

he sees no objection  
to the proposed visit  
of a party of Abyssinians  
to Nairobi.

J am n.

(Blanchard) 14 v. F. 1912

EAST AFR. PROT.

2184

REC'D  
22 JAN 12

2184

Foreign

Date.  
1912

22 Jan.

Last previous Paper.

F.O.  
845

Cattle Trade with Abyssinia.

Sends rep. fr. Adis Ababa enclosing report  
by Lord Cranworth resp. possibilities of -

Sir G. Fiddes.

This is a very useful report, from the  
political as well as from the trading point  
of view. It does Lord Cranworth credit.

It would be very useful to Sir P. Girouard  
as an unofficial supplement to the official  
report which Mr Sturdy will furnish to  
him.

I would send the Govt. in a confidential  
despatch, a copy of  $\frac{F.O.}{314}$  (without the sub-enclosure)  
 $\frac{F.O.}{845}$  & our reply, & of this letter & its  
enclosure, for his information; & say that

Last subsequent Paper

2184

The 3. of 3. will be glad to receive a copy  
of any report which Mr. Sturdy may  
furnish on his visit to Abyssinia, and  
to learn the result of the proposed visit  
of a party of Abyssinians to Nairobi.

HAB.

Jan. 24.

P.M. 24

E 29

~~H~~. 30.1.12

GR 10

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 1781 1912

and address—  
The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

C O  
2184  
CD  
Recd: 22 JAN 12

The Under-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,  
January 22, 1912.

Reference to previous letter:

40  
945

Foreign Office, January 3

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Major Douglas Wylie, 17.98 December 23.	Battle Trade between Abyssinia and British East Africa

(Similar letter sent to)

C O  
.2184  
Reg<sup>d</sup> 22 JAN 12

1781  
13 JAN 1912

BRITISH LEGATION 13 JAN 1912

ADIS ABABA,

23 December 1911.

Sir:-

With reference to my despatch number 90 of the 1st December, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of an interesting report by Lord Cranworth on the possibilities of the Cattle Trade between the East African Protectorate and Abyssinia.

I would suggest that a copy of this report, which emphasises the desirability of persuading the Abyssinian Government to send a Mission to Nairobi, be sent to the Colonial Office.

*No Study's report has not been received yet -*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

with the highest respect,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Arthur D. S. W. J. C.*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR EDWARD GREY. BART. M.P.

&c. &c. &c.

December 1911

CD  
RFD: 22 JAN 12

13 JAN 1912

Notes on R.S. Stordy's mission through S. Abyssinia

(1) It will be borne in mind that I am in no way officially connected with the mission. When Mr Stordy's journey was sanctioned I obtained leave to accompany it at my own expense. This I was glad to do as in the first place it gave me the opportunity to see S. Abyssinia on my way home and secondly because I was anxious to investigate the question of the cattle trade as being in my opinion about vital to B.E. A.

The reason why I consider this matter so important is because 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 and also because should another supply of cattle immune to East Coast fever prove readily available B.E.A. would be in an almost unique position in Africa.

(2) The objects of Mr Stordy's mission as I understand them were:-

- (a) To visit the outlying posts under his direction.
- (b) To decide the question of removing or otherwise the quarantine on cattle coming down from the Borana.
- (c) To see what steps if any could be taken to open up trade in cattle and horses etc in the Borana and S. Abyssinia.

(3) Here I might state that after careful consideration I am opposed to the importation of Borana horses, whether stallion mares or geldings, into our Protectorate. I adduce the following reasons:-

- (a) It is against the policy of the Abyssinians, who naturally and instinctively dislike any tampering with the horse supply. Insistence on this point might easily

cause the Abyssinian Government to abandon their present favourable attitude to trade.

(b) I can hardly conceive it possible that there exists in the world a worse type of horse than the Borana. It apparently possesses every quality that it should not have, and has a lamentable absence of those it ought to have.

B.E.A. is not large and a comparatively small portion is suitable for horse breeding. Those districts suitable, e.g. West Kenia, are probably superlatively good. If therefore the Protectorate is to get a reputation for horseflesh it must be for a very high class breed. The Boran horse is not calculated to assist this end. It may be truly said that the imported Boran horses are with few exceptions geldings. I would point out that to a certain extent at all events the horses of a country are judged by what is visible, and that therefore the presence in Nairobi of a quantity of Borana rats is and must be prejudicial to the breeders.

(c) I should like to say that I am utterly at a loss to understand the attitude of the B.E.A. authorities in encouraging the Somali trading across the frontier. These Somalis are armed with permits from our Government and apparently deliberately encouraged to cross the border and to smuggle out the horses of a country which if savage is technically friendly. Seeing the store that the Abyssinians set on their horses, and that in twelve months no fewer than 1200 passed ~~out~~ through our post, it would appear to me that there is considerable justification for the Abyssinian animosity on the frontier. Furthermore we heard much rumour and in one case good proof that the Somalis spare no pains to vilify the British both with the Borana and the Abyssinians: e.g. it was proved on what appeared to me trustworthy evidence that one big smuggler warned the Borana that Mr Sterdy was coming up to poison wells and to

(5) Mules differ from horses in that that class of animals is very desirable. My suggestion would be to ask for trade in mules, but really to be prepared to cede the point, because

(a) the Abyssinian authorities would be probably averse to it

(b) I doubt if the demand for this animal is really very great in B.E.A., since it is not used for pack, and most farmers prefer a horse to ride.

Perhaps a limited number might be imported.

(6) It is in cattle however that it is essential to put forth all our efforts to obtain a really free and satisfactory trade. The cattle are a very fine stamp of beast, equal to the best Masai cattle: indeed as one goes north they are superior.

The best cattle we saw were in the Jum-Jum country. They are in great quantities. The roughest of estimates that there are over half a million in the Boran country. Finally and most important, in Mr Sterdy's opinion, and for reasons that he will state, these cattle are probably immune from East Coast fever.

(7) If therefore the cattle be held the one important trade of the frontier, it will be well to consider first what objections to it come from either side, and then what steps can be taken to set them aside or to alleviate them.

(8) From B. E.A. side I suggest that the difficulties are:-

(1) Transport outwards of the goods necessary to purchase cattle, money not being at present acceptable.

(2) Transport inwards of the cattle when collected.

(3) The length of time required and the difficulties at present inseparable with collecting a large mob of

cattle

With regard to the first two there can be no doubt that certain improvements to the road from Moyale to Marsabit, and from Marsabit to the N. Guaso Nyero should be effected, more especially that arrangements should be made to combat the water difficulties across the desert. Mr Sturdy has drawn up a scheme involving a minimum of expense. Should the B.E.A. Protectorate see fit to adopt it, the transport question will be reduced to a minimum, indeed at the present time it offers no insuperable obstacle. To combat the third difficulty, it would be advisable to have an agent at Moyale to collect the cattle, which could be also inoculated there or quarantined if necessary. The grazing at Moyale is very good and there is a fairly adequate supply of water there. Moreover Mr Deck, H.M.S. Assistant Commissioner there has a scheme for making a dam in the immediate vicinity of the station. Both the lie of the ground and the nature of the soil promise well for such an undertaking. It is probable again that should the Abyssinian Government really favour the scheme that the collection of even a great mob of cattle would occupy a comparatively short time.

(9) On the Abyssinian side of the border the difficulties lie in the innate distrust of the Abyssinian authorities, and in their inability to see any advantage accruing to themselves. For the latter I believe a custom house through which every head of stock horses would pass and pay a direct tax to Adis Ababa must form the essential inducement. Personally I should doubt if more than an infinitesimal number of Abyssinian officials are educated enough to appreciate the advantages of a trade, but they can certainly appreciate the advantages of a large sack of dollars. Naturally the tax imposed must be a matter of discussion and negotiation, but I would earnestly



suggest that it be of such an extent as to cause the authorities to really prosecute the sales and to foster the trade in every way rather than passively allow and indirectly discourage it. This will also mean that the petty delays and difficulties over passes etc must be done away with as the loss of time which apparently means nothing to an Abyssinian, is insupportable to a European. At the present prices I suggest that the following charges would not kill the trade, though I am far from suggesting that they should be imposed.

Cows and heifers £ 5; Bullocks £3 ; mares £ 20 ; horses £ 10; mules £ 10.

Then again Mr Sturdy has suggested that one of his assistants who would be quartered at Moyale could be allowed to visit and doctor diseased cattle belonging to the Borana. Seeing that it was to be free the authorities at Adis Ababa appeared to welcome this idea. I feel a certain doubt however, though Mr Sturdy should know, as to how far this idea would be welcome to our Government. It must be borne in mind that there is always a percentage of deaths from inoculation, a rather dangerous point with ignorant natives. Again it is suggested that a return trade especially in sheep be fostered, a most excellent idea if it could be induced. The fact that our pedigree sheep horses and stock are inured to a very similar climate to that of the Abyssinian highlands renders such exchange desirable. A present from our Government of a few pedigree rams and bulls was mooted. The effect of such a present would be but transitory however, and though having no experience of fathoming the Abyssinian mind, I wonder if such free gifts might not arouse therein the traditional distrust of the gift bearer.

Personally I place my entire trust in the tax imposed at the Customs.

With regard to removing the inveterate distrust of our border policy, I am of opinion that Major Doughty Wylie's suggestion

suggestion of a counter mission from Adis Ababa to Nair-obi is the only thing, save the course of time that can remove it. I firmly believe that such an expedition, more especially if a white officer accompanied it would be eminently desirable, and would do more than anything else to do away with the distrust on the border, which is at present always likely to lead to trouble. Probably a glimpse of the lava-stream<sup>down</sup> plain between Marsabit and Moyale would do more than a sheaf of letters and a week of protestations to convince the Abyssinian that we do not propose to invade his land from the South. That sus-<sup>al</sup>picion removed probably with it would go the principle-  
obstacle to trade.

10. It would I think be a sine qua non that the B.E.A. Government should give an undertaking that no cattle or other livestock should cross our frontier save at the Custom House. Any mobs going down would receive a pass, and the presence of any cattle ~~steer~~ crossing the desert without such a pass would be easy of detection. Such an undertaking would I believe constitute a considerable inducement to the Abyssinians, and would I suggest be moreover a matter of common honesty.

11. An effort might well be made to facilitate the system of passes for traders and others. Either a fixed and easily recognisable pass from our Government should be sufficient, or if such a course is impracticable the Abyssinians might hand direct to our Authorities a certain number of blank passes.

12. As an independent traveller I would like to bear witness

7.  
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witness to as great an extent as possible to the unremitting hard work carried out by Mr Stordy throughout the expedition. Although in no way assisting I have naturally had every opportunity of judging, and can most certainly affirm that no one could have done more or spared himself less to effect a good result from his Mission. Naturally he is unaware that I am writing this.

13. Unrestricted trade is undoubtedly the end to be worked for. In however the event of this being refused the permission to trade a limited number would be better than nothing. This permit might be given direct to the Government and the transaction carried out by the Agricultural Department, or permission might be given by the Government to applicants to trade so many head pro rata.

(sgd) CRANWORTH.

FO 2184: 12 77



*See*

3 Feb 1912

DRAFT.

*Confidential*

For Sir E.P.C. Girouard.

MINUTE.

Mr. Venning <sup>31</sup>/<sub>1</sub>  
Mr. Butler Feb. 1. f. 3.

Mr. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Lucas.

Mr. Harcourt.

Sir,

I have to transmit to you, for your info, the accompanying copy of corres. with the FO. respecting the possibilities of ~~the cable~~

trade between Abyssinia & British E. Africa.

2. I shall be glad to receive a copy of any report which Mr. Sturdy may furnish on his visit to Abyssinia

FO. 3 Jan (314)  
~~(1st encl. daily)~~

FO. 8 Jan (825)

FO. 11 Jan (2184)  
FO. 22 Jan