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Previous Paper

1908

Copy to ...
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S. Chapman French

Sends copy to address to Adm Abaka ref.
to Zaphiro. Concerns in Co view as to
advantage of retaining the Zaphiro's services.

Copy file in conf. D.T. with refer to
previous concept

H. J. R.
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re-selling, I am in a position to prove to you that the
 rifles are the same which the Emperor sold him at Biredana.

Lately it was reported to me by an Abessinian in the
 service of Mr Colquhoun, that they employ the same method
 for sending rifles to the Western frontier, and a certain
 one whose name is Servigni, his agent, is selling these
 rifles at the price of fifty dollars each to the natives
 of the Khamul and others.

Further I have to report that Mr Colquhoun did not pay
 the price of these rifles to the Emperor, and it seems
 that he is present here in Paris for the purpose of bringing
 another lot of rifles.

I hope that strong steps may be taken as soon as
 possible in the matter to prevent him from selling rifles
 to the natives or hunters, otherwise once the whole
 population in British territory is armed, we shall have
 trouble, which will certainly entail a great amount of
 expenditure to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Respectfully,
 J. G. G. G.

skins, bees wax &c. He used to send a great number of soldiers with the goods to his representatives, and each soldier had to carry one new rifle and two belts of cartridges, on their arrival the rifles were taken from them and were sold to the hunters. The hunters again offered the skins, bees wax, &c. which they had killed what they wanted, sold them to the representatives of the Ogaden. The Ogaden natives again exchanged these rifles for camels and cattle to the tribes of the interior and the Merrihan who inhabit the countries west of Galle in British territory.

Several times these reports reached me, and I decided to send three natives to find out of the above report was true. They came back reporting that the European Agents had gone away, but the reports which I had heard were all true.

Two years ago the Merrihan crossed the Galle and bought 50 rifles from the Ogaden, since then they have bought over one thousand of these rifles, and use them against the tribes who have no rifles for looting their animals. I have succeeded in confiscating two rifles from the Merrihan which I have brought up to your inspection, and having seen the rifles which are used by the Merrihan

COPY

501
4 JAN 10

47063
DEC 29 1909

British Legation,

Adis Ababa, December 1st 1909.

Sir

I have the honour to bring to your notice certain facts concerning the sale of rifles by a French merchant to the natives of Ogaden and the natives south of Arussi.

Two and a half years ago the Emperor Menelek bought from France ten thousand Courdi Fusils Gras Rifles to be delivered at Djibuti at six dollars each. When these rifles reached Diredawa the Emperor sold the same to Mr Guignon at ten dollars each. Half the number of these rifles found their way to Ogaden and the other half were sent to Adis Ababa.

Those of the Ogaden were sent from Harrar in the following manner: Mr Guignon had at that time a representative south of Harrar, and in Arussiland for buying ivory from the Abyssinian hunters, also he was trading in

skins

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ment propose to give the monopoly for the sale of arms and ammunition to one individual, and I have protested against this as a violation of the Emperor's promise that no more monopolies should be given. Such a monopoly in the hands of a single person, who could fix his own profit, would in my opinion tend to a still greater circulation of arms than before. I have proposed that they should grant licenses to respectable persons for the sale of arms and ammunition, the licensees being obliged to furnish detailed returns of all sales, and to enter into strict guarantees to supply no arms or ammunition to unauthorized persons.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Each developing this system on his own account. He obtains the rifles at a cheap rate, collects a number of men, gives them a rifle and a belt of ammunition each, and sends them off to the Southern Frontier and Arushiland to shoot elephants. If they succeed in obtaining a sufficient quantity of ivory, the rifles become their own property, and many of them dispose of these arms at an enormous profit, frequently to Somalis and others in our territory.

Mr. Fakhro refers in his report to the sale of rifles on the western frontier, according to information from the Governor General of the Sudan, Gallebat according to a favourite place for the passing of arms across the frontier and I have referred to these same representations to the Government on the subject. With regard to Mr. Gallebat's proceedings, I have no doubt that Mr. Fakhro's reports are accurate, as the former has been well known for many years.

Intest information was however in the office... It was recently come to my knowledge that...

Another edict, forbidding the use of cartridges as currency, was at first allowed to lapse, but it has been put into force again, and in the neighbourhood of the capital it seems to be observed.

The root of the evil has not been touched. The unrestricted importation of arms through Simla, nor forming the subject of negotiations between the British and French Governments, provides a source of revenue for the Emperor and his supporters which their avarice will not allow them to forego.

The Emperor himself, not it should be profane to the Foreign Representatives, has been, at any rate in my time, the chief offender. He gives an order through some official for a large consignment of rifles, ostensibly for Government purposes, and even when they arrive, the greater part of them is resold to the importer at a profit of one hundred per cent or more, and eventually they are found for sale at the houses of some of the merchants of the importance in this trade. The Emperor will be seen with the amount of arms, and in practice...

and the Emperor's... of the Emperor's...

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DEC 10 1907

British Legation

Addis Ababa, December 10, 1907.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed, a copy of a Despatch from Mr. Zaphiro, British Inspector on the Southern Abyssinian boundary, reporting on the traffic in arms in Arussiland and the Ogaden.

From time to time regulations have been issued by the Emperor with the avowed purpose of checking the indiscriminate sale of arms. Last year an edict was promulgated forbidding all persons (except soldiers) who were not bona fide merchants or traders, to own rifles; any trader who required a rifle for the protection of his person or property was required to have a special registration mark placed upon it, and when he was not travelling, the rifle was to be deposited with the Shoua of the place he belonged to. This regulation was evaded from the beginning, and has now become a dead letter.

Yours faithfully,

A. P.

A. P.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 47063 09

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

101
JAN 10

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

January 11, 1910

Reference to previous letter.

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date

Subject

Lord H. Bessy

Adm Alaska

Office

No 77

Rec 4

Similar letter sent