

403

EAST AFRICA

325

22517

20 AUG 15

Forwarded

1915

FIRM OF MAX KAHN

Tr. copy of letter from the Home Office respecting relation of firm with that of Messrs Routledge, Mortimore & Coy.

Dr Davis
Le Richey
S. G. Steele

To Doctor Hartmann & Co. Please see
 Dr. 20/87 & f.o.p. is made below.

From the absence of reference to
 correspondence I suppose D.O have
 not been about looking up their
 papers.

I sub. & ask to be furnished with
 a copy of this reply to H.O. Date 1/10.
 suggestion that the African towns
 should be closed, refer to previous
 concept.

[But the P.D. letter is so old that we
 might apply partly]. Yes.

W. Phillips and Lee
 Company Nigeria 2/1/15
 Jan 1/15 MA. 2/1/15 become P.M. 2/1/15

Next subsequent Paper

20/87
24/87
26/87See later
present20/87
22/87
24/8720/87
22/87
24/87

401

For further communication
on this subject, please quote

103708/1925

Ministry of State
Foreign Office
London

3517
ER 20 AUG 15

The Union Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies
and, by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned
paper

Foreign Office

✓ 9th Aug., 1925.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to
from Foreign Office;

Description of Inclosure

Name and Date.

Subject

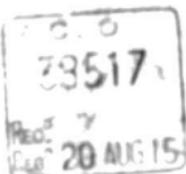
Home Office

✓ Max Klein

July 27

Similar letter sent to India Office

316/4.
102
HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL.



27th July, 1915.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter 72040 of June 14th, regarding the firm of Max Klein, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to forward, herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir Edward Grey, a copy of a report by the Head Constable, Liverpool, from which it appears that the firm of Boutcher, Mortimore and Company have been acting for Klein.

In an interview with an officer of this Department, Mr. Shaw, a member of the firm mentioned stated that their firm have been agents for Messrs. Klein for eight years and that he has personal knowledge of Klein and a high opinion of him. Finding, however, that Klein was experiencing difficulties with regard to his cables, Messrs. Boutcher, Mortimore & Company, offered to act on his behalf and cables in Klein's interests and signed by Boutcher, Mortimore & Company, have been despatched. As Boutcher, Mortimore & Company, had made no enquiries into the reason for the stoppage of Klein's cables and under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,

the substituting of their name may have caused evasion of the censorship, their action must be regarded as reprehensible and they have been so informed.

Mr. Shaw stated that the sequestration of Klein's establishment at Marseilles has been removed since the 15th July and Sir John Simon will be glad to know whether this statement is correct, and at the same time he would suggest that if it is desired to stop Klein's trade, this could best effectively be done by closing the African houses, ~~courses~~ which might be suggested to the Colonial Office by Sir Edward Grey thinks it desirable.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), E. Blackwell.

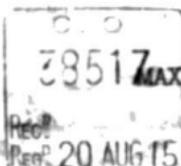
Special Section, C.I.D.

404

The Inspector.

5 7 15.

The Supt.



JAX KLEIN - BARCELONA - Late

of MARSEILLES.

I beg to report having interviewed the Managing Director of Messrs John C. Gale & Company Limited, respecting the letter addressed to the Foreign Office, but he was unable to furnish me with any further details than those contained therein.

I thereupon made enquiries and ascertained that the Steamships "Telmo", "Maria", and "Florinda" were owned by the Serra & Tintore S.S. Company Limited, and that the Liverpool agents were Messrs W.L. Nickels, Sons & Company, of Old Castle Buildings, Pressons Row.

Mr. W.L. Nickels informed me that the whole of the hides shipped on the S.S. "Telmo" were sent by Messrs. Langstaff, Ehrenberg & Pollak, Steamship & Forwarding Agents Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, who informed me that they received instructions to ship them from Gustav Wihl, 68, Major Street, Manchester, a naturalised British Subject of German origin, who had purchased them from John Ockleston & Son, Limited, Runcorn, and was shipping them to Mr. Jaime Rafois, Calle Dormitorio Francisco (5), Barcelona, under License No. 63340.

Regarding

Regarding the shipment per the S.S. "Maria", the first four lots were shipped by Messrs Thompson, Anderson & Company, on a through Bill of Lading, having arrived from Rangoon on the 23rd February, 1915, per the S.S. "Tenasserim", the first two lots marked J.D.P.C. being for Messrs T.J. & L. Powell, 24, Margaret Street, London, and the remaining two, marked P.N.S. for the South Pacific Insurance Company of London, both of which firms could doubtless give further information on the subject if required.

The next four lots marked M.K.M., M.R.M., M.K.T., and M.K.C., were shipped by Messrs Bouthcher, Mortimore & Company, Liverpool, whose relations with Mr. Max Klein will be dealt with later on, and the remaining lots in that vessel, P.L.A., R.C.M., C.R.D., and L.A.N. were shipped by Messrs Langstaff, Ehreberg & Pollak under exactly similar circumstances, to the same people, and by the same people, as the shipment per S.S. "Talma" per licence No. 63336.

All the hides shipped in the S.S. "Florinda" were shipped by Messrs Bouthcher, Mortimore & Company, of Tower Buildings, Liverpool, and 9, Leather Market, London, consigned to the purchaser, Mr. Juan Perpina,

Barcelona, the documents, against the receipt of which
Perpina pays, being sent to Klein, the same procedure
being adopted with the hides referred to above per
S.S. "Maria".

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The firm of Boutcher, Mortimore & Company, con-
sists of three partners, viz:- Mr. H.W. Mortimore
and Mr. E.A. Mortimore, resident in London, and
Mr. W.S. Shaw, resident at 8, Rose Mount, Orton, the
latter being in charge of the Liverpool Office.

They are all British born subjects.

The firm of Max Klein consists of Mr. Max Klein,
a naturalized American of German origin, and his
brother-in-law Mr. Julius Auerbacher, a naturalized
British Subject in Cape Colony in 1898, also of German
origin.

The Head Office was in Marseilles, and they also
had establishments at Aden, Abyssinia, Mombasa and
Nigeria, but soon after the outbreak of war, (accord-
ing to Mr. W.S. Shaw, who at once volunteered all infor-
mation in his power, and handed me all his correspon-
dence with Klein), on the advice of friends they left Mar-
seilles on account of their German origin, and set-
tled in Barcelona. Having acted as Klein's agent for

sale

sale of hides for some 8 years, Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company, offered their services to Klein in regard to any part of their (Klein's) business; and another cables to their agencies were either delayed or miscarried. Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company, are now receiving all remittances from Klein's branch.

All the hides and skins from Klein's branch in Nigeria comes to Liverpool consigned to Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company and they deal with them here and tranship them &c., and in order to facilitate matters, and at a time when Mr. Klein felt inclined to discontinue operations in Nigeria in view of all his difficulties, they offered to undertake to arrange all the credits with the British Bank of West Africa through whom the financing is done, and for these services Klein offered Boucher, Mortimore & Company a sum easily amounting to any profit on the business, instead of their working, as they had done heretofore, simply as agents on commission.

I attach herewith a file of letters that have been selected from the huge quantity of correspondence passed between Boucher, Mortimore & Company and Klein

since

since the commencement of the war, and which seems to deal with the situation and the difficulties that Klein has undergone during that period, but there does not seem to be anything contained therein which would indicate anything in the nature of doubtful trading.

408°
Messrs. Routcher, Mortimore & Company is an old established and well respected firm in the City.

(Signed). J. McCoy.

Inspector.

Submitted to the A.H.C. C.I.D.

(Signed). B. Dinkworth.

Bupt.

F.O. 38577/1915.

E.A.P.

Sr 25 August, 1915

Draft

Aug. 25/1915

The U.S. govt

F.O.

F.O. 24/8/1915 -

Bottomley, 24.8.5 fm.

Aug. —

No. 103908/1915, and

to request ^{to inform} that the

see Sir Edward

they ~~are no objection~~
that he would apply to
be ~~may~~ be furnished

with a copy of
the reply returned
to the Home Office
letter of the 27th of

P.T.O.