

EAST AFR. PROT

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Wingate, Sir R. W.

CONSULAR OFFICERS FOR ABYSSINIA

1913

5th November

at previous Paper.

Sends note detailing system adopted by the Italian Govt. States E.M. Minister at Addis Ababa and Governor of B.F.A. should be in a position to advise as to the places at which they should be stationed.

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Sir G. Fisher

When Sir R. Wingate was in this country is suggested to me that we should shift for the E.A.P. the system of placing consular officers in Abyssinia which had been found to work well in the Eastern part of the Sudan - I undertook to send Mr. Rowland (see below) to discuss matters with me. Mr. Rowland came here & it was arranged that he should send a memo this to Sir G. Fisher - see the letter.

You will see that in the memo referring to the country in the Western district of the E.A.P.

copy of letter to see my remitt of 26th 28

Subsequent Paper.

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GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

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KHARTOUM. 5th November 1913 100

T7 NO 13

Dear Mr Read,

As reference to our conversation regarding the
 desirability of appointing Government Officers for
 in Abyssinia from British East Africa. I attached
 short note detailing the system adopted in this respect
 by the Sudan Government. As regards the places
 such Officials should be stationed in
 Abyssinia, I am Minister at Addis Ababa and think
 of British East Africa to be in a position

(Handwritten signature)

G. C.M.G.,

Colonial Office,

London S.W.

The Sudan Government has the following Officials stationed in Abyssinia:-

(a) Mr C. E. Armbruster, H.M. Consul for Northern Ethiopia at Gondar.

(b) Mr C. H. Walker, H.M. Consul for Western Abyssinia, at Gambela (Gora).

Their Headquarters are at Khartoum, from which they report to their posts in Abyssinia, and to which they return annually to report to the Sudan Government.

They are commissioned Consuls, and are subject to the same regulations as Consuls in other parts of the Sudan.

They are also subject to the same regulations as Consuls in other parts of the Sudan.

The Sudan Government, to which alone they report, pay them a salary and pension.

Mr Armbruster has spent eight years in Abyssinia, and

an equal period in the Sudan, 5 years partly in the Sudan partly in Abyssinia and Somaliland on various

Missions, and was for three years a Magistrate in British Central Africa.

Mr Walker has spent eight years almost entirely in Abyssinia as Commercial Inspector

Control of such Officials:-

In Abyssinia Messrs Armbruster and Walker are under the H.M. Minister at Addis Ababa, and in the Sudan they are under the Sudan Government. They report to either or both as occasion requires.

4. The duties of these Officials are:-

(a) To do anything possible to advance trade and improve relations between the Sudan and Abyssinia;

(b) to keep their Governments informed of everything that may concern them in Abyssinia.

It is difficult to tabulate such duties, but their

more precise and particular nature may be gathered from Mr. Arnold Baker's reports of 1907, 1908 and 1911 and Mr. Walker's reports of 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913. From these it will be seen that they are constantly travelling and that they cultivate the personal acquaintance of all the rulers and important persons in their Districts. In the present circumstances it is inevitable that their reports should be of a high order and that they would be of great value to the Government. They are the same as the Intelligence Officers and the reports which they submit to the Prime Minister.

To protect the interests of British and Sudanese subjects in their Districts they also act as a check on the Abyssinians who are often very unscrupulous in their dealing in any way with the Native administration. Their expense incurred in the course of their duties is considerable and it is estimated that the cost of their services is about £100,000 per annum. It is suggested that the Government should consider the possibility of increasing their numbers and of providing them with more adequate facilities.

The special qualifications required for these officers are that

- (a) they should be acquainted with the languages and religious practices and beliefs of Abyssinia.
- (b) they should be men of experience in dealing with Europeans and natives, and so should be at least 30 years of age and endowed with great patience, tact, self-reliance and perseverance. It is suggested that they should be men of good physique, experienced in African travel and prepared to face the great variations of climate and uncivilised conditions of life in the Sudan.

more precise and particular nature may be gathered from Mr. Amundson's reports of 1907, 1908 and 1913, and Mr. Walker's reports of 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913. From these it will be seen that they are constantly travelling and that they cultivate the personal acquaintance of said Native Rulers and important persons locally, in their Districts. In the present case of Abyssinia it is inevitable that their duties are not strictly those which could ordinarily be expected of commercial travellers. They are utilised as they are, the same as the Police Officers and other reports when they are first...

to protect the interests of British and Sudanese subjects in their Districts, they also act as a powerful check on the Abyssinians who might otherwise be inclined to molest British subjects. It is of course, due to the fact that they are not meddling in any way with the Native administration, that they are able to secure a continual increase in the revenue of the Government without incurring any expense incurred by other officials at the frontiers.

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- (b) they should be men of experience in dealing with Europeans and Natives, and so should be at least 30 years of age and endowed with great patience, tact, self-reliance and perseverance. It goes without saying that they should be men of good physique, experienced in African travel and prepared to face the great variations of climate and uncivilised conditions of life in the...

Officers for duty in
Algeria, under
to those appointed
by the Sultan's order.

2. I have

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...

the suggestion

FRANCOIS HARCOURT

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

CO/533/131

END

TOTAL EXPOSURES →