

EAST INDIA
36088

56088

Foreign
1914
1st Sept
previous Paper.
T
34382

SISAL FIBRE

This copy of letter from Messrs Craven and Speeding Bros and of reply returned. Requests views. A similar letter has been sent to the B. of T.

Mr. G. Fiddes

Ack: say that we will
bring them to the notice of the firm of the S.A.P.
& the Recipient of 3' bar &
copy of same to the firm of
Rec'd copy of 7
(Success 5 Sep. 1914)
Mr. Hobbey 12th Dec) H. J. R.
22/9/14

alone (P) 22/9/14

See page 149 (copy of) 21. 5 pins
See other copy of

subsequent Paper
34852

56038
REC^d
REG^d
FOREIGN OFFICE

If any further communication
on the subject, please quote
No. 49611/14.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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21st
September 21st, 1914.

470

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, copies of a letter from Messrs. Craven and Speeding Brothers, and of the reply that has been returned thereto, respecting the supply of Sisal in British East Africa.

Sir E. Grey would be glad to learn the views of your Department upon this communication.

A similar letter has been addressed to the Board of Trade.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

A/aw

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

36038

REC'D
21 SEP 1914

copy.
(49611)
CRAVEN AND SPEEDING BROTHERS,

THE RED STAR MACHINE WORKS,

SUNDERLAND. 471

14th September, 1914

Sir:-

On August 25th we prepared the enclosed letter, but we came to the conclusion at the time, that probably the Foreign Office was better acquainted with all the facts of the case than we were.

We, however, notice now, that owing to some action taking place in British East Africa, there is fighting going on.

It would undoubtedly be of great advantage, if the machinery that is being exhibited by Friederich Krupp and Company can be secured, because it would give the English Manufacturers full details of the machinery that is being used extensively in German East Africa.

Yours faithfully,

For Craven and Speeding Brothers

Secretary

Foreign Office.

CRAVEN AND SPEEDING BROTHERS,

THE RED STAR TWINE WORKS,

SUNDERLAND.

25th August, 1914.

Sir:-

We venture to draw your attention to the fact, that in German East Africa considerable quantities of Sisal fibre are grown, and this is useful in the manufacture of Cords, Ropes and Binder Twine.

The quantity grown there is from 20/25,000 tons per annum.

Owing to the disturbed condition of Mexico there may be a shortage of Mexican Sisal, and that, coupled with the stoppage of Sisal fibre from German East Africa might cause difficulties.

We have in British East Africa, near to Nairobi, some 30,000 acres of land, which we are planting with Sisal plants, but which will not come to maturity until 1917.

We know that the German factories are fully equip-

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Secretary

The Foreign Office.

equipped with Decorticating Machinery, that the plants are yielding, and that all that is required is to keep the machinery and plantations at work, and immediately a constant supply of fibre can be procured.

We estimate that such fibre would bring in London anything from £20 to £30 per ton. At present the price is £26, but with a shortage it is likely to increase to £30, and so 25,000 tons of Sisal at £30 per ton would yield £750,000.

In the Spring of 1913 we visited the firm of Friederich Krupp and Company of Magdeburg, who have fitted up most of these German factories with Decorticating Machinery, and this firm have at the present moment a large exhibition of their machinery at the Paris-Salon. This machinery is most suited for the extraction of the fibre out of the leaves of the Sisal plant.

We have associated with us in our venture Mr. Ewart S. Grogan, who is at present at Nairobi, and Mr. W. C. Hunter Postal Box 96, Sixth Avenue, Nairobi,

who

who is also the Secretary for several sisal plantations that have just arrived at the producing areas in British East Africa.

The natives in German East Africa have been thoroughly trained to the work, and it would only be necessary to have a certain amount of white supervision in order that the factories and plantations might continue. Sir Percy Girouard, the late Governor General, can no doubt give further information.

We trust this information may be of some use, and remain, &c.,

(Signed) Craven and Speeding Brothers.

48611/14.

FOREIGN OFFICE

September 14th, 1914.

LC088

REC'D 21 SEP 14

Gentlemen:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of September 11th respecting the supply of Blais in British East Africa and the advantage of securing the machinery of Friederich Krupp and Company for this purpose.

I am to inform you, in reply, that copies of this communication have been transmitted to the Colonial Office and the Board of Trade, who would seem to be the Departments immediately concerned.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

Mrs. Craven and Speeding Brothers.
Sunderland.

FD 3658/1914

CONFIDENTIAL

476

JV

24 September 1914

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the accompanying copy of copies with the FD. on the subject of the coal industry in East Africa.

I have to suggest that the copies should be shown to Mr. Hobley.

(Signed) L. HARCOURT.

DRAFT

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential

Mr. St. Helmsfield

MINUTE.

Mr. St. Helmsfield 23/9/14

Mr. St. Helmsfield 23/9/14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Frides.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

21 Sept 14

St. Helmsfield

(1)

FD 26088/1914 East

~~FD 26088/1914~~

24 Sept. 1914.

Sir,

I am &c. to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter
of the 21st of Sep, No 49611/14,
~~and to inform you that~~
forwarding a copy of comes
with memo drawn and
speeding matters relating to
the coal industry in East
Africa, & to request you to
inform Secy. S. S. D. J. Frey
that the comes. is being
brought to the notice of
the former of the East &
the British Resident at Zhar.

DRAFT.

Shell's & S
FD

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 23/9/14

Mr. Bottomley 23.9.14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Pemberton.

Mr. Harcourt.

Copied in East (copy)
for Secy. S. S. D. J. Frey

J

(Sd/-) H. J. READ.

for the Under Secretary of State