

E. AFRICA
22190

22190
Rec'd
Dec 30 1917

Colonial
1917
M.D.
1556
M.C.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

28th OCTOBER - 20th JANUARY 1917

Genl. Smuts' despatch re: Cape.

The report of the...
between 2...
and... Africa...

Genl. Smuts
Genl. Buller

Route by

This is General Smuts' third and
last despatch. It gives a connected
account of the operations...
operations which were carried out
during this period and deals more
fully than of...
with the Western operations under

Genl.

Next subsequent Paper.

M.D.
1556

Genl. Buller

25.17
20.17
20.17

the facts) if there is, at present, ten weeks' flour supply in the country and our weekly consumption exceeds our imports by say 25%, these facts, and similar facts regarding *Sugar & Cane* other necessary foodstuffs of which we are short, might be communicated in a cypher telegram to such of the Governors of these Colonies, with whom we previously communicated, as the Ministry may think desirable that we should address further in the matter. *The telegram would also ask* ~~how far it is~~ possible for them to modify their previous statements of their needs. The Secretary of State feels that a few facts of the kind which I have suggested above would bring the situation home to our Colonial Governors far better than telegrams in general terms such as the one sent on the

Downing Street,

Mr. Steel-Maitland's signature29th April, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I have, as you asked in your letter of the 16th instant, looked personally into the matters relating to food stuffs dealt with by Major Leggett, Managing Director of the British East Africa Corporation in his letter to you. The answer to it has been

DRAFT

MINUTE

Mr. Macnaghten 28/4/17

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Long 28

Mr. Lamber

X Mr. Bond

Mr. G. Pidd

X Mr. Steel-Maitland 28/4

Mr. Long.

was the Secretary of the Board of Trade, who has been asked to advise the Government on the question of the importation of food from this country, informing them of the danger of food shortage in the United Kingdom and asking for a statement of the minimum amount of food stuffs required by them from the United Kingdom during the next six months.

The replies have also been sent to the Ministry and you will note from the answer from the East African

On this Circular, coming to my notice, and being well aware that patent groats and patent barley are merely a pleasant luxury in East Africa and Uganda, and that the public there can get along perfectly well on the vast variety of beans and grains grown locally, I instructed the London Office of this Corporation to write Messrs. Colmans to consign none whatever to our East African depots. My co-directors and myself much prefer to forego the trade, and its profits, rather than be parties to export of food ex U.K. to-day.

Perhaps our action may merely increase the quantity of these goods that will now be exported to other Colonies. That will be not within our power to stop.

I do indeed venture the repetition of my previous recommendation that all such exports be drastically put an end to.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) E.M.M. Leggett.

Managing Director.

Handwritten notes on the left margin:
 now
 of the
 the
 beans
 the
 we
 of
 can
 of
 U

varieties especially - on the score that some are necessary, when as a matter of fact a little local effort could meet the need almost as well.

In such countries as British East Africa, Uganda, West Africa, etc. the variety of locally grown foodstuffs is so great that import of any kinds of grains, biscuits, tinned fish, etc etc is really wholly unnecessary, whatever may be said to the contrary.

I should like to give you an instance of how food is necessary and very short in the U.K. may still be going out. I ask you to regard this information as private. My Corporation happen to be the British East Africa and Uganda Agents of Messrs. J. & J. Colman. One of this well-known firms specialities for export is "Robinsons patent groats and patent barley". Under date March 21st Messrs. Colman circularised the head offices of the various firms and companies who represent them in the British Colonies, stating that:-

"The export of these goods (Groats and barley) having been prohibited" they (Messrs. Colman) have received authority of your Department to continue a very limited export to the Colonies etc.

The Circular continues - "It is our (Colman's) intention to consign a certain quantity of these goods to our Agents in the principal British Colonies and Protectorates, instructing them to distribute the same to the best advantage amongst importers".

19747

COPY

REC
SER 17 1947PRIVATE

BRITISH EAST AFRICA CORPORATION, LIMITED.

96 Gresham House.

129

London, E.C. 13.14.17.

Captain Bathurst, M.P.
Ministry of Food.

Dear Sir,

Reverting to some correspondence between us last month when I ventured to suggest that the issue of export permits for foodstuffs from U.K. to the Colonies etc should be stopped, and if possible any issue permits re which the goods had not gone forward should be rescinded in order to keep the necessary foodstuffs at home, I duly received Mr. F.H. Sutton's letter of 8th March, written on your directions, stating, inter alia, that the issue of export permits for shipment to British possessions is being stopped save in those cases where the Colonial Governments state that the items are required.

I venture to urge that rather more drastic action be taken. I have been myself in the Government service abroad for a good many years and am well aware of the very local point of view that is apt to be taken up. Matters which are of convenience only are too often locally assumed to be "indispensable". The smaller the territory, the more effect has the local pressure, both of official and unofficial individuals and traders, upon the local Administration. I hope that I am wrong, but I feel it is certain that the Governments of many Colonies and Protectorates will be apt to ask for foodstuffs - limited

varieties

Telephone—MAYFAIR 6030.

Telegram—FOODMINDER, ADELPHI, LONDON.

MINISTRY OF FOOD,
GROSVENOR HOUSE,

127

W. 1

My reply should be addressed to:
THE SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF FOOD,

Telex No. _____

16th April, 1917.

19747

REC'D
17 APR 17

My dear Arthur,

I should be grateful if you would personally investigate the question which is raised in a private letter from the Manager / Director of the British East Africa Corporation attached a copy of which I enclose.

I need hardly tell you that the food position is now serious and that an unnecessary export of foodstuffs (especially those made of flour of any description) is greatly to be deprecated.

Yours ever,

Stanley Maitland, Esq., M.P.
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
S.W. 1.

Charles B. Thurston

Since Adams would bring the ^{inquiries} ~~part~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~sent~~
 given far better than a hundred telegrams in
 general terms, such as that of the 2nd of Feb'y.
 If we were able to send a general telegram
 of this sort, there would be no harm in making a
 special inquiry regarding "great political parties"
 in the case of the E. A. P.

J. T. C. W.
 26. 4. 17

I think it would be well to
 write generally as Mr Macraighter
 suggests. whatever is done, we must
 not quote Major Leppitt to the E. A. P.
 authorities.

J. T. C. W.
 26. 4. 17
 J. T. C. W.
 26/15/17

Mr Long
 I should ~~like~~ ~~to~~ ~~see~~ ~~the~~ ~~we~~
 Mr Macraighter suggests
 As to 27. 4

I am however
 many people
 as well as
 do not understand
 of situation
 Present as well
 both
 27. 11. 17

was a danger of a food shortage in the UK
(see 6338/72). I gather that the danger has now
become a reality.

I agree that we can't question your ~~own~~ report on
the strength of informal representations based on the
views of responsible gentlemen - though
Major Leggett is quite a good & shrewd fellow, &
apparently is acting against his firm's pecuniary
interests in writing this letter.

But ~~we~~ would it not be well ^{much as Mr. Galt suggests,} in answering
Captain Galt's letter to say that if the Ministry of Food
considers that the interests of the UK demand that
Col. Galt should be urged to consider the possibility
of further reducing their demands more especially
in connection with cereals, sugar & any other
produce of which the shortage is especially acute
it would be advisable for them to write to us
officially, & ask us to inform the (Col. of the
real facts: thus e.g. (I don't know the facts) if
there are at present ten weeks' flour supply & we
are consuming ~~ten~~ each week 2 1/2 c.
more than we are importing, we should state these
facts in a cryptic telegram to such (Col. as they wish
us to telegraph to) a few facts - which are probably
well known to the General as they are our

At 8. The
which are
listed in
copy of stocks
and grain
of 2/3

all the replies
have a return
and should