

EAST AFR. PROT

C C
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REF
R: 22 NOV 19

WRAITH, LORD

1919

21ST NOVEMBER

RATE OF EXCHANGE

Calls attention to effect on sisal industry and requests advice as to abandonment of industry or not.

Last previous Paper.

M.I.
66344

~~Mr. Parkerson~~ ~~South. Rep.~~
Mr. B. M. ...

? Reply that the exchange and currency question is engaging the very careful attention of the S. of S.; that no statement can be made at present, but that certain proposals are under consideration, and that it is hoped on the arrival of the Gov. in this country to arrive at a solution which will ameliorate the present hardship caused to settlers and producers by the adverse rate of exchange.

Recd 28 Nov 19

Next subsequent Paper.

B.A.

66927

27/11/19

accp
25/11/19

Grounding Hall
Woodridge

498

BROOKS'S,
ST. JAMES'S STREET,

C. S.W.1

00833

REC

22 NOV 19

I am vacationing, + indeed have been
asked, to ask your advice on a matter
which affects the interests of a good
many people in British S. Africa.

am Chairman of two of the earliest
& largest S. African Companies in the
territory. As you are probably aware the
supply a considerable portion of

NO GERRARD 3745.

2/12

w

The British Twine used by Farmers.

The United Kingdom + is indeed cap

of supplying it all.

The price of sisal has, as anticipated

dropped roughly ⁵⁰ one hundred per cent. since the commencement of war.

What however could not be anticipated

is that the rise in the value of the

Rupee has increased running expenses

to 65 per cent.

The result of the latter factor is that

it is no longer possible to produce the

twine at a profit. Consequently the pro

GERARD 3745.

BROOKS'S,
ST. JAMES'S STREET,
S.W.1

faces with the necessity of

closing their factories + abandoning their

operations. The premier industry of the

country will therefore cease.

It is however many rumours that

the Government intend to remove the

parity of the silver standard at an

early date

Directors are naturally desirous of

maintaining to the last minute those enterprises

which have taken many years of
labour to build up.

I am therefore asking if you can
advise us as to whether sufficient hopes exist
warrant our ^{continuing to} incurring a loss on each
of fibre turned ^{out} or whether we should
be well advised in the interests of our
shareholders to abandon the industry.

I have the Honour to be

Sir

Yours faithfully

H.M.S.

Under Secretary of State

for

the Colonies

Cranworth

66838/14

S.A.P.

500

Jan 27

28 Nov. 1919

DRAFT.

Cranworth H.C.

My Lord,

I am to ack. the receipt of your letter of the 21st. of Nov., and to state that, as you were informed by Col. Amery on the 26th

MINUTE.

- Mr. Jeffries 26.11.19
- Mr. Parkinson 27.11.19
- Mr. B. M. ... 27.11.19
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Reid
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Col. Amery
- Lord Milner

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 on the subject
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 at

was present
 meeting this
 day, but I
 do not
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at present, ^{but} certain proposals are
under con- sideration, and it is hoped
that, on the arrival in this
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settlers and producers in the
Prot by the adverse rate of
exchange.

(Signed) H. J. READ.

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