

EAST ARR. PROT.

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REC'D
MAR 14 MAR '10

4673

ward Conf. 20

1910

17 Feb.

at previous Paper.

4/10/10
6393

Railway Rates on exported maize

Notes decision with satisfaction & encloses resolutions by Colonel Asson expressing gratitude for concession. Comptrol. expressing regret that Treasury have not approved proposal in their entirety. Asks that concession may be extended to beans which are of same points and is the alternative staple crop to maize.

W. Read.

Copy to Treasury, or ask them to approve of the Gov. being at liberty to fix a rate for beans destined for export of 10% a ton irrespective of distance. (gather that that is what he wants)

HAR.

March 15.

Mr. Fisher

So proceed? - copy of our letter to the Comptrol. for info. 17/4/10

at once

15/4/10

Copy of the Comptrol. 21 Feb. 2
2 for Comptrol. 25 Feb. 28/2

Subsequent Paper.

net 5000

C O
1910
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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

February 17th 1910.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential (20)

(Incl.1.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's Cypher telegram of the 1st instant approving of the proposed railway rates on exported maize.

*Yours
= 001*

2. It is with the greatest satisfaction that I note the sanction now accorded, which will, I feel certain, be most warmly appreciated throughout the Protectorate as an earnest of the Government's sincere desire to assist the settler in what has hitherto been an uphill task.

3. The establishment of a great staple export trade is, I am convinced, the real panacea for the woes of the

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

THE EARL OF CREWE, K.G.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

the small farmer, providing, as it will, a reliable source of income, while other products, possibly ultimately more remunerative, are still in the experimental stage.

4. Maize is a crop which has been grown in the Protectorate for many years and may be trusted to maintain a fair average yield even in somewhat irregular seasons. The European demand for this product is moreover practically inexhaustible and we have only to look at Natal and the Orange River Colony to see how profitable the trade once established can become. Here the conditions are stated by experts to be quite as propitious as in the South and with the removal of the restrictive Railway rate I shall confidently look forward to the development of a prosperous export business in this useful cereal.

5. I have however already pointed out in my telegraphic despatch on this subject that, although I fully recognise the generous spirit in which the concession of lower rates has been granted, I regret that

that the Lords of the Treasury have not seen fit to adopt Your Lordship's proposals as submitted to them in their entirety. I suggested to Your Lordship that I would be quite prepared to report specifically on each case in which it was desired to lower the rate below $\frac{1}{2}$ d per ton per mile, and indicated that this concession would only be asked for in very few instances.

6. After consultation with the Director of Agriculture I do not think it likely that there will be many such demands in the near future. The granting of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d rate will cover any concessions which might have to be made on the more lucrative crops, coffee, ground nuts, &c.; it is more particularly the staple cereals of the country and low priced articles in the European markets which would be affected.

7. I have asked and received sanction for the concession of a lower rate upon maize, and I would now request that this concession should also be extended to beans, which the Director of Agriculture points out to me is

the alternative staple crop to maize. With these two staples carried at practically South African rates I think we are giving the farmers of the country an opportunity for developing an export trade.

8. It will, perhaps, be wise at a later date to consider also the question of wheat, but this is not a pressing matter as the wheat produced at present is entirely absorbed in the country.

9. Considerable attention has hitherto been paid by the farmers of this Protectorate to the cultivation of the more valuable tropical and sub-tropical products, such as rubbers, fibres and coconuts. I am far from wishing to detract from the importance of these but they are industries the establishment of which requires heavy initial outlay and further, being slow maturing crops, no immediate returns can be looked for. In a young country what is wanted is a staple export product which is not only inexpensive to raise but from which a quick return can be obtained.

10. Maize seems to me at present the most suitable, and with beans as an auxiliary crop and with the

assistance

assistance provided by sympathetic railway rates it will be within any settler's power to secure for himself a constant source of income.

11. Your Lordship's decision is, therefore, very warmly welcomed and will, I feel confident, have excellent results. I attach copies of resolutions passed by the Colonists' Association which show how much the concession has been appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's humble,

obedient servant,

[Handwritten Signature]
GOVERNOR.

Conf
20 Feb 1910
1013
14 MAR 10

RESOLUTION

That this General Meeting of the Colonists Association wishes to express its gratitude to His Excellency the Governor for his efforts to bring about an export of cheap products from this country and to H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies because he has granted a lower rate on Maize. This meeting agrees with His Excellency that lower Railway rates and lower freights on steamers will quickly bring about an export trade and pledges itself to help in every way to push forward the export of products.

RESOLUTION.

That this meeting while thoroughly appreciating His Excellency's efforts in obtaining reduced rates of freight on the Railway for Maize would respectfully suggest that similar rates of freight also apply to Beans and such other low priced products as will not permit of higher rates of freight.

Gor. E.A.P.
2673

OP
EMAD
14

ms

17 March 1910

DRAFT

The Secretary
to the Treasury

Sir,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler March 16
- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- Lord Crewe

f.s.
ms 8826

I am directed
by the Earl of Crewe
to transmit to you
to be laid before the
L.C. of the Treasury
with reference to your
letter N^o. 1353/10 of
the 29th of January
last, a copy of a

Gor. Conf. N^o 20. Feb 17
(173)

(3001)

Copy to Gor (18) info
ap Conf 21 Mar

destined for export
of tea selling 3 a
ton irrespective of
distance

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am 07