

1924

KENYA

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29802

REC'D  
REC 23 JUN 24

TO: DODDRELL AND WATSON.

Date

20th June 1924.

OR CIRCULATION :-

Mr. MAGADI SODA CO. RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr.

Mr.

1st. U.S. of S.

*S. H. ...  
25/7/24*

Expresses concern that in event of Messrs Brunner Mond acquiring business supply of soda to other firms may be cut off. Suggests no arrangements be concluded with Brunner Mond unless present users of Magadi soda ash are protected.

Perm' U.S. of S.

Part' U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

*741*

Previous Paper

MINUTES

*B, 29182*

*I received 28989 (which the S. of S. has not yet seen) to day in connection with this and 29152.*

*On this letter we can only refer us proposed on 28989*

*R. see other minute on 29152.  
Sent with  
H. J. D.*

*W. C. H. 25/7/24*

*H. J. D.  
25/7/24*

*W. C. H. ...  
25/7/24*

Subsequent Paper

*7730652*

1 JUL 1924



13.

TELEPHONE : GOVAN 484.

TELEGRAMS :  
"DODDRELL GLASGOW."  
A. S. G. CODE, 8th Edition.

DODDRELL & WATSON,

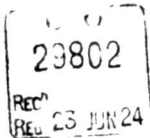
CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS,  
EXPORTERS AND ENGINEERS.

43 QUEEN STREET, GOVAN,

GLASGOW, 20th June, 1924.

The Rt. Hon J. H. Thomas Esq., P.C. M.P.

H.M. Colonial Office, Whitehall, S.W.



Sir,

We venture to address you on the subject of the negotiations that are taking place, for the acquisition by Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. of the business of the Magadi Soda Co. Ltd. in liquidation.

As large users of Magadi Soda Ash, we have every reason to apprehend that, should the negotiations referred to, fructify, the inevitable result would be that, following their avowed policy, Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. would refuse supplies to all competitive manufacturers of soda Crystals, such as ourselves, compelling to close down.

2.  
The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas Esq., P.C. M.P.

133  
20th June, 1924.


It is perhaps superfluous to mention that the Soda Ash industry, both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Continent of Europe, is in the hands of a combine dominated by Messrs Brunner Mond & Co Ltd., constituting a huge Trust, whose consistent policy has been to ruthlessly crush all competing firms.

While we have no desire to introduce political questions into what is primarily an economic matter, it may not be out of place to remark that we are emboldened to request your sympathetic consideration of this letter, in view of our belief that the Government stands for the protection of the small manufacturers against the operation of monopolies. We venture to submit that it is against public policy that the means of an article of everyday necessity should be entirely in the hands of one firm.

We have before us the report of a speech delivered on the 11th instant at the annual meeting of the Co-operative Congress by your colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade,

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas Esq. <sup>S.</sup> P.C., M.P. 20th June, 1924. 134

from which it would appear that the Board had a Bill ready for presentation to Parliament, dealing with the Trusts and Combines. It would, we think, be made the occasion of very unfavorable <sup>an</sup> comment, were an already over powerful combine, converted into an absolute monopoly, with the sanction of your Department.

In view of the facts mentioned, we respectfully suggest that no arrangements should be concluded with Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. unless the present  of Magadi Soda Ash are adequately protected.

We are,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

*Godfrey Wilson*

*73 Queen Street  
Govan  
Glasgow*

2ft. att. to  
 2/28929/24  
 Kenya

20002/1924

DOWLING STREET,

July, 1924.

Gentlemen,  
 Sirs,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Thomas to  
 Your obedient servant  
 acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th  
 of June, on the subject of the affairs of the  
 Magadi Soda Company, Limited, and to inform you  
 that, as the negotiations for the reconstruction  
 of the Magadi Soda Company on an independent  
 basis have ended through the withdrawal of the  
 promoters, it has been necessary, in order to  
 secure the working of the Lake Magadi deposit,  
 to agree upon such terms as can be arranged with  
 Messrs. Brunner Mond and Company, Limited subject  
 to the consent of the shareholders and creditors  
 of the Magadi Soda Company Limited, and to the  
 approval of the Court.

3. The continuance of supply to customers

who

MESSRS. DUNNELL AND WATSON.

who have used Magall Books for the manufacture  
of such material is not covered by the terms  
arranged.

I am,

Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) M. E. READ

8th July 1924.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Thomas asks me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th June forwarding a letter from Messrs. Doddrell and Watson on the subject of the Magadi Soda Company, Limited. I enclose a copy of the letter sent to Messrs. Doddrell and Watson in reply to their representations. The arrangement with Messrs. Brunner Mond and Company, Ltd., was the only means available of making sure that the deposit would be worked, and it was necessary to make such terms as were possible.

Yours faithfully,

~~Handwritten signature~~

Neil MacLean, Esq., MP.

8th July 1924.

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Mr. Thomas asks me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th June forwarding a letter from Messrs. Doddrell and Watson on the subject of the Magadi Soda Company, Limited. I enclose a copy of the letter sent to Messrs. Doddrell and Watson in reply to their representations. The arrangement with Messrs. Brunner Mond and Company, Ltd., was the only means available of making sure that the deposit would be worked, and it was necessary to make such terms as were possible.

Yours faithfully,

~~Handwritten signature~~

Neil McLean, Esq., MP.



28th June

the  
Colonial Secretary

Sir,

I enclose herewith a letter I have received from a firm in my constituency who fear the effects upon their business of the proposed merging of interests to which they refer in their letter take place. I trust you will give careful and sympathetic consideration to their statement.

Yours Faithfully

Neil Maclean M P

28th June

the  
Colonial Secretary

Mr Sir,

I enclose herewith a letter I have received from a firm in my constituency who fear the effects upon their business of a proposed merging of interests to which they refer in their letter take place. I trust you will give careful and sympathetic consideration to their statement.

Yours Faithfully

Neil Maclean M F

Wm. D. DODDRELL  
General Manager



TELEPHONE: GOVAN 400.  
TELEGRAMS:  
"DODDRELL, GLASGOW."  
A.B.C. Code: 304 80-10-10

**DODDRELL & WATSON,**  
CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS,  
EXPORTERS AND ENGINEERS

**43 QUEEN STREET, GOVAN,**

**GLASGOW, 20th June, 1924.**

Neil MacLean Esq., M.P.  
House of Commons

Dear Sir,

re-Magadi Soda Co. Ltd.

Referring to our letter of the 17th April to you, we  
herewith enclose copy of letter sent to The Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas  
for your perusal.

We are,

yours obediently,

*Doddrell & Watson*

*See the Press notices for Messrs. Brunner Mond & Co. proposal  
Your influence badly needed to protect our interests LMS*

*Copy.*

23rd June, 1934.

The Rt. Hon J. H. Thomas Esq., F.C. M.P.  
H.M. Colonial Office, Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,

We venture to address you on the subject of the negotiations that are taking place, for the acquisition by Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. of the business of the Egyptian Soda Co. Ltd. in liquidation.

As large users of Egyptian Soda Ash, we have every reason to apprehend that, should the negotiations referred to, fructify, the inevitable result would be that, following their avowed policy Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. would refuse supplies to all competitive manufacturers of Soda Crystals, such as ourselves, compelling us to close down.

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas Esq., P.C. M.P.

26th June, 1924.

It is perhaps superfluous to mention that the Soda Ash industry, both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Continent of Europe, is in the hands of a combine dominated by Messrs Brunner Mond & Co Ltd., constituting a huge Trust, whose consistent policy has been to ruthlessly crush all competing firms.

While we have no desire to introduce political questions into what is primarily an economic matter, it may not be out of place to remark that we are emboldened to request your sympathetic consideration of this letter, in view of our belief that the Government stands for the protection of the small manufacturers against the operation of monopolies. We venture to submit that it is against public policy that the means of an article of everyday necessity should be entirely in the hands of one firm.

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The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas Esq., F.C. M.P.

20th June, 1924.

From which it would appear that the Board had a Bill ready for presentation to Parliament, dealing with the Trusts and Combees. It would, we think, be made the occasion of very unfavorable comment, were an already over powerful combine, converted into an absolute monopoly, with the sanction of your Department.

In view of the facts mentioned, we respectfully suggest that no arrangements should be concluded with Messrs Brunner Mond & Co. Ltd. unless the present assets of Magadi Soda Ash are adequately protected.

We are,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

(Sgd) R. C. A. D. M. B. A. S. O.

43 Queen St

London

W. C. A. S. O.