

EAST AFRICA
17891

17891

of Individual

Commons

Concessions

1909

26 May

Previous Paper

1909

Mr. Cathcart Wason.—To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is satisfied that certain large concessionaires in East Africa have fairly fulfilled the conditions under which large tracts of land were obtained, and the Natives removed therefrom; will he say if further demands are now being pressed on the Government in favour of a certain syndicate involving large financial liability on His Majesty's Government; and, if so, if he will refer the demands and certain proposals that have been laid before the Secretary of State with reference to the financial state of the Colony to a Departmental or Parliamentary Committee. [Monday 7th June.]

For oral reply

W. ~~But~~ *But* ~~interloc.~~

To take the two parts of the question in their order

(1) I do not know to what concessionaires Mr. Wason alludes. If he would specify them, it would be possible to give a specific answer. But I do not think that it is desirable to give a general certificate of character such as would be implied by an answer to the question in its present form.

(2) The reference must be I imagine to the negotiations which are proceeding in

subsequent Paper

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expected to take Magadi. It is hoped that
the E.A.P. will benefit largely by the conclusion
of a satisfactory arrangement for the
working of the soda deposits. No demands
are being made upon H. M. G. in this connection
except that the Treasury may have to put
down some money ~~for~~ to equip the
Kipanda Railway to carry the traffic. But
an arrangement will be made which does
not promise an adequate return on such
outlay.

(3) This ^{is doubtless} a modest reference to Mr.
Jasson's own proposals for the financial
evaluation of the Protectorate See ^{C.O.} 11658

? Reply

I am afraid that I cannot undertake
to answer the first part of my hon.
friend's question without knowing definitely
to what concessions it refers. With regard
to the second part of the question proposals
are continually being made for the
development of the resources of the
protectorate which involve outlay on the
part of the Govt. in the initial stages, but
my hon. friend is assured that

no such arrangement will be
entered into without the most
careful consideration or without
safeguarding the interests of
the Government. In the case
of a very important proposal
which is now under his
consideration, the Secretary
of State has appointed a
Departmental Committee to
go into the matter and
advise him as to the
action which should be
taken.

W. H. May 27

Mr. C. Wason of the
to line about his
Question - 27/5
the reply will satisfy
him - 27/5

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