

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR PROT.

No. 12548

C. O. 12518

APR 23 1908



Individual.

(Subject)

No. 91

908

Apr.

Previous Paper.

225

Subsidiary Trade development

Submit suggestions - (1) modification (or abrogation) of all export duties for 2 years, with the exception of Ivory. (2) the duties on steamers lighter or boats which shall be placed on same basis as agricultural products.

(Minutes)

Subj. not to say that a further comm. will be sent etc. - & then return paper to me.

at once

B. J. R.

12/4

Send copy of this letter to the firm for early report - & info: Mr. Wallace that the firm has been asked to send a copy report on the matter to which he refers.

at once

B. J. R.

12/4

Previous Paper.

2282

RECEIVED
74

W. Lawrence Brown, London

April 24

1918

125

Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing Street, S. E.

In accordance with my interview with you on Wednesday last, I now beg to lay my views before you in writing. These are based on the experience of my manager in Africa, who has had sixteen years altogether on the Zambezi and in the Great Lakes Region and John River.

Requests.

1st. A modification (if not even a total abrogation) of all Export duties for a period of ten years, with the exception in the case of Ivory.

2nd. No duties to be charged at all, at any time, on steamers, lighters or boats, but these to be placed on the same basis as agricultural machinery.

Arguments.

The arguments in favour of the above requests are as follows, taking them in order:-

1. Opium herebefore has been regarded as a negligible quantity for as British East Africa is concerned.

It has been regarded as a Somali country, unfit for occupation

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10. The British Consul, London 11/11/11

(2nd Sheet)

April 5th

11115.

by Ethiopians and dangerous to them. This is controverted by the fact that for the past seven years no serious outrages and further whatever murders have been committed had their cause in personal, and not racial, motives, and no murder has been committed for gain against White or Black.

Furthermore it is a rich country in soil, growing anything required, from cotton, rubber and fibre to corn and vegetables; and the River Juba, feeding as it does in the Southern Abyssinian Mountains, taps all the rich grass and Southern Abyssinian Country, whose products at present keep up the Italian coast towns of Brasa, Merca and Mogadiscio.

Now the native products from Italian Somaliland (or as it is more generally known, the "Benadir Coast") as far as I can gather pay no export duty whatever.

The old Italian Colony of Erythraea only charges £1 per cent export duty, so it is not likely that a new and young colony charges any more, if any at all, and the fact that goes to prove this is that whereas English Jubaland is dead and produces no comparative revenue in either imports or exports, the steamer subsidized at great expense by the Italian Government came down the Benadir Coast and go back full up with produce, the greater part of which has come from British territory.

I think from the above it will be seen how necessary it is to secure our inland trade and bring back to our port of Harar the produce for shipment which naturally belongs to her.

(3rd. Sheet.)

April 5th, 1878.

his desire requires little argument to show the necessity for it.

Agricultural machinery or anything for the development of the soil is allowed into Lombardy free of any duty; how then is it consistent to charge duty on the steamers and lighters that convey this machinery from the ocean steamer to the shore? Surely such, whether conveying machinery or merchandise, in developing the country, and so ought to be on the free list, always excepting that they pay the ordinary Port Dues and registration.

The above are the main Arguments, but taking them as a whole, may I be permitted to supplement them as follows:-

First, great activity is being shown this year on the Italian side of the river.

In 1863 a Mr. Sargnetti came out, and on the Italian side of the river grew 17 acres of cotton; the results were so good that he returned to Italy and formed a Company with £20,000 Capital and returned last year with steam engines and ploughs to cultivate, and when my Manager left in February had 100 acres ready ploughed. His example stimulated other people to look into the question and shortly afterwards Mr. Carpenetti was followed by the Marquis Afan de Riviere and Doctor Innocenzo Fennelli, each one of whom represented two Companies with a capital of £20,000 (each Company).

Dr. Fennelli was Professor of Agriculture at the College at Milan. The result of the inspection of the country by these gentlemen has been that they are

(4th sheet)

April 5th.

1898.

enthusiastic over the prospects and at this moment are on their way home to buy machinery, which will arrive out at Kismayu in September of this year. My Manager has agreed to carry from our port of Kismayu all their cargo, consisting of heavy traction engines and steam ploughs, round by sea and into the river, and he has further agreed to take out of the river and ship from our port of Kismayu all their produce, acting as their Agents. This will entail heavy expense on me, as I shall have to build a special Steamer for this purpose.

Another strong argument in favour of encouragement and help to Jubaland is shown by the following

While on his way home and at Mombasa my Manager met a Mr. Egerton Bracker who had come out (with a letter of introduction from Signor Fattori to the Italian Resident on the Juba) to grow cotton on the Italian side of the River. Under Mr. Irwin's influence this gentleman consented to confer with Captain [Name] as to the advisability of his taking his land on the English side of the River, but expressed his opinion that it was impossible, because of the heavy duties and the uncertainty of obtaining the land at once.

In conclusion, I think it unnecessary to trouble you further in this matter, but I would beg your favourable consideration of this letter; that is if you desire the peaceable settlement of the country adjoining the Juba River (which will do more to pacify the country than 10 Regiments of Ashurias) and the whole of the South Abyssinian border, which is rich without comparison in Africa

(Encl. sheet.)

April 23rd.

8.

Apologising for the length of this letter,

Yours, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

George H. M.

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~~12548~~

May 16 1878

Sir,

I am directed by the

S. M. for the Colonies to say

to you that a copy of your

letter of the 15th of April

is being sent to the Gov. of

the S.A.P., who is being

asked to send an early

report on the matters to

which you refer in connection

with the development of

trade in the Island

provinces.

Yours
C. O. Lewis

DRAFT

G. J. Herbert Esq

MINUTE

- Mr. Nelson 16/4
- Mr. Reid 16/4
- Mr. Jux
- Mr. Anderson
- Mr. Cox
- Sir F. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin.

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12548

14/11/78
12548
87th. one leaf

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G D 18 22

23 April 1908 274

EXP (no 197)

Sir,

with ref to W Jackson

dated 20. 4. 08 of the

to Mr. ...

(594)

22nd of January I have

the hon. & transmit to

in the accompanying

copy of ... the

subject of the development

of trade on the ...

I shall be glad to be

your kind call on any

report on the matter

referred to in Mr. G. ...

Yours faithfully

J. ...

...

W. ... 16/8

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