

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.  
No. 15255

C. G.  
15255  
MAY 08

Previous Paper.  
908  
April

(Subject.)

Boundary between Abyssinia and  
E. Afr. Protectorate.

Unable to sanction the commission as it is improbable that its estimated cost for 1908-9, i.e. £6500, can be met from savings on the Col. Services Vote. If commission is necessary suggests that it should be deferred till winter or spring of 1909.

(Minutes)

Mr. Read. It is impossible to say at this period of the year that we shall have savings which would cover so large an expenditure as of £6,500. The Dft. was rather too curt in this respect. But as I suppose the Service is necessary and cannot be deferred no doubt we should tell the Treasury so, and say that pending the ~~proper~~ consideration

later of the possible necessity <sup>for</sup> of  
a Supplementary Estimate, Lord  
Barnard would ask <sup>Sanction</sup> for meeting the  
Expenditure out of General balance  
on the Colonial Services Vote.

A.B.H.

Mr. Ellis.

This is most unfortunate & we must  
try again. Apart from any special  
reasons for beginning at once which  
the GO would be right to be able to  
forward after reference if necessary  
to his J. Harnington, it seems to  
be to be absolutely impossible to secure  
the order in the frontier region unless  
a definite boundary is demarcated.

Papers should I think go over to  
his Clerk\* for his own in the first  
instance?

L.C.S.  
2/5

Mr. Cotterman

Dft submitted

see Mr. Clerk's minute

This I refer to say will mean  
a supplemental estimate, & I think  
I shall be obliged to be  
delivered on Monday 3

Mr. Selby  
and Messrs

\* See  
attached

In my opinion it is very important that the work of delimiting the S. portion of Abyssinia should be begun as soon as possible.

Mr. Hohler, in his Despatch<sup>\*</sup> of Jan. 1 last (annexed), forwarding the Frontier Agreement sealed & signed by Menelik & himself, said that H. M. desired the frontier Commission to begin their work with the least possible delay and Sir J. Harrington, in his tel N: 18 of March 28<sup>th</sup> last (sent to C. O., April 2) says it is highly desirable that delimitation should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

It must be remembered that while we are doing nothing, Menelik's officers are using every device to make good their claims to doubtful territory. Zapher's reports have shown that the line, as it is, does not favour us unduly, to say the

least, and every month's delay means  
that the Abyssinians are strengthening their  
claims in the Borana Ghibre country: the  
natives there can only judge by practical  
results to them, and when the Abyssinians  
can say to the local chiefs - "you must  
say you are our subjects & suffer the  
consequences" - the natives whose only protection  
is a vague Power they've heard of from  
Zaphiro, which shows no active interest in  
their welfare, and who know how they are  
at the mercy of the Abyssinians have no  
choice but to do as they're told.

However, if the delimitation is put  
off for another year, the repetition of  
the portents will be ten times worse. The  
Abyssinians will not understand our reasons  
for not beginning the delimitation at  
once - to them it will look <sup>like</sup> either weakness  
or indifference. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> will be figured

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at our paying no attention to his request  
& consequently inclined to shut his eyes  
to the delinquencies of his people on the  
frontier. Zaphiro's prestige, will suffer,  
both Abyssinians & natives will lose faith  
in him, and elephant-hunting & raiding  
will go on more wildly than ever.

G.P.C.

4-v-00

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ABYSSINIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(January 29)

Section 3.

[3183]

No. 1.

(No. 1.)

Mr. Hoehler to Sir Edward Grey. — (Received January 29)

Sir,

Adis Ababa, January 1, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of the 27th December, I have the honour to report that I saw the Emperor Menelik on Monday last on the subject of the Southern Frontier Agreement.

His Majesty fully understands the binding nature of the Agreement, pending the delimitation of the exact frontier line by the Commissioners, but he is content that it should remain in its present irregular form. He wishes to put it in the ordinary form of a Treaty when the Commissioners shall have finished their labours, and he expressed his desire that they might commence them with the least possible delay, saying that his officers would be ready to start as soon as their British collaborators arrived.

I have the honour to inclose herewith the English and Amharic texts of the Agreement, together with the annexed maps, duly signed.\*

I have, &c.  
(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

[2790 f-3]

\* Printed in the Treaty Series.

Ans<sup>d</sup> - by the  
morning before. Hope further arrangements  
will be made to them shortly but nothing  
can be done at present

ROYAL ENGINEER BARRACKS,

SHORNCLIFFE CAMP,

KENT

1. 5. 08

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Mr Bottomley

Thanks for your note of 29<sup>th</sup>  
concerning Brockman's wire  
I expect I shall be able to  
Carbure from Woolwich but  
no good by taking further  
tell the Treasury decide  
hope you realize that I cannot  
off till at least 3 weeks after  
Treasury decision. My stores etc

And by the  
 way, I hope further arrangements  
 will be made to them shortly but  
 can be done at present

ROYAL ENGINEER BARRACKS,  
 SHORNCLIFFE CAMP,  
 KENT

1/5 - 1 5 08  
 2 0

Bottom

I thank you for your note of 29<sup>th</sup>  
 and am sorry Brockman's was  
 I expect I shall be able to  
 Carbon from Woolwich but  
 no good by taking further  
 till the Treasury decide  
 hope you reach the point  
 off till at least 3 weeks after  
 Treasury decision by then or

Cannot be delayed & stay  
under a fortnight after  
give my Confirmy order &  
is so good my starting letter  
the week after heavy business

of Clark that he intended  
that business intends to  
some - take Preliminary  
in the season why he wanted  
to a last in May, & I

would like to get things  
before he leaves. Addi

I do not leave London till  
May I shall not reach  
Abba at earliest till  
July & that will not give  
time to see my dear Carson

& start which I  
had hoped to get Treasury  
this morning but from  
some great delay



I want to go over to Little  
on Saturday night returning  
London Tuesday morning &  
should be back here on  
Wednesday for an inspection

If there is anything for me  
tomorrow or Monday kindly  
please let me know he will

J. P. Kennedy

W. H. W. W.

I want to go over to Little  
on Saturday night returning  
London Tuesday morning &  
I should be back here on  
Wednesday for an inspection  
If there is anything for the  
tomorrow or Monday could  
please sit with the woman

Yours truly

W. H. W.

In the reply to this letter the following  
Number should be quoted

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C. O.  
15255

7657  
08

TREASURY CHAMBERS, MAY 08

30 April 1908.

Sir,

I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Mr. Antrobus's letter (13886/1906) of the 24th instant, in which Secretary the Earl of Crewe proposes that a Commission should be immediately despatched to delimit the frontier between Abyssinia and the East Africa Protectorate, and that the expenses of this Commission should be charged to the Colonial Services Vote.

In reply I am to say that as no provision has been made in the Vote for the current year to meet these expenses estimated at about £6,500 for the period to 31st March 1909, and as it would appear improbable that the charge can be met out of savings, My Lords regret to be unable, on the information before Them, to sanction so large an expenditure. If however the Secretary of State is of opinion that savings will become available My Lords will be prepared to give further consideration to the matter: and in this event They would suggest that the despatch of the Expedition should be deferred till the winter or even till the spring of next year, so as to reduce the charge on the year 1908/9

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Under Secretary of State.  
Colonial Office.

Treasury 15255

Receipts

Preparing

888  
May 14

14 May 08.

DRAFT.

The Secy to the  
Treasury

Sir  
I am directed  
by the Com of  
the Court of  
Accounts to  
acknowledge  
of your letter

MINUTE.

Ans. 1822

- Mr. White 5/5
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. Just.
- X Mr. Antrobus 6
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Lucas.

No 7567/08 of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
ult. on the subject  
of the proposal to  
despatch a Commission  
to determine the frontier  
between Abyssinia  
& the E. A.P.

Sir F. Hopwood 12.5  
Gt. Secy 3.5  
The Secy of State C. B. T.  
for com  
Per Mr. Clerk's  
minute (15255)

I am to explain  
that the reason why  
no special provision  
was made for this  
service on the Annual

Accounts Dept.  
Comm. [unclear]  
Seen  
1575

British estimate for the current year was that it was not until thereafter on the 3rd ult.

of the letter from the F.O. of the 1st ult. a copy is enclosed, that the urgency of the matter was fully understood in this Dept.

F.O. to C. 1st 2nd April

9 For some years past H.M.'s representatives in the Arctic have been endeavoring to secure the assent of the Emperor Menchu to an agreement for the delimitation of the boundary. The Emperor, however, delayed the matter on various grounds, in the mean

time, <sup>however</sup> ~~as~~ continuing to maintain a policy beyond the present boundary & establishing a practical claim to further modifications of the boundary in their favor. 4th length in January last, the Emperor signed an agreement for the delimitation. This agreement however leaves large portions of the boundary only vaguely indicated, the exact limits being left to be defined by future examination & ascertainment of the natural features, but the boundaries on the spot. The boundary of the main signature of

The agreement will be of little or no effect until the Commission is able to commence its business  
5. On receipt of news from the Emperor of Ethiopia that the Emperor is now H.M.'s Agent at Addis Ababa has reported that the Emperor is now willing & anxious that the delimitation of the frontier should begin at once, & that, on the ground of the deficiency of funds which he would find it hard to credit, would afford him & render him less inclined to check the

DRAFT

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The limits of authority committed by his people beyond the frontier.  
6. The suggestion of the I.C. that the date of the expedition should be deferred till later in the year involves the further disadvantage that, in that case, it would not be possible to complete the work during the dry season, so that the labours of the Commission would be prolonged with considerable additional expense involved.

7. That trusts that in  
view of the further  
explanations the L.C.  
will not refuse their  
assent to the immediate  
dispatch of the expedition  
the expenditure being  
met for the time being  
out of general batteries  
or the Colonial Revenue  
vote, pending the  
return letter of the  
possible necessity for  
a Supplementary Estimate

~~the Government~~  
~~to be considered~~  
~~by the Committee~~  
~~of the House of Commons~~  
~~in the course of the~~  
~~present session~~  
~~of the House of Commons~~  
~~and that the~~  
~~Government~~  
~~will be enabled~~  
~~to meet the~~  
~~expenditure~~  
~~of the expedition~~  
~~out of the~~  
~~Colonial Revenue~~  
~~vote~~

27. 11