

EAST AFR. PROT.
AUSTRALIA

5645

5645
RECEIVED
JAN 19

233

Magazine

1919
24 Jan.
Previous Paper.
3810

Soda monopoly in Australia

States further as to proposals of Australian Govt.
Points out disadvantages to E.A.P. & also to
Consumers in Australia should preferential tariffs
prevent the free import of E.A.P. Soda into Australia

Copy (with copy 3810) to Sir E. G. G. 29 Jan 19
copy of copy above & mail copy 3810 to Mr. Hughes. 7 Feb 19

See to [unclear] in (Add.)

I had back 3810 for the [unclear]
as a copy of the [unclear] Soda
Co called on the [unclear] rates
as to make no communication to
the [unclear] Govt regarding the
receipt of a further letter from
them - but answer

? Send copies of both letters to
Mr. Hughes & ask what he says
Can return

MS 27 19
12 28/19

Subsequent Paper
11521

It is hardly necessary to
L.H. Hughes

send this to the C.S. with a

brief explanation of your connection
with the brigade's membership.

And since you are now
privately

at home Oct. 20/11

It is entirely your own work &
L.H. Hughes

Send them to the C.S. with a
long explanation of your connection
with the "Kegon" undertaking.

And after you see L.H. Hughes
privately.

St. Louis Mo. 20/11

THE MAGADI SODA COMPANY, LIMITED.

M. SAMUEL & CO. MANAGERS

234

GRAMS 'SODAGADI, LONDON'
PHONE LONDON WALL 1883

Shell House
24th Bishopsgate
London (2) 24th Jan: 1919

COMMUNICATIONS
ADDRESSED TO
THE COMPANY

W.L.S

5045

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
SOUTHAMPTON STREET,
W.C. (A).

Sir,

With further reference to our letter to you of the 18th January, in which we stated that it had been brought to our notice that the Government of Australia was contemplating a monopoly in connection with the manufacture of soda and soda products throughout Australia and placing such monopoly in the hands of Messrs. Brunner Mond & Company, Limited, we are glad to hear that you are of the opinion as follows:-

... a copy of a cutting ... which was sent to me by your agent ... of Sydney, under date of the ... from which it appears that a Committee of the Council of the Commonwealth interested in the Alkali industry in Australia invited a representative of Messrs. Brunner Mond & Company, Ltd., to survey the resources of the Commonwealth in connection with the production of soda ash.

In the second place Messrs. Dalgety & Company Ltd. write that the matter will be of interest to us as Messrs. Brunner Mond & Company would undoubtedly press for a fairly heavy duty on soda ash manufacture should they be successful in establishing the works in Victoria.

My partners desire respectfully to submit to you, and would be very glad you to submit to the Administration concerned that, in view of their intentions in the near future to export Soda, Soda Ash and Soda products to Australia in quan-

The Soda Reserves of Soda for the Colonies:

titles that will, eventually, be only limited by the demand and freight facilities, it would be to the disadvantage on the one hand of the Protectorate, which receives an export duty of 2/- per ton, and, on the other hand, ^{of} Australian consumers, should preferential tariffs prevent the free import on a competitive basis of the material they require.

It seems likely that the Australian Administration must, on the one hand, be unaware that it would be necessary to import raw material for manufacture into Soda (Alkali) and Soda products, and, on the other hand, that there are vast quantities of Natural Soda so much closer at hand in the East Africa Protectorate.

As you are aware, the Magadi Soda Deposit is apparently inexhaustible, and has a practical working surface of 44 square miles and is of unknown depth. Should the Administration concerned desire to have full information as to the practical potentialities of the above Deposit my Directors will be only too glad to place all information at their disposal.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. J. Fox
Secretary.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

60
5645

EXTRACT FROM "SUNNY MORNING HERALD" - 16.11.19.

191

296

"A NEW INDUSTRY"

"Investigations are now being made into the prospects of the Alkali industry in Australia. Early this year large consumers of Alkali, urged thereto by the shortage of these commodities, formed a committee with chemical and metallurgical manufacturers for the purpose of securing the establishment of the industry in Australia. Such an industry it was recognized would be a key industry, just as the manufacture of iron and the making of sulphuric acid are key industries. At the invitation of the committee, a representative of Brunner Mond & Company, Ltd., was despatched here, and a survey of the resources of the Commonwealth was undertaken. The natural resources to serve as a commercial basis for the industry are peculiar, and, according to a correspondent of the "Age", the survey reveals that Australia is comparatively poorly endowed in this regard. The national importance of the matter, however, is compelling attention to the utilization of such resources as we possess to satisfy the essential conditions for the establishment of the alkali industry. At the present stage, however, nothing definite has been decided upon, and investigations in two States are still in progress, and in two other States have barely been completed. A decision will not be reached until the reports from all the States have been considered and presented to the committee's advisers in England."

.....

*These
for G's file*

DRAFT.

Small

Downing Street,

January, 1919.
1.7.19.

The Right Hon.
W.M. Hughes, Esq.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Bottomley, 28-1-19
- Mr. Butler 28
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. Lambert 28
- Mr. H. Read.
- Mr. G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Hewins.
- Mr. Long

~~Sir,~~
~~I think that you~~
~~am etc. to transmit to~~
~~me like the two Enclosures~~
~~you, for your information, the~~
~~copy of two letters from the~~
~~accompanying copy of a despatch~~
~~from the Soda Company, Ltd,~~
~~with its enclosures, which has been~~
~~sent to the Gov. Gen. of Australia~~
~~regarding the position in the~~
~~Commonwealth of the business of the~~
~~Mogadi Soda Company, Limited. Etc.~~

~~I am, etc.,~~
~~but a copy of a despatch~~
~~which I have sent to the~~
~~General on the subject~~

A. Wallace

C. of Aust.
(herewith)

M. N. 5015/E.A.P.
Australia.

299

DRAFT

Downing Street,
31 January, 1919.

MAGADI SODA COMPANY, LTD.

SIR,

MINUTE

Bottomley, 25/1/19
P. A. Gibson

I am etc. to acknowledge
the receipt of your letters of the
17th and 24th of January on the
subject of the interests in
Australia of the business of the
Magadi Soda Company, and to inform
you that he is in communication
with the Gov. Gen. of Aust. on the
subject. The Prime Minister of
the Commonwealth has also been
informed of the position.

I am, etc.,

[Handwritten signature]

- Mr. C. G. Fiddis
- Mr. H. Read
- Mr. G. Fiddis
- Mr. Hewins
- Mr. Long

987

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

to be done
to the copy
M

drafts.