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EAST AFR. PROT.
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20 SEP 10

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LAKE MAGADI SCHEME

Enquires as to approval of Railway plans and specifications by the Governor, and water supply.

W. F. Ades

I have spoken to you about this
I submit a draft telegram which says
all that Mr. W. F. Ades & Dr. Herz, who brought
the letter in person, think essential.
When the telegram ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{desp} have fine
the paper should be returned for
consideration of the question as to
water supply raised in the last par.

W.F.A.

Sept 21

copy of 2
number 10
1 Oct
number 10
3 Oct

quart Paper.

29702

25226
21 SEP 10

951

Shell House,
104/5 Bishopsgate Street Within,
LONDON, 21st Sept. 1910.

To the
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
WHITEHALL, S. W.

My Lord,

PROPOSED MAGADI RAILWAY.

The Survey of the proposed Branch Line from the Uganda Railway to the Lake Magadi Deposit, and the preliminary specification of this line and also for the Contractor's Port near Kilindini, have now been so far completed as to render it necessary for us to submit our plans for approval to the Government of the Protectorate, in accordance with the proposed Contract with the Crown Agents for the Colonies before we can proceed actively in the matter.

As you will no doubt recollect, at the time of our negotiations with the Colonial Office, all the available information laid before us led us to assure that the Branch Line which would be necessary to link up Lake Magadi with the Uganda Railway would, at the outside, not exceed in length about 75 miles.- Assuming that to be a safe and correct

-2-

basis, we agreed to certain Freight Rates for the Soda and other Material going up and down the line. The results of the Surveys of our Consulting Engineer, Mr Shelford, and of Survey Parties sent out by him, are now before us and we find that if we must rigidly adhere to every technical condition laid down in the aforementioned Contract, it will be necessary to build a line nearly 110 miles in length, - thus increasing our estimated cost of the railway by considerably more than 50%, as well as appreciably enhancing the cost of freight up and down the Nagadi-Mombasa line. Our Engineer has informed us that some of these conditions might be modified without necessarily increasing the cost of traction or rendering the working of the line more difficult. Such modifications would enable him to reduce the length of the proposed Branch Line by some 25 miles and still render it possible for us to carry out the proposed scheme.

Mr Shelford, whose experience of railways in Africa is as well known to you as to ourselves, informs us that he believes that upon personal demonstration before the Governor of the Protectorate and the General Manager of the Uganda Railway he can convince them that the conditions referred to may safely be modified by them, and it would therefore seem to

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is desirable that he should discuss the whole matter personally with those two gentlemen.

In order to exercise our Option over the lease of the Property as we have it from the East Africa Syndicate, it is necessary for us not only to come to a decision before the end of the year as to whether we will go on with the business or not, but actually to initiate it. Should we decide to do this by the formation of a Public Company, it will be necessary for us to complete our arrangements for doing so before the end of November at the very latest.

Now we are unofficially informed that Sir Percy Girouard sails for Europe on the 14th of November. It is therefore imperative - if the Scheme is to mature - that the questions we have raised above be decided by him before that date. We therefore propose instructing Mr Shelfard to proceed to East Africa so that he can reach Mombasa about the 18th of October, - provided you will be good enough to arrange that the Governor of the Protectorate and the General Manager of the Uganda Railway will reserve sufficient time before the Governor's departure to discuss fully, and, if possible, settle with Mr Shelfard, all the points

about the construction of the railway which have to be agreed. Mr Shelford can have all his specifications ready by the time he reaches Mombasa, and if he is able to come to a definite agreement, especially on the subject of certain modifications of the specifications, and generally on the whole of his plans for the railway and the Contractor's Port, he will be able to wire us to this effect and there should then be no reason to let the Scheme drop.

We take the liberty of attaching copy of the letter which we addressed you on the 24th of May of this year, and of drawing your attention to the fact that we have never received an answer to the first part of the same, which deals with the question of the Water Supply from the Guaso Nyiro for the needs of our Works and Staff at Magadi. As we pointed out in this letter, this question is of vital importance in the contemplated Soda Works, and we could not go any further without feeling sure that the Government of the Protectorate would give us the protection for which we ask. We should therefore feel extremely obliged if you would be good enough to let us have an assurance to this effect.

Meanwhile, We have the honour to be, My Lord,

Yours obediently,

W. Samuel

COPY

Shell House,

104/5 Bishopsgate St. Within,

LONDON, 24th May 1910.

To the

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

WHITEHALL, S.W.

My Lord,

PROPOSED LAKE MAGADI RAILWAY.

Referring to the interview which Mr Read granted Dr. A.E. Herz yesterday, we would ask you to be good enough to give us some assurance that in the event of our carrying out the proposed scheme of building a railway to join Lake Magadi to the Uganda Railway, the very necessary water supply at Magadi which it is proposed to obtain from the Guaso Nyiro will be adequately protected.

In the event of the railway being built and Works being erected at Lake Magadi, it is intended to run Pipelines from the above river across the Soda Deposit to the Works. These Pipelines will supply the water needed for the process in dealing with the Deposit and also for the drinking and other sanitary purposes of the Camp and Works.

A careful survey of the country by our Expedition showed that it would be impossible to rely upon those sources of water supply marked on the Map as permanent, and therefore it will be necessary - if the scheme is carried out - to go to very considerable expense in bringing water from the only other alternative, viz., the Guaso Nyiro.

Our attention has been called to the fact that irrigation schemes in other parts of the Protectorate have affected very considerably the contributory rivers that have been "tapped". For instance, the length of the Kedong river has been reduced, we are told, some eleven miles, owing to certain

-2-

alterations in its course made by agriculturists. Whilst the Gussu Nyiro with its present flow would supply sufficient water for the needs of our Works and Staff at Magadi, anything done which would tend to reduce the flow of water below its present volume might seriously prejudice the carrying on of the various processes to be applied to the Soda, and in fact, might effectually bring them to a full-stop.

We should therefore like to have an assurance from you that instructions will be given to the Government of the Protectorate in the sense we have indicated.

Seeing the somewhat lengthy period which our preliminary investigations are taking, due chiefly to the difficulties of organising and carrying out an Expedition in the barren country around Lake Magadi, and fearing that anything tending to cause further delay might cause us to endanger our right to exercise the Option we hold over the Lease now belonging to the East Africa Syndicate, we would be obliged if the following information could be obtained for us as quickly as possible.

It is proposed that we should build a deep-water Pier to erect Works to deal with the Soda Deposit after its railway journey down to the coast, at a place on the mainland near Kilindini known as "Railway Point". This piece of land we were informed belonged to natives but could be purchased by us with the assistance of the Protectorate Govt. under the Railways Act. We should like to know what would be the approximate cost of the purchase of this site per acre, and what period would cover necessary negotiations and definite ratification of the purchase thereof. We would add that we have already written inform to His Excellency the Governor of the E.E.A.P. asking for information but we desire to put the matter formally before your Lordship.

We have the honor, &c.
M. Samuel & Co. (Sd.)

29226

250



Codes sent 6. 25/26
A.T.B. 21/8/26

DRAFT.

General
Mauritius

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler Sept 21
- Mr.
- Mr. Fiddes. H. atre
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sr. F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

21 September
 Messrs Samuel
 propose to send Sheldford
 as guests
 to arrive Montbasa
odiado
 18th October with
 sharper
railway specifications
 a methodist
 for approval (C) i. l. w. g. p. y.
 codicillum
 to comply with

but of hon from
 colporteur
 present concessionaires
 unworkable
 they must form company
 e. r. h. e. i. s.
 before end of current
 year and in order to

of 29226 Gov. in
 draft sent mail
 H.A.B.
 Sept 21.

They must have
all ~~financial~~ ^{preparations}
financial ^{preparations}
~~finished~~ ^{by end of}
~~November~~ ^{at latest} ^{subseq}
~~is~~ ^{is} ^{herefore}
urgently ^{absolutely} necessary
to ^{know}
at ^{latest} ^{by the time of}
your ^{departure} from
Middle November
The ^{specifications} are
deheartily ^{entirely} approved
Trust that in order to
avoid ^{water} falling
through you will ^{be}
able with ^{ease}

To give ^{notice}
To effect ^{this} ²⁵
I would assist
Messrs Small
materially ^{in their}
enterprise of matter
could be settled
even earlier.
Despatch follows
by mail

S
29226

EAP.

252

Saint 4.25 pm
Wm
26/9/10

26 September
Sainfoin

With refer to my tel. of
21 September

ungrasped

Magadi can you find
gentlemen

necessary time

Smully

DRAFT

Telegram

Erward
Naidi

2996
K
m

MINUTE

26 Sep

- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Stealy
- Lord Crewe

Samuel ...
now asked by telephone
when we would
be explicitly of the
whether he can
at necessary time.

inmediate for
other action

89B

S./29226/1910.

East Africa Protectorate.

**DRAFT.****EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE**

Downing Street,

September, 1910.

CONFIDENTIAL

Governor

Col. Sir P. Girouard, K.C.M.G., R.E., D.S.O.

MINUTEMr. Butler. *Sept 27*

Sir,

Mr.

Mr. Fiddes.

Mr. Just.

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hepwood.

Col. Seely.

Lord Crewe.

With reference to my Confidential

despatch of the 23rd of September and my tele-

gram of the 26th of September, I have the

honour to transmit to you, for your information,

a copy of a letter which has been addressed to

Messrs Samuel and Company with regard to the

Messrs Samuel & Co. *10/1* agreement with them in connection with the
 Soda deposits at Lake Magadi.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) CREWE.

East Africa Protectorate.

2922



Downing Street,

23 September, 1910

DRAFT

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE CONFIDENTIAL

Governor

Col. Sir Percy Girouard, K.C., S.O., F.R.S.

MINUTE

Mr. Butler, Sept. 22nd

Mr.

Mr. Fildes.

Mr. Just.

Mr. Cox.

Sir G. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Col. Seely.

Lord Crewe.

*to Colson
21 Sept
to Samuel Co.
without a lot which
went to the Gen on
5/15/10*

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit

to you with reference to my telegram

of the 21st of September, the accompany

ing copy of a letter from Messrs Samuel

and Company with regard to the agree-

ment with them for the lease of the

soda deposits at Lake Nagadi.

I informed you in my tele-

gram that Messrs Samuel and Company

proposed to send Mr. Shelford, who

arrived at Tombasa on the 13th of October

with the specifications for the branch

to be further action

Done 20

** N 29226*

to N 29226

line

The water supply from the Guaso Nyiro.
In the mean-time you will understand
that their attitude on this question
makes it more than ever necessary to
observe the precautions ^{specified} ~~described~~ in
my confidential despatch of the 20th
of September.

I have, &c.

Kraue

m. G. G.
28/3

+



S. 29226/1910.
East Africa Protectorate.

DRAFT.

Messrs Samuel & Company.

Downing Street,
September, 1910.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler. *Sept 17*
- Mr.
- Mr. Fiddes. *27*
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Earl of Crewe to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of September, relating to the agreement made with you with regard to the soda deposits at Lake Magadi.

- X Sir F. Hopwood. *July*
- Col. Seely. *27.9*
- Lord Crewe. *30.1X*

2. The Governor has been informed by telegraph of the considerations stated in your letter which make it desirable that a definite decision should be taken with regard to the specifications for the proposed branch line of the Uganda Railway to Lake Magadi, before

altered on receipt of SW 29702

WAB 24.10.10

Copies you have 3 Oct. 2 drafts.

S. 29226

he leaves the Protectorate in the middle of November, and he has been asked whether he could devote the necessary time to examining the plans which Mr Shelford will take to the Protectorate. *He has replied that he will give up the necessary time to you as soon as it is received.*

3. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, Lord Crewe has, as you are aware, been in communication with Sir Percy Girouard with regard to the water supply from the Uasin Nyiro. It appears that there are twenty-three farms allotted along the southern edge of Uasin Nyiro and its tributaries; that these farms are mainly stock farms, and that in one instance permission has been given for the construction of a furrow for the purpose of irrigation. Sir Percy Girouard has been instructed that, pending the final settlement of the Lake Waniadi question, no promise of water rights

W. Fiddes
I don't think we can say less than this to Mr Samuel or it is not an assurance. That we are not in a position to give We must chance the risk of compensation refer to in 2012. It is for (see 90) 2012 in the card that Sir F. Girouard is using the difficulty as base of the Uasin Nyiro as counsel in his appeal same 2012

W.F.
(2012)

should may

should may be made to the farms along the Southern Uasin Nyiro and its tributaries, and that no further irrigation work should be allowed in connection with those rivers.

I am, etc.,
(sd) C. A. Hans