



EAST AFR. PROT.

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Tana River Concessions

Capt Hon R.L. Burdett

Leads letter from Capt Burdett dated 1st Oct. 1910  
re Tana River Concessions. The letter is  
to find of the survey for the Tana River  
Concessions.

The matter of these concessions is not  
surprising, as Capt Burdett should have  
been more honestly confronted with the  
less easy terms than those of the  
1890s, whose negotiations began in the  
dark ages of 1895. Some of the conditions  
imposed by the Govt, e.g. the withdrawal  
of the right to purchase freehold and  
the reservation of land occupied by  
natives essential could not  
be insisted upon.

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to the rest we want to be in no  
hurry to jump down the throats of  
the company managers. The land will  
not run away & will be a more  
valuable asset five years hence than  
it is now.

I wish to say that, in  
the circumstances the negotiations  
must be regarded as terminated,  
& send the Corp a copy of this  
letter as your reply (12) being

W.B.

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES,  
10, WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON, S.W.  
TELEGRAMS: "CROWN, LONDON."  
TELEPHONE: 1452 VICTORIA.

WHITEHALL GARDENS,  
LONDON, S.W.



10 October 1910.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 25173/1910 of the 21st ult. relating to Captain the Hon. R.C. Drummond's application for the concession in the Tana River District of the East Africa Protectorate, I have the honour to inform you that we communicated with Captain Drummond in accordance with the terms, and that we have now received from him the letter of which a copy is enclosed, acquainting us that, in view of the alterations to be made in the conditions granted to Mongolie Limited, the Vine and General Rubber Trust Limited are willing to put up the money for the undertaking.

We shall be glad to receive the Secretary of State's instructions in the matter.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant

The Under Secretary of State

*Handwritten signature*

Official Notice

C O  
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Mr. the Hon. R. G. Drummond, C. S. W. Agents.

11, Malacca Street,

Singapore.

12th September 1910

Gentlemen,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 2nd of September informing me that the Secretary of State has been pleased to grant the concession I applied for in the Sura River district and that the terms of the concession are as follows:—(1) That I should be allowed to work the concession on the following conditions:

(a) In my application for the concession dated the 2nd of June, I asked that it might be leased to me on the same terms as those granted to Mongolian Co. and I conducted my negotiations with the King and General Rubber until the 1st of August 1910.

In the original concession granted to Mongolian Co. the only concession granted was a concession for a term of 25 years of 1000 acres in the Sura River district. The concession granted to me is for a term of 25 years of 1000 acres in the Sura River district and is subject to the following conditions:

(1) That I should be allowed to work the concession on the following conditions:—(a) In my application for the concession dated the 2nd of June, I asked that it might be leased to me on the same terms as those granted to Mongolian Co. and I conducted my negotiations with the King and General Rubber until the 1st of August 1910. (b) In the original concession granted to Mongolian Co. the only concession granted was a concession for a term of 25 years of 1000 acres in the Sura River district. The concession granted to me is for a term of 25 years of 1000 acres in the Sura River district and is subject to the following conditions:—(1) That I should be allowed to work the concession on the following conditions:—(a) In my application for the concession dated the 2nd of June, I asked that it might be leased to me on the same terms as those granted to Mongolian Co. and I conducted my negotiations with the King and General Rubber until the 1st of August 1910.

With reference to the river belt I beg to point out that owing to the windings of the river the concession had a river fringe on either bank exceeding 40 miles in length; or, what is the same thing, the width of this, in breadth of the river, 10 miles, is now withdrawn from the concession, thus reducing its area by fully 40 square miles of the richest and most valuable land upon it. Those members of the original survey expedition I presume, that a considerable part of this fertile belt consisted of unworked, unappropriated forest lands, and would that the whole of it be under cultivation had been in that in place of withdrawing the whole of it from the concession, the exigencies of the case would have been fully met by requiring the proposed company to respect native rights of settlement and cultivation to the satisfaction of one division of the Her Majesty's Protectorate.

In view of the extreme difficulty of obtaining the bona fides of a British subject in fact of the present day, and the responsibility of the concession and the heavy expenses that would have had to be incurred before any repairs were forthcoming, I can only suggest that the British agents of the Colonial Office, to whom the concession was referred, should have withdrawn from the concession, the stipulated area of land.

Under the circumstances it is not surprising that the Vice Admiral, I believe from India, have not initiated any proceedings against the concessionaries from their point of view. I enclose of their letter to

C.O.  
3153  
4 OCT 10

Vine & General Rubber Trust Ltd.  
27th September 1910.

Dear Sirs,

Re Tana River Concession.

We are in receipt of your letter (enclosed copy of the letter from the Crown Agents) setting forth the terms upon which they would grant a concession on the Tana River, and I am sorry on reading it through, to see that they have omitted from the Concession almost all that was attractive in the original draft concession submitted to us, and imposed such onerous terms as to render, in my opinion, the concession worthless from our point of view.

I very much regret that you should have had so much trouble, and that the Crown Agents should not have recognised that we are not prepared to pay large sums of money unless we have some hopes of receiving some adequate return for same - in fact it looks as though the strip on either side of the river which is now excluded from the concession, is the strip that contains the Umsara ya Fibra, and the best places of Rubber Vines, and I really wonder what they are now offering any more than a tract of land for agricultural purposes.

I am Agt.

(84) Robert P. Hornby,

Messrs STAMMOND & COY.,

C.A.

30453/10

E.A.D.



DRAFT

Agents

18 Oct '10.

MINUTE 11/10

Mr. Hall 14/10

Mr. Butler

Mr. Fidler

Mr. Just

Mr. Cox

Sgt. C. Taitan

Sir F. Hopwood

Col. Seely

Lord Crewe

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the  
 E of Creme to ack: the  
 receipt of your <sup>Sac</sup> ~~Dr~~ <sup>19a</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Oct, on the subject  
 of the appln of Captain the  
 Hon R. D. [unclear] for a  
 concession in the Tanja  
 River district of the East  
 to inform you that, in the

copy for 622