

EAST AFR PROT  
Lt 889 Lt

C.O  
48894  
REC  
Regd

Lettered by J. [unclear]  
1915  
22 Oct.  
Last previous Paper.  
42191

Labour Supply

Sends letter from Margarine Synd Ltd reaf difficulty of obtaining labour, asks that for be met to comply with Synd request to permit immediate settlement of about 150 families on their Estate in E.A.P.

Mr. G. Fiddes

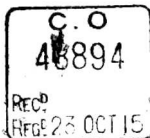
Copy of 1<sup>st</sup> + 1<sup>st</sup> suc:  
to you with  
to the firm for comment with  
refers to our desps: of the  
20<sup>th</sup> of Sept: or 42191 - + inf:  
Mr. J. Bethell that the matter has  
been referred to the firm, who  
will no doubt give it his  
careful comment.  
H. J. D.

Answer 29 Oct '15  
Copy sent for 298 Cons 30 Oct '15  
See  
Journals? 23 Jan 1916

Next subsequent Paper.  
No 2097 15/16

Let us see if we  
cannot arrange with the Director that  
the firm should a matter  
alone  
25/7/15  
Mr. J. D. Bethell  
25/7/15

October 28nd 1915



Dear Mr. Steel-Maitland,

I enclose a letter I have received from the Chairman and Secretary of the Magarini Syndicate Limited, with reference to the difficulty in obtaining labour on their concession at Malindi, British East Africa, and I should be glad if you could kindly see your way to instruct the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to permit the immediate settlement of about 150 families upon the Estate.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Maitland*

A. D. Steel-Maitland Esq., M. P.  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Colonial Office.

# The Magarini Syndicate Limited.

83

PHONE 259 AVENUE  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS  
MAGUENSIS, LONDON  
TELEGRAMS  
MAGARINI & CO. LTD.,  
LONDON  
MAGARINI & CO. LTD.,  
LONDON  
MAGARINI & CO. LTD.,  
LONDON  
MAGARINI & CO. LTD.,  
LONDON  
MAGARINI & CO. LTD.,  
LONDON

*Rochester Buildings,  
138, Leadenhall Street*

*London*

15th October, 1915.

Sir John Bethell, Bart., B.C.,  
Park House,  
Wanstead,  
Essex.

Sir,

We beg to call your attention to a letter written by Mr. Harold D. Cornfoot, the late Chairman of this Syndicate, to Mr. Wilson Fox, and a reply received from the Under-Secretary of State thereto.

Since that letter was written - the full contents of which we confirm - further correspondence has come from our Manager - Mr. J.E. Jones - together with copies of letters that have passed between him and His Excellency, the Governor of British West Africa, on the labour question principally. Mr. Jones has pointed out that there are some 150 families wandering about the neighbourhood, anxious to settle on our Estate, for which we have offered to give every facility, but the Government officials do not feel disposed to grant us more than 40 or 50 such settlers, preferring to leave the others to wander about, until such time as they feel disposed to allow them to settle on our land.

Had permission been given for these natives to settle on our Estate, we could have kept the place clean and clear, we could have tapped a number of the Rubber trees, with a production of at least 100,000 lbs. of Dry Rubber, which would have meant in the neighbourhood of £10,000 when sold on this market. The tapping season usually finishes at the end of November, sometimes running up to the 15th December, so that we have lost the whole of this tapping season, and our Estate will - we fear - be reverting to jungle.

We shall be glad of your assistance with the Colonial Office to permit the immediate settlement of these 150 families, and more would follow, so that we may be able to get the Estate cleaned, and when the new tapping season comes on, be able to tap, as with 270,000 trees tappable, we should certainly for next

Sir John Tetnell, Bart., 1st.

19 10 18.

season have 155,000 - 160,000 lbs. of Dry Rubber.

De ace, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Amos Hay

Chairman.

Ch. Poulter

Secretary.

35, London Wall,  
London, E.C. 4th Sept. 1914.

85

Dear Mr. Wilson Fox,

I know that your long connection with the Chartered Company must have given you exceptional experience with all matters relating to colonial enterprise, and it has occurred to me that I could not appeal to a better quarter for advice in connection with an Estate in British East Africa in which I have been interested for many years past, but which, I regret to say, looks like reverting to jungle very shortly unless prompt steps can be taken to get over the existing labour difficulty.

The property to which I refer consists of an Estate of 10,000 acres, situated on the Sabaki River close to the Port of Malindi, British East Africa, and is held under a 99 year lease from the Government of the Protectorate at a rental of, approximately, £100 per annum. No efforts have been spared by those connected with the undertaking to make a success of the venture, and, up to date, something like £30,000 have been expended upon development, including the erection of a fully equipped Cotton Ginnery at Malindi. The undeveloped area consists to-day of 1000 acres of Rubber, the trees upon part of which have been tapped during the past two seasons and tapping operations upon the whole 250,000 to 300,000 trees should have commenced in May last, but, from the latest advices received, (July) it appears that there is no possibility of procuring the necessary labour either locally or by 'the country' recruiting for even the necessary weeding and clearing of the property, much less for the purposes of harvesting the rubber, for which latter a force of from 300 to 400 men at least would be required.

I realise that circumstances in your area, abnormal in the Protectorate and that large numbers of natives who, under ordinary conditions, would have been available for estate work are not replaced by the Government for various duties necessitated by the presence of a large number of troops in the Protectorate. But, at the same time, I cannot help feeling that if the Government officials received instructions from home to render assistance to planters in procuring labour instead of placing difficulties in the way (which I regret to say has been my experience in the past) that the existing trouble could be overcome and a sufficient force of labour to ensure the tapping of at least part of our rubber area could be obtained.

Does it not seem to you a pity that in a British Protectorate from which valuable crops could be obtained as the result of private enterprise some encouragement should not be given to those who risk their capital in the development of Government property?

I hope you will forgive my troubling you with so long a letter for I know how valuable your time is, but if you could see your way to put the matter before some high official in the Colonial Office who is interested in seeing our Colonies progress, it might even yet be possible to save this property from following in the course of five or six others in the immediate neighbourhood which I could name, and reverting to jungle after the expenditure of large sums of money and years of energy and care.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Harold D. Cornfoot.

H. Wilson Fox, Esq.,  
2, London Wall Buildings,  
E.C.

Downing Street,

20th September, 1915.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Donar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th of September, forwarding a letter from Mr. R. D. Cornfoot on the subject of the difficulty in obtaining labour for his concession at Malindi, and to inform you that the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate is being consulted on the matter.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) H. J. Read,

For the Under Secretary of  
State.

H. Wilson Fox, Esq.

29 Oct, 1915

Sir,

I am &c to ackn.

Ans 4/12/15

DRAFT.

Sir J. Bethell M.P.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Cooke 28/10/15
- Mr. Bottomley 28/10/15
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

the receipt of your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Oct., forwarding copies of a communication, with enclosures, from the Chairman and Secretary of the Magazine Syndicate Limited, regarding the difficulty in obtaining labour on <sup>the Syndicate's</sup> ~~the~~ estate ~~at Malindi in the E. A. P.~~ at Malindi in the E. A. P.

(2) The matter has been referred to the Gov. of the Prot., who will no doubt give it his careful consid.; but the S. of S. cannot interfere with the

2 drafts

Copies for 798 ans So. Africa



discretion of the local  
Gov. as such a matter

(Copy) to CHAIR LATE

B. 48894/15. E.A.P.

88

29

88

30 Oct, 1915

Sir,

With reference to

DRAFT.

E. A. P.

N<sup>o</sup> 798

Gov. Sir H. Balfour

MINUTE.

Mr. Cooke 25/10/15

Mr. Bostanley 28/10/15

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fildes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Bonar Law.

(42191/15) my desp. N<sup>o</sup> 687 of the

20<sup>th</sup> of Sept., I have &

to transmit to you,

for your orders, a copy

of a letter from Sir J.

Bellall M.P. enclosing a

copy of a communication

from the Chairman and

Secretary of the Magarini

Syndicate, Limited,

regarding

~~concerning~~ ~~facilities~~ to

~~representations on the~~

~~part~~ of the security of

native labour on the

company's estate at

Malindi. A copy of the

reply which has been sent

Sir J. Bellall MP 22/10/15

1<sup>st</sup> Envelope

To Sir J. Bellall MP  
(draft & Remitt)

By my direction

2 drafts

to Sir J. Bellall MP also  
enclosed