

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

34608 SECRET.

32608

Reg: 10. July 17

War Office

1917

6th July

Last previous Paper.

W.O. 32537

Baron von Blixen Finecke

Sends with comments, Report by Commissioner of Police, British East Africa, as to activities, of Swedish subjects in East Africa.

Mr Butler.

It is undoubtedly undesirable that all these businesses should come into foreign hands of any kind, but I do not see how it can be helped if British capital is not forthcoming.

As regards the possibility that the enterprise is German, there is not much evidence, apart from the fact that the interval between telegrams and replies is longer than is consistent with Sweden or Denmark only being concerned but is consistent with correspondence between Sweden and Germany also being required.

There is however the statement in Major Hall's letter that between Baron Blixen's leaving East Africa Protectorate in debt and his return with Count Gustav Hamilton and plenty of money both of them had visited Berlin.

Our Land Ordinance, 1915, does not give any power of veto on the transfer of land except between persons

*Copy sent to B.T. cans } Secret 2 July*

*Copy 1000 70 cans*

*1917 of 1000 to Legation No 4 (48) 23 Sept (450005)*

Next subsequent Paper.

Bot

3851

of different racas- i.e., e.g., a European and an Asiatic or an Asiatic and an African. Any legislation would have to take the form, <sup>(a)</sup> for present purposes, of giving the Governor <sup>(b)</sup> power to veto any land (or other) transaction in which he is not satisfied that enemy interests are not directly or indirectly concerned (which would give rise to protests every time the veto was exercised), and <sup>(b)</sup> for after-the-war purposes, of prohibiting any transaction to which any of His Majesty's present enemies is a party. This could only be done as a matter of general Imperial policy, and it would not prevent these people remaining "dummies" for their German backers for all time.

? Put the facts- without names- to the Board of Trade and ask what action would be taken in a case in this country in which a similar suspicion existed.

WLB 13.7.17

W-Read

I believe that Capt Russell of the W.O. wrote to you on this subject too. The report from the Council of Police in the E.A.P. went direct to Colonel Kell in pursuance of the counter espionage arrangements which we have made. But the C.G. (as I learn from Sir H. Belfield) knew all about it; & it was not very intelligent of him to fail to perceive that the facts disclosed had a wider bearing than "counter espionage". He might have sent the report to the S.d/B.

Letter attached  
H. J. P.

with his comments on it, even if he were  
unable to suggest any means of stopping  
these suspicious transactions. 265

I doubt whether the B. of T. will be able  
to help us. While we are consulting  
them, progress may be made with these  
negotiations. I would telegraph <sup>in cipher</sup> to the O.A.G.  
that the S. & B. has this report under  
his consideration, & that it is most desirable  
that in the meantime the O.A.G. should  
do anything that he can to prevent  
further progress with the transactions  
still uncompleted, & request him to  
consult his Attorney General & report  
what action he <sup>considers</sup> ~~finds~~ possible to take.

SAB

15 7 17

I wd. also send copy of the consp. <sup>cc</sup>  
comply to the F.D. & ask whether  
they know, or can ascertain, anything  
about Brown Finsie & Count Hamilton.

H. J. R.

P.S. 114/227/17  
16/17

There is <sup>here</sup> at least as good a case as in  
Delago (though of a different kind) for preventing

The situation of land during the war  
to allow. A letter later on say  
he desires no change in permanent policy  
in the matter of holding land.

In A. B. B. might be asked his  
opinion as to the possibility of a  
stable (the 1st is the title of what has been  
in regard in Malay) - the f.o.s  
he asked if they were... if yes it is proved.

A.S.M. 77

The certain call for prompt  
action. As proposed  
L.S.B.

7/11/7

\* Sir A. Steel  
agrees that  
point may be  
to the O.A.  
L.S.B.



Room 314.

July 2nd 1917.

Dear Mr Read,

You will probably be interested to know that our Censorship in East Africa seems to have got onto the trail of an extensive plot, run by Scandinavians (Swedes and Danes), aimed at the acquisition of large quantities of land, and numbers of businesses hitherto British, in both B.E.A. and Portuguese E.A.

Large sums of money are being forwarded to these men, from sources which appear to indicate an ultimate source in Germany, and these are being used to buy things up at any alarming rate.

The principals are known in some instances to have visited Berlin recently, and in at least one instance (that of Baron von Blixen Finecke) the visit was marked by a change from poverty to such affluence.

With Blixen is associated one Count Hamilton, of Nairobi and Stockholm, who arrived in East Africa with a letter of introduction from the Crown Princess of Sweden to Sir H. Belfield.

One or other of the principals always seems to be in Europe, directing affairs.

It would, of course, be just like Germans to reconcile themselves to the territorial loss of their Colony, and to seek compensation in keeping alive the goodwill of the various businesses which had their headquarters or principal branches in German territory, and extensions in neighbouring territories.

I am letting you know this privately and unofficially, in advance of the detailed official statement that will reach you shortly, since it seems that nothing but the quickest and most drastic action on the spot can prevent the damage being done.

One must not exclude shipping, as the Scandinavian firm of Thor Thoresen is making a great effort to secure itself in East

Africa.

When you receive the official report you will be able to judge the situation, but I submit that very early steps should be taken. Even if the strong suspicion of German background not confirmed, it seems very undesirable to let these gentlemen do things all their own way, and rig the whole show against us.

Short of "censorship" there seems to be almost no way of unravelling these plots.

You may remember that it was through an accidental discovery of my own, in the early days of the war, that we lit on the control by Frankfort-on-Main of the entire base metal industry in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

H. J. Read Esq., *C.B., C.M.G.*  
Colonial Office.



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Yours sincerely,



H. J. Read Esq., *C.B. C.M.S.*  
Colonial Office.



194862/D.

**SECRET.**

WATERLOO HOUSE,

16, Charles Street,

Haymarket,

London, S.W.

6th July, 1917.

Dear Macnaghten,

I forward herewith for your perusal a long report received by us from NAIROBI regarding the activities of one BARON von BLIXEN FINECKE and his friend COUNT HAMILTON. We "signalled" these people on 20.12.16. and you forwarded us a copy of a despatch from Sir. H. BELFIELD in reply on 17th March, 1917.

It would seem unlikely that this is a case of espionage, but at the same time the facts that emerge are serious.

The object of the transactions detailed in the attached report is apparently to buy up businesses and huge tracts of land in East Africa with a view to selling the land and possibly the businesses after the war at a huge profit. It is expected that the value of this land will go up enormously after the war and that many "English officers now fighting will settle here after the war" (extract from a letter written by one Brochner in Nairobi).

The persons concerned are Swedes and Danes and it is possible that the source of the money is German. At any rate, Baron von Blixen Finecke, one of the persons principally concerned, was at one time (no date given in the report) in considerable financial difficulties and apparently in consequence

Macnaghten, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.



went to Denmark. He returned to British East Africa with Count Gustav Hamilton. It is known that one or both had visited Berlin apparently in the meantime, but this is not stated. On their return it was clear that there was a very large sum of money at their disposal.

Money is sent to these men from the Enskilda Bank, Stockholm, through the London County and Westminster Bank and the Standard Bank of South Africa, Clements Lane. Inquiries have been made at these two London Banks, but of course they do not know the original source of the money, and it would appear unlikely that any information would be obtained from the Enskilda Bank, Stockholm.

Whatever the motives, it seems undesirable that Swedes and Danes should be allowed either to acquire large interests in British East Africa or to make large profits by re-selling to British subjects. We do not owe Scandinavians much in this war.

If these transactions are not genuine i.e. if there is German money behind them, it is not necessary even to mention that they should be checkmated by every possible means.

This whole matter appears on the face of it to be primarily a preparation for a gambol in land, and secondly (possibly and very likely) a phase of German preparation for the "war after the war". No doubt the Germans will do much in endeavours to keep alive their position and goodwill, and even if they lose their Colony, they will hope to retain much of the trade which was established by firms whose headquarters or principal branches were in that Colony.

The remedy appears to be to introduce such effective legislation as will check gambling in land (so common in East Africa) and will root out German trade connections.

I have not had the report copied so will you kindly return it at your convenience.

Yours very truly,

*Hauck*

For the Hon. Sec. of State

Ref. returned  
copy attached  
to file

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195274/D

R9 3/7

WATERLOO HOUSE,

16, Charles Street,

Haymarket,

London, S.W.

28th July, 1917.

Dear Macnaghten,

With reference to our 194862/D of the 6th instant, we should be much obliged if you would return the report re Baron von Blixen Finecke and Count Hamilton.

Yours very truly,

Hamilton

Macnaghten, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

EAST AFRICA POLICE.

Office of the Commissioner of Police

P.O.Box No.136, Nairobi,

26th April, 1917.

Activities of Swedes in British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of information compiled by the C.S.O. (Censorship), East Africa Force, concerning the activities of certain Swedes in British East Africa in case you may consider it advisable to make further enquiries more especially in respect of the source of the capital now being invested by Baron Von Blixen Finecke and Count Gustav Hamilton (vide your telegram of December 20th, 1916, to His Excellency the Governor).

2. Since their recent arrival in this country the above named persons have acquired several farms and are in negotiation for the purchase of others; they have also purchased the business of Messrs. Chaplin and Hopcraft of Nakuru which firm held the up-country agency for the Westdeutsche Handels-und-Plantagen-Gesellschaft and stocked large quantities of German made Agricultural and industrial implement and tools.

3. It appears that Von Blixen before the war was supplied with large sums of money by one Westenholme, the money being remitted to this country through the Enskilda Bank, Stockholm.

Count

Count Hamilton's funds up to the present have come through the London County and Westminster Bank, Head Office, London.

4. Count Hamilton arrived in this country with an autograph letter from the Crown Princess of Sweden to Sir Henry Belfield.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. K. NOTLEY,

Lieutenant Colonel

COMMISSIONER, EAST AFRICA POLICE.

COLONEL V. C. W. KELL,  
WATERLOO HOUSE,  
16, CHARLES STREET,  
HAYMARKET,  
LONDON, S. W.

R E P O R T N O X I V

R E P O R T O N S W E D I S H A C T I V I T I E S  
I N E A S T A F R I C A

G. S. O.

18 Mar 1917

CENSORSHIP

The following report is made as a result of observation which has been kept on the correspondence etc. of numerous Swedes resident or operating in this country. The investigations are by no means complete and will be amplified, but it is not considered desirable to further delay reporting this matter in view of the possibly very serious results if further control is acquired by this clique.

The rapidity with which land, business, etc. is being acquired must be a cause of some uneasiness. Attention is called to Government Notice No. 335, para (d):

" To what extent and by what means the sources of supply within the Empire can be prevented from falling under foreign control. "

As regards the last two words of this notice, there are features which indicate the possibility that the control may not only be foreign, but German. Definite evidence on this point is lacking, but it is hoped to obtain further information shortly.

2. Reverting to Government notice 335 quoted above, attention is called to the list of persons quoted in the "Report on Export of G.E.A." (Censorship) which, read with the present report, will show to what extent affairs have fallen out of the hands of British Traders, and the controls that are becoming established in this country.

Notes, etc. have been inserted, not necessarily with object of endeavouring to prove any German connection, but to draw attention to points that may be useful hereafter.

Major  
G.S.C. Censorship.

The following is a list of names of people who have been noted in any way connected with the business:-

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Count Hamilton, Nairobi.

Countess Hamilton, Villagate 22, Stockholm.

Baron von Blixen Finecke, Nairobi.

Baroness von Blixen Finecke, Nairobi.

Countess Frijs, Hammel, Denmark.

Hilding, arriving Capetown March or April.

Kjellberg, Herbert, now in Durban on way home?

Fjalstad, Nils, Nairobi.

Binsell, Coteborgs, Sparbank, Gothenburg.

Bursell, Nairobi.

Roes (?), Nairobi.

Krag (?), Christiania.

Knudtsen, Fredriksholms, Kanal 6, Copenhagen.

Ekman, Nairobi.

Ekman, Solleften, Sweden.

Axel Blid, Hofslagaregatan, Stockholm.

Redway, Musgrave Road, Durban.

Shoegren, Nairobi.

Rundgren, Nairobi.

H. Schultz, not known.

Hasselbatch, Kristianagade, Copenhagen.

Peter Thomson, Port Elizabeth.

Dinesen, Copenhagen.

Aage Westenholz, Birkerod, Denmark.

Brochner, P.O.Box 223, Nairobi.

Fonseca Aratuja or Arango, Genoa & Naples.

Hager, Randers, Denmark.

?Miss Rignor Jensenker.

?Miss Ana Ala,

Erickson,

Blanke, Nairobi.

Fichtel, Nairobi.

Harrison, Solicitor, Nairobi. Brig. Gen Owen Thomas.

1. The following is a short precis of the earlier information:-

(a) Baron van Blixen Finecke, shortly after his marriage at Mombasa (at which it should be noted the Crown Prince of Sweden was present) proceeded to Denmark. He was at the time in considerable financial difficulties, and was not sure of even the passage money to send his wife home. This point is of some importance owing to the subsequent apparent affluence of the Baroness.

(b) Soon after this, attention was directed to certain transactions connected with the "Three Hills Estate" near Mombasa. These transactions, so far as they affect East Africa, have been reported. It will be remembered they were connected with a company purporting to be registered at Larvik, Norway - also with one Hoyer. Questions have been asked in the House of Commons about this Company and their activities.

There is nothing in the attached extracts that connect Blixen directly with this concern, but there is a possibility, to say the least of it, that it was Blixen who took home a report on these estates.

Later, the Swedes, including Count Hamilton, have made mention of their shambas on the coast - Blixen writing to say he must stop in Mombasa a few days to see them.

Further information on this important connection may come to light later.

(c) Baron Blixen returned to British East Africa in with Count Hamilton. It is known that one or both had visited Berlin. It is immediately apparent that there is a very large sum of money at their disposal. Baron Blixen has claimed that this money is from Count Hamilton's people. Cables quoted herein show that money has been asked for and obtained from Countess Frijs and certain others. Hamilton does not figure.



- (d) A transaction was put through by Blixen with the Swede African and Shoegren who had a contract concerning the land with Brig. Gen. Owen Thomas. There was considerable dispute about this and the cables attached under (d) show the communications.
- (e) By March, 1917, it has become evident that the operations of the Blixen-Hamilton concern are assuming large proportions. A letter intercepted by Postal Censor Mombasa discloses still further extensions and proposals. There does not seem to be any falling off indicated. In addition to the Ngong Estates, the following concerns have been bought up:-

Mr. Hopcraft's Farm, Naivasha.

Mr. Colliers' farm, Kyambu.

Mr. Wrimbeck's farm, Ekipia.

2500 Acres at Gilgil.

The Sigona Mill. (£3,000)

The Agency for Dodge Motor Cars and Cycles.

Messrs. Chaplin and Hopcraft's business, Nakuru.

Half share in the Nakuru Stores.

and the following are being put through:-

Purchase of the East African Standard, Nairobi.

Acquisition of the Nairobi Board of Executors.

500,000 acres in Portuguese East Africa

2,300 acres at Njoro

2,500 acres at West Kenya

The starting up of a Land Agency.

The establishment of a Tannery.

Acquisition of Black Wattle (unconfirmed)

Purchase of Blank's Tannery.

The purchase of a very large herd of cows.

Establishing a Dairy etc. in Nairobi.

This list is probably incomplete.

(f) It should be noted that there always appear to be one of this community proceeding to or in Europe.

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To prevent confusion the following extracts, cables, etc., have been grouped under their various heads not chronologically.

Transactions with Europe

Bursell, apparently Baren Blixen's manager at Ngong, wires as follows, Nov. 16. 1915.

"Bursell

Göteborgs Sparbank,  
Gothenburg.

According unfavourable exchange not sending money if avoidable. Hilding wanted here soonest possible. I guarantee passage money if advanced by you. Cable Reply."

The reply is not recorded. Another telegram is as follows (the Friday referred to is Nov. 17th 1916)

"Blixen Darben

to  
Bursell Kikuyu

Accountant arriving Friday. Give him no information. Let him board with you. Tanne and I arriving week later. Prepare Holmberg's house for two guests if free. Get one English speaking boy."

It is not known why a man engaged as accountant should have information withheld.

On Jan. 3rd. 1916, Blixen cables as follows:-

"To Hasselbatch Kristianagade Copenhagen.

Rented land and employed first class manager  
Cable £3000 Standard Bank"

The reply is received on Feb. 20th, 1917, when the Standard Bank Nairobi received a cabled credit for Blixen.

" Pay rupees 44138 (£3000 less cost of exchange) per Countess Frijs Hassel."

Note, the money comes from Countess Frijs, but the enquiry is addressed to Hasselbatch.

Also that "Rodway" says it takes 18 days to get a reply from America - Blixen's cable took 29 days from Denmark.

" Rodway Durban  
to  
Baron Blixen Nairobi.

Cabled America on fifteenth. No reply yet. Am told prepaid messages may now take eighteen days. Will cable you immediately reply received. Missing box received. "

Jan. 6th.

" Blixen  
to  
Knudtzen, Fredriksholms,  
Kanal 16.

Cable balance head office and bank by 1st January. All well. "

Feb. 11th.

" From Knudtzen, Kjoebenhaven  
to  
Blixen Pinecke, Nrb.

Balance head office Kr.22831 and balance bank Kr.136055 00. "

Firm supplying information not mentioned. Time for this cable 36 days.

Feb. 24th. On the day that Blixen receives a message from Brochner at Zansibar. Mombasa Tuesday he wires as follows:-

" Asge Westenholms  
Birkerod, Denmark.

Cable three thousand pounds all well. "

Hamilton also wires in February

Feb. 13th.

" Peabody London  
Fonseca Aratuja Genoa  
Fonseca Aratuja Naples

Make best offer Canadian Wonder Beans cost insurance freight Liverpool London war insurance extra. "

Reply:

" Hamilton Nairobi.

Replying to your telegram offer prompt shipment three thousand tons roseoscos provided sound quality eighteen pounds ton cost insurance freight Genoa war insurance included by commission two per cent telegram.

Feb. 21st.

" From Hasleton Nairobi  
to Axel Bildt (sent Bilat)  
Hofslagaregatan 5, Stockholm.

Cable thousand pounds. Business doing well."

The reply is as follows, but to Hamilton:-

"Letter number one and telegram of twentyfirst February received today (message was passed London on 6th). Before cabling more money require particulars use twentyone thousand pounds and approximate result. "

Of A.R.Bildt, Stockholm, the following is a portion of the information supplied:-

Earlier in the war acted as intermediary between a Leipzig firm with head office in Buenos Aires, since broken off. Is connected with a firm which forward goods through Sweden to Russia. On this account it is suggested that his cables about Swedish products be leniently dealt with. Visited London 4.4.16.

Here, another series of transactions come in, how far they are connected with Blixen and Hamilton it is difficult to say. Ekman is very intimate with Blixen.

Feb. 13.

" From Standard Bank London  
to Derby Nairobi.

Pay rupees 2998 Herbert Kjellberg Pay  
rupees 1437 Nils Fjalsted both per  
Aktiebolaget H. Schultz. "

Feb. 28.

" From Standard Bank Joburg  
to Standard Bank Nairobi.

Zykelutznik fifty pounds credit Herbert  
Kjellberg at Durban Branch. "

March 2.

"From Standard Bank Nairobi  
to Standard Bank Durban.

Pay Herbert Kjellberg fifty pounds  
syorduefbw. "

Nov. 30.

"From Ekman  
to Ekman, Solleften, Sweden.

Please cable Ruiru when going try  
company Kjellberg leaving January  
waiting all well. "

The Kjellberg mentioned above seems to be Herbert Kjellberg now at Durban, possibly on his way back.

NOTE. An "H. Schultz" has been reported to the Censorship as being a member of a firm (The Svenska Emmissions Arsenalgatan 14, Stockholm) who are closely allied with Svenson, Ohlsson & Co. Buenos Aires, and Holmberg Beck & Co., Rio. The Manager of the S.E. is a violent Pro German and would do his best to serve Germany.

There is a considerable amount of information about this firm.

Another "H Schultz" address Wahrendorffs 1, Stockholm of whom it is noted that securities of enemy ownership sent by this man were found in a seized mail.

There is nothing necessarily to identify the H. Schultz in the cables with either of the above beyond their residence in Sweden.

The following is known of a firm

Kjellberg & ~~Sons~~, J.A.

Ostra Hamngatan 19, GOTHENBURG .

Reported to be strongly pro German. Business controlled by Carl August Kjellberg, one time German Consul at Gothenburg.

Kjellberg is influential and is one of the Directors of the Gotebergs Bank.

There is also further information.

Two isolated cables are here noticed:-

March 12. From Hamilton, Nairobi

to Countess Hamilton,

Villagate 22 Stockholm.

"Three letters two postcards thanks. My address now Muthaiga Club Nairobi.Love."

Feb. 26. From Bursell Gothenburg

to Bursell, Box 223 Nairobi.

arriving Capetown Skagern March  
April

Transactions in Land in R.E.A.

The following cables indicate the nature of the transactions though very incompletely:-

- " From Dineson, Koevenhavn,  
to Blixen, Nairobi.  
All well love Thomas still here. "
- " From Bargman, Nairobi (handed in at Msa.)  
to Congonia (Owen Grant,  
Bargman & Co., Uplands Bacon Factory), Nrb.  
.....Morrison has telegram Thomas sailed  
8th February. "
- " From Owen Grant  
to Uplanders, London.  
Private cable advice states Thomas sailed  
please confirm. "

The above cables were dated March 5 & 6. On March 7th.  
two cables arrive:

- " From Knudsen (many spellings of this name)  
Koebenhavn, to Baron Blixen Finecke.  
No answer from Harrison on your and Swogren's telegram of September 27 by which was sent £.9000 stop. Is mortgage on Swedes farm paid off stop. Are title deeds in order stop. Please cable. "
- " From Bildt (Axel---) Stockholm,  
to Count Hamilton, Nairobi.  
Letter number one and telegram 21st Feb.  
received today (message was passed London  
on 6th). Before cabling more money require  
particulars use £21000 and approximate  
result. "

and a reply is sent the following day:

- " From Harrison, Nairobi, to Knudsen,  
Fredericksholms Kanal 16, Copenhagen.  
Yes. Deeds executed by Swede Company registration delayed. Blixens power attorney defective. Send attorney in form sent you. "

It is understood Mr. Morrison acts for General Owen Thomas. When the case was called over the land dispute an adjournment was asked for owing to the difficulties of travel which prevented General Owen Thomas being here.

Translations with South Africa.

These do not appear of great importance but are inserted here to complete.

"Rodway, Durban,  
to Baron Elixen, Nairobi."

Cabled America on fifteenth. No reply yet.  
Am told prepaid messages may now take  
eighteen days. Will cable you immediately  
reply received. Missing box received".

The agency for Dodge cars was then obtained.

"Hamilton, Nairobi, to Rodway, Kynholme,  
Ausgrave Road, Durban.

Agree if supply of motor cars and cycles  
assured. Regards."

Reply, Feb. 21, to Count Hamilton, Nairobi.

Dodge supplies undisturbed but if cabled  
shipments to Nairobi delayed will supply  
cars and motor cycles from bond Durban.  
Readily understand the inadvisability  
purchasing machinery if supplies uncertain  
but indications are otherwise. Regards".

In connection with Rodway it should be stated that a  
car was shipped to Baron Elixen, and £,675 was cabled to  
Rodway through Standard Bank from Hamilton.

There has been another telegram go through referring to  
tractors and ploughs, but no reply has come yet.

Feb. 27th. "From Hamilton, Kikuyu, to Rodway,  
Kynholme, Ausgrave Road, Durban.

Childs parr and Joseph claiming Dodge agency  
starting garage only conditions sole agency  
stop. Buying if any doubt. Regards."

March 1st. "From Rodway, Durban,  
to Count Hamilton, Nairobi".

Dodge official warning being posted Joseph  
to desist using name in any sense whatso-  
ever you alone are sole agent and the agree-  
ment with Dodge is ratified confirmation  
posted you. Thanks for resistance. Tell  
Baron that Hanbury cannot obtain particulars  
until next Friday regards."

March 3rd. "From Rodway, Durban, to Baron Elixen, Nrb.

Cost of plough two engines harrow & van six  
hundred pounds plus expert charges stop King  
suggests he cannot vouch for condition of  
these goods which need trained inspection.  
He is therefore arranging for trained man to  
be Graytown in weeks time he cannot send a  
man earlier. Regards."

NOTE. In these three cables the words "regards" was cut out to observe if there was any change in tone of message.

March 5th. "From Hamilton, Nairobi, to Rodway, Durban.

Wire received thanks when could Wilson and machinery be expected here. Regards".

"Regards" was left in.

March 9th. "From Rodway, Durban, to Count Hamilton, Nairobi.

Wilson and machinery leaving Galka end March. Regards."

March 14th. "From Hamilton, Nairobi, to Rapidity, Nairobi.

Presuming offer net cash accept arrange best".

The following appear to refer to another transaction:-

February 6th. "Blixen to Thompson, Port Elizabeth.

June difficult. Could arrange March April according steamer opportunity."

February 21. "Any time will suit us. Cable arrival".

February 22. "Blixen to Peter Thomson, Port Elizabeth.

Letter received terms agreed but impossible decide anything before you ascertained possibilities business starts January nineteen eighteen".

On February 24th. Brechner wires from Zanzibar:-

"You were advised of this by telegraph".

On which day Blixen telegraphed to Aage (mentioned before).

"Cable three thousand pounds all well".

The following may be a separate affair:-

Nov. 17. "Rees, Nairobi, to Krag, Christiania.

Purchased Kyamba nine pounds ten subject cash payment within two months we pay transfer costs. May we start development right away. All letters between Sept. 4th, Oct. 15th lost steamer Arabia. Copies posted."

Jan. 26th. "Rees called to same address:

Have you placed order Yaras water power machinery telegraph".



The following letters explain some of the Swedes' activities.

Letter. Brochner, P.O.Box 223  
Nairobi. 6.3.17

to  
Heger's Randers, Denmark.

This is to let you know that my profits the first two years went be worth mentioning. This is disappointing. Now Blixen has decided that they are going to plant flax; every-thing looks all right, and I think there is a good future. I expected that about the shares, since the German declaration in regard to submarine warfare. This is annoying. Had I only 20-3000 Kr. I should have started on my own, as I am sure that one can make more money by being on one's own. This is a good country and very little risk. I am now sorry that I didn't give you a free hand, you would then have made a lot of money for me. Baron Hamilton went out today with Blixen, he has bought land and is going to remain for six months. Now is the time to buy land as after the war the value of land will go up tremendously, as I think there will be a lot of English Officers who are now fighting who will settle here after the war.

(Brochner also writes by the same mail to:-

1. Emma Esperson, Copenhagen (Personal)
2. Luise Krabbe Gentoffter, Denmark. (Personal)
3. Miss Rigmor Jensen, Copenhagen.

In No. 3 he writes:- "I am second in command after Director Blixen, we have now obtained 10000 acres of land for coffee, etc.

4. Heger Jun, Panders, Denmark. (Personal)
5. Miss Anna Ala, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
" You must not address me as Lieut. B., all I think about is to pay back the money, I will work hard to do it."

Letter. Count Hamilton, Nairobi. 8.3.17.  
to Axel R. Bildt, Esq.  
Stockholm, Sweden.

I have cancelled 800 tons of six-six out of the 1000 tons which were on order owing to the risk of shipping through the Mediterranean. Out of the £15000 put aside for this only £2000 has been out and £1000 will be paid out on delivery at Mombasa. The balance of this money has been put in the E.A. Loan & Finance Co. at 2% interest per month..... A sum of £2122.10.0 has been paid to different people for the buying of beans, and a further sum of £2500 for native cows. The beans will be supplied to England and then later will be sold by auction.

(continued)

.....Sigona Mill has been bought for £3000.

.....We are agents for Dodge Motor Cars and cycles, and have bought large quantities of machines and motor bicycles for Durban.

.....Flax. Blixen bought 1200, and I 1300 acres for flax at Gilgil for £1 per acre.

.....Nakuru Stores. We have bought a half share in this store for £1900.

Nairobi Board of Executors & Trust Co. Ltd.

Capital £10000 which was started in 1902 by Mr. S.C. Michat, in Nairobi. This business I want to buy as after the war there is certain to be a great demand for land especially from young South Africans. This trust have large tracts of land to dispose of, namely 2300 acres at Njoro, 2500 at West Kenya, and 500000 acres in Portuguese East Africa between Port Amelia and Nyasa, our firm will have a bargain by acquiring this which will eventually give them a fortune, as this trust has only £2500 working capital. I now suggest to float it in further shares, say 2000 at £10 so as to bring the capital up from £10000 to £30000. If we can get this additional capital of £20000 I am then convinced that we have done a good stroke of business.

My intention is to immediately start this Land Agency with a further 150 or 200 shares at £1.

I suggest that you pay in the cash and that English pounds(gold) should be bought and sent out to me.

Black Wattle. I suggest starting a Tannery.

-----

H. Eriksen, Danmarksgade 52, Kristiania.

to B. Rees Esq. Limaru.

Azania. Buy out Blanke's share.

Kisumu Estate. We do not wish to sell.

Muhoroni Land. Will not be bought.

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Paraphrase of telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate.

(Sent, 6.30 p.m. 19th July, 1917.)

-----

19th July.

I have under my consideration report by Commissioner of Police to Colonel Kell of 26th April as to activities of certain Swedes in East Africa Protectorate. In the meantime it is most desirable that you should take any possible steps to prevent the transactions still uncompleted being further proceeded with. Please consult your Attorney General and report what action can in your opinion be taken.

In the case of Federated Malay States I have directed that no area of rubber land, excepting small holdings not exceeding 50 acres for foreign Asiatics shall be granted or allowed to be transferred to a person who is not a British subject. Do you see any objection to the enactment of an Ordinance prohibiting for the period of the war transfer or grant of land in East Africa Protectorate to anyone who is not a British subject?

LONG.

Am. 3. 4. 3. 1

Cam 7. 7. 17

CM

Paraphrase of telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate.

(Sent, 6.30 p.m. 19th July, 1917.)

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LONG.

Amend. 40321

CM 7024/14



*[Handwritten initials]*

Secret  
Confidential

21 July 1817

*[Vertical handwritten note:] 38257*

DRAFT.

The Secretary  
Board of Trade.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Bostomley 18/7/17
- Mr. Butler 18
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Road 18
- Mr. G. Pickles
- Mr. Steel-Maitland
- Mr. Long

I am to request you to  
 info. the Board of Trade that  
 he has under his control  
 certain papers relating to  
 the acquisition or prospective  
 acquisition of land and  
 other property in the E. I. A.  
 by Swedish subjects who  
 are suspected of acting  
 on behalf of enemy allies.  
 He would be glad to be  
 informed what action, if  
 would be taken in this  
 country in a case in which  
 a similar suspicion existed.

2. I am to explain that  
 the laws of the Protectorate  
 does not contemplate  
 a restriction on the

transfer of land in  
any circ<sup>s</sup> except where  
the parties are of different  
races - European, Asiatic,  
or African as the case  
may be, and that, therefore,  
special legislation would  
be necessary <sup>if it were decided to meet the difficulty</sup> ~~to prevent~~ <sup>by prohibiting</sup>  
the transfer of land to  
any person other than a  
British subject. The  
question of making an  
Ord<sup>n</sup> of this kind, for  
the period of the war, is  
under consideration.

2