

EAST AFR. PROT.

C. O.

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5. A.G. Conf. 40

Bowring

Date.

1912

TRADE WITH ABYSSINIA

6th May

This copy of correspondence with H.M. Representative at Adis Ababa regarding a proposed sale of 300 Abyssinian oxen at Moyale. While giving Capt. Theiger every credit for his desire to serve Prot's interests considers that his action was in all somewhat unfortunate consequences. Remarks as to Mr. Storey's delay in submitting his report and the action of Lord Cromer.

at previous Paper.

8/13856

Mr G. Pridder - A copy of the Report went to the State on the 7th of June. See 8/13856. I assume that the Abyssinian dollar is the same as the Italian dollar - value 2 1/2 - for Mr. Storey mentions £ 2 as the price per head in his letter to me of the 10th of June.

£ 2 per head + 5/12 export duty seems reasonable enough. If the settlers had not prepared to pay this, I was disposed to agree with Mr. Theiger that we had better give up all idea of starting a trade.

The S.A.P. felt certain that they had been kept in the dark by Mr. Storey.

29 June 1912
29 June 1912
Copy done 29 July 1912

Subsequent Paper

8/13856

apart from Major Smyth's report
of the 29th of Nov. (which they regard
as inaccurate), Mr. Sturdy says
he writes to the Gov. from Gibraltar
informing him that Major Smyth had written
a full account of his (Mr. Sturdy's)
negotiations with the Algerians, so
that taking these two letters
together they might have assumed
that they had a sufficiently complete
statement of the case.

Send a copy of this despatch, with
copy of Mr. Sturdy's letter of the
10th of June, to Sir P. forward for his etc.

-9 Say that Mr. Harcourt much
regrets the hitch which has
occurred in the matter, that he
attaches great importance to the
development of trade between
Algerians and the S.A.P. &
that the question should receive
Sir P.'s early attention in his
return to the Gov. - & add
that

A.
that it would seem to be
doubtful policy to associate
a private individual with an
official in a mission of the
kind? ¹⁹ ~~unsuccessful~~

I believe that Lord Cranworth
has caused Mr. Denig's considerable
embarrassment by an ~~impression~~
interview which he gave to a reporter
of the Daily Tel. in which he
made some injudicious remarks
about the Algerians.

H. J. R.

12/21

cf the remarks in W. Sturdy's report 1495 etc.

This business has been badly bungled &
it seems to me that the Navarre people have
not played the game.

As proposed, except that I do
leave Mr. A. to be in the Report for

Joseph 11/12/6

Ms. 13

Jagreg

also. If smuggling has been going on there,
must be a trade possible & it is most
unfortunate to refuse the first definite
offer at a reasonable price.

E 114.6

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ent value sign

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I have

scri 1000

Sign

C. O.
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

6th May 1912.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence which has passed between myself and U.S.M. Representative at Addis Ababa regarding the proposed sale of 100 Abyssinian oxen at Moyale.

from Capt. Theisiger
18.3.12

2. While giving Captain Theisiger every credit for his disinterested desire to serve the interests of this Protectorate, I must express the opinion that the precipitate manner in which he has tried to open up trade between Abyssinia and East Africa before ascertaining our views, has had somewhat unfortunate consequences.

from Capt. Theisiger
25.3.12

to Capt. Theisiger
26.3.12.

from Capt. Theisiger
29.3.12

3. An outstanding feature of the whole question is the great inconvenience caused by Mr Stordy's dilatoriness in submitting his report, vide your telegram of April 11th. This is particularly embarrassing in view of the fact that, while making no definite statement himself, he has allowed Lord Granworth, who accompanied him in a purely unofficial capacity, to express his opinions in a lengthy document addressed to U.S.M. Minister at Addis Ababa, some

to Capt. Theisiger
2.4.12

from Capt. Theisiger
5.4.12

to Capt. Theisiger
6.5.12.

portions

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
10, WHITE HALL, LONDON, E.C. 4.

portions of which convey an unjustifiable criticism of the methods adopted by this Administration, and others are incorrect representation of facts.

1. It was of course never intended that Lord Cranworth should take advantage of the permission given him to join the expedition to air his views in this way and care should have been taken to prevent him doing so, particularly as Major Doughty Wylie has apparently adopted them as an exposition of the policy which we wish to follow.

2. I see notices in the public press of a lecture delivered by Mr Sturdy in Scotland, and I think that, if he can find leisure to occupy himself in this way, he is scarcely justified in withholding the official report on his Abyssinian journey which is urgently required in this Protectorate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

W. H. Murray
ACTING GOVERNOR.

INSTRUCTIONS
Copy
In Despatch No. 60 44-5-12

C/O.
17432
33
JUN 10

52

Dated 19.3.12. Received 19.3.12.

To Governor, Nairobi.

If I arrange for three hundred good oxen to be
at Moyale first week in June would you make arrange-
ments to buy at twenty dollars each, inclusive of
the Abyssinian custom duties? Experiment useful
future trade. If no dollars Moyale I could probably
arrange pay here.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
Dated 23.3.12. Received 23.3.12.

Governor, Nairobi.

By telegram March 12. Government will have
three hundred oxen. End of war stop desire
payment here stop if you can arrange take charge there
it will ensure regular trade in future.

~~SECRET~~

Mirohi,

26.3.12.

Copy Mather telegram to His Highness.

Am endeavouring to make arrangements to take over the cattle but am advised that price asked is prohibitive. Will telegraph later. Are the oxen draught or breeding? Would it not upset rather than assist trade if we paid excessive price for first consignment which could not be realized permanently.

[REDACTED]

Dated 29.3.18. Received 29.3.18.

Governor, Nairobi.

Your telegram March 28. You can have choice of terms my telegram March 15 March 23 or permit your nominee to collect and buy three hundred draught oxen in Abyssinia at local prices in addition to three dollars export duty each. Please telegraph decision.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dated 29.3.12. Received 29.3.12.

Governor, Shirazi.

Your telegram March 26. You can have choice of terms my telegrams March 18 March 23 or permit your nominee to collect and buy three hundred draught oxen in Mysinia at local prices in addition to three dollars export duty each. Please telegraph decision.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mairobi,
2.4.12.

Copy Telegram to Cairo Khada.

Your telegram of 24th 12/11. We have received
no report from Liberty yet. We fear that Jan has
ascertained locally that the only terms offered
will not be profitable. We are therefore
therefore unable to under take to purchase any of
the exen.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

U. S. No. 1 1912.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 3rd instant, and I confess I am absolutely unable to understand the policy of the Protectorate Government in this matter.

Mr Sturdy's mission was sent here to examine and if possible open up the cattle trade between Abyssinia and the Protectorate. On arriving here both he and Lord Granworth were enthusiastic over the prospects opened up by their journey, the latter declaring that "the cattle are a very fine stamp of beast equal to the best Basal cattle" and that in Mr Sturdy's opinion "these cattle are immune from East Coast Fever".

Both Mr Sturdy and Lord Granworth urged upon us the vital necessity of opening up this trade because as Lord Granworth states in his report, a copy of which was sent to you from here, "the growing demand for plough bullocks is so great as to have already doubled their value in a year and in many cases held up operations".

Lord Granworth estimated that purchase price plus the export tax should not exceed £100 in which sum he did not include the expenses of collecting and driving to the frontier, and this estimate was not disputed by Mr Sturdy who was most anxious to press for a favorable answer at once, and was only restrained by Major Broughton-Lytle pointing out that any haste would probably excite Abyssinian suspicions of our motives.

All these points were put forward in Major Laughton's despatch of the 25th November, and the 12th December last, in which he also pointed out that the Abyssinians considered it would be necessary to send for the Borana chiefs to Mile Bahru in order to explain matters to them. Major Laughton also suggested in his November despatch the idea of the Abyssinian return Mission and the possibility of driving the first mob of cattle through at the same time in order to open the trade. Unfortunately the question of the Mission had to be postponed because no definite answer was received until the 9th February when the approaching rainy season made it impossible for them to start this spring.

In all the other points however no difficulties appear to have arisen and I received neither criticisms nor comments of any kind from Nairobi and I consider that I was therefore justified in believing that the Protectorate Government was satisfied with the prospects and the terms suggested, and were as anxious as their representative and Lord Granworth that the matter should be put through as soon as possible.

Consequently it was arranged the Borana chiefs should be sent for and all efforts made to secure cattle at the earliest possible date.

The Government demanded an export tax of 20/- a head basing their demand on a late concession given to the French to export cattle by Tibuti at this rate. The duty was finally reduced to 10/- a head, the figure suggested by Lord Granworth as reasonable considering we must arrange for a distinct gain to the Abyssinian Government so as to secure their co-operation.

The only offer I could secure from a private agent to collect and deliver cattle at Moyale was refused as his price was from 10/- to 15/- a head; finally the Government organized to collect 1000 of the best oxen and deliver them by the end of May, which I understand is the most favourable season, at

Moyale

In reply please quote
No. 5230224. 1912.

4y 6th, 1912.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo and to express my regret at the view which you have taken of the attitude of this Government in regard to the purchase of Abyssinian oxen at Moyale.

I would observe in the first place that Mr. Sturdy's mission to Abyssinia was not undertaken solely in the interests of the cattle trade, as appears to have been subsequently assumed, but was intended to foster intercourse between the two countries generally in the hope of encouraging the importation of livestock of various descriptions horses and mules as well as cattle. That the latter eventually became the main object of his solicitude appears likely from Lord Cranworth's unofficial notes but in the absence of a definite report

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S MINISTER,

ADD: ADAMA.

report from our technically qualified representative we are necessarily left in the dark to a very large extent.

Major Doughty Lytle's letter of November 20th certainly discusses the possibilities of the cattle trade at some length but it was never supposed that he expected us to take any specific action until we were in receipt of Mr. Sturdy's views except in one particular, the proposed visit of Abyssinian notables to Cairo.

This point was taken up at once and our readiness to receive the Mission notified in due course after the necessary information had been obtained and the necessary references made. Unfortunately it was never made clear that the mission must start in the first week in February and in consequence the short delay which took place in signifying our acquiescence appears to have necessitated its postponement.

As the Abyssinian visit was thus unavoidably put off and as no report had yet been received from ~~Mr. Sturdy~~, this Government, I think very naturally, regards the whole question of the cattle trade as being in a very unsettled position and further developments.

Your telegram of March 14th proposing a sale of 400 oxen came therefore as a great

surprise.

am bound to accept the opinion of the authority who is acquainted with the local conditions actually prevailing at the moment.

I was therefore reluctantly compelled to decline your offer and, while I must thank you most sincerely for the kindly motives which inspired it, I cannot help thinking that before commencing negotiations with people so sensitive and suspicious as the Abyssinian Ministers it would have been desirable to have awaited some definite exposition of the views of this Government and thus have avoided the unfavourable consequences which you anticipate will result from the disappointment experienced at Adis Ababa over the failure of the proposed transaction.

I may say that for some time past I have been collecting information to enable me to address you fully on the subject of the cattle trade with special reference to the ruling local prices, the difficulties and expenses of the journey from Moyale onwards and other circumstances of importance in connection therewith. I shall hope shortly to be able to send you this information and a copy of Mr. Sterdy's report will also be despatched to you as soon

as it is received in the Manufacture.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ACTS. GOVERNOR.

17/10/27 Sat

28
29 June 28

DRAFT

Col. L. E. P. Forward Kuala Lumpur
D.S.O.
R.R.

MINUTE

Mr. Hattha 26

Mr. Reed 17

Mr. Fiddes

Sir H. Just

Sir J. Anderson

Lord Emmott

Mr. Harcourt

...
for for your observations the
see copy of a report & enclosure
sent from the Dept of the
E. of. Prod., and a copy of
a letter from Mr. R. J. Hardy
the Veterinary Officer regarding
a proposed sale of 300
Abysinnian oxen at Moyale

~~I am sure that you that~~
Mr. Harcourt must regard
the hitch which has occurred
in the making as being
~~of a nature that~~
the Government attaches great
importance to the development
of trade with Abyssinia &
the 2 Dept. Prod. ...

Dec. Cont. 6 May 9
Mr. Hardy 10 June
(No. 13856)

Copy to 21 June 1928

17/10/27

requests that ~~the~~ ~~question~~
you will find the whole question of the ~~Trade~~
~~being~~ ~~your~~ early
attention on you refers
to the ~~road~~

relations ~~between~~
the ~~two~~ ~~countries~~

for the U. S. Secretary of State