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Foreign Office

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Next previous Paper

Claim of Messrs L. Mercur

A letter from the receipt of certain bags of Cinnamon Nutmeg for trade had been shipped & subsequently sold at Bombay in Dec last. Some note from Messrs Mercur, & asks that inquiry be made.

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H. J. R.

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In any further communication
on the subject, please quote

No. 32311/15

FOREIGN OFFICE 145

March 26. 1915

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Swiss Minister relative to a claim for indemnity made by Messrs. L. Merian, a Swiss firm, in respect of certain bags of cinnamon destined for Basle but unshipped and subsequently sold at Mombasa in December last,

Sir E. Grey would be glad if the Secretary of State for the Colonies would cause enquiry to be made into the matter and the result to be communicated to him.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

W. B. Angley

Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office.

MAR 15

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The Swiss Minister presents his compliments to His Excellency The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour, by request of his Government, to bring the following matter to His knowledge:-

The Swiss firm, L. Merian, of Basle (7 Jurastrasse) and Mahé (British Seychelles) state that they have shipped on July 19th 1914 per S.S. "Pundua" of the British India Steam Navigation Company, 509 bags of cinnamon find from Mahé to Mombasa (British East Africa). The goods were destined to Messrs Bohny & Co. Ltd., of Basle and were to reach that town via Hamburg or via Rotterdam after having been transferred at Mombasa to a steamer of the German East Africa Line. As, however, this transfer had become impossible in consequence of the war, they were left at Mombasa and, in spite of the endeavours of Mr. Merian, who had asked Messrs Frigerio & Co., at Mombasa to make out a bill of lading for Genoa and to his order, sold by auction on December 19th or 20th at the price of 1800 rupees, while his outlay for this consign-

ment amounts to more than double that sum.

As the firm L. Merian now thinks to be entitled to claim an indemnity from the British Government for the loss caused to them through the sale of their goods, Monsieur Carlin would feel extremely obliged to Sir Edward Grey, if he would kindly transmit the present statement to the competent British Authorities in order that an enquiry should be made and the Swiss Minister be informed in due course of the consideration which could possibly be given to the above claim.

Swiss Legation,

March 18th, 1915.