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The Abyssmean Monya's Abyssmia Sudan Frontier Trans-Frontier Trade.				
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OOL OFFICE

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to his lunde testing of State DV and, by direction of the Secretary of State, he Colone transmits herewith cop as of the under-mentioned paper

Foreign Office. Amery 11 " , 1987

Reference to previous correspondence

1880 to 32889 | 1889 | 1 Spele Se 38 19800 of Enclosure. Na1 18965 | 181 Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Bubject.

m Begeletniálcit State before. 4185 of Rente

The proposal made by the sinister for Poreign
Affeirs at the end of Angest with regard to the development of trade between Sthiopia and Jonys has Postived the
expectal excellention of the Jonys enthosities. Although
the actual amount of Sthiopian probace which would be
consumed in Jonys would be probably be emil and would
be confined to grain and eaffer the possibilities of
developing transit trade are by no means insignificant.
Just transit trade would find its outlet on the count
ofther from lasts or also from Madeins; in the inter case
goes would be seen by rail from Sampaki.

In either of the above occur the question of read townsport ld of primary consideration. Negate is connect both with Loss and Suspekt by day weather reads, 561 and 400 miles in length respectively. There is already a certain amount of conserval, noter technopart on both of these made and an Unit journey south word the validate are usually unlades. Such validate would probably suffice at First for the trumpert of available connectities from stategie. Then trude is developed the longs deverment would doubtless find it would that while to increase expenditure on whichever of the reates we found to be the more used and it is to be hoped that as a consequence of this the reates which are at present heavy would be able to be reduced. The present charges are approximately one shilling and two cents per ten mile.

is regards tertiffs the provisions of the International Convention reporting the Congo Innin algori It impossible for any specially formatic terms to be granted to miningino produce. If, on the other hand, the miningino methodities were to grant any special filesh facilities it might be possible to make a general reduction in charges lovied on greek in transit through Joseph to or from Miningia. This quarties would, however, only to dealer amountables with the decembers of ligarie and languagine.

addis state, regular to 1800. Shart from Smallend Subliques School & Substantial Substantial Bearet despatch from Commissioner, Somaliland Protectorate, dated 27th July, 1933.

There is a sailway that runs from Nogadiscio to Lugh, which it is thought has been built with the idea of encouraging the Abyseinian to export his trade through Lugh and Mogadiscio as opposed to Moyale and Nogadisc. This is merely conjecture.

(Possibly the Consul at Mega might know something of the value of this railway, and whether the conjecture is correct).

They intend to continue the construction next year up the Juba valley, across Bouthern Abyssinis and eventually to join up with Eritrea. This, the Italians say, was agreed to by the British Minister in the Teans Agreement - it is not quite clear who is seant by the British Minister.

In any firsther communication on this mid-just, planes of St. Tryots   St.   I. and abdress not in any jures of mans, but to the Control Secretary of State, I Secretary of Complements to the Lands.	C. O. REGY.  Case for Foreign Affairs presents his  Shorting of State & a.
Foreign Office, 12 Taly . 1959	by direction of the Bocretary of State, the under-mentioned paper.
- U	Banaful, f as rang, reas No5 plion of Buckerure.  Subject.
This is it. Papersu. Allie. Christia Chada. 16 HS. 18 Sept., 1988.	<b>v</b> - o

Similar letter sent to 10 o'T.

British Legation, Addis Ababa.

Bo. 85 (17/6/85)

SLP,

with reference to paregraph 8 of my despatch
No. 50 of 80th April, I have the boncur to inform you that
No. 0sferian is now leaving addis Ababa for Monbassa an
route for Mayale in order to investigate trade conditions
not only on his own behalf but also on that of Mesare.
Nohamedally, the leading British Indian firm in this
country.

6. Has Desir Dants, the Covernor of Norman, who is now an a visit to Addie Ababa, called on me a few days ago and we discussed the state of the Serena province and the possibilities of the development of trade between Abyeninis and Romps. The See admitted that a large part of the trade from Climan, which does not some to Addie Ababa, finds an exit through Italian Seculiland and Seguinale, but he quoted as a reason for this the fact that the Italians paid as much as \$500 per fracula of coffee, a price is smooth of what sould be obtained at Soyale. Apart from this, however, he considered that the greatest traceases to trade via Soyale was the fact that in present directances Abyesinian traders sould not obtain each for any sales they made: may transcotion took the form of barter, the Abyesinian receiving shouledd in return

The Right Sonourable tir John times,

0. 0. 8. I., K.O. V.O., M.P.,

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British Legation,

Addis Ababs. 7

Bo. 88 (47/6/55)

SLP,

With reference to paragraph 8 of my despatch
No. 10 of 80th April, I have the bonour to inform you that
M. Deferian is now leaving addin Abeba for Montessa an
route for Mayale in order to investigate trade conditions
not only on his own behalf but also on that of Mesare.
Mohamedally, the leading British Indian firm in this
sountry.

in the local lease, the Covernor of Sorata, who is now an a visit to Addie Ababa, called on me a few days ago and we dispussed the state of the Sorata province and the possibilities of the development of trade between Abrusinia and Empr. The San admitted that a large part of the trade from Cidence, which does not some to Addie Ababa, finds an exit through Italian Sensitions and Mogediacie, but be quoted as a reason for this the fact that the Italians paid as much so file per fracula of soffee, a price in massis of what sould be obtained at Mayale, Apart from this, however, he considered that the greatest trusbeak to trade via Mayale was the fact that in present dipunctances Abrusinian traders sould not obtain each for any sales they made: may transcotion took the form of barter, the Abrusinian receiving shouledlif in return

The Hight Sonourable fir John times,

8.0.8.1., E.O.V.O., M.P.,

sto., sto., ste.



for his coffee. The Res enquired whether be sould not be possible for some form of banking agency to be opened at Moyale and he even expressed his willingness to transport dollars to such an agency if one could be started.

- 8. In further conversation has Deste Dantu stated that he hoped that a motorable track would soon be available for traffic between Sidamo, Kega and Moyale and he hinted that it was also his intention to prolong the road parallel to the frontier. I took occasion of this remark to remind him that parts of the frontier East of Moyale were not properly defined by Treety.
- 4. Lastly I enquired of the Ran when he intended to proceed to the frontier to earry on discussions with the Kenya authorities in regard to a number of matters that have been cutstanding for some time. He stated in reply that he saw no possibility of proceeding to Mega before the end of the rains.
- 5. In general Ras Desta Danta's attitude was not unsatisfactory and he claimed to have already taken steps to deal with some of the worst phases of tribol unrest. I hope that when he is able to visit the frontier some suitable arrangements over outstanding questions may be reached.
- 6. I am sending a copy of this despetch to Neirobi and Hegn.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Your most obedient, hugble Servant,

(for H.M. Minison)

RECEIVED -1 JUN 1933 THE Under Secretary of State for Fortige Affairs presents his compliments to the lewer Secretary of tate for the Colones and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith cop of the under-mentioned paper. Foreign Office, 31 , 198 ?. Reference to previous correspondence: Colonie opicilette No 3015/2/33 offan Description of Enclosure. No3 Name and Date. Subject. Mr. Lepresentative Possibles of trade addis ababa between Chyssum and Kenya 290 Apl

DU.T.

Similar letter sent to

26-41 pa Etfi (a)

Appil 1988

No. 80 (77/8/88)

Sir.

with reference to my telegrem No. 84 of 11 October 1938, I have the honour to emclose herewith many of the report furnished to me by Hajor A. Hentinek on the possibilities of trade between this country and temps which is besed on the observations made by him during his recent journey from Addis Absha to Hairobi win Mayale.

erd &

The report confirms the views expressed by the intime bettleh Consul at Mega (see enclosure in maintain despatch S.MIS.SS-5-1-58 of 9th December 1982 to me, of which a copy was sent to the Colonial Office) to the affect that possibilities of developing transitions a substantially exist, but that keen Italian competition is likely to be seasontered. It also shows that the new Consumer of Serena, Res Desta Danta, is measured to correct the Italian Covernment's affecting so to season continuation between

I. I recently received a visit from the head of the name firm of referent and Co, who at present operate at Electron, Camballe and Addis Ababa. In referen stated that he had beard from hea Desta of the possihilling of trude development wis feary frontier and

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The Right Stootbable Cir John Since,

Ontactor, Estabated a Males

star sterr ste-

No. 80 (97/3/85)

Sir,

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So I recently required a visit from the head of the codes firm of reference and Co, who at present operate at Emercian Sushells and Addis Ababa. To refer on stated that he had heard from Sea Jegio of the possibilities of trade davalopsess the Sampe frontier and

/propose

The Right Moscophile Six John Sissa,

Sallatiolog Kallatellag Hallag

Story other ste.

proposed to send a representative of his firm to make sequiries on the spote. I gave his such information as was available and promised his letters of introduction to the Covernor and to the Consulate at segs in the event of this intention being carried out.

the Italian authorities in the trade of fouthern Abyasinia I may mention that Count Roberto df San Marsano, to whom preference is made in Mr. Reces's report above mentioned, arrived here this month after a journey from bolo by the surveys route to Megalo through the province of Seli and themse by Megalo through the province of Seli and themse by Megalo informs we that this journey was made for the purpose of studying trade possibilities.

We the Count in conversation describes the carevent route from Dole to megale as barren and unhealthy, but he proposes to return abortly to Mogadishs, where he came plantations, by the same route. Incidentally he spoke in glowing terms of my mesor, whom he had not

i. I venture to suggest that a letter of thanks might be obliveseed by your department to Sajor Dentinok for his reports

7. I me wooding sopies of this desputch to

I have the honour hobe, with the highest respect,

four most obedient, humble forwart,

en route for

55 Oyeen Street, London, V. 1. 28 March 1988

Dear Sir Sidney,

Before 2 left Addis Ababa you asked me to make some enquiries as to whether any trade was at present carried on between didage and Kenya. The questions you wished me to answer were as fullsws :-

Hature of oareven route Sidamo - Moyale.

Produce soving in and out-

Volume of trade.

by whom handled and does it go vie Italian Somaliland?

When I travelled through Sidamo last January, the carsyan route through the Sidamo province was an ordinary sule road which is practicable also for canel transport. Astually on reaching Ager Marine which lies in the south of the province it is better to thonge over to comels as there in not a great deal of voter in the Boran and sometimes the wells lie rather far spart. However I think by the time this report reaches you conditions will have changed oncatdorably. Sas Dants, when I peased through, was busy making a fair weather road for motor transport. He had already made a passable motor road from Addis Ababa to Leku. (which lies to the north of Lake Margarita fast above be Sidabo river) and he had sent an armenian south to organise work an the road via Nega to Moyale. . I saw musbers of the Sideso people working under Abresiation direction. chief town in Sidamo to agar Salasa which lies in the northeast of the previous some distance to the east of the carevan /youte.

route. Ras Dasta told se that he intended moving the empital to a new position on the left bank of the Gidabo river as he considers the present site unsuitable as it is too far from the main road and further it stands very high and is, he considers, too sold. He is also preparing to build his own house in this new position close to the hot water springs. This change, I understand, is not velocated by the local traders, as, spart from the inconvenience and expense of moving, they state that the new site is unhealthy.

Until I reached Agar Mariam I could find no evisance of trade moving south. I spoke to Res Dacta and he told me that although he was most anxious to encourage trade between his province and Kenya none existed at present. I passed some large mule carquana ladem with Sidamo coffee but they were allowoving north.

The products of bidamo are firstly coffee and I was told that the approximate amount sent north was \$50,000 francias per annua and that the localprice of coffee was # 5.00 per francia. As I travelled south I found that a littly offee does actually reach Moyale. The district round Agar Marias produces honey of three varieties, the white and two of a darker solver; it also, of course, produces war. A certain emount of tobacco is grown and the day before I reached Agar Marias a small convent had gone south with belows. To the west of Agar Marias in the Anarodistrict a certain emount of grain is grown in the hill scantry just to the cost of Lake Chame. These, maine and harlor are multivated and small mantities are sent down to Moyale.

both in Agur Marian and Mega I found eloth (mardufa, assertional, silks) and ensual sugs for sale which had been brought from Morals. The trade of the province is chiefly in the hands of Armenians, Greeks and Syrians but coffee is handled by Abyasinians and there are some Somali traders.

I could find no signs of trade going to Italian Sommitted at present although I was told that an Arab had competitively recently made two journeys to Mogadishu but had now settled on the Gidabo river.

It appears to me, on considering the above, that whereas Abyssimia requires many things from Kenya there is little, if anything, that Kenya wants from Southern Abyssimia. For instance Southern Abyssimia would veloce the increased import of sugar, which and crockery. On the other hand the products of Sidamo, i.e. coffee, mains, wheat, barlay, honey, wax, onions and hides are all products of Kenya. Moreover the import of coffee from Abyssimia into Kenya is forbidden for feer of introducing coffee disease. Theat in the ear is taxed at Fajir at three shillings per 100 lbs. plus a suspended duty of one shilling and six-pence per 100 lbs. Barlay is taxed at 80 per cent ad valores and mains is free-

It might therefore appear that at present there is little to be gained by encouraging trade between Southern absentain and Neura. But I feel that, on the contrary, everything possible should be done to foster trade between the two countries, since there is more to be gained than the advantage patenthes to buyong and selling. I spoke to the District Countestoner at Moyals, the Consul at Mega assure that they away, and found that he was only too ready to an averything possible to further this trade. He told se that the Italians were very amxious to explore the trade of southern absentate and to being it via Moyals and Vajir to Element. And that whereas the duty on goods imported into Kenya is heavy the Italians on the other hand whereas

no duty on Abyssinian imports. In view of the above would it not be possible and desirable to allow free import of Abyssinian goods into the Northern Frontier Province and in transit for expost from Lamu? The duties on goods from Italian Somaliland into this district would, of course, remain as at present. But since the natural outlet for this trade would appear to be through Kismayu, some definite facilities must be offered to attract it if it is to be deviated to Lamu. At present the road Wajir - Kismayu is much better than the road Wajir - Lamu. If anything on these lines were possible goods would travel by motor lorry from Moyale via Wajir to Lamu and it would be necessary to place both in Moyale and Lamu an efficient agent with sound financial backing to handle the trade. It would, I think, be the greatest pity to allow this trade to slip into Italian hands since, although it is not large at present, the future development of Abyssinia may make it very valuable, but when once it has been attracted to Italian territory I fear that we shall not be able to re-capture it and that the opportunity will be lost.

When I reached Nairobi I spoke to Sir Joseph Byrne on these lines. He had with him the Chief Native Commissioner, Mr. Vade, and another from the Colonial Secretary's office. His Excellency Stated that although he was very anxious to promote friendship between the two countries he did not think it possible to make any definite statement at present in regard to any special privileges for Abyssinia. He thought that it might be possible to buy make from Abyssinia for the N.F.P. but he said that the road from Wajir to Lamu was extremely bad and that the Abyssinians had better push their goods through to railhead at Manuki. This will incidentally involve the

/Abyssinians

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/Abyssinians

Abyesinians in heavy rail expenses. I am therefore very much afraid that when Res Dasta's road is completed he will start exporting goods to Moyale but will not be able to get them any further and that finding his trade held up he will welcome the racilities that Italy will be ready to offer him.

Ras Dasta told me that he was anxious to buy motor cars from Egypt and asked whether I could find out the price of motor lorries delivered at Moyale. I told him that I thought he would be able to obtain them direct from Nairobi-When I got to Nairobi I consulted the Trade Commissioner, Mr. Kemp, and he took me to see the agents of motor marts, Alvion and Morris. The former showed me the Bedford lorry and said that he could supply five cars immediately. This is an entirely British made car and appeared to be very suitable. He wired particulars to the D.C. at Moyale who had promised to pass the information on to Ras Dasta. found the two latter representatives rather apathetic. The Alvien is an expensive car and there were none in Nairobi then, the Morris agent said he was not able to supply me with any particulars as he was waiting to hear However he eventually promised to cable from England. home for the necessary information and to wire it on to Moyale.

Res Desta told me that as soon as his road was ready he intended paying a visit to Nairobi. Sir Joseph promised to do everything possible to entertain him suitably when he arrived.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) ARTHUR BESTINGK.

Sir Sidney Barton, K.C.V.O., K.B.E.,

etc., etc., etc.

British Legation,

Addis Ababa.

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> Yours sincerely, (Signed) ARTHUR BENTINCK.

Sir Sidney Barton, K.C.V.C., K.B.E., etc., etc., etc.

British Legation,

Addis Ababa.

THE Comptroller General of the Department of Overseas Trade

The senser hearing of State Colonial Office and transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper for information and retention.

Department of Overseas Trade,

presents his compliments to

35, Old Queen Street, S. WA.

24. 4 . 193 °.

RECEIVED OOL OFFICE

Reference to previous letter:

Letter from D.O.T. dated 4//3

Name and Date.

reference 5,00 /31/1 Conf.

Description of Enclosure.

Subject. danshi (01105) Dening Ros desti to the win

Copy also sent to:- %

000**7** ( 202**97/19**33

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE,

35, Old Queen Street, Lendamon W.1.

13th April, 1933.

SAF,

with reference to your despatch 0.T. No. 125
of the 12th March, respecting the desire of the son-in-law
of H.M. The Emperor of Abyseinia to obtain quotations
for motor larries of United Kingdom manufacture, I
am directed by the Board of Trade to inform you that
there is no objection to your assisting the Motor
wark a Exchange Ltd. in respect of the British Bedford
trunk. This truck is manufactured by Vauxhall Motore Ltd.
of Luten who are eligible for assistance by the Department
although Unmaral Motors Ltd. of the United States of
assistance bald a controlling interest in the United
Kingdom somers. There is, however, no firm of the
mass of Control Motors Ltd. of Luten.

I may

Sir.

Tour obedient Servant, (signed) J.W. Goleby. AM.

20297/1933.

H.M. TRADE COMMISSIONER IN MAST AFRICA.

(Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, 19 Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland).

Head Office (P.O. Box 220)

QK/JF.

No. 125. (K.A.)

Memorial Hall.

Bairqbi.Kenya.

Sir,

P 3400

10th Earth, 1933.

I beg to inform you that Major A.W.D. Bentinck, who up till quite recently was Honorary Attache at H.M. Legation, Addis Ababa, called to see me a few days ago.

2. On his journey agrees country from Addis Ababa to Sairobi he intertiewed Ras Dagia, the son-in-law of H.M. The Empwer, who has recently been appointed Governor of the Southern Province. Both the Empwer and his son-in-law are amxious to open up trade with Kenya Colony as a means of pacifying the Southern Province and one of the concrete steps taken is the present building of a road to connect up the Southern Province with Mayale in the Borthern Province of Kenya Colony. Ras Dacta had bought one or two secondhand American lorries in iddis Ababa, but asked Major Bentinck to obtain quotations from Mairobi. Major Bentinck and I socordingly interviewed Measure, Gailley & Roberts, Ltd., (representing Measure. The Albien Mator Co., ) Measure. The Motor Hart & Euchange, Ltd., (representing the British Bedford Truck) and Measure. The Overseas Motor Transport Co. (agents for the Morris Commercial Company) with the following results.

3. Heers, Gaillay & hoberte, ltd., and Heers. The Motor Mart & Exchange, Ltd., were able to give us questations for the delivery of 30 owts. trucks at Mayale and the priors have been telegraphed to the District Commissioner at that post asking him to arrange for the communication of the questations to Eas Dasta. Owing to the new programs which Measrs. The Morris Commercial Oc. is undertaking, new priors for the Morris productions are not available locally, and I have accordingly get the local representatives to cable to irrainchas for the more asked to the accessary details, so that a questation can be submitted to Eas Dasta in dos course for that type of truck.

4. Personally, I think the quotation of Measrs. The Motor mert a Exchange, Ltd., is likely to be the most attractive and, if business does result, they are likely to secure It.

f. I take it that, although Heasrs, General Motors, itd., of Lectum, is a submidiary of the American parent concern, there is no objection to my assisting Measrs. The Motor Mart & Machange, itd. In this particular respect, especially os, in my opinion, they are the most likely people to assure the business if it eventuates.

I will report further progress in due course,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

H.M. Trade Commissioner.

he Comptroller-General, eperhent of Overseas Trade, ORDOR, S. W. 1.

KENYA.

SECRET,

- 9JAN1833 OL. OFFIOI NAIROBI,

DECEMBER, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to my Confidential

Med 1806s/ despatch No. 123 of the 26th September, 1932, on the subject of the development of trade with Southern abyssinia, I have the honour to transmit the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have addressed to His Najesty's Minister at Addis Ababa, together with englosures.

I have the homour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, husble servant

BRIGADIES GENERAL

THE RIGHT BONGSAME MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUMLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., O.B.E., M.C., M.F., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLUMNS, DOWNERS, LESSON S. N. 3

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 7 of your despatch No. 21 of the 5th September, 1932, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a report by Mr. O. Rosce, District Officer of present Acting as His Britannie Hajesty's Consul at Hegs, upon the general question of the development of trade with Southern Abyesimie,

I also enclose a copy of a map made w Hr. Recon in illustration of his report.

Cenerally, the subject is linked with hat of the aspirations of Italy in Abparinia, esseraing which wide my despatch No.A/LiF.68/6/9 2)th November, 1932, and, again with reference te peregraph 7 of your despatch under reply, you will no doubt consider that; if any, portions should be communicated to the objectmian deverseent.

do far as the view of this bergrasest ed, they are, and I have so informed he hearstary of State, that while no immediate results may seerus from the proposals of the Sthiopian Coversment, it has been up policy to o better lines of commission between Vajir and a and that it is or intention to take steps as

early as possible with this end in view,

- asp of the area desconstrutes that the physical map of the area desconstrutes that the line of exit from Southern Abyunizia must follow the Rift Valley and debough South Eastwards through the sector legale Sodiedous to the sec. There is no used for so to explanise the importance of this sector of the frontier and it is with extreme regret that in other comminations I have been furned to eak your repeated representations to the Sthiopies Corognosest to establish some form of orderly Securation to their side of the frontier, without which any attempts to forcer trade would be vain.
- 4. I observe that a copy of your despatch under reference has been sent to the Ferriga Office, a copy of this reply in being sent to the Sourciary of State.

I have the inner to be, Sir, Tour elections convent,

J. BYRNE.

BRITISH CONSULATE SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA VIA MOTALE KENYA COLONY.

20th October, 1932.

Sir,

dated 23rd September 1932, and I have the honour to submit the following comments.

which are served to some extent from the Sudan via Gambeila, and assuming that the Italians already control the trade of the Bale Province from their post at Magalo, we are concerned at present only with Borana and the Sidamo Province. Of these, Sidamo is by far the more hopeful.

Borana.

Borans is inhabited almost entirely by nomadic pastoral people, who consume very few trade goods besides common cotton sheeting. Of this a good deal is already sold to them from Moyale.

There is little money in the Province, and since the people do not till the soil, trade in the past has been done mainly in livestock - cattle and horses - and in hides.

At present there is not a great demand in Kenya for Bom n horses, and owing to quarantine restrictions very few cattle are exported.

The cattle trade is fraught with difficulties. Their transport southwards from loyale through the desert is never easy, and the problems connected with their transmission into our clean settled areas, or of their expert from Lamu, or of their utilisation in the proposed local meat factory, are many and complicated.

6. The hide trade is more premising, and there is scope for expansion if and when the markets in Europe and America improve.

The Boran people show little inclination to alter their manner of living. They are well organised, very conservative, rich and idle, and they are fond of their own religion. For some time to come our trade with them is likely to be confined mainly to the exchanging of cotton sheeting for hides.

Sidano.

8. Sidamo on the other hand is quite a different sort of country, and it is inhabited by sore industrious agricultural tribes. There are also many abyssinians living there. Even twenty years ago it was realised that "the rich Sidamo Provinces should be served from the East Africa Protectorate" (1).

THE HOM. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE SECRETARIAT, WAIRORI. 9~/

(1) Foreign Office Report for 1911 - 12 on the Trade of Abyssinis.

There is already a Government school and an American Hission established there; and Fitsurari Biru the Governor (at present Minister for War) is one of the best and sout enlightened of the higher Ethiopian Officials.

10. At Agera Salam, the capital, there are now about a dozen Indian, Armenian and Greek shopkespers, who get their supplies by pack nules from Addis Ababa, but it ought to be possible for us to compete with Addis Ababa if motor transport from Kenya is established.

as scap, tes, sugar (and possibly sisal sacks for coffee) all of which are produced in Kenya, - and also Manchester calice and white duck, Stockport khaki drill and kerosene; as well as the usual trade goods of foreign manufacture such as blankets, hats, cutlery, enamel ware, lamps and mirrors etc.

12. In return we should get coffee, bees wax and bides and skins and possibly also a little grain.

As regards the coffee, it should be borne in wind that the Sidamo coffee is not the same as that from the Harrar plantations (which is mixed with Mocha at Aden and sold as Long Berry Mocha)

Writing on the economic conditions prevailing in 1929-31 Colonel Mackereth H.M. Consul at Addis Ababa

This the export of coffee has increased over 100 per cent by weight, by value the increase is but 32 per cent. This remarkable disparity between quantity and value may berhaps be accounted for by the competition set free kenys, where great efforts have been made to standardise and improve the exported product. Although in Sthiopia efforts in this direction have been made by foreign planters and exporting acrebants, they have met with little encouragement. This may within a measurable period of time cause Ethiopia to fail adequately to meet the greater standardised produce from more highly isotoped countries. "Whilst the export of coffee has increased

competition of

In connection with beeswax Colonel Mackereth

Abyssinian hides and skins fetch fairly good worms! times, but here again it must be that while in Kenya and elsewhere steps are to improve the standard of the hides and skins othing of the kind is being done in Abyssinia.

Trade Report on Reconcisio Conditions

Lack of Ranking facilities,

17. Even if the exports from Southern abyssinia sere not wholly satisfactory, traders from Kenya might do a certain amount of business in Sidamo with cash, if there were any banking facilities.

16. Although there are branches of the Bank of Ethiopis at Dessie, (opposite the Aritrean Frontier) at Gore on the Sudan Frontier, and at Dire base, and Sarrar near British Someliland, there is no bank in Southern Abyasinia. Consequently traders on the Ecnya frontier are often emberranced by the possession of Abyasinian currency. Not only is the Haris Theresa dollar heavy and coatly to transport, but it continually fluctuates in value.

Tremsport.

19. The question of transport should not at the outset present any great difficulty. Traders at loyale and Vajir already own a mucher of notor lorries which often travel back to Kenys capty. As tade progressed in Sideno they would naturally increase.

20. I do not think that one could usefully attempt at the present stage to show on paper how the cout of transport to Southern abyasinis from Essys is likely to compare with that on the route via Addis Ababa. There are next factors to consider, that it can only be seen by experiment.

21. The proposed road in Abyasinian territory is not likely to be better than our present roads south from Moyals.

22. If our traders are to benefit, the road should be started at Moyale and be constructed Morthwards towards sidese, and not rice versa,

Sizerals.

25. Defore leaving the question of imports and exports, something should be said about sinerals.

"a country of great cineral wealth, "(1) and it is known to country as great cineral wealth, "(1) and it is known to countrie a congst other things gold, silver, iron, coal, lignite, supper, mickel, pletinus, almeinius, sulphur and potrolous.

Time has been found in Bornas, and there is a large suit sine mear lags. Vashing sods is obtained at Eschaft to the Coast in

23. In a metable article published in April last, (2) mario right gives a depressing account of the various insered enterprises in Abysethia (such as the Fallega gold mines, the Dallei potash mines, the Franco

platinus

<sup>(1)</sup> A Handbook of Abrantais. Eaval Staff Intelligence

<sup>(2)</sup> Numbers Sthiopis and its International Relations. By Sario Pigli, is Hessegne Italians. Rose,

platinum sine, and the Franchetti concession for petroleum) and he states that

"No sineral enterprise in Ethiopis is or "has ever been flourishing or active. All have "been or are in course of abendonment or bankruptcy".

26. But this is admittedly due mainly to the saladminetration of the country, and to the natural tendency of the people to obstruct the doings of all foreigners.

## CUSTOWS AND THE COMOU BASIN TRRATIRS.

#### Custons.

27. is regards oustons, the present position at soyale is that both imports and exports are charged on the abyasimism side of the Frontier with a ten per cent daty, (often collected in kind); while we collect no suties at all.

20. Since the abysainian post is left in charge of an ordinary soldier, there is naturally a good deal of chicamery. Attempts are often made by various means to get double payment. The result is that many of the things that are taken backwards and forwards by the moyale traders are sungiled.

There is a general tendency on the Frontier to discourage the export of livestock, and sometimes also of grain, from horans, and every attempt is made to prevent trade from going to our markets since it results in the loss of market fees to the Abyasimian officials.

10. It goes without saying that if the Emperor is genuinally desirous of encouraging trade here, he must ensure set only that the road to didanc is kept free free brigands, but also that a responsible and properly supervised officer is in charge of the customs on the rentier.

### Congo Basis Tresting.

- Seein Treaties to ensure that there is con lete comercial equality, and also to forgo duties on goods in transit in the territories therein stipulated, it will be remembered that
- (a) abyuminis was not a party to the Berlin and Brussels Acts, not to the Convention of St. Sermain on Lare of 10th September 1919.
- (b) Only a part of Berene, and none of Sideso is included in the Congo Basin Area,

M. It would therefore seen to be possible, at any rate so far as Sidano is concerned, for preference to be given to our goods by the Ethiopian Government, and for us to resiprocate.

If. Presumbly if Abyasimis wants to encourage trade with Emays she will reduce the export duties on her own goods.

So far as our duties are concerned it would see that they would not in any case be of much consequence because the bulk of the traffic would consist of goods in transit. We say eventually be able to dispose of a little local produce such as soap, sugar, tea etc. in sideso, and doubt our Northern Frontier Frovince will continue to consume a certain amount of coffee and a little grain from Sideso and Borana; but that would be So far as our duties are concerned it would

On goods in transit, according to our aristing Customs Regulations only very small fees can be imposed. This is already taken advantage of by the one Shopkeeper at Maga, an Italian subject, who brings all his goods from Italian Somaliland through Kenya duty free.

# TTALLAR COMPRETEZION.

Italian Competition.

/no

Now if there is one thing of which I am quite certain it is this, namely that if there is any likeli-hood of doing profitable trade with Borana and Sidano from the Bouth, we shall neet with the most stremuous competition from the Italians.

Por some time past they have taken a great interest in this area. Then we were making our road along the frontier, they also made a direct road from Lugh to oin it at Mandera; and Count Roberto di San Marzano came to save the frontier as far as Moyale, and the Daua liver. He then sought permission to start trading in our territory, and he issued such propagands to the matives concerning proposed Italian activities in this region in the future. (1)

In march last he wrote an article on 'The ignote and Political Possibilities of Abyssinis'. (2) In this he dealt mainly with a proposal for Italian settlement in Southern Abyssinia which he worked out in considerable destail:

"Our current of emigration should land
"at Regadisate or at Addis Ababa.
"Sidane, Valamo, Camo, Gardula....
"are places where our people would find land
"to settle on, and could work and prosper".

the Italians have already established the selves in one way or another in the meighbouring provinces of Bale, Jima, Kaffs and Maji, they have apparently not yet done saything much as regards Sidamo.(3)

The reason probably is that they consider that what trade exists in that region has already an diverted towards Lugh.

41./

familion is made of Count Roberto's extraordinary behaviour in my Intelligence Reports written from implers in retrusty 1929 and from oyale in

d'Italia, Milan, 27th March 1932.

District for November 1928

the following passage is taken from a statement made by the Governor of Italian Somaliland about two

"Our roads act from a commercial point
of view as great conducting arteries, destined to attract through Italian Sozailland
the trade which up to a short time ago was
gravitating to the South towards Handers
and Hoyals in Kenya"

In the journal of the Pascisti Colonial
Institute three years ago, giovanni Zucco illustrated with a map (inter slis) the fact that the natural
outlet for the trade of Borana and Sidano is through
oyale, but he said that our efforts at our
commercial station at loyale had "given negative
results".

On the other hand, he stated:-

"Given the political and connercial importance of Lugh - such greater than that of any British station on the abyssinian Frontier and with the help of the connercial station instituted by us at Magale, Italy ought now to be in a more favourable position with regard to the Southern and South Mastern Provinces of Abyssinia". (2).

This will suffice to indicate that Italy is not unmindful of the commercial possibilities of the area now under consideration, and she has seen to it that her roads are suitable.

Italian that from Eanyuki (450 miles) and that from Lamus (541 miles).

45. The Italians have these:-

A. Elmaru To Myale.

This is slightly shorter than the Kanyuki-Mayale reed, and about 100 siles shorter

Kissayu/

- (1) 'Le Strade delle Sonalia italiana', Rassegna Reseaules delle Colonie, January - February 1951.
- (2) 'Le Potence in Abissimia e la strada Ascab -Dessie. l'Oltrenare. December 1929.

Malo

Kismayu is regularly served by two Italian shipping lines (1) as well as foreign vessels, while there is now very little shipping at Lamu, At Manyuki he fore our goods are put on the road railway freight from Tombasa has been paid.

B. MOGADISCIO TO MOYALE. (via Baidoa, Lugh and Mandera).

This road is slightly longer than the Lamu- oysic road, but the remarks above about shipping facilities at Kismayu apply a fortior! to Mogadiscio.

C. KISMAYU. OR MOGADISCIO TO MCYALE. (via Bardera and Ell Wak).

(I have not with me any more recent map of the roads of Italian Somaliland than that which was published with the Rassegna Economics of January-February 1931, and I do not know whether the projected direct road from Mogadiscio to Eil Wak is yet finished.)
The Italians evidently intend to make a big trading post at Eil Wak. (2)
The road from Eil Wak to Moyale, via Ramu, is serviceable; but that via Takabba and Buna is not good.

to Moyale, the Italians are in a more favourable position than ourselves. When it is possible to go beyond Moyale to Sidamo, it is likely that they will seek to establish a 'commercial agency' theremore especially since they probably regard Sidamo as being within their 'sphere of influence'. (3).

Italian Spheres of Influence, What are the limits of the Italian spaneres of influence in Abyssinia?

In his Intelligence Report for the September quarter of 1931, the British Minister at Addis Ababa, after mentioning Italian enterprise at Gore and Maji, stated:

Through/

<sup>(1) (</sup>Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica from Genoa, and Societa di Nav.Libera Triestina from Venice.)

<sup>(2)</sup> See King's African Rifles Intelligence sum ary No. 2 for 1932, para. 43.

<sup>(3)</sup> Provision for 'commercial agencies' in the interior of the country was made in the commercial treaty concluded with Abyssinia by Ciccodiccola, the first Italian Minister at Addis Ababa. They have mines opened at least four - at Adua, Dessie, Gondar and Magalo.

"Though in the Dangila district the Italians appear to be attempting to open up trade, the general conclusion is that Italy is doing little at present to exploit the exclusive commic sphere recognised to her in the Anglo-Italian exchange of notes of 1925".

48. Now is his made to Signor Mussolini dated lath December 125, the British Ambassador at Rome referred to:-

"in the West of Abyssinia, and in the whole of "the territory to be crossed by the above mentioned "reilwey" (that is the projected railway from "Eritres to Italian Somaliland) and he added -

"They (His majesty's Government) would furni "further promise to support with the Abyssimian "Government all Italian requests for economic "concessions in the above zone".

49. In a letter to the League of Nations dated 3rd August 1926, our Foreign Office describe the recognition of an exclusive Italian economic influence as imposing no obligation on anyone except the British Government, who ".....engage not to compete or support competition with Italian enterprise in the region specified".

50. What is "the whole of the territory to be crossed" by the proposed railway? According to the Tripartite Agreement of 1906 the railway must pass to the west of Addis Ababa, and it will therefore not be far from Sidamo.

Whether this railway will ever materialise one cannot say, but at any rate it is not being forgotten; and as recently as June last it was being reconsidered by the Italian Colonial Office. (1)

ol. As is well known, their 'spheres of influence' in Abyssinis, however little they may have exploited them hitherto, are something very real to the Italians, and they are constantly referring to them. For example in an article about Lugh one reads: - (2).

"it constituted the natural trading centre between "Southern Somalia, and the regions in the South of "Abyssinia in the sphere of influence assigned to us in "Bastern Africa by the international treaties. To its "market flowed the rich natural products of Gherra, Sidamo, "Arussi, and especially of Boran".

52. Again, in his srticle on the 'Powers in Abyssimia and the Assab - Dessie Road 'Giovanni Zucco writes:- (3)

(2) Rivista delle Colomie Italiane, March 1932.

<sup>(1)</sup> Bulletin du Comite de l'Afrique Prancaise August, 1932.

"fixing the spheres of commercial penetration into "Abusinia by the three European powers, Abusinia "might be divided into six commercial zones".

53. Count Ronerto di San Marzano published in Il Popolo d'Italia on 27th March 1932 a map which was stated to be in accordance with the terms of "the Anglo-Italian Protocols of 24th March 1891, 15th April 1891, and 5th May 1894, which were confirmed by the Tripertite agreement of 1906.

50 be bounded on the south partly by the 60 line of Latitude, (which cuts Sidamo in half) and partly by the Juba miver.

Sources of the Juba and Shebelle. 55. Besides the 'Spheres of Influence', Italy gives a good deal of thought to the question of the upper waters of the Jubs and Shebelle Rivers.

In December 1929, after the Duke of the Abrumi had returned from his journey to explore the sources of the Webbe Shebelle, Francesso Bertonelli in an article in L'Oltrenare on Sudan, Somalia and the Rivers of Abysainia' described the situation that had arisen between Italy and Abysainia in connection with the upper waters of the Juba and Shebelle Rivers as being analagous to that existing between Abysainia and Great Britain in connection with Lake Tsans and the Hile.

57. After mentioning that the Jubs River originates in Sidemo, he continued:-

"It is only rights that Italy should see that "interests other than Italian are not established in the "regions of the upper courses of these rivers." that are the wital arteries of Somalia."

Tappend a sunnary of my main points and I also enclose a sketch map.

I have the homour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

> S4. GERALD RESULT. His Mejesty's Ag. Consul, Southern Abyssinis.

Postscript. I have not received any communication from
His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa concerning
this matter, but I send you a spare copy of
this letter in case you may wish to forward
it to his in connection with any thing that
I have mentioned.

Intd. 6.R.

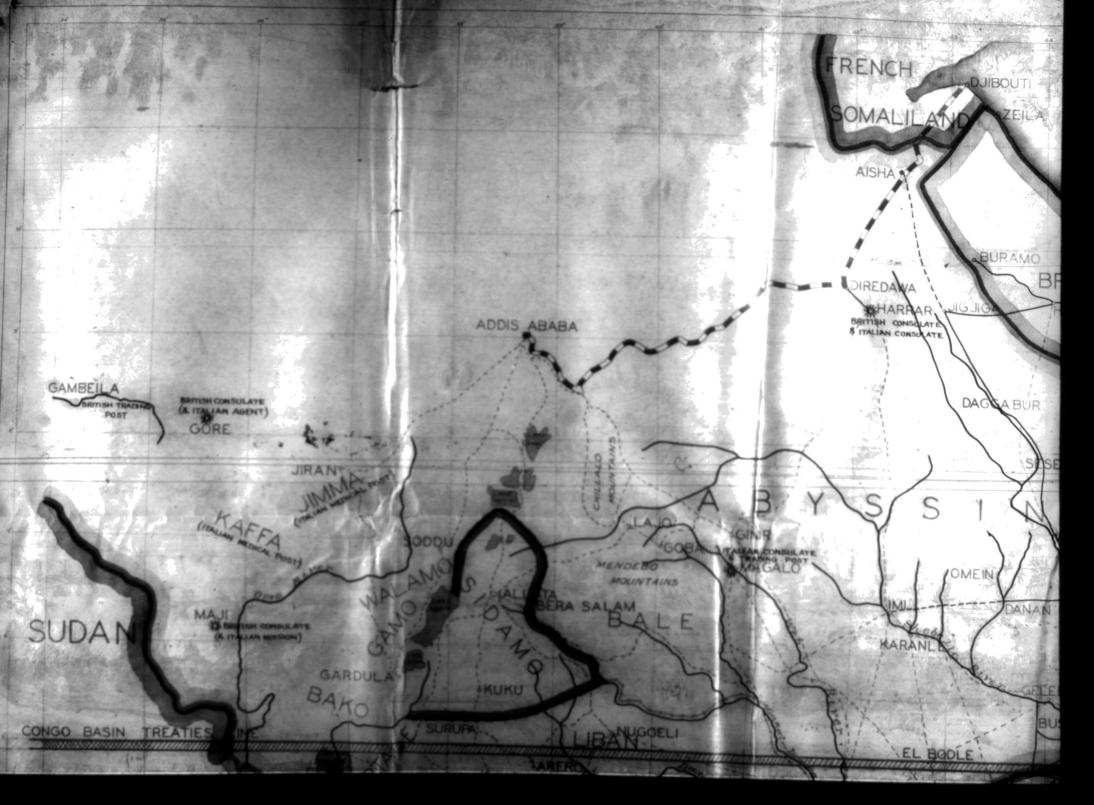


To suggerise, my sein points are these:-

- 1. While the prospects of trade in Borana are not very hopeful, Sidamo may yield satisfactory results. In any case the proposition is worth serious consideration in view of the possibility of mineral development in the future; and for political resons.
- 2. If they really want to encourage trade with Kenya, the Ethiopian Government sust pay attention to customs administration, brigands, and banking facilities; and the proposed road should be started from our end.
- 7. The Italians are more favourably situated in regard to ports and roads, and they will certainly compete with us most vigorously more especially since they probably regard at least the Northern half of Sidamo as being within their 'Sphere of Influence'.
- 4. Sidamo is outside the 'Congo Basin' area. Could we protect ourselves in any way against Italian competition by means of preferential customs tariffs, and by ourselves establishing (or by preventing them from establishing) a trading post (or commercial agency) in Sidamo?

To what extent are we, and the Abyssinians, committeed by our treaties and undertakings with the Italians?

Note:- (I do not know whether Italy has any agreement with Abyssinia similar to our Treaty of 14th May 1897, which provides (Article 4) that we and our Colonies should be accorded in respect of import duties every advantage which may be accorded to the subjects of other nations.)





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Joseign Office — 11 January 35
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Forwards copy of correspondence with His Majesty's Trade Commissioner, Nairobi, regarding thepurchase of motor lorries by Ras Basta in connection with the opening up of trade with Kenya.

? Put by.

(sd) H.G. Priestman. 25.4.33. (sd) L.B.Freeston 29 at once.

### 5. Foreign Office

31st May, 1933.

Transmits a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Representative Addis Ababa enclosing a copy of a report by Major A. Bentinek on the possibilities of trade between Ethiopia and Kenya.

as Sir Sidney Barton says, Mr. Bentinck's report presents very much the same picture as did the enclosures to No.2 and it is clear that Kenya does not want the produce that the Sidamo province is able to export, since it produces the same commodities itself. Sir Sidney's and Mr. Bentingk's talk however about the undoubted possibilities of developing the transit trade seems over optimistic. as Mr. Clauson has pointed out in his minute of 164/33 above.

With the penultimate paragraph of Mr. Bentinck's report compare the enclosures to No.4.

A copy of Sir Sidney Barton's despatch, and presumably of the enclosure, has already gone to Nairabi.

? Mr. Clauson to see, and put by

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24th April,1933.

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6. Foruga Office 12 July 13 Time copy of despeth from I.M. laperentative Aldi Abaka going details of a dissession with her aute aute uguling derlet ment of the between Abysonies House of Lat to Konga + Thega. ? Kory CA. Por 27.13 Ahman in 4. Esteet for Smallend Littlegone leport, ugd for weed and min in Elis as a saleful Sald.