

EAST AFR. PROT.
211526

G. O.
41526
REG. 31 DEC 2

Handwritten initials

Date.
1912
30 Dec.
previous Paper.
28584

labours for Magadi Railway Construction

Calls attention to difficulty in recruiting labour & asks that Co. recruiters may be puzzled by Gov. Comm. with a tribal reference for the purpose of recruiting.

En-g. Ziddes

The total length is ^{about} 90 miles & the rails have been laid for 70 miles. At present one 4000 natives are employed but 1500 of them become time required during the present month. The Co. has imported some 150 labourers from Port. S. Africa, to whom they are paying the very high wage of £2 a month but the Portuguese have now put a stop to the importation & there seems to be no other suitable source of supply & after the magadi is started a rather a general relation to fact as both sides are spending money to make the scheme a success & to secure the satisfactory end in a jiffy.

Vertical handwritten note on the left margin: "Call on the Comd of En-g. Ziddes"

Subsequent Paper

1912/13

Communications to be addressed to the Company

P. J. F. / A. B. E

PAULING & CO LIMITED

Telegraphic Address
PAULING & CO. LONDON

Telephone
PAULING & CO. LONDON

PAULING & CO. LONDON

Please quote No

C. O.

41526

557

26, Victoria Street
Westminster, S.W.

REC 31 DEC 2

December 30th 1912

H. J. REID, ESQ., C.M.G.,
East Africa Department,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the interview our Mr. Percy Pauling had with you to-day in regard to the trouble we are having in obtaining sufficient native labour for the construction of the Magadi Lake Railway, we beg to point out that unless some assistance in recruiting labour is given to us by the Government, the completion of the railway will be considerably delayed, as the time of our contract expires in April next and this is not far off.

Our agent has cabled us that the term of engagement of a large number of natives expires in January and he is having great difficulty in replacing them.

Our agent also points out that the Government officials are using tribal retainers for turning out Kavironde natives for public works, but will not allow these retainers to be used for recruiting labour for the Magadi Railway.

We ask and would suggest if it can possibly be arranged that our recruiters should be supplied by the Provincial Commissioners with a tribal retainer.

As Mr. Stourton whom Mr. Pauling took with him to your office to-day and who has lately returned from East Africa, pointed out, this would carry weight with the chiefs and give

confidence to the natives and insure a better supply of labour
to bring the work to a satisfactory finish and within the
time limit of our contract.

Yours truly,

PAULING & CO. LTD.,


Secretary

M. SAMUEL & CO

TELEGRAMS: LEHMANN LONDON
TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 5002
5003
5004

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559

Tell them that I have approved the draft that I do not wish to submit to the committee at the moment but will do so later with the draft of the 2/1/13

*Shell House
27 Bishopsgate
London*

1st Jan. 1913.

Colonial Office

Colonial Office,
Whitehall Street.

Dear Sir,

It is now some time since I had the pleasure of seeing you, this being largely due to the fact that Dr. Herz now has the practical management of the Somali Company in hand. He is, however, away on a short holiday and as I myself am leaving town tonight I am unable to write to you about a matter which I should have much preferred discussing with you personally after making an appointment. You will, however, excuse my not having succeeded in arranging a meeting, as you will understand it would have been impossible without some delay.

It appears that Messrs. Pauling are informed by their Agent at Mogadi that they are having very great difficulty in replacing large numbers of the time-expired natives, the ordinary

LONDON.

-2-

wastage of which is about 1500 per month. It appears that the Works have now reached a point when Messrs. Pauling could easily and profitably employ 2000 extra men over and above what have been their normal requirements hitherto. According to the statement of Messrs. Pauling's agent, the Government Officials are making use of tribal retainers to recruit natives for Public Works but will not allow these retainers to assist Messrs. Pauling's recruiting agents in obtaining labour.

The case is very much, as far as we are concerned, as it was when Dr. Herz wrote you on the 23rd of August, when he explained that the matter was really no direct concern of ours but had entirely to do with the Contractor. But indirectly, of course, it is a very serious matter for the Magadi Company should the Contractors be unduly delayed in the execution of their work for any cause, especially if it is an unavoidable cause as I think is the case now. Any delay in the completion of the railway means a considerable handicap to the Magadi Company at the very outset of its career owing to the loss of interest and inability to make use of the expensive organisation that it is preparing.

Owing to the great interest which you have always shown in the project which you have followed in its progress, I feel sure that the Company are justified in counting upon your sympathy in this matter, and I would therefore ask you very urgently to

Dear Mr Herz,
 I am forced to write to you about a matter which I should have much preferred discussing with you personally after an appointment. You will, however, excuse my not having endeavoured to arrange a meeting, as you will understand if you have been impossible without some delay.
 It appears that Messrs. Pauling are informed by their agent at Magadi that they are having very great difficulty in recruiting large numbers of the time-expired natives, the difficulty being largely due to the fact that Dr. Herz now has the practical management of the Magadi Company in hand. He is, however, away on a short holiday and he I myself am leaving town to-morrow. I am forced to write to you about a matter which I should have much preferred discussing with you personally after an appointment. You will, however, excuse my not having endeavoured to arrange a meeting, as you will understand if you have been impossible without some delay.
 I am, Sir, very truly,
 Yours faithfully,
 M. Samuel & Co.

M. SAMUEL & CO

LEASONS - LEONAS LONDON
REPRESENT - LONDON WALL 5002
5003
5004

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Handwritten notes:
I should have
Appreciated it
that I do not
know the
company
but with
2/1/13

Handwritten: Shell House
27 Bishopsgate

559

1st Jan. 1913.

Colonial Office,

Dear Sir,

It is now some time since I had the pleasure of meeting you. This being largely due to the fact that Dr. Kerr has the practical management of the company in hand. He is, I trust, away on a short holiday and as I myself am leaving town tonight I am unable to write to you about a matter which I should have much preferred discussing with you personally after making an appointment. You will, however, excuse my not having succeeded to arrange a meeting, as you will understand it would have been impossible without some delay.

It appears that Messrs. Pauling are informed by their Agent at Nagadi that they are having very great difficulty in replacing large numbers of the time-expired natives, the ordinary

LONDON.

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consider the matter and send out some form of instructions by wire to the Officials concerned in British East Africa. Possibly then the tribal rangers will be not only allowed to assist Messrs. Pauling's recruiting agents but will even be instructed to do so. I certainly think that Messrs. Pauling deserve some consideration from the East African Government in the matter, as they have loyally done their best to avoid raising the standard of wages, although I am not sure that it has been to their own personal interest that they have acted in that manner.

If you are going to send a cable in the matter I should be very glad to hear from you to that effect, as I should like, if possible, to inform Messrs. Pauling so that they may see the good will you are showing them. At the same time, should you desire me not to mention the matter, even if you send the cable I shall naturally observe your wishes.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Walter Levy

SAMUEL & CO

REGENT STREET LONDON
LONDON WALL 5002
5003
5004

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Shell House
25 & 27 Bishopsgate
London
E.C. 2

January 4th 1915.

H. J. Read Esq., C.M.G.,
Colonial Office,
S.W.

Dear Mr Read,

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd which was forwarded to me. As a matter of fact I knew that you were in touch with Paulings, but I was most anxious to do anything I could to back them up about this matter of the fresh labour they required, because although they are responsible for getting their contract completed to time, any delay owing to this cause (or of course any other) would be most unfortunate and definitely serious for the Magadi Co. I do trust the Powers that be can be induced to send a wire to Nairobi.

Yes, the India Office has partly met us in the matter of establishing a place for the treatment of Soda in bond. I can assure you we appreciate most cordially the valuable assistance you gave us through the Colonial Office in getting this

M. SAMUEL & Co.,

Office: 11, Abchurch Lane, LONDON.

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H.J.R. Esq, C.M.B.

-2-

4.1.13.

settled.

Yours very truly,

Walter Lacey

for similar treatment

3. I may add that, in
view of the employment of
total returns in general, I
am anxious from putting
pressure on railways to induce
them to work except for
public works of real urgency

Signature of Mr. COBBETT

P / 415 M. East 4th St

Ans'd 9/92 / 13

53

DRAFT.

Mr. Sanding & Co

6 Jan 1913

MINUTE.

- Mr. Mr. Nicolson 3. 1. 13
- Mr. Bottomley 3
- Mr. Reed 3
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. in relation to the proposed extension of the Great Northern Railway to the north of London. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to furnish the necessary details at this time, but I trust that you will be able to do so in the future. I am sure that the proposed extension will be of great benefit to the public and will be supported by the Government.

Copy to Mr. Sanding