

EAST AFRICAN PROT

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previous Paper

2419

Abyssinian Frontier Administration

Submit further plans for financial part of view regarding proposed formation of a Northern Frontier District

W Read

Sir P. Gwynne is right in the assumptions on which he proceeds in paragraphs 3 + 4. In a paper he marked out a line which varies the actual treaty line so as to leave within the E.A.P. a few points without which administration of the frontier on the part of the E.A.P. would be impossible. H.M.G. propose to hold on to this line in their negotiations with the Abyssinians.

In 7.0. ~~202234/09~~ the 7.0. remark that, if we can ensure in practice that the Expenses

Copy sent to Gen Conf 14 Feb
Gen Conf 11 Feb
Copy sent to 7.0. 16 Feb

Subsequent Paper

is respected by the Abyssinians.
It is the wish of the British
Government to maintain the boundary from Abyssinia
and the difficulties which will probably
be raised by the Abyssinian Govt.
before they accept Major Gwynne's line
will become of little importance.

It is evident that the Govt. cannot
give us anything very detailed in
the way of an estimate of expenditure
he has provided in the Estimates for
1910-11, now with the Treasury, for 3
additional Political officers. It appears
from this despatch that he contemplates,
in addition to the expenditure already
proposed in the Estimates, an outside
further expenditure of £3000, or less
if all three new stations are not
required. In forwarding the Estimates
he pointed out that he had made no
specific provision for the more effective
occupation of the border, but that he
anticipated no difficulty in meeting
the expenditure required by a reallocation
from other heads when the time
arrived.

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per at
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We should, therefore, now send
the Treasury a copy of this despatch
with reference to my letter of the 4th
of Jan. (in Govt. No. 2787/109) say that Sir P.
Grouard is right in thinking that it
is the policy of H. M. G., in their negotia-
tions with the Abyssinian Govt. as to
the boundary, to insist on the retention
in British hands of certain points
essential to the administration of
the frontier, & quote $\frac{70}{20434/109}$ referred to
above as to the desirability of
effectively administering the frontier
in the meantime, remind the Treasury
of what Sir P. Grouard said in his
Estimates despatch about the provision
of funds, & ask them to approve
of expenditure up to £3000 if so much
is required, for the establishment
of stations on the boundary, on
the understanding that the amount
required will be found from reallocation
among the expenditure already
proposed in the draft Estimates for

1910-11. And send a copy of his
despatch or my letter to the Treasury to
the G.O. for info (127), or a copy of the
letter to the Treasury to the G.O. for
info (127).

H.B.
Feb 7.

Mr. Fisher.
So proceed?
A.S.R.

See J. H. Johnson

R.H.

Jasper
J.H.
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Jasper
9/1
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Proceed as proposed
C 10 II

Government House,

Nairobi,

REC-29 JAN 10

5th January 1910.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(Confidential)

No. 2

My Lord,

In reply to Your Lordship's telegram of December 13th and in continuation of my despatch No.91 Confidential of November 22nd last I have the honour to make the following additional observations in regard to the formation of a Northern Frontier District.

2. I gather that Your Lordship is not adverse to the scheme in principle but requires fuller financial details. These it is unfortunately not altogether easy to supply as the whole question depends largely if not entirely on the provision of transport, which in those regions is carried on almost exclusively by means of camels.

3. I understand from Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of November 25th and other correspondence on the subject of the boundary that both Your Lordship and His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs are inclined to insist on the retention in British hands of certain points essential to the administration of the frontier which

The Right Honourable

the Earl of Crews, K.G.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London, S.W.

which are admittedly on the Abyssinian side of the line originally laid down. This policy would be justified on the plea of necessity and would be supported by the effective occupation of the points in question.

4. I should like to make it clear that the whole scheme of frontier control hinges on the adoption of this position in regard to Abyssinian claims and that if we in any way abandon our pretensions in this connection it would be useless to attempt to do anything beyond Marsabit. We should in fact have to recall Mr Barrett from Fort Harrington and leave affairs on the border once more in the hands of Mr. Zaphiro and his Abyssinian auxiliaries. This would in my opinion involve a disastrous loss of prestige and would perpetuate the existence of an Alsatia on our Northern frontiers, which cannot fail to be a continual source of trouble and annoyance in the future.

5. I will assume then that the points which we need for frontier administration will be included in British territory and effectively occupied and garrisoned, as Fort Harrington is at present. It is difficult without personal knowledge to say what posts will actually be required but I am inclined to think that for the present three posts will be sufficient, one at Dolo, one at Fort Harrington, and one at some point towards the Western extremity of the line. This will have to be selected later. Between these posts a system of patrols will be established ensuring a fairly constant inspection of the whole length of the boundary. As supplies could not be obtained in the neighbourhood of the posts and it would be undesirable to depend upon Abyssinian sources Marsabit must be regarded as the advance base for the whole

whole line, with Meru and the rich Kenya districts on which to fall back.

6. As time goes on certainly at Marsabit and probably at the other posts the garrisons will be able to grow crops to a sufficient extent to supply their necessities, at any rate in part, but for the first few months every thing will have to be carried up on camels. The latter are not expensive in themselves and, if we levy as proposed a property tax on the Rendile, which they quite expect and are perfectly ready to pay in return for the protection against Abyssinian raids which our presence at Marsabit gives them, we shall be able to maintain our transport service out of the animals paid in. Camel syces are however expensive particularly if Somalis, who are far the best, are employed.

7. Apart from transport I anticipate scarcely any, if any, additional expenditure in excess of the estimate for 1910-1911 already submitted. The stations at Marsabit and Meru have already been provided for in the Naivasha and Kenya Provincial votes and a reallocation is all that is required. The frontier patrols should in my opinion be furnished by the King's African Rifles.

8. Taking one thing with another I should be inclined to put the probable cost of the 3 boundary stations at £1000 each for the first year, or £3000 in all, but I am not persuaded as yet that three stations will be required. I feel sure however that we shall be amply

repaid

repaid for this expenditure if we can exercise
an efficient control along the frontier.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's humble,
obedient servant,

In the absence of the Governor

C. D.
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E.A.P.

See [unclear]

DRAFT.

THE SECRETARY

Downing Street,

12 February, 1910.

TO THE TREASURY.

Sir,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler. Feb. 11
- Mr. Read 11
- Mr. Fildes
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

and 6763.

I am directed by the Earl of Crewe to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, with reference to the letter from this Office No. 40787 of the 4th of January, a copy of a further despatch from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate with regard to the steps to be taken for bringing under more effective control the district in the neighbourhood of the boundary between Abyssinia and the Protectorate.

*Copy 2/2 Jan 5
(2998) D*

2. Sir Percy Girouard is right in thinking that it is the policy of His Majesty's

Government

*Copy 2/2 Jan 5
of Conf 14/10/10
[unclear]*

Government, in their negotiations with the Abyssinian Government as to the boundary, to insist on the retention in British hands of certain points essential to the administration of the frontier which have been indicated by Major Gwynn in the Reports of which copies are already before the Lords Commissioners. I am to add that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has expressed the opinion that it is very desirable to ensure that the frontier shall be respected locally by the Abyssinians, and that the natives on the British side of the boundary should be protected from Abyssinian raids, and that, if this is done, the difficulties which will probably be raised by the Abyssinian Government before they accept Major Gwynn's line and the consequent delay in reaching a settlement, will become of little importance.

It appears from the present despatch that the Governor is not able to give any detailed estimate of the expenditures which

will

$$\left[\begin{array}{r} 70. \\ + 023 + 09 \end{array} \right]$$

will be necessitated by bringing the district in question under control. He has provided in the Estimates for 1910-11, which are now before the Lords Commissioners, for three additional Political Officers. It appears from this despatch that he contemplates, in addition to the expenditure already proposed in the Estimates, an outside further expenditure of £3,000 in forming ^{three} new stations on the frontier, or less if all three ~~new~~ stations are not required. In ^{his} despatch covering the Estimates, a copy of which was sent to you in the letter from this office of the 21st of January, he pointed out that he had made no specific provision for the more effective occupation of the border, but that he anticipated no difficulty in meeting the expenditure required by a re-allocation from other heads when the time arrived.

4. In these circumstances Lord Crewe would ask the Lords Commissioners to approve of expenditure ^{in 1910-11} up to £3,000, if so much is required, for the establishment of stations

on

on the boundary, on the understanding that
the amount required will be found by ^{re-}alloca-
tions from the expenditure already proposed
in the draft estimates for 1910-11. In ap-
proving of the proposed expenditure, Lord
Crewe would ask the Governor to indicate
precisely from what heads of expenditure the
necessary re-allocations would be made.

I am, &c.

(Signed) G. V. FIDDES