

EAST AFR. PROT

54508

REC'D
Rm 22 SEP 1919

54509

Grady L.M.
May

Mombasa Electric Lighting Coy

1919

21 Sept

Last previous Paper

CW
53418

Requests interview to discuss effects of Electric Power Order on the Coy

Sir H. Read,

This letter came at a time not only of great pressure of work, but also when the electricity question was hung up pending the return to London of Mr. Bushe and Mr. McBlain (the T. A. P. Electrical Engineer), and I am afraid that I over-looked the request that an interview should be given at an early date.

Mr. McBlain is now ^{in town} here and we are going to discuss the general electricity question with him and Mr. Rider (of Messrs. Preece, Cardew and Rider) on Monday. Mr. McBlain was here today and I mentioned the matter to him. He states that so far from the Company being forced under the Ordinance to scrap £30,000 worth of machinery and buy £75,000 worth to replace it, they will have to scrap their existing machinery in any case, and that their new plant will have to be much more extensive because the present installation is quite incapable of dealing with the local demands.

Next subsequent Paper.

C
63274

He also said that in getting their present plant the Company went against the advice of their local engineer. As regards the Company coming under the Ordinance, Mr. Powys Cobb had authorised his solicitor to apply to the Govt. for a licence under the Ordinance, but that subsequently he withdrew the application on the ground (so Mr. McBlain says) that it would no longer be possible for him to play his old game of charging against the Power Company the ^{bulk} whole of the expenses of the office which deals also with his other Companies.

Mr. McBlain says it is true that there was great delay in dealing with the Company's affairs by the Prot. Government as it was impossible for the S.P.W. to get his instructions, owing to the congestion of work in the Attorney-General's Office. The Company gave notice in August that they would stop their supply of current at 4 days notice as a protest, and the result was that the Emergency Ordinance, which is referred to on 59364 below. This brought the Company to heel and they had not stopped work. They have, however, written to the Prot. Government asking for an enquiry as is also suggested in the tel. from Mr. Cobb which accompanies this letter.

Mr. McBlain will send in a short note (I hope it will be a short one) on the general position of this Company as to which we have no information here.

Reply to Mr. Crowley expressing regret for delay in answering his letter. Say that the S. of S. is without information as to the position of the Mombasa Lighting Company, but that he would suggest as a first step that Major Crowley should call here on Wednesday next the 30rd, in order to discuss the matter with me and Mr. McBlain, the Govt. Electrical Engineer, who is now on leave in this country.

Please see also on 59364.

W.C.S. 17.10.49

about
K. 6.17/51

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plaint the Company went against the advice of their local
engineer. As regards the Company coming under the
Ordinance, Mr. Powys Cobb had authorised his solicitor
to apply to the Govt. for a licence under the Ordinance,
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be possible for him to play his old game of charging
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was great delay in dealing with the Company's affairs
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(I hope it will be a short one) on the general position
of this Company as to which we have no information here.

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for delay in answering his letter. Say that the
S. of S. is without information as to the position of
the Lamasa Lighting Company, but that he would suggest
as a first step that Mr. Crowley should call here on
Thursday next the 33rd, in order to discuss the matter
with me and Mr. McBlain, the Govt. Electrical Engineer,
who is now on leave in this country.

Please see also on 59364.

W.C.B. 17.10.49

above
y/n
0017/27

We also said that in getting their present plant the Company went against the advice of their local engineer. As regards the Company coming under the Ordinance, Mr. Powys Cobb had authorised his solicitor to apply to the Govt. for a licence under the Ordinance, but that subsequently he withdrew the application on the ground (so Mr. McPlain says) that it would no longer be possible for him to play his old game of charging against the Power Company the whole of the expenses of the office which deals also with his other Companies.

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Mr. McPlain will send in a short note (I hope it will be a short one) on the general position of this Company as to which we have no information here.

Reply to Mr. Crowdy expressing regret for delay in answering his letter. Say that the Govt. of S. is without information as to the position of the Mombasa Lighting Company, but that he would suggest as a first step that Major Crowdy should call here on Thursday next, the 23rd, in order to discuss the matter with me and Mr. McPlain, the Govt. Electrical Engineer, who is now on leave in this country.

Please see also on 59364.

WAS. 17.10.49

above
K.O. 17/10/49

The day is not being fairly treated

Colonial Office
Whitehall

5, SUSSEX MANSIONS,
SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W.7.
TELEPHONE - KENSINGTON 2422.

Very I ask for an interview on
Tuesday or Wednesday week if you do
not think that the cable and your
part of the time of the commission
are sufficient to enable you to take
any action.

I have the honor to be Sir
Yours obedient servant
W. H. Conway

457

21. 7

9-0
54509
REC'D
19 SEP 19

Sir,
I have the honor to bring to your notice the
case of the Northern Electric Lighting
Company in regard to which I have
received a cable from the Director
of the Company.
I enclose herewith a Director of
Photographs to the Chief Shareholder of

The City is not being fully treated.

5. SUSSEX MANSIONS.
SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W.7.
TELEPHONE: KENSINGTON 2424

Colonial Office
Whitehall

May I ask for an interview on
Tuesday or Wednesday next if you do
not think that the cable and your
number of the terms of the agreement
are sufficient to enable you to take
any action.

I have to thank you for the
your obedient servant
W. H. Croxall

457

21. 9. 50
54509
REC'D
SEP 21 1950

Sir,
I have the honor
an interview to bring to your notice the
case of the Northern Electric Lighting
Company in regard to which I have
received a request from the directors
of the Company.
I am happy to hear a Director of
Company has been elected shareholder of

England a few months before the
purpose, among other things, of obtaining
aid in the proposed. As to
subsequent events I can only say in
respect of the gas & difficulties which the
Electric Lighting Coy had in obtaining
supply of machinery.
I think however you will see from the
copy of the cable from Messrs Poyas & Co
(London) that there is a case for
inquiry and that it is possible that

the Messrs Electric Light Coy and
the failure of the money required.
the distribution of the new plant and
as a shareholder in Poyas & Co
am still interested in the question.
I was actually employed before the war
in sending out the new plant for the
supply of electric light and can speak
in the period previous to the outbreak of
the war since I had only come to

16 March 1883 Electric Light Coy and

the position of the money required

to the installation of the new plant and

as a shareholder in Pumpford Ltd

am still interested in the questions.

I was entirely employed before the war
in sending out the new plant for the

supply of electric light and am a speaker
in the period press - the subscription

to the new since I had only come to

England a few months before the

war, a very short time of obtaining
aid in the 1890s.

subsequent events I can only say no

is part of the question - to differentiate which the

Electric Light Coy had in obtaining

supply of machinery.

I think however you will see from the

copy of the cable from Mr E Pumps Ltd

(enclosed) that this is a case for

inquiry and that it is possible that

COPY.

JAMES & COPELAND, LIMITED,
LONDON.

458

12th September 1919

Major W.M. Crowdy,
Cottage,
SLIGO.

Dear Sir,

The Mombasa Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.,

We beg to hand you herewith translation of a cablegram received herewith this morning addressed to you from Mr. E. Powys Cobb at Mombasa.

We also enclose a letter from The War Office received for you this morning.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Should it be well to send a copy of this cablegram to Mr. [unclear] at Brecon for Mr. Measley to see.

COPY.

JAMES & COPELAND, LIMITED,
LONDON.

458

12th September 1919

The Mombasa Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.,

I beg to hand you herewith translation of a cablegram
this morning addressed to you from Mr. E. Powys Cobb at

I also enclose a letter from The War Office received
this morning.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

I will send
cablegram to Mr.
or Mr. Heatley

for W.H. Cready,

Powys Cobb Esqs.

Nombasa.

459

2/9/19
dated
1/9/19

NOMBASA

Nombasa.

EZIRL
CYCLO

Electric Light
Company

GYOPH
DANYG

granted
concession of

LEVVY
WUBAR

50
years

ASPEG
MBZNA

August
1910

TOGNY
LEJDE

Stop
7

WUBAR
UTKOP

years
trial

OOLEZ
UKEND

period
terminated

ASPEG
LEPKR

August
19

LEPAJ
TUGNY

17
Stop

HIBVY
GROGD

Having
fulfilled

DUJLK
CYCLO

Government
Company

AMASC
MBFIF

applied
December

LEPKR
LEQVS

19
16

ORZIN
OZCUT

ratification of agreement
remaining

TUGNY ASRUM	STOP 11th August
CYGLQ PAXTK	Company sent to
GYYTB LJFLA	Government here ultimatum
OLKAN UJEAS	proposing terms
SIFOB DIPYO	for continued
WOLYE AKGAS	working or alternatively
NEERD FYWIB	offering to sell to
GYYKB A TDC	Government here at
ANDON NEESE	arbitrated valuation
LABAP FUYAG	notifying failing
REDEP BUGNY	settlement ceased to
UCELF LEOLJ	supply is
ONBLK TUGNY	proximate stop
GYYKB PASAS	Government here replied
EYVIC EZUJF	passing emergency

VOGEM FAHAT	ordinance enable them to
WENGA OGEDDO	enter in possession of
CIFAK ODRUC	Company's plant
EVELS UKVED	during their
COVYK WIZIJ	pleasure without
AFDIS CYJRO	adequate compensation
TUONY EQUJE	stop emergency
WOGHY FIAMK	ordinance equivalent to
JAPYT POHUC	legalised robbery
WYKOD EALC	obviate effect of
UKVED BATOY	their breach of
DISAV TUGNY	contract stop
ARFAZ GRUNE	ask Colonial
PTJNO SIRJE	Secretary order
IQVLE QFOTO	impartial public

PEHBE IPPRO	enquiry into
GEFVO OWODS	firstly refusal of
CYKIB ORZPE	Government here ratify
PUEHY DAHOD	extension of concession
PIJEL EZALO	secondly effect of
EZJYG NOGHY	electricity ordinance
LEPRE LEPIE	19 18
NEQZN CYKAK	of Company's
VAARE DEVEL	undertaking thirdly
UWENC ALZYT	suspend application
EZUJF NOGHY	emergency ordinance
OPSBA PICSY	pending result of
PEHBE TUGHY	enquiry stop
KAIJF CYCLO	In the meantime Company
WYIOJ KYSYZ	have withdrawn notice of

BUONS
UCRIF

AYNAS
FERRER

ALICE
MYOPE

Access to
supply

believing
equity

will be
granted

BUONS
SCELF

AYNAS
FOMER

NICOP
WYOPK

cessa to
supp

believing
enquiry

will be
eranted

COPY.

JAMES & COPELAND, LIMITED,
LONDON.

12th September 1919.

467

Major W. M. Crowley,
Cottage,
SLIGO.

Dear Sir,

We confirm our telegram sent you this day as per enclosed copy and await your instructions as to where we shall send the papers.

We think one of the packets contains the papers of the Penney case for which we cabled, as you will remember.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

C.
54509/19 hat

468

W. H. C.

DRAFT.

Majr Wm Crowdy

20th October 1919

Sir,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Mackay 180d
- Mr. Parkman 207d
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. H. Lambert
- Mr. H. Reid
- Mr. G. Piddes
- Mr. Amery
- Mr. Milner

I am in receipt of the copy
 of your letter of the 21st Sept.
 to state that you had been
 in contact with the
 personnel of the Newcastle
 Lighting Co. ~~the~~ ^{I am to}
~~subject~~ ^{engine} however, ~~that~~ ^{as a}
 first step you ~~should~~ ^{could} ~~call~~
 at this office on the 23rd inst
 if possible in order to discuss
 the matter with the head of
 the Dept of the East
 Coast Electrical Supp. who is
 at present in the country

W. H. C. 59364

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mombasa Electric Lighting.

EMERGENCY BILL PASSED
YESTERDAY.

The lecture of the last sitting of the Legislative Council yesterday morning subsequent to the swearing in of new members and the passing of the Master and Servants Ordinance, was the passing of an emergency measure to take over the plant and works of the Mombasa Electric Light and Power Company, in the public interest, in view of the public notice given by the Company to cease its operations on September 15.

On the motion of Mr. Barth (Attorney General) the standing orders were suspended, to enable His Excellency to sign a certificate permitting the introduction of a Bill "to make provision for the maintenance of public supplies of electrical energy."

His Excellency stated: A state of affairs has arisen in Mombasa which necessitates, in the opinion of Government, my signing an emergency certificate to introduce a Bill to make provision for the maintenance of public supplies of electrical energy. He pursued taking the various stages of the measure that morning in order to avoid the possibility of this town being left without light. He had been in touch with the Company which supplied electric light in Mombasa and their demands under which they were prepared to continue the supply of light after September 15 were such that no Government could sign.

The certificate having been signed, the Bill was introduced in type-written form by Mr. McGregor Ross, who explained the position. He said Mombasa appeared to be faced with a position which was provided for by the Electric Power Ordinance if this measure were in force. If not, were the case it would be competent for a local authority to take over the entire works, premises and plant and carry on upon public account so that no discontinuance of the light might occur. The emergency Bill prescribed that the Electric Power Ordinance, when it applied to this special case, might become law at once, so that Government might enter upon the works of the electric light operator and continue operations. The Bill provided for the appointment of an arbitrator to fix the amount of compensation to be paid.

There was no opposition to the principle of the Bill, and the preliminary stages passed without comment, but for the fact that Mr. McLellan Wilson expressed gratification at the action taken, which was in the public interest.

Mr. Rodwell agreed.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, during which Mr. Wood made a sturdy defence for

the Company will assent must embody the following conditions:—

(a) The right to charge maximum rates of Rs. 1- per unit for Lighting, and not less than 35 per cent for Power, such maximum rates to be reduced on a sliding scale according to dividends paid. The Company is of opinion that these are the lowest rates at which a supply can be efficiently maintained while the demand for current is at its present low figure and in view of the worldwide increase in the cost of materials and labour.

(b) Notwithstanding any future legislation or rules or regulations the Company shall be allowed to instal additional plant on its present system of D.C. Generation and supply equal to three times its existing capacity, and should it be required by any Legislation or Government action to adopt any other system which would prevent the use of all or any part of existing or such increased plant within twenty years of its installation the Company to be compensated by the Government for the amount of the loss incurred thereby.

(c) The Company to be at liberty to restrict the supply of Electricity (with as little inconvenience to the public as it can conveniently arrange) for a total period of three months during the six months following the granting of the new Concession. This is necessary because owing to Government action the Company has been unable to instal additional plant and must therefore reduce its output temporarily to enable it to overhaul its boilers and machinery.

(d) The Company to have the right to refuse to attach new consumers or grant increased supplies of Electricity beyond the capacity of its existing plant, for three years from the date of the new Concession. This is necessary to enable the Company to protect the interests of existing consumers, which would be prejudicially affected if the Company were compelled to accept more and then its plant would efficiently carry it. It will probably take three years to raise new capital and obtain and instal new plant in view of the present exchange, and of labour difficulties at home.

(e) The Company to be relieved from certain unreasonable restrictions in the Electricity Power Ordinance if and when it becomes law. These could not be specified without further consideration, but as an example we give Section 123 (1) (b), which would prevent the Company sharing employees with other Companies. The right to do this enables the Company to effect economies in working and to secure more efficient services than it could otherwise afford.

(f) The Company or its nominees to be granted an Industrial Site adjacent to its Power Station. This is to enable this Company to make arrangements with another Company to establish a factory which would take Electricity for Power during the day time. It is impossible economically to work an Electricity Generating Plant without an assured and substantial day load, which is at present unobtainable in Mombasa. The Company will be in a position

4. The Company is willing to sell its undertaking to the Government or any other purchaser, or arrangement to be mutually agreed.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
The Mombasa Electric Light and Power Co. Ltd.,
A. K. CONSTANTINE,
Director.

August 11, 1919.

The clauses of the Bill having been adequately dealt with, the measure, as amended, was reported to Council and passed, on the motion of Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Barth.

Mr. Wood said it was a most impressive situation that the Company had endeavoured to create. He could not give them any sympathy in respect to their demands.

His Excellency stated that it was on receipt of this letter Government decided that this measure should be brought in.

The Bill then passed.

His Excellency then intimated that Council would adjourn until the third week in November or such other date as might be decided upon.

Sir Charles Bowring moved accordingly and the motion of adjournment was agreed to, Mr. Rodwell expressing appreciation at the fact that the week's sitting had been held in Mombasa.

He stated: Before the motion for adjournment is put, may I be allowed on behalf of the Coast to express the appreciation by all communities of Your Excellency holding a session of this Hon. Council at Mombasa. Sheikh Ali bin Salim has especially asked me to emphasize how deeply impressed the Arabs and Swahili boys here, a fact endorsed by the presence of so many interested visitors to this Council Chamber. We hope Your Excellency will be able to hold at least one session at the Coast in each year (hear, hear).

The Council then rose.

Customs Shipping Returns.

(For week ending Aug. 9th, 1919.)
IMPORTS.

PER S.S. "BAJONE," from Dar-es-Salaam, arrived on 4/9/19.

60 bullock waggon, a quantity of wheels and under-carriages, 2,000 cases petrol.

PER S.S. "CLEAN McQUARRIE," from Dar-es-Salaam, arrived on 2/9/19.
4,548 tons coal.

PER S.S. "DICATOR," from Tanganyika, arrived on 8/8/19.
4 cases of matches, 2 cases typewriters, 60 bags mungo, 153 bundles hides, 415 bags coffee, 3 drums oil, 1 motor boat, total 638 packages.

EXPORTS.

PER S.S. "PENQUA" to Bombay.—
1320 bales cotton, 100 cases cigarettes, 250 bales hides, 514 bags beans, 891 bags potatoes, 20 bags magadi soda, 313 tusks ivory, 2 cases rhino horns, 7 bales c.p. goods, 2 lions skins, 2 cheetahs, 33 packages sundries, total 3,454 packages.

PER S.S. "TUNA," to Zanzibar.—
80 bales c.p. goods, 75 bags

the Bill was introduced in type-written form by Mr. McGregor Ross, who explained the position. He said Mombasa appeared to be faced with a position which was provided for by the Electric Power Ordinance if this measure were in force. If such were the case it would be competent for a local authority to take over the entire works, premises and plant and carry on upon public account so that no discontinuance of the light might occur. The emergency Bill prescribed that the Electric Power Ordinance, where it applied to this special case, might become law at once, so that Government might enter upon the works of the electric light operator and continue operations. The Bill provided for the appointment of an arbitrator to fix the amount of compensation to be paid.

There was no opposition to the principle of the Bill, and the preliminary stages passed without comment, but for the fact that Mr. McLellan Wilson expressed gratification at the action taken, which was in the public interest.

Mr. Rodwell agreed.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, during which Mr. Wood made a sturdy defence for the Company, explaining, however, that he held no brief for that body, but wished to see that no injustice was done. It transpired at a later stage that the Company had presented an ultimatum upon terms which were considered totally unreasonable, and Mr. Wood agreed that the terms of the letter (given below) could not be conceded.

The letter was read by His Excellency in response to a query from Mr. Rodwell as to how the position had arisen. He said people in Mombasa were very anxious to know what was the situation, as this was a very drastic action.

The following letter was then produced by Mr. McGregor Ross, who mentioned that the communication was not a confidential one:—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,

To the Administration, East African Protectorate, Mombasa.

Sir,—We have the honour to refer to the applications which we have made on various dates, commencing 15th December 1916, for a renewal of our Concession, which applications were for the first time definitely refused on the 19th June 1918, after a delay of eighteen months.

1 The Company having no security of tenure, and being therefore unable to make arrangements for continuing the undertaking, will discontinue the supply of Electricity after September 15th, 1919, unless it be granted a new Concession on terms satisfactory to the Company.

2 The Company is not now willing to enter into an agreement on the terms named in its previous applications. An agreement to which

we are prejudicially affected if the Company were compelled to accept more land than its plant would efficiently carry. It will probably take three years to raise the new capital and obtain and instal new plant in view of the present exchange, and of labour difficulties at Home.

(e) The Company to be relieved from certain unreasonable restrictions in the Electricity Power Ordinance if and when it becomes law. These could not be specified without further consideration, but as an example we give Section 139 (1) (b), which would prevent the Company sharing employees with other Companies. The right to do this enables the Company to effect economies in working and to secure more efficient services than it could otherwise afford.

(f) The Company or its nominee to be granted an Industrial Site adjacent to its Power Station. This is to enable this Company to make arrangements with another Company to establish a factory which would take Electricity for Power during the day time. It is impossible economically to work an Electricity Generating Plant without an assured and substantial day load, which is at present unobtainable in Mombasa. The Company will be in a position to supply Electricity for Power during daylight hours as soon as it has overhauled its plant.

3. The Company requests a definite reply at the earliest possible date, and would be greatly obliged if it could reach this office not later than the 31st instant. Failing a complete agreement by September 15th, 1919, the Company will discontinue the supply of Electricity from that date.

the Coast in each year (bear, bear, bear). The Council then rose.

Customs Shipping Return.

(For week ending Aug. 9th, 1919)
IMPORTS.

PER S.S. "BAJUNK" from Dar-es-Salaam, arrived on 4/8/19.

60 bullock waggon, a quantity of wheels and under carriages, 2,000 cases petrol.

PER S.S. "CLAN McQUARRIE" from Delagoa Bay, arrived on 7/8/19. 4,548 tons coal.

PER S.S. "DICTATOR" from Tanganyika and Zanzibar, arrived on 8/8/19.

4 cases cigarettes, 2 cases typewriters, 60 bags mung 153 bundle hides, 415 bags coffee, 3 drums of 1 motor boat, total 638 packages.

EXPORTS

PER S.S. "PUNDA" to Bombay:—1320 bales cotton, 100 cases cigarettes, 250 bales hides, 514 bags beans, 891 bags potatoes, 20 bags magadi soda, 313 tons ivory, 2 cases rhino horns, 7 bales c. goods, 2 lions alive, 2 caskets, 33 packages sundries total 3,454 packages.

PER S.S. "TUNA" to Zanzibar:—60 bales c. goods, 76 bags potatoes, 29 cases ghee, 34 cases tobacco, 11 drums liquid fuel oil, 25 cases provisions, 5 cases cigarettes, 2 packages sundries total 343 packages.

SITUATION WANTED

ACCOUNTANT, redundant Office awaiting transport overseas offers temporary clerical assistance Mombasa. "BADIX," "Mombasa Times" Office.

L. FRIGERIO & Co. Mombasa & Nairobi.

Vermouth Cinzano,

"The Best Export Italian Vermouth."

CALISSANO DRY

CHIANTI (Quarts and Pints)

ASTI SPUMANTE "CINZANO."

GRAN SPUMANTE "CINZANO."

COGNAC BRANCA.

"Nocera Umbra."

Fez Caps and Tassels, Khaki and White Drills, Cotton Tassores,
SOFT GOODS, Cigarette Paper No. 178.

FIAT

Touring Cars, Lorries, Agricultural-Tractors, Spare Parts, Tubes and Pirelli Tyres, Cycles, Motor Cycles, etc.

GARAGE "FIAT"—NAIROBI.