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24365

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21 31

of Individual

From May Co
Oct 20

1909

15 July

Previous Paper

122265

A. de B. Boundary Com

make
27 Aug



you are an excellent...
frozen...
1. the delimitation...
policy to be adopted for its administration
With regard to (a), this matter is being
considered by the J.O. & we shall hear
from them in due course.
With regard to (b), see my minutes on
J.O. The question is one of ways &
means. The work could probably be done
by 3 inspectors with Mr. Zaphiro &
the

DOMESTIC

365

JUL 05

377

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	
1	2
DATE	
BY	
REMARKS	
OPENING OF THE RECORDS - NOT TO BE PRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHING RECORD OFFICE, LONDON	

Do not bother I think, let the matter
stand now until the new firm has had
time to look into the matter on
the spot.

Send copy of the three volumes, with
3 copies of the maps to the office
& say that the question of the
administration of the frontier should be
referred to the new firm after
the issue of his duties.

See what is said in pp. 16+17 of
Major Ferguson's memo regarding the
Borneo Trading Co.

HJR

11/10

HJR

11/9

12.8
Atkinson

S-R

Thursday
1577 09

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Dear Aunt

You were a a Council
When I called this afternoon

I had meant to leave them
papers with you & ask

you if you wd be kind
enough to hear my names

& letters to be typed. I suppose
you wd have it done

Can I have do for it

In getting these things done
I could you can get it

down I should like a copy
of the memo & the
original of by letter to
to be sent to the

I have shown the draft
memo to Clark & you will
see his note returning to
with a suggestion which I
do not propose to follow

After all a treaty is a treaty
& I was bound to consider
the treaty line & not what

Anglo-Algerian Boundary Commission

From Major C. H. Brown, R.E.

To the Under Secretary of State, the following
 copies

50 Latin copies

10 7 09

Sir

I have the honour to submit herewith
 a memorandum dealing with the present
 situation on the B.C. Africa-Algerian
 Frontier & describing generally the
 delimitation of the Frontier carried
 out by the Commission under my
 command

A more detailed description of
 the work of delimitation will be
 submitted when the large scale
 maps, now in preparation, are
 ready

A copy of my letter of com-
 date to the U.S.S. the Foreign Office
 concerning the Mr. Zuphian despatch
 of 27/9/09 relating to the Eastern
 Frontier of Algeria is also
 attached

I have the honour to be

Sir

Yr. obedient Servant

C. H. Brown Major R.E.



Major C.W.Gwynne R.E.

The Under Secretary of State
Foreign Office.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. enclosing a copy of the despatch of May 10th 1909 relative to the boundary of Abyssinia.

The despatch refers to the proposed draft of a map of the boundary between the British and Italian territories in the Southern Frontier, a copy of which is enclosed.

Mr. Zappiro's observations with in the memorandum.

There is a very substantial difference of opinion as to the position of the boundary between the wells near M... and at Burroli Mt. Mr. Zappiro thinks that the wells at Burroli does not form an adequate base.

I agree that the control would be more effective and easier if the wells detailed in the above para. of Mr. Zappiro's despatch could be included in British territory.

Mr. Zaphiro is unwilling to recognise that by the treaty of December 1907 we have concluded a bargain with Abyssinia and that the mere fact that it is a bad bargain is no ground for repudiation.

His remark that we have left the "best of the Golbo" to Abyssinia can only refer to the valuable shooting rights which as I have pointed out in the memorandum the Abyssinians have fairly secured under treaty.

If we wish to maintain our reputation for straight dealing with the Abyssinians it would be the worst policy to try and get them back by bribery or misrepresentation.

It would be difficult to suppress and out of question to "Doctor" the maps of the frontier and unless this is done the first person competent to read a map could show the true treaty line the Abyssinian Government.

Mr. Zaphiro's purpose is to hide the meaning of the clause as finally demarcated by an indefinite verbal description in order to allow him to maintain the claims he has up to the present date should not I can still be entertained for a moment.

The rectification of the frontier entailed by my alternative commendation west of Uran would meet practically all Mr. Zaphiro's objections and give us the Uran wells. The only valid plea for demanding this rectification is its necessity to allow efficient administration. It is useless to base the demand on the ground that water supplies are required for natives on one side as the clause in the treaty giving natives the right to water on either side of the frontier in accordance with established custom disposes of the plea

however

however useless the proviso would prove in actual practice.

I believe that a straight forward demand for rectification made good by effective occupation would be acquiesced in and would cause less friction than the subterfuge proposed by Mr. Zaphiro.

If it is decided whether this rectification is to be demanded, it would perhaps be best to leave things indefinite and on these grounds I directed Mr. Zaphiro to disclaim knowledge of the results of the delimitation west of Meyale. This was sufficiently true as he did not accompany the commission beyond that point. The string of names in Paragraph 23 of Mr. Zaphiro's description of the boundary means nothing but might be taken as making Mt. Burroli a point on the Frontier.

This I expressly avoided as the pass between Mt. Burroli and the fort of the escarp is necessary to the use of patrols based on Burroli wall.

It would perhaps be well therefore to instruct Mr. Zaphiro to adhere to my directions.

I should like to add that I fully appreciate the difficulties that will be added to Mr. Zaphiro's position by an abandonment of his previous claims and a stricter interpretation of the frontier line, but it would have been quite beyond the scope of my power as delimitation commissioner to have maintained his claims in full.

I have, etc.

C.W. Gwynne, Mayor R.E.

When Capt. Baird was surveyed the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia in 1840 he found the Abyssinians in a perfect occupation for south of the line was possible by the Emperor Menelik in 1850.

He therefore searched for a alternative line which would not entail the displacement of the Abyssinians on the account of communication on the British side. It has been recommended by him was recognized as a water portion of the line for some years and was finally adopted in the treaty of Dec. 7, 1861.

Before the signature of the treaty it was found that some form of communication was necessary on the British side despite the concessions which had been made to avoid it. Mr. Tophers was appointed to watch British interests & he has established what is practically an administrative system.

The natives tend to rely on his protection more & more & the regularity of his work makes it the more necessary to stabilize its continuity & regularity it. This has for some time been recognized & Sir J. Harrington submits a scheme for administration by British Officers.

The fact that Mr. Tophers was appointed before the treaty was drafted makes his position an important essential departure from that of officers who were expected to him. His instructions though defining the working frontier in some detail summarized the boundary as being the low plain of the Galla & in British Territory & the Basa highland in Abyssinia.

Acting on the instructions & letters following what he believed to be the spirit of the treaty

When Capt. Grant was sent to the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia in 1863 he found the Abyssinians in effective occupation for South of the A. T. in possession by the Emperor Menelik in 1898.

He therefore searched for an alternative line which would not entail the displacement of the Abyssinians or the necessity of withdrawing from the British side. The line recommended by him was recognized as a working frontier for some years and was finally adopted in the treaty of Dec 7, 1897.

Before the signature of the treaty it was found that some form of administration was necessary on the British side despite the concessions which had been made to avoid it. Mr. Lapham was appointed to watch British interests & he has established what is practically an administration.

The natives tend to rely on his protection more & more & the excellence of his work makes it the more necessary to stable & to continuity & regularity of it. This has for some time been recognized & Sir J. Harrington selected a scheme for administration by British Officers.

The fact that Mr. Lapham was appointed before the treaty was drafted makes his position an important essential different from that of officers who have succeeded him. His instructions though defining the working frontier in some detail summarized the boundary as being the low saddle plain of the Gollo in British Territory & the Bura highlands in Abyssinia.

Acting on these instructions & latterly following what he believed to be the spirit of the treaty

Mr. Stephens has always claimed a frontier of well
settled British, which the treaty deposits
of the boundary placed in Abyssinia, on the
local Abyssinian frontier dispute to the
frontier with an fort the best part available
for the maintenance of administration
which has been secured almost all the present
water supplies from British territory. Thus the
East of China Nagala has its permanent
water here the frontier for about 100 miles
out of the west for about 130 miles.

Mr. Stephens has also up to the present been
allowed to move freely along the frontier in
Abyssinia ^{within} but the privilege cannot be relied
on in future.

When the detailed delimitation of the
frontier in accordance with the treaty had
to be undertaken it was necessary either
to regularize or abandon Mr. Stephens
claim.

Although the treaty provides for the appointment
of a joint Commission of delimitation the
date of the Commission are not defined,
except in the sketch section ~~of the boundary~~
between the Dawa R. & G. Kuffala where the
absence of natural features had rendered an
exact description of the boundary impossible.

~~It is to be regretted that it was intended
that the Commission would have been empowered
to fix the boundary line where definite details
were not possible. The intention was to instruct
the Commission to appoint a sub-committee
to the absence of physical features. Commission
to the point the British Commission that~~

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to the point the British Commission that~~

accepts the view that the natural features named in
 the treaty define the boundary were the nearest
 merely for the identity with the line and not an
 end and final point to which it was necessary to
 adhere. That proceeds he could arrange for the
 negotiable balance of concessions he was free, within
 reasonable limits to withdraw, when it was
 necessary to secure a workable frontier.

As the receipt of paper at this station appears
 to be clear, a frontier which could not be altered
 will have been unworkable. He therefore
 decided on modifications which would
 require a change as far as the
 were necessary for a better frontier
 of paper and other papers for settlement
 of how to settle the frontier's delimitation
 Broadly speaking the line is
 the golden plain inhabited by
 of French or of the origin.
 The Stephanie & Reddy & Aroos valley
 inhabited by sedentary black is
 The golden extends from the Suba to the
 East to Lake Stephanie on the west. A
 highland with a low peak at the
 the country the tract near Koroqo
 to the Lorian Swamp. Low for the high peak
 thick covered with brush & good grass
 an excellent grazing ground.
 Beyond the river, which are regular & abundant
 are numerous water holes some of which
 some seem artificial, in the open plain

at the base of the isolated hills & extends for some distance in the plain south of the Bora heights. The supplies of water become exhausted before the height of the dry season. The inhabitants, with animals, then seek the permanent water found in the flats & Dawa rivers, at the foot of the Boma range, at the base of Tel Wak, Wuyana, Marantid, Kuruli & Gorai, and in the vicinity of Accousi above the Boma range.

The distribution and movement of the tribes are influenced by several factors, the height of the permanent water is avoided in the wet season on account of its unhealthiness & the prevalence of the m. It is necessary also to remove to grazing in the neighbourhood of the permanent water for the dry season. The temporary water supplies can only be used when they are in the situation with reference to the permanent supplies that flood can move for on the other during the dry season.

The people in the Galla own Camels, cattle, sheep & goats but do not cultivate at all with the exception of a few small communities settled near the rivers.

West of the Galla the Country of the black is poor & strong interests with water has been known. The population is scanty & of a very low grade. The few districts, which were formerly well populated, have been deserted by the Abyssinians. The Turkana tribe, though still subject to Abyssinian raids, is not found in the several marches of the Frontier.

It is only in the Galla section that the quality of the water improves & that modification of the Boundary is necessary.

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In the East the Dawson R. forms a good boundary for 100 miles, but the state of affairs among the Small tribes like the K. tribes is serious. The words of the Aborigines for the north & of the Kullak for the south has caused a general movement of the tribes of the ~~North~~ North West valley South West & west. Thus on the northern bank of the Dawson the line between the Dawson & ~~North~~ reports are habits by Capt. ~~North~~ & ~~North~~ & ~~North~~ by the Yukon & ~~North~~ from the east bank of the north R. by the Aborigines. These people attacked again by the Aborigines are trying to gain a footing South of the Dawson ~~North~~ ~~North~~ there has been ^{an} invasion of the ~~North~~ ~~North~~ & other tribes ~~North~~ from the Kullak. Much inter-tribal fighting has taken place & there has been a general uprooting of some ~~North~~ ~~North~~ Communities, practically of brigands, have been found who will not obey the recognized tribal authorities but loot & murder indiscriminately.

The jobs which are found during the day season merely form a screen behind which these bands can organize their raid on the ~~North~~ ~~North~~. The States have recently commenced to attempt to by & develop the County on the opposite bank & can severely threaten the existence of the Aborigines. The Administration of the district is necessary in connection with that of district police work & could probably be best carried out by the law organization.

The first step must be to check the ~~North~~ ~~North~~ & invasion of fresh tribes from the north, this will be accomplished by an extension of the ~~North~~ ~~North~~ government.

After leaving the Dawson R. the boundary as defined by treaty follows the boundary between the

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Garse & Boran tribes through an elevated plain
rising gradually from the level of the Galla to that of
the Boran Plateau. The plain affords good pasture
but the water supply is limited & has peculiar
character. The Garse are ^{Galla} ^{tribes} ^{of} ^{the} ^{high} ^{lands} ^{of} ^{the} ^{east}
some many of the Garse have wells in Boran land.

The Garse are a tribe of Somali origin which
came to Co. by from the east, extended up the
right bank of the Dawa as far as Gaba Galla.
The plain is still looked on as the tribal
and hunting place of the chiefs. The Garse
adopted the Galla language & religion when
they became subject to the Boran kingdom
which at the first fits power of the
king of Dawa built in 30 miles of the coast
and as far south as Lil Wat. In fact
have been recovered their independence but
some of the wells at Lil Wat belong to Boran
living in the highlands.

The tribal boundaries of the Boran and Garse
are therefore ill defined & are further confused
by the existence of the slave tribe of Gallas also
of Somali origin. Some of whom are subject to
Boran others to Garse families. The limits
assigned by Capt. Grant are probably the nearest
approximation to an accurate representation
of the present distribution of the tribes but the
claim of the Garse to Gaba Galla is especially
valid & has been advanced & should be
considered in estimating the extent of the
trade to Abyssinia & the modification of
the treaty line.

This district was practically the only one in
which the boundary could be modified in favour
of Abyssinia in exchange for modification
of the water supply further west.

By treaty concessions have discussion as
to tribal boundaries was avoided & the

Chief of the Gorse, readily admitted that the
arrangement when he understood that the
would be placed in British territory

west of the Gorse plain the position of the
the Boraon Plateau of Dier. This is a small
plateau fully 6000 feet high by a gentle slope
at its eastern western end but rising to the
south to a row of hills forming the crest
of the great low Gorse plateau from the Arbell
neighborhood in the west for 150 miles to
Gardulman in the east.

At its center the line of escarpment forms an
oblique angle the salient being called Ura
west of Ura the escarpment is parallel to the
Strata & is consequently unbroken in thickness
& little water is found at its base.

East of Ura it breaks on the contrary
across the Strata & is deeply indented.
The Gorse plain was of the indentation
in narrow flat valleys divided by steep ridges
spurs. In almost every valley generally at the
head are perennial courses of water.

In describing this feature Capt Brand says
that the spurs are essentially part of the
Boraon plateau & for the reason suggested
a line practically tangential to their higher
ly the strata. I would have been taken
here true to say that the valley are part
part of the Dier but presumably Capt Brand
did not attach importance to this as you
on his maps show that the Arbellian
immediate foot of the escarpment to be unbroken

As has already been pointed out the water in the
the dry season when the inhabitants of the pools move to
the water. It is the great object of the Government
to afford them the opportunity of discovery but it is
reported in the report that the people have to be
of elephants by the elephants.

During the rainy season the elephants
the elephants go northward although the
fading water in the rain pools. By the
excursion several thousand elephants have
the elephants unable to return to the
abundant water of some of the pools at the
foot of the camp. Several thousand elephants
by the water pools at each of the
The African hunters established at the
the slaughter the elephants as they come to
drunk during the season but it is
said that the water is very thick with
the elephants and the water is not
it is undoubtedly true that the question is not
nearly one of the utilization of elephants
in the particular district, a great neglect
movement of the animals is affected.

As far as the matter of the
will avoid further of the elephants in the
to maintain the health of the people
of the elephants in the particular
water being in British territory who
consequently no work for the elephants
It is practically impossible for the
part of the elephants in the
Cooperation of the British side.

It is practically impossible for the
part of the elephants in the
Cooperation of the British side.

Unless a general permission is given to Abyssinians
open streams to pasture. The ground and a portion
will probably produce as seen from a flat of grass
but by visiting one or a very slight excavation
within Abyssinian territory would show

The road through the British Indian territories
information. Mr. Lyell's visit to the great interior
Abyssinians at his disposal has been some time
on the frontier but an admission of the Abyssinian
ownership of many of the valleys will limit his
power even though the modification introduced at
the boundary ~~may~~ ^{will} his power to patrol it.

At the extreme Eastern end the escarpment breaks
up into a series of detached hills, the intermediate
openings rising more or less steeply from the lower to
upper plain. The first opening is at Gaddadema
(Kuddadema) where it also detaches the most
easterly of the series of water supplies at the foot
of the escarpment. Gaddadema has thus a double
importance as a pass and as a water supply.

As already stated a large number of the Gurus
live in the dry season to Gaddadema & to Gura
a little further East where the water generally but
till well into the dry season. When the Gura supply
fails the Gura grazing grounds are within reach
of Gaddadema. Gura belongs to the Gura
& Gaddadema to the Boran though the Gura has
a traditional right of pasturing there. The Gaddadema
water is also used by Boran & Sabaya for their
livestock in British territory.

Although the place belongs to the Boran on the
Abyssinian side of the frontier it is not of
great importance to them as to the people on
the British side. In the ^{former} ~~present~~ ^{territory} of the latter
water flows at Bor. Le. as in the Abyssinian

territory. Moreover as the best line leaves no permanent
 water in British territory between Tara & Chavre Moyal
 the importance of the Gaddadama pass with its wells
 supply to the maintenance of any force of administration
 on the British side is apparent & points to the necessity
 of modifying the strongly marked & clear in the
 treaty line at Kuffale.

On account therefore of its importance & the
 distance of the British side, and as a point required
 for administration communication Major Gwynne
 desires to modify the treaty to be a better
 Gaddadama - British territory

Between Gaddadama & the base of the
 it was clear that the frontier could not
 be modified in an office all the water
 British territory ~~in the~~ ~~of a valuable~~
~~of a valuable~~ ~~of a valuable~~
 strict adherence to the treaty line would have
 rendered administration of British territory
 impossible Major Gwynne therefore adopts
 the ~~of a valuable~~ course of introducing modifications
 which placed in British territory a number
 of wells at such intervals that parties
 bound to them could contact the location
 of frontier concerned & with communication
 without using Abyssinia territory. Incidentally
 the solution may tend to check the wholesale
 slaughter of elephants by providing a better
 number of safe watering places.
 The change for the above modification
 in favour of British interests a large tract

of Garre County on the side of Chitoke
was considered & Abyssinia & the Garre side
to Gabagallgello was abandoned

The effect of this modification is shown
on a sketch map. The frontier was marked
accordingly into ^{as far as the British} Stone Cairns
the nations on the British side were informed
that they were not allowed
to have dealings with the British Commission
but they are probably fully aware of the settlement
which has been made.

From the town of Garre the frontier leaves
the camp & runs through the plain to Lake
Stephane which like the rest of the
is frequented by various kinds of birds

In the dry season there are small ponds
& the water of Garre & Dilla in Abyssinia
and at Marsabit & Kericho south of the
watersheds. Between them & Lake
Stephane natural communication without
any Abyssinian territory is impossible, there
being the only permanent water near the frontier
with the British side. The question of admission
in the section is not pressing as only a small
part of Abyssinia are tempted south.

When they do have access they established themselves
at Kericho & Marsabit & they may be checked
by the establishment of the post at Kericho
As there was nothing to be done a change
Major Gwynne was unable to verify the
boundary as he got over the disadvantage

seen the Abyssinians could probably not reach
 the fort as the Abyssinian in charge knew
 it. The withdrawal of Abyssinian soldiers may
 have been anticipated in this district or the limit
 of the Empire. The exact limit of the Abyssinian
 permanent frontiers the destruction of Lab. Radoff
 was not ascertained but it is probably no further
 South than on the east shore, an abandoned
 post on the lower side of the lower Kibrah was
 observed. In the other hand large Abyssinian
 raiding parties had recently penetrated far
 into the Turkana country. It then was no
 attempt made to conceal the fact that the
 parties had been sent out to show the
 Country before the British got had actually
 taken it over & in order to establish a
 claim to a further advance of the Frontier.

Nayasach Rata the ^{in consequence of} charge
 of the post at Maji, claimed the Country
 for several marches South & West
 of the Great Lake at ~~the~~ ^{the} head waters

The British Commission explored the
 Kibrah Valley & the Plateau lying west
 of it & South of the head waters of
 the Akobo. This Country is so bad & barren
 by the Abyssinians. It is of little value
 as though it formerly supported a considerable
 black population the present remains have
 survived the Abyssinian raids.

With a view to establish a claim
 to the Country the Abyssinians had formerly

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a few small posts here but here were found
abandoned. The County is unsuitable for
Abyssinian permanent occupation as a very
long inferior to the higher plateau at Moye
to the north. There is therefore no reason for
further concessions to Abyssinia in the
districts whatever claims may be advanced.

On the other hand the county is so remote that
its administration on the British side in the
immediate future would be out of the question.

It does not form an avenue for trade and as
none of the great tribes in British territory are
concerned a further administration it would have
no effect on prestige, the ^{few} inhabitants are
of a low grade & have never learnt
to look to us for protection.

It should be sufficient to communicate
the details of the description of the frontier
to the Abyssinian Govt. & reserve the right
to occupy if that frontier at any time is
desired. The raid into Turkana County
can only be dealt with by an extension of
Uganda administration or by strengthening the
front itself.

Taking the frontier as a whole it is
strongly recommended that the Govt. should
seek to delimitation of the frontier as soon
as it is possible and avoid further
discussion of the question with the Abyssinian
Govt. Discussion with necessary arrangements
the Abyssinians to make good their arguments
by further aggression & at the best can only

Lead to further expenditure on Commissions
 which will be more carefully applied to the
 establishment of a permanent station. In the
 western portion of the frontier the death of the
 Emperor Mawlaik may very probably lead to
 Abyssinian withdrawal & a policy of inaction
 is probably best. In the East however the British
 frontier on the Boma Escarpment is likely to draw
 Abyssinians from whatever happens in Abyssinia
 & the Somali question is rapidly becoming more
 acute, so they therefore is likely to be gained by
 delaying the establishment of administration.

There are two other considerations which
 apply to question of administration which
 be discussed namely the position of
 Mr. Laphan & of the Boma Trading Company

Mr. Laphan has in many ways done
 extraordinary good work in collecting
 information, checking Abyssinian depredations
 & maintaining order among the tribes in
 British territory. His influence extends
 through the whole Galla & Boma Country
 & his relations with the Abyssinian frontier
 officers are very good. He cannot however
 check Abyssinian aggression in the Rediff
 district or control the Somali tribes in the
 extreme East, and as already stated the
 delimitation of the frontier will be done when
 limit his power.

It will be impossible to replace Mr. Laphan
 by any one man his experience & knowledge

of language is unique. But Mr. Lapham's
conduct is in fact, the conclusion of his position
his health & uncertainty of his future progress
may at any time cause him to throw up his appointment

It must be recognized too that the completion
of the Lapham position is great. He could not
carry himself by contract for the balance of the
long term & moreover it would be hard to find
for him to be out and change of such magnitude
if he were brought, owing to the violation of his
position. Intention being accented to the
moral code of the term. Mr. Lapham might
in perfect good faith do things which would
lay him open to attack.

Now unfortunately Mr. Lapham's relations
with the office of the Borneo Trading Company
& with the Somali traders is the cause of
trouble. The former undoubtedly want him
under the control & criticism of a man
who has caused a Greek adventure, whose
hostility they prefer to distrust. The latter
also dislike & do not trust Mr. Lapham on account
of his nationality & partiality for Abyssinians.

They probably also hope to get rid of his
control & in any case try to force him to
quit which they are quite to see equal
between Mr. Lapham & the Company office.
Mr. Lapham is entitled & superior to a office
& cannot be said to have the character of
last.

The presence of the Borneo Trading Company
in the position is more important than the
Borneo

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make an arrangement that the frontier is to
be in administration of the British district
placed in their hands. This is a condition of the
agreement of the frontier with Mr. Lippin.

All present the Com. & Frontier post at
Cham Nagah, Dolo & Marsabit apparently
at heavy loss & the trading is to blame for Lippin
for their want of success.

The position of the Company's officers is
undoubtedly insecure especially where as at
Dolo their action is restricted by Mr. Lippin
without his being able to control the latter.

The proximity of the frontier from the
high border the frontier seems getting

It can only be hoped the Company will
shortly abandon an unsuccessful venture
henceforth the presence of the English
without authority and under the cover of a
flag has not a good effect on the
border.

Summary

- There are two questions to be settled
- 1. The Policy to be adopted as regards the future administration of the Frontier
- 2. The final settlement of the delimitation of the Frontier

Under the first heading it is suggested that although
an attempt was made to find a frontier which
would not require administrative expenses
has already proved the object has not been
attained. A form of administration has been

highly steady by the appointment of Mr. Tappin and the
 the has come when Mr. Tappin must be replaced by
 British officers. Delay in fixing the question will
 probably entail greater expense in the long run
 owing to the development of the Somali question in
 the East. For the present a forward Policy is
 required only on the Persian Frontier and to the East.

Under the existing it is urged that the ex-
 haire of Frontier adopts a the policy suitable a
 system of an administration. If the frontier is
 to be administered whether by Mr. Tappin or
 British officers, modifications are necessary.

It is urged that the modifications laid by the
 delimitation Commission give only the minimum
 requirements of administration & therefore their
 acceptance by the Abyssinian Government should
 be insisted on. It is further ^{stated} an alteration
 has suggested by the British Commission in the form
 of the frontier between Uman & Lake St. George
 should also be claimed from the Abyssinian Govt
 in view of possible future administration requiring
 although the question of administration has not
 been for settlement in the long term view.

THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF ABYSSINIA.

When Captain Mead, R.E., surveyed the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia in 1902-03 he found the Abyssinians in effective occupation far south of the line accepted in principle by the Emperor Menelik in 1898.

He therefore searched for an alternative line which would not entail the displacement of the Abyssinians or the necessity of administration on the British side. The line recommended by him was recognised as a working frontier for some years and was finally adopted in the treaty of December 7th 1907.

Before the signature of the treaty it was found that some form of administration was necessary on the British side despite the concessions which had been made to avoid it. Mr. Sapiro was appointed to watch British interests and he has established what is practically an administration.

The natives tend to rely on his protection more and more and the excellence of his work makes it the more necessary to establish its continuity and to regularise it. This has for some time been recognised and Sir J. Harrington submitted a scheme for administration by British Officers.

The fact that Mr. Sapiro was appointed before the treaty was drafted makes his position an important essential different from that of officers who may succeed him. His instructions though defining the working Frontier in some detail summarised the boundary as leaving the low southern Plain of the Golbe
in

in British Territory and the Roman highlands in Abyssinia.

Acting on these instructions and latterly following what he believed to be the spirit of the treaty Mr. Zaphiro has always claimed a number of wells as British, which the treaty definition of the boundary placed in Abyssinia; nor have the local Abyssinian officers disputed his claim.

These wells are for the most part absolutely essential for the maintenance of administration, as the treaty line excluded almost all the permanent water supplies from British territory. Thus to the East of Charri Moyale there is no permanent water near the frontier for about 100 miles and to the West for about 130 miles.

Mr. Zaphiro has also up to the present been allowed to move freely along the frontier in Abyssinian territory but this privilege cannot be relied on in future.

When the detailed delimitation of the frontier in accordance with the treaty had to be undertaken it was necessary either to regularise or abandon Mr. Zaphiro's claims.

Although the treaty provided for the appointment of a joint Commission of delimitation the duties of the Commissioners were not defined, except in the short section between the Dawa A. and G. Kuffale where the absence of natural features had rendered an exact description of the boundary impossible.

In the absence of Abyssinian Commissioners the British Commissioner adopted the view that the natural features named in the Treaty definition of the Boundary were

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were used merely for the identification of the line and not as hard and fast points to which it was necessary to adhere. That provided he could arrange for the equitable balancing of concessions, he was free, within reasonable limits, to introduce modifications where necessary to secure a workable frontier.

As the necessity of future administration appeared to him clear, a frontier which could not be administered would have been unworkable. He therefore decided to introduce modifications which would regularize Mr. Saphiro's claims so far as they were necessary for administrative purposes.

A description of the frontier region and its inhabitants is necessary to show how the question of future administration presses for settlement and how the details of the frontier delimitation are bound up with the question of administration.

Broadly speaking the country on the British side of the Frontier may be divided into two sections.

1. The Golbe plain inhabited by Brown nomadic tribes of Somali or Galla origin.
2. The Stephanie and Rudolf and Akobo Basins inhabited by sedentary Black tribes.

The Golbe extends from the Juba R. on the east to Lake Stephanie on the west. On the north it is bounded by the Dawa R. and Borah highlands while on the south it stretches to the coastal districts near Kismayu and to the Lorian Seas. It is for the most part thickly covered with bush and good grass making an excellent grazing ground.

After the rains, which are regular and abundant, there are numerous water holes, some natural and

and some semi-artificial, in the open plain and at the base of the isolated hills scattered for some distance in the plain south of the Boran highlands.

These supplies of water become exhausted before the height of the dry season. The inhabitants and wild animals then seek the perennial water found in the Juba and Baka rivers, at the foot of the Boran escarp, at the Base of Mt. Bak, Wajira, Marsabit, Kuroli and Gawai, and in exceptionally dry seasons move even to the Lorian Swamp.

The distribution and movements of the tribes are influenced by several factors. The neighbourhood of the perennial water is avoided in the wet season on account of its unhealthiness and the prevalence of "Fly". It is necessary also to reserve the grazing in the neighbourhood of the perennial water for the end of the dry season. The temporary water supplies can only be used when they are so situated with reference to the permanent supplies that flocks can move from one to the other during the dry season.

The people in the Gelbo own camels, cattle, sheep and goats but do not cultivate at all with the exception of a few small communities settled on the rivers.

West of the Gelbo the country of the blacks is poor and stony, intersected with waterless mountains. The population is scanty and of a very low grade. The few districts formerly well populated, have been devastated by the Abyssinians. The Turkana tribe, though subject to Abyssinian raid, is not found within several marches of the Frontier.

It is only in the Gelbo section that the question of administration presses and that modifications

modifications of the Boundary were necessary. In the East the Dawa River forms a good boundary for 100 miles but the state of unrest among the Somali tribes close to the Frontier is serious. The raids of Abyssinians from the north and of the Mullah from the east has caused a general movement of the tribes of the Webi Shebali Valley South West and West. Thus on the northern bank of the Dawa the area between the Dawa and Gensak, reported uninhabited by Captain Maude, is now occupied by the Yabsinn Hagodi driven from the east bank of the Web river by the Abyssinians. These people attacked again by the Abyssinians are trying to gain a footing south of the Dawa, where there has already been an invasion of Her Afrah Ogaden and other tribes driven west by the Mullah. Much intertribal fighting has taken place and there has been a general importation of arms. Several communities, practically of brigands, have been formed who will not obey the recognised tribal authorities but loot and murder indiscriminately.

The Juba which is fordable during the dry season merely forms a screen behind which these bands can organise their raids into Italian territory. The Italians have recently commenced in earnest to try and develop the country on the opposite bank and can scarcely tolerate the existence of the Aisatia. The administration of this district is necessary in connection with that of districts further west and could probably be best carried out by the same organisation.

One of the first steps must be to check the immigration and invasion of fresh tribes from the north

this could not well be accomplished by an extension of the Kismayu government.

After leaving the Dawa River the boundary as defined by treaty follows the boundary between the Garre and Boran tribes through an elevated plain rising gradually from the level of the Golbe to that of the Boran Plateau. This plain affords good grazing but the water supply is limited and non permanent in character. During the dry season many of the Garre move to Gaddadams and other wells in Boran territory.

The Garre are a tribe of Somali origin who entering the country from the East, extended up the right bank of the Dawa as far as Guba Gallyallo.

This place is still looked on as the Headquarters and is the burying place of the chiefs. The Garre adopted the Galle language and religion when they became subject to the Boran Kingdom which at the zenith of its power extended along the Dawa to within 30 miles of its mouth and as far south as Eil Wak. The Garre have recovered their independence but ever now some of the wells at Eil Wak belong to Boran families living in the highlands.

The Tribal boundaries of the Boran and Garre are therefore ill defined and are further confused by the existence of the slave tribe of Galras also of Somali origin, some of whom are subject to Boran others to Garre families. The limits assigned by Captain Vaid are probably the nearest approximation to an accurate representation of the present distribution of the tribes but the claim of the Garre to Guba Gallyallo is sufficiently valid to have been advanced and should be considered in estimating the extent of the concession made to Abyssinia in the modification of the treaty line.

This district was practically the only one in which the boundary could be modified in favour of Abyssinia in exchange for modifications securing water supply further west.

By making concessions here discussions as to tribal boundaries were avoided and Ali Abdi, Chief of the Garre, readily withdrew opposition to the arrangement when he understood that Gaddadama would be placed in British territory.

West of the Garre Plain the boundary skirts the Boran Plateau of Biri. This is an elevated plain falling to the Gobe by a gentle incline at its eastern and western ends but rising in the south to a range of hills forming the crest of a great line of escarpment running from the Arbelle neighbourhood in the west for 150 miles to Gaddadama on the east.

At its centre the line of escarpment forms an obtuse angle the salient being called Uran.

West of Uran the escarpment is parallel to the strata and is consequently unbroken in character and little water is found at its base.

East of Uran it breaks on the contrary across the strata and is deeply indented.

The Gobe plain runs up the indentations in narrow flat valleys divided by steep spurs. In almost every valley, generally at the head, are perennial sources of water.

In describing this feature Captain Vaid says that the spurs are essentially part of the Boran upland and for this reason suggested a line practically tangential to their southern extremities. It would have been even more true to say that the valleys are essentially

essentially part of the Golbo but presumably Captain Mead did not attach importance to this, as a note on his maps shows that he considered the immediate foot of the escarp to be uninhabited. As has already been pointed out this is not the case in the dry season when the inhabitants of the Golbo move to the water. Another fact which Captain Mead had no opportunity of discovering, but which Mr. Zaphiro has reported, is the effect this measure has on the destruction of elephants by the Abyssinians.

During the rainy season and subsequent months the elephants graze northwards across the Golbo finding water in the rain pools. By the time the escarp is reached these pools have dried up and the elephants unable to return till the rains break are forced to remain in the vicinity of the water at the foot of the escarp. Lateral movement is prevented by the waterless plains at each end of the escarp.

The Abyssinian hunters established at the water holes slaughter the elephants as they come to drink, driving them against the inaccessible sides of the valleys.

Mr. Zaphiro takes a very high estimate of the drain on the elephants of N.W.A. which this slaughter entails but it is undoubtedly true that the question is not merely one of the extermination of elephants in one particular district, a great migratory movement of the animals is affected.

An even more serious matter than the destruction of elephants is that numerous well armed parties of Abyssinians are established in the immediate neighbourhood of the frontier at the only sources of water available for natives living in British territories

who have consequently no escape from their depredations.

It is practically impossible for the Abyssinian Government to control these hunting parties without cooperation from the British side unless a general permission is given to Abyssinian officers to cross the frontier. To grant such a permission would probably produce an even worse state of affairs than the existing one as a very slight acquaintance with Abyssinian methods would show.

The need therefore for British administration is imperative. Mr. Zaphiro with the few untrained Abyssinians at his disposal has been some check on the hunters but an admission of the Abyssinian ownership of many of the valleys will limit his power even though the modifications introduced in the boundary enable him to patrol it.

At the extreme eastern end the escarp breaks up into a series of detached hills, the intermediate openings rising more or less steeply from the lower to upper plain. The first opening is at Gaddadama (Kuddadama) where is also situated the most easterly of the series of water supplies at the foot of the escarp. Gaddadama has thus a double importance as a pass and as a water supply.

As already stated a large number of the Garre move in the dry season to Gaddadama and to Surat a little further east where the water generally lasts till well into the dry season. When the Surat supply fails the Gurat grazing grounds are within reach of Gaddadama. Gurat belongs to the Garre and Gaddadama to the Boran though the Garre has a traditional right of watering there. The Gaddadama wat-

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is also used by Boran and Sakuyu families living in British territory.

Although the place belongs to the Boran on the Abyssinian side of the Frontier it is not of as great importance to them as to the people on the British side as the former have the alternative watering places at Bor, Lo &c in Abyssinian territory. Moreover as the treaty line leaves no permanent water near the frontier in British territory between Jara and Charre Moyale the importance of the Gaddaduma pass with its water supply to the maintenance of any form of administration on the British side is apparent and points to the necessity of modifying the strongly marked salient in the treaty line at Kuffole.

On account therefore of its importance to the natives on the British side and as a point required for administrative communication Major Gwynn decided to modify the treaty line so as to place Gaddaduma in British territory.

Between Gaddaduma and the Uran salient it was clear that the frontier could not equitably be modified so as to place all the valleys in British territory as there was no country of at all the same value which could be conceded in exchange. On the other hand a strict adherence to the treaty line would have rendered administration of British territory impossible. Major Gwynn therefore adopted the middle course of introducing modifications which left the majority of the valleys in Abyssinia but placed in British territory a number of wells at such intervals that patrols based on them could control the section of frontier concerned and inter communicate without using

using Abyssinian territory. Incidentally this solution may tend to check the whole-sale slaughter of elephants by providing a certain number of safe watering places.

In exchange for the above modification in favour of British interests a large tract of Garre country with the wells of Chilloko was conceded to Abyssinia and the Garre plain to Guba Galigalla was abandoned.

The frontier was marked accordingly with stone cairns as far west as the Uran neighbourhood and the natives on the British side were informed; those on the Abyssinian side were not allowed by the Abyssinian frontier officers to have dealings with the British Commission but they are probably fully aware of the settlement which has been made.

The effect of these modifications is shown on the attached map.

From the Uran salient the frontier leaves the escarp and runs through the Plain to Lake Stephanie which like the rest of the Goibo is frequented by various nomadic tribes.

In the dry season these assemble round Mogade and the craters of Goral and Dillo in Abyssinian territory and at Marsabit and Kuroki south of the waterless Huri hills. Between Uran and Lake Stephanie lateral communication without using Abyssinian territory is impossible, birds being the only permanent water near the frontier on the British side. The question of administration in this section is not pressing as only occasional parties of Abyssinians are tempted south.

When they do move south they establish themselves

themselves at Kuroff and Marsabit and this may be checked by the establishment of the post at Marsabit.

As there was nothing to concede in exchange Major Dwyer was unable to modify the boundary so as to get over the disadvantage of lack of lateral communications. He suggests an alternative line which by taking in the waters of Mogade and Goral would secure communication and also provide a better defined boundary for itself to administration. In the absence of a compensating concession the modification would have to be claimed as necessary for administrative purposes. His Majesty's Government is not for the present committed, except by the treaty definition, to either line. No houses were constructed west of Urap except two at Lake Stephanie, as it was considered desirable to encourage natives to look for protection when no administration was possible. Either alternative line is sufficiently marked by natural features for description in communications to the Abyssinian Government.

In the 2nd section of the Frontier, west of Lake Stephanie the British Commission found the Abyssinians established in the posts indicated on the map. At the north end of Lake Rudolf they had brought together a considerable population of the black tribes (Fishers and cultivators) found in the neighbourhood of the lake and these people seemed fairly contented and prosperous. At the posts in the low country most of the soldiers, though under command of Abyssinians were black, Arabs not belonging to Leontieffs old force. Without these men the Abyssinians could probably not maintain the posts as the Abyssinians

in charge were miserably ill. A withdrawal of Abyssinian authority may fairly be anticipated in these districts on the death of the Emperor. The exact limit of the Abyssinian permanent posts on the west shore of Lake Rudolf was not ascertained but it is probably no further south than on the east shore, an abandoned post on the west side of the lower Kibish was observed. On the other hand large Abyssinian raiding parties had recently penetrated far into the Turkana country. There was no attempt made to conceal the fact that these parties had been sent out to skin the country before the British Government had actually taken it over and in order to establish a claim to a further advance of the frontier.

Kenyasach Kato, the official interpreter of the post at Waji, in conversation claimed the country for several marches south and west of the treaty line on the strength of such raids.

The British Commission explored the Kibish Valley and the Plateau lying west of it and south of the head waters of the Akobo. This country is called Tirna by the Abyssinians. It is of little value as though it formerly supported a considerable black population the merest remnant has survived the Abyssinian raids.

With a view to establishing a claim to the country the Abyssinians had formerly a few small posts in it but these were found abandoned. The country is unsuitable for Abyssinian permanent occupation and is in every way inferior to the higher plateau at Waji and to the north. There is therefore no reason for further concessions to Abyssinia in these districts whatever claims may be advanced.

On the other hand the country is so remote

that its administration on the British side in the immediate future would be out of the question.

It does not form an avenue for trade and as none of the great tribes in British territory are concerned a failure to administer it would have no effect on prestige, the few inhabitants are of a low grade and have never learnt to look to us for protection.

It should be sufficient to communicate the detailed map and description of the frontier to the Abyssinian Government and reserve the right to occupy up to that frontier at any time if desired. The raids into Turkana Country can only be dealt with by an extension of Uganda administration or by strengthening the tribe itself.

Taking the Frontier as a whole it is strongly recommended that His Majesty's Government should treat the delimitation of the Frontier as a fait accompli and avoid further discussion of the question with the Abyssinian Government. Discussion will merely encourage the Abyssinians to make good their arguments by further aggression and at the best can only lead to further expenditure on Commissions which would be more usefully applied to the establishment of administration. In the western portion of the Frontier the death of the Emperor Menelek may very probably lead to Abyssinian withdrawal and a policy of inaction is probably best. In the east however, the elephant hunting on the Boran escarp is likely to draw Abyssinians whatever happens in Abyssinia and the Somali question is rapidly becoming more acute; nothing therefore is likely to be gained by delaying the establishment of administration.

There are two other considerations which affect the question of administration and must be discussed, namely the positions of Mr. Zaphiro and of the Boma Trading Company.

Mr. Zaphiro has in many ways done extraordinarily good work in collecting information, checking Abyssinian depredations and maintaining order among the tribes in British territory. His influence extends through the whole Galla and Boran country and his relations with the Abyssinian frontier officers are very good. He cannot however check Abyssinian aggression in the Rudolf districts or control the Somali tribes in the extreme east, and as already stated the delimitation of the frontier will to some extent limit his power.

It would be impossible to replace Mr. Zaphiro by any one man, his experience and knowledge of languages is unique. But Mr. Zaphiro cannot go on for ever; the loneliness of his position, his health, the uncertainty of his future prospects may at any time cause him to throw up his appointment.

It must be recognized too that the temptations of Mr. Zaphiro's position are great; he could enrich himself by exactions from the natives, illicit ivory trading &c. Moreover it would be most difficult for him to rebut charges of such misconduct if they were brought, owing to the isolation of his position. Without training and accustomed to the moral code of the Levant Mr. Zaphiro might in perfect good faith do things which would lay him open to attack.

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Now unfortunately Mr. Zaphiro's relations with the officers of the Boma Trading Company and with the Somali traders in the country are bad. The former undoubtedly resent being under the control and

and criticism of a man who they consider a Greek adventurer and whose honesty they profess to distrust. The latter also dislike and distrust Mr. Zaphiro on account of his nationality and partiality for Abyssinians.

They probably also hope to get rid of his control and in any case try to foment the bad blood which they are quick to see exists between Mr. Zaphiro and the Company officers. Mr. Zaphiro is excitable and suspicious to a degree and cannot be said to handle the situation with ease.

The presence of the Roma Trading Company on the frontier is not unfortunat. Their officers make no concealment that their ambition is to have the administration of the Frontier districts placed in their hands. This is undoubtedly the origin of most of the friction with Mr. Zaphiro.

At present the Company maintains posts at Churre Kovalé, Dolo and Marsabit, apparently at heavy loss and the tendency is to blame Mr. Zaphiro for their want of success.

The position of the Company's officers is undeniably invidious especially where, as at Dolo, their action is restrained by Mr. Zaphiro without his being able to control the natives.

The proximity of the Italian post at Lugh makes the situation more galling.

It can only be hoped the Company will shortly abandon an unsuccessful venture.

Meanwhile the presence of two Englishmen without authority and under the orders of a Greek has

not

not a good effect on the Somali tribes.

SUMMARY.

There are two questions to be settled.

1. The Policy to be adopted as regards the future administration of the Frontier.
2. The final settlement of the delimitation of the Frontier.

Under the first heading it is urged that, although an attempt was made to find a frontier which would not require administration, experience has already proved the object has not been attained. A form of administration has been started by the appointment of Mr. Zaphiro and the time has come when Mr. Zaphiro must be replaced by British officers. Delay in fact, the question will probably entail greater expense in the long run owing to the development of the Somali question in the East. For the present a forward Policy is required only on the Boran Frontier and to the East.

Under the 2nd heading it is urged that the exact line of Frontier adopted in the treaty entails a system of non-administration. If the frontier is to be administered, whether by Mr. Zaphiro or British officers, modifications are necessary.

It is urged that the modifications made by the delimitation commission give only the minimum requirements of administration and therefore their acceptance by the Abyssinian Government should be insisted on. It is for decision whether an alternative line suggested by the British Commission in the position of the Frontier between Bran and Lake Stephanie should also be claimed from the Abyssinian Government in view of possible future administration requirements, although

although the question of administration does not
press for settlement in this neighbourhood.

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27 Aug '09

MINUTE 12/8

- Mr. Hoall 17/8
- Mr. Read
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Andrews
- Mr. Cox
- Mr. C. Lucas
- Mr. F. Hopwood
- Col. Beatty
- The Earl of Orms

Sir,

With refer to my Conf
desp of the 16th of July I
have the honour to
transmit to you copies
of two letters & a memo
from Major W. Gwynn
dealing with the situation
on the Abyssinian
frontier and describing
generally the delimitation

~~address 24365~~

had me to follow
copies
each

4 of on 2195)

carried out by the Comm^{rs},
together with copies of
two maps.

The question of
the administration
of the frontier should
be referred to the new
Governor after he has
taken up his duties.