

1934

1934

23024

KENYA

23024

C0533/440

Trade between Kenya the Union of South Africa.

Previous

Subsequent

Leg 297 15/1

Room 309 30/1

Mr Freeman 30

Mr. Clow 31/1

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Mr. Freeman

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Mr. Freeman 21

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23024

FILE A

1. Sir R. Hamilton (s.o.).....10th Jan. '34.

Encloses a letter from Mr. L.W. Smith M.P. enclosing figures regarding trade between Kenya and the Union of South Africa received from Mr. S.G. Gare who asks that advisability of increasing the rebate on the Customs Tariff and reducing steamer freights in order to increase trade may be considered.

RECEIVED UNDER  
STATUTE  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Sir R. Hamilton (s.o.) 1 answd....11th Jan. '34.  
To L.W. Smith.....encl. to No. 1. answd...11th Jan. '34

Mr. Gare is well known in the Colonial Office owing to his opposition to the policy of allowing the native cultivation of coffee. He has been interviewed by the Secretary of State. See 3040/1/33 K

Mr. Smith's letter appears to relate to the Union rather than to Kenya.

Subject to General Department's observations the answer to Mr. Smith (? signed by Lord Plymouth) might be that the Union does not come within Sir P. Cunliffe-Lister's province but that, so far as Kenya is concerned, preferential tariffs are at present precluded by the Convention of St. Germain, etc. It could be pointed out that coal (the Union's chief export to Kenya) is in fact admitted into the Colony free.

It might be added that the Secretary of State is not in a position to make representations to the shipping companies with regard to freight rates.

T. Davies: 30 Jan

*[Signature]*  
30

*I should hardly have thought that this letter required a further answer. Capt. Dugdale could no doubt say whether the writer is the kind of X.P. who should receive a reasoned reply.*

*If he is I think that the reply should be (1) that as regards Kenya the Colony is precluded by the Treaty of St. Germain from granting preferences to the Union but that the principal import from the Union, coal, is admitted free of duty & that*

to the Board  
from the Board

Kinga in fact gets the coal exclusively  
or almost exclusively from the Union  
(2) that in the Ottawa negotiations  
with the Union particular emphasis  
was laid on coffee & that a price  
of 2 sh 11. (equal to £9.6.8 per  
ton) on coffee was one of the only two  
figures obtained from the Union,  
& that if this is not sufficient to  
secure a price for Kinga over the  
present market price of the  
S. Afr. market, it is clear that  
it will be unwise to ask for  
a higher price & that in fact there  
is no prospect of getting a higher one  
(3) that so far as steamer freight  
is concerned the matter is not within  
the control of the Govt but is rather  
one to be dealt with by such bodies  
as the East African section of the  
London Chamber of Commerce & other  
bodies representing the East African  
producers.

G. L. H. Cason  
21/1/34

A reasoned reply is advisable in my opinion:

22  
1-2-34

When the Union recently subsidized Italian  
steamers it was Mr L.A. Smith who was  
indignant about it. Yet the subsidy is a  
practical step in the direction he desires!  
Drops several

J. E. H. Reid  
2.2.

I shd rather deprecate the  
suggestion, at any rate at  
this stage, that the Italian  
Shipping Agreement may be  
beneficial: I shd therefore  
prefer to omit the last sentence  
of this draft.

J. E. H. Reid  
2.2.34

4. To L. W. Smith (encl to (ansd) 8 Feb 34.

INDEX.  
COAL - MINS. T  
COFFEES, AC TO SUPPLIES  
FRAM. S. AFRICA  
COFFEE  
PREFERENTIAL TARIFF

SW

5. To L. W. Smith (encl) 15 Feb 34  
Requests statistics of trade between Kenya  
and Union of S. Africa

6. To L. W. Smith (Sacked) 15 Feb 34  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

7. To L. W. Smith (Sacked) 15 Feb 34

8. To L. W. Smith (Sacked) 17 Feb 34

9. To L. W. Smith (S.O.) 21 Feb 34

ACKS No 89 states question was raised in connect  
with the effect of the Italian Shipping Agreement

P. H. W.

Howe

J. E. H. Reid

J. E. H. Reid

21/2

J. E. H. Reid

9

20th February, 1934.

Dear Lord Plymouth,

I would like to thank you for sending me the information about Kenya and the Union of South Africa. I raised this question in no spirit of idle curiosity but because it is important to know, in view of the new Italian Shipping Convention, what is the actual trade between Kenya and South Africa, and how its stimulation will affect us.

Yours sincerely,



The Earl of Plymouth, P.C.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

C. O.

23024/34

85

Mr. J.B. Williams 17. 2. 34

Mr.  
Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Spuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street,

17 February, 1934.

Dear Mr Smith  
S 17/2/34

DRAFT.

LOUIS W. SMITH, ESQ., M.P.

I have made enquiries about statistics of trade between Kenya and the Union of South Africa, about which you wrote to me on the 12th February.

I understand that as the statistics are published in considerable detail it would be difficult to extract them and send them as an enclosure to this letter. Statistics of imports from the Union into Kenya and Uganda (detailed figures for Kenya apart from Uganda are not available as there is a unified customs administration for the two territories) are given in Section 20 of the Kenya Annual Blue Books. In these statistics imports are divided into six classes, with a number of subdivisions, and countries of origin are indicated in the case of each subdivision.

The

FURTHER ACTION.

The Annual Statements of Trade and Shipping of the Union of South Africa show the imports into the Union under some thirteen classes. As these classes are not identical with those given in the Kenya statistics there is some difficulty in comparing the two sets of statistics. Individual items, however, will of course be comparable.

Copies of the Kenya Blue Books and of the Annual Statements of Trade and Shipping of the Union of South Africa are available in the Colonial and Dominions Offices Library, and if you <sup>wish</sup> ~~desire~~ to consult them will be sent over to the House of Commons Library.

Yours sincerely  
Sd. Plymouth

Mr. Freestone - The Flood

So far as imports from the Union into  
and exports to the Union out of  
Kenya and Uganda (jointly) are  
concerned, Mr. Smith will find  
classified figures readily available  
in the Blue Book (Section 20) &  
the Annual Trade Reports (Tables V & VI).  
Detailed figures for Kenya, apart from  
Uganda, are not available, I think

? Mr. Smith might be told this and  
referred to the above documents, [ & told  
where they may be bought and consulted ].

These are no doubt available in the H/C  
Library.

16/2

Mr. Robinson

~~Don's Office~~

S.E.G. Flood  
16-2

The above will do for Kenya-Uganda. Will  
you please suggest something for S.A.

S.E.G.  
16-2

The Union Annual Statement of  
Trade & Shipping shows Imports into  
the Union under some 13 classes. This  
makes it difficult to compare the  
Kenya & Union figures as these classes

do not of course coincide with the  
6 classes under which the imports into  
Kings are shown. The separate items,  
however, are of course comparable.

? This should be pointed out to  
Mr. Smith in referring him to  
the Union Annual Statement of  
Trade & Shipping.

N. P.  
10/2/24



*11/15/34 in Daily*

*5-1*

12th February, 1934.

Dear Lord Plymouth,

I thank you for the long and informative letter you sent me with regard to the subject of trade between Kenya and the Union of South Africa. I note your point with regard to the duty on coffee, but after all 1d. per 2 on a product which averages between £140 and £160 a ton is not particularly large. At the same time I admit it is helpful.

Perhaps you could let me have the statistics showing imports into South Africa from Kenya, and South African imports into Kenya for the last three years and then I will be glad to study the effect of inter-working since Ottawa and before.

Yours very faithfully,

*R. H. Smith*

The Earl of Plymouth,  
House of Lords,  
S.W. 1.

*Answered*

C. O.

Mr. Flood. 1-2

Mr. Clouston 72

Mr.

For Lord Plymouth's signature.

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

+ See G. Whiskard of  
+ Sir C. Bottomley. 6. 2.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

+ Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

9.9/2/34 J.



Downing Street,

8. February, 1934.

Recd... Mr. Smith

DRAFT.

LOUIS W. SMITH, ESQ., M.P.

I am now in a position to reply to your letter of the 9th of January which you addressed to Sir Robert Hamilton on the subject of trade between Kenya and the Union of South Africa.

In the first place, so far as Kenya is concerned it is not possible for <sup>that Colony</sup> it to give any kind of preference since it is absolutely precluded by the Treaty of St. Germain from granting preference to anyone. It is, however, interesting to find that Kenya does get nearly all its coal supplies from the Union of South Africa and coal is admitted duty free.

the principal import into Kenya from the Union of S. Africa is coal, that

FURTHER ACTION.

During the course of the

Ottawa

Ottawa negotiations with the Union Govt.  
particular emphasis was laid on coffee and  
the Union did agree to give a preference of  
1d. per lb. (£9.6.8. a ton) on coffee grown  
in the Empire. This was one of the only  
two preferences to which the Union agreed and  
it is felt that it should be sufficient to  
secure <sup>Kenya's position in the market</sup> a preference for Kenya over Brazil,  
which is the present principal supplier of  
the South African market. If that preference  
is not sufficient, it is clear that it would be  
unreasonable to ask for anything higher and in  
fact there is no prospect of getting the  
Union to agree to anything more.

So far as <sup>ocean</sup> steamer freights are  
concerned, the matter is not within the control  
either of the Govt. here or the Govt. in Kenya,  
but rather falls to be dealt with by such  
bodies as the E. African Section of the London  
Chamber of Commerce and the local associations  
of merchants and chambers of commerce in Kenya.

[You know, of course, that the Union Govt. has

recently

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

**DRAFT.**

recently entered into an agreement  
with an Italian shipping line and it  
is possible that one result of that  
will be to bring down freights between  
Kenya and South Africa, but only time  
can tell.]

Your sincerely  
sd. Plympton

FURTHER ACTION.

9th January, 1934.

Dear Sir Robert,

I have received from Mr. S.G. Gare of Kenya some figures giving the trade done during the last year or two between Kenya and the Union of South Africa. This gentleman, having recently visited England on behalf of the British Coffee growers in Kenya, is asked by them to spend some little time in Cape Town with the idea of fostering increased trade between Kenya and the Union.

I am asked by Mr. Gare to place these figures before the Colonial Office, and in Sir Philip's absence, will be very glad if you will give them your attention.

Mr. Gare asks whether the Colonial Office would suggest to the respective Governments the advisability of increasing the Rebate on the Customs Tariff and reducing steamer Freights in order to help to increase the amount of trade.

I thank you in anticipation for your kind attention, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

*Mrs. R. Smith*

Sir Robert W. Hamilton,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

*Answer 11<sup>th</sup> January 34.  
D. F. C. (1934)*

GENERAL EXPORTS TO KENYA DURING 1931 and 1932.

	1931.	1932.
Animals,	£ 30.	-
Cows,	100.	-
Dogs,	5.	-
Horses,	315.	-
Pigs,	42.	8.
Poultry,	42.	45.
↓	93.	-
Rams,	272.	143.
Birds,	8.	-
Animals,	-	15.
Feathers,	49.	14.
Sausage Casings,	1.	-
Bark Extract,	-	11.
Foodstuffs for Animals,	32.	-
Plants,	42.	33.
Lucerne Seed,	95.	218.
Garden Seeds,	43.	23.
Trees,	493.	518.
Foodstuffs,	9.	-
Buttons,	8.	-
Kaffir Corn,	-	1.
Cowals,	2.	2.
Oats,	-	18.
Maize Meal,	1638.	433.
Other Meals,	2.	-
Cheese,	51.	-
Crystallized Fruits,	2.	8.
Preserved Ginger,	2.	-
Sweets,	2.	-
Eggs,	-	1.
Fish (dried),	90.	-
" (frozen),	101.	-
Crayfish,	4.	-
Farinaceous Foods,	134.	-
Other	2.	-
" "	8.	-
" "	2.	4.
Apples,	1045.	459.
Peaches,	49.	-
Pears,	114.	26.
Plums,	49.	9.
Grapes,	291.	106.
Melons,	52.	18.
Dried Fruits,	25.	15.
Figs,	1.	22.
Prunes,	5.	5.
Raisins etc.	277.	233.
Other Dried Fruits,	86.	51.
Candied Peel,	12.	-
Fruit Pulp,	83.	14.
Saladine,	4.	3.
Green Ginger,	14.	-
Jams,	842.	18.
Custard Powders, etc.	11.	195.
Almonds,	8.	-
Deshicated Coconut,	13.	5.
Onions,	10.	-
Curry Powder,	8.	-
Pickles,	8.	1.
Sauces,	2.	2.
Beans & Peas,	2.	-
Dairy Salt,	-	10.
Spices,	30.	-
" (ground),	53.	32.
Sugar,	3.	-
Glucose,	13.	-
Vinegar,	7.	10.
Other Foodstuffs,	41.	3.

General Exports to Kenya coast.

	<u>1933.</u>	<u>1932.</u>
Glass Bottles,	£ 6.	-
Glassware,	65.	76.
Coal,	38229.	18058.
Asphalt,	231.	-
Coke,	55.	140.
Minerals,	25.	-
Illuminating Oils,	1385.	-
Lubricating Oils,	330.	140.
Motor Spirit,	585.	55.
Tar Oil,	75.	-
Paints,	15.	66.
Soap,	6.	-
Toilet Soap,	8.	-
Soda Crystals,	38.	-
Disinfectants,	116.	3.
Dystuffs,	2.	-
Cattle Dip,	-	5.
Sheep Dip,	50.	-
Tobacco Extract,	991.	29.
Chemical Fertilizers,	3656.	1861.
Chemicals,	437.	31.
Drugware,	32.	25.
Animal Glands,	58.	14.
Medicinal Preparations,	190.	77.
Medicines,	25.	47.
Drugs,	21.	-
Fertilizers,	68.	191.
Perfumery,	-	2.
Leather Footware,	4.	124.
Leather,	13.	-
Saddlery,	25.	-
Wood, pine,	90.	-
Basketware,	-	3.
Furniture,	64.	790.
Wood Manufactures,	9.	5.
Paper Bags,	41.	-
Cardboard Boxes,	1.	-
Paper,	37.	17.
Stationery,	42.	19.
Ink,	17.	25.
Paintings,	6.	-
Printed Matter,	1907.	1547.
Stationery,	1005.	534.
Plated Ware,	50.	2.
Musical Instruments,	185.	146.
Pianos,	112.	50.
Cartridges,	-	2.
Binoculars,	853.	435.
Films,	20685.	4490.

TOTAL EXPORTS TO KENYA, £ 93165. £ 39456.

TOTAL EXPORTS OF PRODUCE TO KENYA, £ 63433. £ 32072.

**GENERAL IMPORTS FROM KENYA DURING 1931 and 1932.**

	<u>1931.</u>	<u>1932.</u>
Birds	£ 5.	£ 20.
Hides & Skins	1021.	456.
"	14.	7.
Karosses,	8.	-
Animal Products,	5.	-
Plants,	2.	-
Wheat,	-	1.
Raw Coffee,	22347.	21227.
Coconuts,	971.	538.
Potatoes,	503.	-
Beans & Peas,	98.	1344.
Ground Nuts,	192.	3897.
Mustard Seed,	-	2.
Spices,	273.	138.
Tea,	-	37.
Total Foodstuffs,	<u>£25459.</u>	<u>£27687.</u>
Hats,	2.	5.
Carpets,	37.	-
Textiles,	-	8.
Vegetable Fibres,	3587.	644.
Holloware,	-	21.
Oilsilks,	25.	42.
Coconut Oil,	-	135.
Castor Oil,	-	52.
Shells,	1.	-
Soap,	-	2.
Beeswax,	268.	-
Sodium Carbonate,	3857.	2899.
Boots,	-	1.
Wool,	-	14.
Cane,	242.	68.
Chairs,	1.	-
Furniture,	3.	-
Walking Sticks,	4.	-
Wood Manufactures,	1.	1.
Books,	24.	1.
Paintings,	4.	-
Fancy Goods,	6.	-
Gold,	-	50.
Musical Instruments,	2.	-
Film,	-	268.
Natural History Specimens,	4.	3.
Various,	151.	28.
Total,	<u>£ 33458.</u>	<u>£ 31929.</u>

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END

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO AND FROM KENYA.

Total Imports of Coffee into the Union.	1931.	£ 434,866.
	1932.	£ 414,492.
Imports of Coffee from Kenya,	1931.	£ 22,347.
	1932.	£ 21,227.
Total Exports of Produce to Kenya,	1931.	
	Coal,	£ 38,229
	Other	<u>25,204.</u>
		63,433.
	1932.	
	Coal,	18,058.
	Other,	<u>14,014.</u>
		£ 32,072
Total Imports from Kenya,	1931. Coffee,	£ 22,347.
	Other,	<u>11,111</u>
		33,458.
	1932. Coffee,	21,227.
	Other,	<u>10,602.</u>
		£ 31,739.



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**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO AND FROM KENYA.**

Total Imports of Coffee into the Union.	1931.	£ 434,865.
	1932.	£ 414,492.
Imports of Coffee from Kenya,	1931.	£ 22,347.
	1932.	£ 21,227.
Total Exports of Produce to Kenya,	1931.	
	Coal,	£ 38,229.
	Other,	<u>25,204.</u>
		63,433
	1932.	
	Coal,	18,058.
Other,	<u>14,014.</u>	
	£ 32,072	
Total Imports from Kenya,	1931. Coffee,	£ 22,347
	Other,	<u>11,111</u>
		33,458.
	1932. Coffee,	21,227
	Other,	<u>10,502.</u>
		£ 31,729.