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Affairs in Abyssinia

Sends despatch from Adis Ababa enclosing
Intelligence Report for June 1914

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Subsequent Paper.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. 34069
address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
August 6, 1914.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to Foreign Office:
from

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Col. Doughty-Wylie, Addis Ababa, No 62, July 5	Intelligence report for June

(Similar letter sent to

No 62

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British Legation
Addis Ababa

5 July 1914

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Sir:-

I have the honour to enclose two copies of the Intelligence Report from this Legation for the month of June

I have the honour to be, Sir

with the highest respect

your most obedient

humble servant

Arthur S. G. W. G.

The Right Honourable

Sir Edward Grey

Baron Grey, M.P.

etc etc etc

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

ADIS ABABA INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

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JUL 27 1914

Internal Affairs. There is little change in the situation since writing last Report.

The Coronation of Negus MIKHAIL took place on June 1st. without incident. The members of the deputation sent by LIJ NYASSU have returned to ADIS ABABA, with the exception of Ras HAILU, who proceeded straight to GOJJAM.

Dejazmach SIYUM and Jantara NAILI MARIAM were created Rasas after the ceremony by the new Negus.

NAILI MARIAM, who is Negus MIKHAIL's grandson and a nephew of LIJ NYASSU, has been given the counties of LASTA, BOKOTA and YEJU.

SIYUM has, it is believed, been appointed Viceroy of TIGRE, but there is no certain news of his having been permitted to leave DERSIK yet to assume charge of his Province.

It is not known whether the marriage arranged between Ras HAILU and Negus MIKHAIL's daughter (see last Report) took place or not, nor is there any further confirmation here of the statement that this Ras is to receive the kingdom of his father TEWLA WAIMANOT (see last Report).

The exact limits of Negus MIKHAIL's kingdom are not yet known. He is credited with the desire to include within it BAGOYEMBA, which now belongs to Ras WALDA GIORGIS and is the home of the best fighters in ANYSSINIA.

According to the latest reports from Mr. ARMBRUSTER, (June 16th.) this rumour, with the addition to it that MIKHAIL will also be given DHERA, has reached GONDAR, where it is not unwelcome, the local Amharas being thoroughly tired of Ras WALDA GIORGIS and of Shoa and "Galla" rule.

Mr. ARMBRUSTER considers that in the event of a conflict between Ras WALDA GIORGIS and the adherents of Negus MIKHAIL, the Ras could place no reliance on the local Amhara troops.

The Ras is now at DANBAZ, where his troops are still suffering from the effects of an epidemic (a form of contagious dysentery) which attacked them in TIGRA and which was responsible there for the deaths of over 2000 men. The Ras is said also to have lost some 3000 mules during that expedition.

Mr. ARMBRUSTER reports that as late as June 10th. it was rumored in GONDAR that the Ras was going to DESSALE. Nothing has transpired in ADIS ABABA of this, and the Ras has certainly not left DANBAZ yet - and is unlikely now to make any move until the rains are over.

LIJ NYASEU who was reported in good health in last Report, is unfortunately ill again, and has been laid up for the last ten days.

External Affairs. The tension with ITALY continues.

Full confirmation of the doings of the Italians at NOGARA and of their activities on the frontier near that place (vide last Report) does not seem to have reached the Central Government. They have heard enough however to cause them to disbelieve Count COLLI's denials of the truth of the reports.

Meanwhile orders have been sent to Ras WALDA GIORGIS to send messengers to NOGARA to ask to be shown the bridge piers constructed by the Italians in the bed of the R. SETIT, and, if these are found to be there as reported, to arrest Sheikh IMAM of NOGARA and to send him to ADIS ABABA.

The telegraph extension from ADIS ABABA via DANBAZ (GONDAR) to GALLABAT referred to in last Report has been decided upon, and an arrangement concluded with the SUDAN Government for the purchase of the

of the necessary material for the GALLABAT-GONDAR section of the line, this material to be delivered at GALLABAT by the first week in August. The existing telephone line from ADIS ABABA to BANEAZ will be adapted for telegraphy. The erection of this line will give the Abyssinian Government telegraphic ^{communication} with the North and the outside world independent of Italian control.

The relations between Ras WALDA GIORGIS and the Italians are not known. Hitherto he has been considered as violently anti-European, and as recently as the recent troubles in TIGRE he was believed to be creating difficulties with the Italian border officials. At the moment however he has his back against the wall, and might be inclined to turn anywhere for assistance. The fact therefore that he has the Italian doctor Tenente Bevilacqua in constant attendance on him at the present time may have some significance. This gentleman, who speaks Amharic, was formerly in charge of the Italian dispensary at GONDAR, whence he was transferred to ADUA. After the hostilities in TIGRE he was lent by the Italians to look after the wounded, and subsequently remained with WALDA GIORGIS' army, and accompanied the Ras on his return to BANEAZ. At least it cannot be said that Ras WALDA GIORGIS has shown any great alacrity to expose the Italian activities near FOGARA.

The Abyssinian Government still express themselves COLLI as to the matter of the gift by Ras-G. Count Dejazmach GARRA SILASSE. (see last Report).

GARRA SILASSE is still at large. With the consent of the Central Government, Count COLLI offered his personal mediation to this chief, on the condition that he would come and surrender himself in ADIS ABABA. GARRA SILASSE however had not apparently any confidence in Count COLLI's present influence at the capital and declined the offer.

and declined the offer.

ADIS ABABA.

Continuous and heavy ^{rain} has fallen in ADIS ABABA and the surrounding country in the last fifteen days.

It is hoped that the rain will put a stop (by removing the cause - foul water) to a serious epidemic of a form of contagious dysentery which broke out at the beginning of June in the districts on the edge of the plateau to the N.E., S.E. and East of ADIS ABABA. The mortality is said to have been very great, especially in and round ANKOBER. 413

Mr. J. Q. WOOD, Consul-General of the UNITED STATES, left ADIS ABABA for AMERICA on sick leave on June 28th. The new Commercial Treaty between the UNITED STATES and ABYSSINIA was signed the day before his departure. The new Treaty except for a minor alteration is the same as the old one - a simple "most favoured nation" Treaty. It is to run for four years only, the Abyssinians having refused to meet the wishes of the U. S. Government, who hoped to obtain a ten years' Treaty. The point in their refusal is that the French Treaty, ~~which is the~~ (the Franco-Abyssinian Treaty of 1908), on which the present foreign jurisdiction rights in ABYSSINIA are based, expires in four years time, and the Abyssinian Government wish to have their hands free at that time to alter existing arrangements, and were alarmed - unnecessarily it would seem - by the clause in the new Treaty giving "most favoured nation" jurisdiction rights.

Mr. SCHWIMMER, Hon. Austrian Consul, arrived early in the month. He brought with him a secretary and a gentleman said to be an Austrian officer. The business of the latter is not known. (see also ARMS TRAFFIC below).

GAMBELA.

Mr. WALKER, H. B. M's Consul, is new in GAMBELA. He reports (June 13th.) the R. BARO was rising well, and it is hoped that the first steamers arrived at Gambela early in June. There were 17,000 kantar

awaiting shipment.

Pitkurafi SOLOMAN, son of Dejazmach JOYI is son
his brother Kaniammach MARDABA is expected to meet
and him.

Mr. Nasib YILIBI, the Director of the RAOB Syn-
dicate and Manager of the GOSU Rubber Monopoly, ar-
rived in GAMBELA on June 13th. He has been appointed
by LIJ KIARU to rule the ANBUAK country - his terri-
tory extending from the foot of the GURA Escarpment
to the frontier.

The new Consulate at GOSU is nearly completed.

PIBOR POST. The Sudan Government reports that at the end of
March an armed party of Abyssinians under Kaniammach
KORICHA, one of Dejazmach KATAMA'S officers, (of MAJE)
visited the PIBOR POST and exchanged compliments with
the Officer Commanding.

The Abyssinian Government have been informed that
the Sudan Government cannot view with favour the pen-
etration of an armed party so far into Sudan terri-
tory without notice, and orders have been sent to
Dejazmach KATAMA by the Central Government not to
allow the recurrence of such an affair.

CONDAR. Mr. AMMUNSTER, H. B. N's Consul, has been exper-
iencing great difficulty in obtaining suitable quart-
ers for himself and his wife during the rains owing
to difficulties placed in his way by the Ras. Orders
have been telephoned by the Central Government to
the Ras to cease obstruction.

The rains were reported on 10th. June to be
setting in.

HARAR. Mr. J. H. BODD, H. B. N's Consul, returned to
Harar on the 25th. June from a visit to the Somali
border towards HARGHISA. Owing to ~~illness~~ illness
H. B. N's Commissioner of SOMALILAND was unable to
meet him at HARGHISA as had been suggested. (see
Report).

Mr. DOUBS' full report has not yet been received. He states however that he found a great number of British Somalis grazing their stock on the Abyssinian side of the frontier, as is their custom at this time of the year. They will return shortly to our side of the border.

The OGDEN, HER ALI and AM HARON, have recently been severely punished by the BA QREHI, and have lost a large number of stock. They have been driven from their usual grazing grounds, and are now two days only from JIG JIGGA.

Arms Traffic. Mr. Schwimmer's canoes referred to in last report have not yet left JIGOUTI. Much mutual recrimination has been going on amongst those concerned in the matter.

100,000 Gras rifles and a large amount of ammunition are about to be purchased in FRANCE by the Abyssinian Government. The cost of landing the rifles at JIGOUTI is to be 42 dollars a rifle. The cost of these rifles in ADIS ABABA at the present moment is from 40 to 45 dollars the rifle.

Mention is made also of other Arms contracts. Further information confirms the statement in last report that the illicit trade in Arms through Jibouti is for the moment greatly restricted.

On the other hand we have information that the "Maison Louis Dreyfus & Cie." of Marseilles is intending to turn its attention to the JIGOUTI trade.

BRITISH LEGATION.

ADIS ABABA.

(signed) C. H. W. Doughty Wylie.

K. B. W.'s Charge d'Affaires.

23rd July. 1913.