

"fermati" and "nanti" which
Italian form of the
occurs in the (draft agreement
as it did not read in the Italian version
I must explain, that the

~~misheard translation of the~~

Italian Minister's letter

is only a rough one.
Word "fermati" was translated
"iron fittings" in the English text, while
"nanti" appears as "square beams"
(i.e. 4m long & 8x8 cm order used for
connecting the main beams of roof etc).
In both cases the Italian & transcription
is slightly wider than the English.

The translation of the note from
the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs
is only a rough one.

E. M. ...
...

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Foreign Office

1913

14. Oct.

Last previous Paper.

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Affairs in Abyssinia

Send Dept. of Admin. Abeto report
generally on situation

Mr. G. Fiddes

Put by?

H. J. R.

18/10/13

...

...

1913. 10.20.807-58
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Next subsequent Paper.

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 45143/13

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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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,
October 16, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Mr. Theisger (Aden Ababa)	Situation in Abyssinia
September 17	

C O
35814BRITISH LEGATION,
ADIS ABABA.

12th September, 1913.

Sir:-

With regard to the general situation in Abyssinia I have the honour to report that Lij Yasu is still absent in the north and that the date of his return is problematical. It is said that he still holds to his intention of crowning his father Ras Michael as Negus of the north and that they will both return to Adis Ababa in another month in order that the ceremony may take place here. The honour will be for the most part a nominal one as there is apparently no intention of diminishing the influence of Ras Waldo Giorgis who in reality holds most of the power which should go with this title.

The latter appears to be rather a thorn in the side of Lij Yasu and his father, but, as his attitude of a somewhat sullen disregard of their authority is accompanied by no personal desire of aggrandisement, they

are

Right Honourable

Mr. E. Grey, Bart., K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

are I think fully decided to leave him alone and wait
for his death, when Ras Michael could take over his
power without opposition.

In connection with the Southern Frontier affairs
the return of Lij Yasu is imperative, and I have conse-
quently written to the Council of Ministers to inform
them that if Lij Yasu does not come in after the rains
it will be necessary for them to obtain the authoriza-
tion to call in any chiefs whose advice is required
and full powers to give me a definite answer with regard
to the rectification of the frontier, as I cannot consent
to a much longer delay.

I have also spoken to the Abuna about this business
and he has promised to send an urgent message to Lij
Yasu impressing upon him the need of his presence in
Adis Ababa.

In Adis Ababa all is quiet, but practically no
administrative work is being done and in the Law Courts
criminal and commercial cases are steadily accumulating
owing to the impossibility of the claimants obtaining
any decisive judgments.

The Treasury is empty and the Government have great
difficulty

difficulty in finding sufficient money to carry on
the Administration and the wages of the lesser 415
European employees are paid in bills which no one will
discount. The Government appears to be waking up to
the seriousness of their financial position and
suggesting new taxes but the reform of the Customs
and of the system of levying tribute, without which
nothing can be of any avail, is beyond their ability.

It is very uncertain whether the reserve fund,
estimated at some five million dollars, which is said
to have been accumulated and deposited in the Ghibbi
by the Emperor Menelik for use in the event of war,
has remained intact or not, although it was always
reported to be still in existence.

I hope, thanks to the financial straits in
which the Government now find themselves, to be able to
induce the Ministers to impose heavy taxation on the
local distilleries which turn out quantities of bad
spirits, which are sold as Brandy, Absinthe, and so
forth at a criminally low rate and are gradually
finding a market among the frontier tribes to an
extent which has already aroused the anxiety of the
Sudan Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) Wilfred G. Theaiger.