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WHITEHALL GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.

28th November

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East Africa Protectorate.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 8th of January, No.46558, and previous correspondence on the subject of the proposed Lake Magadi Railway Concession. I have the honour to report that the costs and expenses of our solicitors up to date in the preparation of the draft acreement for this concession amount to £184.11.2.

- These expenses would, if the concession were completed, he payable by the fast Africa Syndicate under the terms of the last clause of a Prejiminary Agreement; but, as we understand that it is doubtful whether the Syndicate intend to proceed with the matter, I beg to enquire whether the amount may be paid from the funds of the Protectorate, or whether the Colonial Office will address the Syndicate on the subject with a view to obtaining the sum from them.
- 3. We take this opportunity to suggest for the consideration of the Secretary of State whether it would not be desirable in all such cases of applications for conceasions when it is necessary to employ solicitors of other professional advisors in drafting, to obtain from

Under Secretary of State

Colonial Office.

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the applicants, before we are authorized to prepare the draft, an undertaking that they will repay to us all expenses incurred by us in connection with its negotiation and preparation, in the event of their failing to carry the matter to completion. In the case of the recently executed Tana River Concession not only was such an undertaking given, but the applicants were further required with us to deposit the sum of £100 for the purpose; and we would suggest that a deposit of not less and perhaps in some cases larger amount should be industed upon in all other cases, inless the Secretary of State is satisfied, from the standing of the applicants or otherwise, that no deposit is necessary.

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Yes obedient servant,

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