

EAST AFR. PROT.

UGANDA

25426

25426

Recd
Per: 7MA 17

Office Trade Mission
of London

1917

16 May

Last previous Paper.

Shipment of Coffee to U.K.

Asks if to receive a deputation on
subject of present restrictions

25426

2 papers

Also 25421

Mr. Byler, Dept. Mr. G. Fuller.

I attach a type written note on
the coffee restrictions. We are quite
aware that they are likely to involve
the ruin of a good many of our planters,
but it is the old question - if every
colony asks for exceptional treatment
for its staple products, what
becomes of shipping control?

To Private Secretary, to ascertain
whether the S. of S. is prepared to
receive a deputation. G.C.S.

Ans. 30 May 17
As to Office Trade Mission. Cms - 1 June 17
Copy BT Cms Quarterly 17/20/17
Copy Mr. Shipping Cms 11 July 17
33087

Last previous Paper.

25405

I think it would be a good thing

to let them come & put their case
even if the answer has to be a
sympathetic negative

John

10 5 17

11.28.

19/5/17

See also 25221 & 25905

Ed 21.5

Mr. Long.

1 year.

It seems a pity if in this or possibly
some other similar case (? Myra and others)
promising development shows for a bid set back
for the want of a little financing for
one year. Of course the degree of danger of a
set back and the amount of financing
would need enquiry. None the less one
has to be the difficulty of knowing where
such a policy would end if one sanctioned
and began.

I have spoken to Lady Piddie on
the subject and will go into it as
soon as I get back next week. I
am not very surprised as to the
practicability but the matter is worth
looking into carefully.

A.S.M. 22.5.

P.S. I had a word from [unclear] from
his department just what the difficulties
of the coffee plan are, & how they etc
act, without committing ourselves or
raising expectations.

The [unclear] matter
should be put
if possible
into this case
with
23.4.17

to let them come & put their case
even if the answer has to be a
sympathetic negative

John

18 5 17

A. J. R.

19/5/17

See also 25220 & 25905

Ed

24.5

A. J. R.

I agree.

It seems a pity if in this & possibly
some other similar cases (? Nyaland station)
promising development should get a bad set-back
for the want of a little financing for
one year. Of course the degree of danger of a
set-back and the amount of financing
would need enquiry. From the other side
too is the difficulty of knowing where
such a policy would end if once sanctioned
and begun.

I have spoken to Lady Piddie on
the subject and will go into it as
soon as I get back next week. I
am not very sanguine as to the
practicability but the matter is worth
looking into carefully.

A. J. R. 22.5.

P.S. It had to be worth finding out from
his deputation just what the difficulties
of the coffee planters are, & how they sit
out, without committing ourselves or
raising expectations.

The Standard
should be put
if possible
into this case
Ed
23.5.17

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORT OF COFFEE FROM EAST AFRICA
AND UGANDA.

(on Feb 23rd) When coffee was first put on the prohibited list it was feared that the prohibition would be total. On March the 5th the President of the Board of Trade stated in the House of Commons that "This question is receiving careful consideration but I am afraid that in present circumstances I am not in a position to make any special concession". This answer was quoted in our replies to our correspondents at that time.

Subsequently the Board of Trade told us that they would find some difficulty in admitting coffee from East Africa in view of the decision to exclude coffee from all sources but that goods in transit to the consignees in this country before the date of the prohibition or paid for in full by such consignees before such date will be admitted.

On April 28th the Board agreed that coffee which was already en route to the port of shipment at the date of the prohibition should be treated as in transit. (This presumably covers coffee waiting at the port at that date). A maximum of 1,500 tons was laid down for the amount which might be shipped under this concession.

Apart from these special points, the Board appear to have decided to issue import licences for half the quantity declared by a company to have been imported by them direct in 1916. We have asked the Board whether they have considered the hardship of this arrangement to new companies, whose yield is rapidly growing

growing or who were unable to export last year owing to shipping difficulties.

In some cases it appears that the concessions as to (1) coffee in transit and (2) a 50% limit are inconsistent, as more coffee was awaiting shipping at the date of prohibition than was admissible under the 50% rule.

There can be no doubt that the coffee industry is of great importance to both Protectorates, and it will be gathered from the above that its future importance is likely to be greater than any statistics of past exports would indicate. The industry is rapidly growing and the obstacle of coffee leaf disease has been successfully surmounted, so that planters who have been struggling for many years might now have looked forward to prosperity.

Departmentally, we should only be too glad if this coffee could be admitted, but we have felt, bound, under present conditions of shipping, ^{ourselves} not to press the interests of the Protectorates.

The total export of coffee from the East Africa Protectorate in 1914-1915 was 30,099 cwt., valued at £68,396. Of this 7,784 cwt. (£21,738) was the produce of the Protectorate and 21,101 cwt. (£41,005) came from Uganda. Of the whole 30,099 cwt., 25,407 cwt. was sent to the United Kingdom, so that there can be hardly any possibility of finding fresh markets, *to replace the home market*

growing or who were unable to export last year owing to shipping difficulties.

13481

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35421

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23481

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Departmentally, we should ^{only} be too glad if this coffee could be admitted, but we have ^{ourselves} felt bound, under present conditions of shipping, not to press the interests of the Protectorates.

The total export of coffee from the East Africa Protectorate in 1914-1915 was 30099 cwt., valued at £68,326. Of this 7,784 cwt. (£21,738) was the produce of the Protectorate and 21,101 cwt. (£41,005) came from Uganda. Of the whole 30,099 cwt., 22,407 cwt. was sent to the United Kingdom, so that there can be hardly any possibility of finding fresh markets *to replace the home market*

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23481

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Departmentally, we should only be too glad if this coffee could be admitted, but we have felt, bound, under present conditions of shipping, not to press the interests of the Protectorates.

The total export of coffee from the East Africa Protectorate in 1914-1915 was 30099 cwt., valued at £88,328. Of this 7,784 cwt. (£21,738) was the produce of the Protectorate and 21,101 cwt. (£41,005) came from Uganda. Of the whole 30,099 cwt., 24,407 cwt. was sent to the United Kingdom, so that there can be hardly any possibility of finding fresh markets *to replace the home market*

It is very desirable to distinguish as accurately as possible between the cases of the various industries. Otherwise we shall be let in for a very far-reaching scheme of financial assistance.

The coffee-growing industry ^{can} be separated from all the others in that it is directly hit by the prohibition to import into the United Kingdom. If it is impossible to secure any relaxation ~~of~~ that prohibition, (and this would of course be for us the easiest and most direct way out of the difficulty), the Secretary of State might well consider how the industry is affected and what assistance can be given. It would appear that there is no absolute bar, as the coffee-growing companies are being permitted to import a half of their output of 1916. They have also been allowed to import any coffee actually in transit at the date of the prohibition. The Board of Trade appear to be ready to give special consideration to new concerns, which ^{would} ~~will~~ be very badly hit, ^{as inferred with their other competitors} if their export were restricted to half of their negligible output of 1916. The Nairobi Coffee Plantations and Produce Company, for instance, are to be allowed

allowed to import 25 tons this year, although their exports were only 5 tons last year.

It will be desirable to get from the deputation when it comes precise details of the hardship to which the companies will be put, both its nature and its extent in terms of cash, and definite suggestions for overcoming the difficulty. As the total value of the coffee exported from East Africa and Uganda in 1914-15 was just short of £10,000, the financial assistance required should not be very considerable. It will be very desirable, if it is eventually decided to help, that the assistance should be given by the Governments of the Protectorates and not by His Majesty's Government. The grant of any such assistance by His Majesty's Government would involve endless discussion of applications from other quarters of the world and from other industries. We must avoid this if anything is to be done.

Practically all other industries are hit by the lack of shipping facilities. The only direct appeal we have had for assistance on this ground is from the British

Cotton

Cotton Growing Association in regard to the cotton crop in Nyasaland. They have not asked for any assistance in dealing with the Uganda crop. Cotton can be distinguished from other commodities, in that Government assistance of various kinds has already been given to the fostering of the industry, and the natives have been largely prevailed upon by Government advice to embark on the growing of this crop. A case can therefore be made out for Government assistance in dealing over the present emergency, (i.e. in helping the purchase and storage of the crop until shipping is available), without committing the Government to giving similar assistance to other industries for which the Government has not in the past accepted any direct responsibility. It is most desirable to observe this line of division very scrupulously if we do not wish to embark on an endless discussion of a general scheme for helping out industries affected by the shortage of ships.

~~Handwritten signature~~

THE COFFEE TRADE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

CHAIRMAN:
ANDREW DEVITT, Esq.
6, MINING LANE.

LONDON, 16th May.

1917.

HON. SECRETARY:
ALEX. J. PARNELL,
21, MIDGHS LANE.

The Rt. Hon. Walter Long, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall. S.W.1.

25423
REC'D
MAY 17 1917

Sir,

I am directed by my Committee to ask if you will kindly receive a small deputation from us, together with a representative of the Standard Bank of South Africa in connection with the import restrictions which have been placed upon Coffee in East Africa and Uganda. This Association is very anxious to obtain your sympathetic consideration on certain points, especially in view of the fact that the financial aspect of the situation in regard to these British Possessions, has recently become very serious. My Committee feels convinced that a personal interview would very materially assist the present position, and hopes that you will see your way to name a day which would be convenient for the deputation to wait upon you.

In anticipation of your courtesy in this matter, I beg to enumerate the following points for the favour of your consideration.

- (1) East Africa and Uganda are British Possessions, the development of which is due to the making of the Uganda Railway by the Government.

THE COFFEE TRADE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

CHAIRMAN:
ANDREW DEVITT, ESQ.
6, MURDOCH LANE.

MDA SECRETARY:
ALEX. J. PARNELL
25, MURDOCH LANE.

LONDON, 18th May, 1917.

1017.

5426
REC'D
MAY 17 1917

- (2) The Cultivation of Coffee is the most important industry in Uganda, and one of the most important in British East Africa. The former has 15,000 acres and the latter has 12,500 acres actually planted.
- (3) The Estates are now just coming into bearing and the industry has now reached its most critical stage.
- (4) The development of the Estates has been a very severe strain, most of the Planters are men of small means, and though the Banks have helped very much, the strain during this war time has been so great, that it has come very near the breaking point.
- (5) So long as shipments, (though very much delayed, being now fully 11 months behind) can be made, there is a possibility of pulling through, but if these are prohibited it means absolute breakdown, and the promising Virgin Industry will be practically ruined.
- (8) A great deal of this Coffee would have been shipped in due course but for the Government having commandeered the Railway for war purposes.

The deputation would consist of Messrs. J.K. Gilliat, F.L. Ryall Grant, A.S. Booth, Pringle, of the Standard Bank of South Africa, (who have practically financed the whole industry), and myself, the secretary.

Trusting to receive a favourable reply.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Alex. Parnell

Dowling Street,

30 May, 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th May and to inform you that he will be glad to give the most careful consideration to the representations made by the Coffee Trade Association of London as to the import of coffee from East Africa and Uganda into the United Kingdom.

2. Mr. Long regrets that it is impossible for him to receive a deputation himself, but he has asked Mr. Steel-Maitland, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, to do so on his behalf. Mr. Steel-Maitland is unfortunately away from London for a few days, but he hopes shortly to suggest a ^{day} date in the week beginning the 4th of June for the reception of the deputation.

I am etc.,

DRAFT.

HONORARY SECRETARY,
THE COFFEE TRADE ASSOCIATION
OF LONDON.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler 25 5 17
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. Grindley
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Read
- Mr. G. Fiddes
- Mr. Steel-Maitland
- Mr. Long

These papers to me after deputation

2 drafts on 25421 and one on 26145

1 June 1917

DRAFT.

22187

Honorary Secretary
Coffee Trade
Association of London

MINUTE.

- Mr. Baker 16/7
- Mr. f.s.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grandie.
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

You will refer to
the letter from this office
of the 30th of May, that
Mr. Steel-Maitland
will be pleased to receive
the representation proposed
at the Colonial Office
at 3.0 p.m. on Wednesday
next,

was some after
despatch
H.B.

rest, the 6th of June

I am to request

that you will supply

in advance a list

of the members of

the deputation

~~_____~~
(Signed) G. CROSOLE

Dear Mr. Tolson

I am to request
that you will supply
in advance a list

of the members of
the department

~~_____~~

(Signed) G. CRISTOLE

next, the 5th of June

I am to request

that you will supply

in advance a list

of the members of

the deputation

~~_____~~
1810 and B. C.