.

17th October 1914 Mr Guy Symonds to the Magadi Soda Company Limited:-

....."The question may occur to you that if I am able to get this permission to reopen the line even temporarily why work on the line is not able to start, as a matter of fact I do not think that they think there is much danger from the Germans now to the line but they will have so many troop trains working from the Junction to mile 26 that they do not want to have any other traffic on that section, in fact I had asked for six trains Junction to Lake, but they cut this down to 4 at first and later

agreed to make it five....."

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It will be clear to you from these extracts that our claim is not unjustified, and we desire in conclusion to state respectfully that we maintain our claim for compensation due to the delay to our works and consequent loss. We wish therefore to put forward our claim in principle, and shall be pleased to formulate it in detail at the earliest possible moment.

We have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
THE MAGAD COCA COMPANY, LTD.

*M. Samuel*  
MANAGERS.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

nd 52202/1914

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R 4 JAN  
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cap

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5 January 1915.

DRAFT.

The Managers,  
The Magneti Soda Coy. Ltd

Sirs,  
Gentlemen,

I am etc. to

acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
of Dec, 1914, and to  
inform you that he  
will consult the Governor  
of the R.A.P. again on  
the subject of the  
interruption of the  
work of the Magneti Soda  
Company's works owing  
to the military operations  
in the A.O.C.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 2/1/1915

Mr. Bottomley 4.1.15 f

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

Cop. for Bureau of Spain

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(SIGNED BY READ)

FOR THE BUREAU



Ms. 52252/1914

E.A.P.

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*[Signature]*

Draft

E.A.P.

Confidential

For Sir H. C. Selous

Ans'd 19197

5 Jan'y 1915.

Sir,

With reference to my copy

[<sup>for</sup> 474057/14] despatch No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 16

of Dec<sup>r</sup>, ~~1914~~ I have the honour

to ~~inform you that~~ transmit

to you the accompanying

copy of further commo. with

the Major's order copy.

on the subject of the

loss sustained by the

Co. owing to the military

operations in the Prot. &

I request that you will

furnish me with a report

*[Handwritten initials]* 24/1/15

*[Handwritten initials]* 24/1/15/p

*[Handwritten note]* made by 29 Dec  
*[Handwritten note]* for (H.C. Selous)