

1923

KENYA

C.O
46827
REC'D
RE 24 SEP 23

FROM Craven & Speeding Bros

DATE

21st Sept, 1923

FOR CIRCULATION:-

SUBJECT

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.

Dater papers for their fibre factory

Perm. U.S. of S.
Part. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Explain difficult position in which they are placed owing to grant of rights to E.A. Power Co, and submit proposals

Previous Paper

MINUTES

Send return reply LF & mine. Write to E.A. Power Co. papers.

Oct 25.9.23

The papers had not returned to me, when ^{Cowan} but Mr. E.W. Cowell called yesterday on behalf of Mr. Craven and explained the position-practically in the terms of Mr. Craven's letter. He said, if I remember, that if these people obtain the use of the small Fall which they have in view, they will be able to provide themselves with 100 h.p. at the rate of about £350 a year. Mr. ^{Cowan} Cowell anticipated that the East African Power Company would not be able to supply them at less than £700 a year and this would be ^{too high} impossible in present circumstances, as it is necessary to cut down working-expenses to an absolute minimum.

Handwritten notes on the left margin:
23.9.23
made - 23.9.23
copy before com 14.11 - 10 Oct 23
S.W. Prod - 20 DEC 1923 50/6050/234

Subsequent Paper

60805
-23

MINUTES

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

his
The problem ~~is~~ in the alleged
time limit by which the E.A.P.C. have
until March next to decide whether
to take over the Falls which are on
this estate or not. The Sisal Planters
cannot wait till then or they will
lose ~~the~~ whole season before getting
to work. See drafts.

was
5-10-23
a time

MANILA



BRAND

WIRE

FOR COLLIERY

PURPOSES

CONTRACTORS TO THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE, AIR BOARD, BOARD OF TRADE SHIPPING, RAILWAY & COLLIERY COMPANIES.

8 BULLOCKE 4TH & 5TH FLOOR MARCONI INTERNATIONAL WIRE TELEGRAMS, ROPES, SUNDERLAND TELEPHONE 1471 (8 LINES)

MANILA



BRAND

WIRE

FOR SHIPPING

PURPOSES

CRAVEN & SPEEDING BROS.

SOLE PROPRIETOR
HIRAM CRAVEN
MANUFACTURERS OF
ALL KINDS OF HEMP & WIRE ROPES
FOR
COLLIERIES SHIPPING & EXPORT.
SPINNERS OF
BINDER TWINE & MANILA HAY BAND

46827
Rm
P. 24 FEB 25
SUNDERLAND

21st. September 1921. Y.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
LONDON. S.W.1.

Probably the name of our firm may be known to you as we attended some meetings in connection with the question of the value of the ropes during the War.

It is now some years since we made a rather unfortunate departure and attempted to grow fibre in British East Africa for use in our factory here.

For that purpose we purchased land at Athi River about 100 miles from Nairobi.

Unfortunately the War broke out, delays occurred, costs increased and we found the proposition an impossible one.

There were certain drawbacks on the Estate which perhaps might have been overcome, but we dare not risk further expenditure on a project that might or might not be a success.

We therefore abandoned our Estate at Athi River and purchased the Kakuzi Estate which is close to Chania Bridge Station, and later purchased a further Estate adjoining Kakuzi which we have called Situmba.

When negotiating the purchase of the Kakuzi Estate, the vendor informed us that rights for the use of the Water Power along its

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies, 21/9/23. No. 2.

south frontage had been granted to him and his successors. Later, we found that sufficient evidence was not forthcoming of the validity of these rights.

It seems that recently a new Company has been formed called the E.A. Power Co.,

This Company has applied to the Government of Nairobi for concessions for the exclusive use of the power that can be generated from the water in order to supply electric power, and light, over a certain district.

Close to our Estate we have a Water Fall which is just sufficient to give us the necessary power that we require for driving the machinery and the pumps on our two Estates of Kakuzi and Kitumba.

The East African Power Co., we are told, have not the slightest expectation of being able to utilize the water that runs over this Fall for a period of 25 years or more, even if then.

It seems strange that the power which this water could develop should be held up for a period of 25 years or longer, and that we should be prevented from using a power provided by nature, owing to a concession, the working of which appears to be quite problematical, as regards our fall.

We have through our Agents in British East Africa made proposals to the Government and stated:-

1st... We are willing at our own cost to put down the necessary machinery and dams, water pipe line, and all necessary for developing the power that can be derived from these falls.

2nd... that we will in 25 years or earlier hand over the machinery, the dams and the water pipe line and all the necessities for developing the power to the East African Power Co., at the price that it costs us to put this machinery down.

You will see, therefore, that we have offered to take the risk in this case, but we gather that the Government Officials at Nairobi consider that the Electric Power obtainable from the whole length of this river should be concentrated ~~and~~ in the hands of the East African Power Co.,

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Date 21/9/23.

No. 4.

It might be suggested that the solution of our difficulties would be found by our contracting with the East African Power Co., to supply us with Electric Power from the Power House, we understand they propose to erect on the falls that are above the falls that are on our Estate.

There are, however, many reasons why that plan is not practicable. In the first place the charges of the East African Power Co., are so high as to make the proposal impossible so far as regards Sigal. The conditions of their undertaking are such that in our opinion it will be impossible for them to realise profits unless their charges are very much higher than Estates such as ours who can generate their own power at a tithe of the cost.

further, a License to supply Electric Power to the area in which the Kakuzi and Kituamba Estates are situated has been granted to another Company.

Even if we were disposed to contract with a Public Supply Company, the uncertainties as to when supply will be obtainable are such that we could not afford to risk loss of crop on account of the probable delay.

We must make our plans for instalment of power at once. In fact, it is simply on account of the extreme urgency and necessity of our completing our plans without further delay that compels us to write to you in the hopes that some pressure will be brought from your Office to bear upon the position at Nairobi, so that a decision one way or the other may be arrived at without further delay.

We therefore trust that this matter will receive prompt attention, and that a decision may be promptly arrived at.

We beg to remain,

Your obedient Servants,

Craven & Speeding W.
Sirhan Craven

R	SOCT
D	8

Downing Street,

9 October, 1923.

Gentlemen,

With further reference to your letter of the 21st September, I am etc.

to inform you that a despatch has now been sent to the Governor of Kenya

enclosing a copy of your letter and en-

quiring as to the exact position of the

East African Power Co. Ltd. in regard

to the ~~fall~~ which you desire to re-

utilize, and further as to the atti-

tude of the Government in regard to

your using the ~~Water~~ ~~fall~~ if it is

not required by the Company. A

further reply will be sent to you

on receipt of the Governor's views,

which he has been requested to

summarise ~~and~~ telegraph in the first

instance.

I am etc.

(Signed) W. J. READ

DRAFT.MRSRS. CRAVEN & SPENDING
BROS.**MINUTE.**

Mr. Bottomley, 5 10.23.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

20/15

Messrs. Craven & Speeding Bros. desire to work for their own ^{particular} ~~premises~~. I should also be glad to be advised what attitude the Government would be inclined to adopt towards the utilization of this fall by the firm in the event of its not being required by the E.A. Power Company.

3. While it is eminently desirable that the production and distribution of energy should be centralised in the hands of large concerns wherever this course tends to economy and the full utilization of the water power available, it would appear from what Mr. ^{Craven} ~~Craven~~ has said that the Company would ^{probably} not be able to supply the estate with power at less than twice the cost at which they hope to develop it for themselves. It also seems to be clear that, if the decision is left over till March 1924, the firm would not be able to provide themselves with power, either from the fall or by steam engines as the case may be, before their fiscal year is ready for cutting in the Spring of 1925. If, therefore, it is impossible for a decision to be reached before next March it would appear that the firm will be compelled, as indicated

(S. all 5)

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in their letter, to make arrangements for
~~the~~ supply of steam power.

4. I am anxious that I should be
able to reply definitely to their letter
at the earliest possible date, and for
that reason I shall be glad if you
will telegraph ~~briefly~~ ^{a brief} the summary of
your reply to this despatch.

I have etc.

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE