

EAST AFR. PROT

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## Masin-Gishu Railways

1919

May

previous Paper

Encloses letter from Mr. A. O. Ortepp  
 Urging construction should be proceeded  
 with at once to develop inland country.

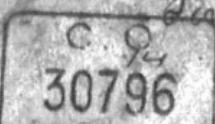
See on G/45687. Mr. Ortepp was  
 originally a licensed manager of the Sheldes  
 for a considerable S. African client  
 of moderate means.

Ortepp

Subsequent Paper

33127

56 Elizabeth St.  
Bloemfontein  
South Africa



335

Sir

In the East African Protectorate Great  
Britain possesses a colony, which, with  
proper development, could produce an un-  
too amount of raw material. Sir  
Frederick J. Gerard realized this as no othe-  
r man before him had done, and was  
the way to achieving great things  
in this connection, when unfortunately  
he had to resign, because the more  
conservative and retrogressive counsels of the  
ministers prevailed with Downing  
Street. The construction were rigor-  
ously stopped to connect the  
district by rail to the Port of Durban  
and in the near future but  
the arrival of the Aus-  
tralian troops. The British  
Government had been  
unable to the construction of the line  
finished, when the war broke out and

It is reported that it has been proposed  
to do this, which is a great pity.  
If this were completed right up  
to Uganda or Lake Victoria (via Edward), it would  
only tap the rich cotton lands of  
Southern Nilotia in Uganda, but would be  
means of developing the extensive sisal  
and tea lands of the Kagera, Sisal & Trans-  
Nyanza districts tremendously.

336

Although this communication is from  
an unknown source, it would be worth  
while to look into this matter, from  
which I have no doubt, the British  
textile trade will materially benefit.

I have the honor to be Sir  
Your Obedient servant.

Albert Lepp

N.B. The present Lord Kitchener can tell  
you a lot about the above.

Sir A. Steel-Maitland  
Board of Trade  
London.

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

73, BASINGHALL STREET,  
E.C.2.

*Stock*  
*Fwd by* R  
May 19th 1919.

Dear Private Secretary,

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland has asked me to send you the enclosed letter in regard to the development of British East Africa.

Yours very truly,

*Wm Hule*

The Private Secretary to:  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.