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Boeing 764

1916

4 Dec.

Last previous Paper.

H. 2942  
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### Local plantations in S.E. Africa

Sends letter to A. Pol. Officer with report on various plantations in Tanganyika, Wilhelmsland, Pangani, Dar es Salaam & Mocha districts. Samples from first three districts have been forwarded to Messrs. Sandeman & Co. as requested. Samples will be forwarded to B.G. Trade & Imp. Dept. as soon as possible.

Wm. Skinner Leg  
Wm. Butler

The original of this report is registered "Revenue" & this copy is registered E.A. for convenience of reference.

It contains some interesting & useful information.

It will be seen that local plantations exist in the Tanganyika, Wilhelmsland & Pangani Districts & that these are believed to be some near Lindi. The plantations are reported to be very large and valuable, but in many cases to have become

Part of

subsequent Paper.

Adm

overgrown ~~with~~ and their  
conspicuity to have been removed.

It is also stated that the  
real requires in that; otherwise  
it will ~~lose~~ & become useless.

We do not know who has  
two or three have been able  
to object anything in this  
direction, but Mr. B. who  
is fully ~~aware~~ alive to this  
question, will so far as  
what is possible, and report  
to us in due course.

Note as to the princely  
overs of the "Prinz Albrecht  
Plantagen."

? Party

23/1/17 21/1/17

in lead

Hand

23/1/17

at once  
H. J. R.  
23/1/17

East Africa Protectorate.

No. 766.



December 4th, 1916.

SIR,

*BPT 31 666/16  
Received*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your miscellaneous (2) despatch of July 24th forwarding a request by Messrs. Sandeman and Sons, Limited, of Dundee, for samples of fibres such as used to be shipped to Germany from German Colonies.

2. I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Chief Political Officer at Dar-es-Salaam together with copies of reports on various plantations in the Tangu, Wilhelmstal, Pangani, Dar-es-Salaam and Moschi Districts.

3. I have received samples of sisal fibre obtained from the first three of these districts, and am sending them direct to Messrs. Sandeman and Sons as desired.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

4. I regret that as I have been furnished with one set of samples only I am unable to send you duplicate and triplicate sets for the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade and the Imperial Institute respectively by this mail but will do so as soon as I am able to obtain them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

84/- G. G. BOWRING

GOVERNOR'S Deputy

Enclosure in despatch No. 766 of December 5th 1916.

103/16.

Darassalam.

November 19th 1916.

From The Chief Political Officer

To The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary  
Nairobi.

memo:-

Your No. S 14990/4 of September 6th.

I attach copies of reports on the sisal industry from the D.P.O's, Tanga, Pangani, Darassalam, Moschi and Wilhelmstal with samples from Tanga, Pangani and Wilhelmstal.

I hope that this will be sufficient. Postal communication is far from rapid and it has taken a considerable time to elicit these replies. The bulk of the sisal plantations are in the Tanga, Pangani and Wilhelmstal Districts but I believe there are some important estates in the Lindi District, the interior of which is not yet in effective occupation.

(Initiald.) E. J. M. O'S

Colonel.

Chief Political Officer.

89/53/16

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Political Officer,

Tanga

September 26th 1916.

To  
The Chief Political Officer,  
Darassalam.

Report on Sisal Plantations in Tanga District German East Africa.

With reference to your 103/2 of the 17th  
inst. I have the honour to report as follows:-

Plantations owned by Companies.

I. Deutch Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters, 11 Nassauer Street 28/29 Berlin S.W.  
Registered 1885.

Capital 10,000,000 Marks.

Directors J. J. Warmholz.

Cesor Wegener

Charlottenberg.

Plantations: 1 Kango. This plantation is fully  
matured and now poling, which means that the Sisal at  
present fit for cutting will be useless in a few  
months time. The plantation is very much overgrown,  
and the danger of damage by grass fire is imminent.  
Rubber is also grown here. 2. Moe. Here Sisal and  
cocoanut palms are grown together. The former is not  
looking very healthy and is poling at an immature  
size.

Besides these two plantations this Company  
also owns the Kikogwa-Movsia Sisal plantation in the  
Pangani District; the Derema and Monga Coffee  
plantations in the Tanga District; the Mizimbi and

Mikesse

Mikesse Rubber plantations in the Morogoro District and the Jassini and Longusi Rubber plantations in the Tanga District.

2. Ostafrika Kompagnie.

Head Quarters. 28/29 Lessauer Street, Berlin, S.W.

Capital 1400,000 Marks.

Directors V. Von St-Ilhaire.

W.Hallmann.

Plantations. Tanga plantation where Rubber is also cultivated. This plantation is also matured and poling. Other plantations owned by same Company are Kikwetu and Kilwero in the Lindi District.

3. Pflanzung Ngomeni Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters 28/29 Lessauer Street Berlin, S.W.

Registered 1905.

Business Manager, Director W.Hollmann. Zehlendorf.

There are 840 Ha under cultivation, of which a proportion is Rubber recent fire has done much damage to the Sisal, of which a large proportion is poling.

4. Prinz Albrecht Plantagen.

Privately owned by:

Prince Friedrich Heinrich,

Jochim Albrecht, and Friedrich

Wilhelm of Prussia.

Three plantations are owned viz. Kiamore, Sangerare and Kihuhui, on which coffee and Rubber are also cultivated. No information is to hand as to the conditions of the Sisal on these plantations.

5. Sisal

5. Sisal Agaven Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters. 20 Herite Street Dusseldorf.

Capital 1000,000 Marks.

Business Manager Johann Franz Dusseldorf.

Plantations. Pongwa and Kigombe.

They are in the same condition as the plantations already referred to.

6. Vestdeutsche Handels and Plantagen

Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters. 20 Herite Street Dusseldorf.

Registered 1895.

Capital 1800,000 Marks.

Directors Johann Hanz.

Faul Hunninger Dusseldorf.

Plantations. Amboni and Kiomoni.

These Amboni plantations are very large with about 4000 tons of Sisal ready for cutting, which will mostly be lost within a few months if not cut, because the plants are now piling freely. The machinery on this plantation is in good order, and very little damage so far has been done by grass-fires. Coconut-palms are also grown.

This Company also owns:-

Magrotto Rubber plantation.

Musambai Coffee

Scheller Rubber and Cotton plantation.

7. Vogeländische Industrie and Plantagen

Gesellschaft

Head Quarters. Plauen.

Registered 1907.

Capital

Capital 7000,000 Marks.

Business Manager Army Geipel, Planen.

Plantations. Bazari and Vogtland; the latter being in the Fangani District. Here are about 800 Ha under cultivation.

8. Pingoni Pflanzungs-Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters. Pingoni Tanga.

Business Manager C. Hoff.

Plantation Pingoni - Rubber as well as Sisal is grown. The Sisal is mature and polling.

9. Hanseatische Handels und Plantagen Gesellschaft.

Head Quarters. Tanga.

Registered 1907

Capital 400,000 Marks.

Business Manager Hermann Fries Tanga.

Plantations. Ngomeni, Bomboberg and Ngombere; Rubber and Coffee also grown.

10. Plantagen Nguru Kali.

Head Quarters. Tanga.

Registered 1904.

Proprietors. F. Muller Tanga and G. T. H. Leser Hamburg.

Plantations. Nguru Kali. Sisal is matured and polling. Rubber is also grown.

Plantations Privately Owned.

1. Ngomeni.

Owner Aumann.

Nationality German.

2. Geigitz.

2. Ceiglitz.

Owner Lenz.  
Nationality German.

3. Ngomeni.

Owner Fichte.  
Nationality German.

4. Homandani.

Owner Muller and Breithaupt.

This Firm was unable to meet its liabilities, and its affairs were taken over by Munch of Tanga Municipality.

Besides these there are many other smaller plantations of which no particulars are at present available. The areas Tanga, Pongwe, Ngomeni, Moa, and Tangata in the Tanga District are suitable for Sisal growing and immense areas are already under cultivation. Thousands of tons of Sisal are fit for cutting at present, which will all be lost either through grass-fires or the poling of the plants.

The machinery at the larger plantations is intact and could easily be worked.

The samples of Sisal grown in this District are being forwarded to you as requested.

(Signed) G.L. HARRIES,

Captain.

Political Officer.

Moschi.

November 9th 1916.

From  
The Political Officer,  
Moschi.

To The Chief Political Officer,  
Daressalam.

Sir,

In reply to your Circular No. 103/2.

I have the honour to inform you that there is but one Sisal plantation in this District. It is the property of a German Pothbiets. The plantation has not been attended to for 2 or 3 years, I have been over it and as far as my little knowledge on the subject enables me to judge the plantation needs such attention before it can be restored to value.

The Greek Popadopoulos who has been acting for the proprietor informs me that the plantation is about 400 Hectares and that it was ready to be cut for the first time at the out-break of war. There is machinery on the plantation and the engine only is wanting, but I am informed that the machinery is antiquated and not sufficient for a plantation of that size.

I may mention that Major Crogan saw the plantation and said it was good Sisal.

If it is desired to have a technical report on the plantation I will depute one of the Greeks here who knows something about Sisal to draw one up and it will be forwarded on to you.

I have, etc.

(Signed) J. MORISON.

Memorandum  
Sisal Plantations

In the District of Eastern Usambara there are some eleven plantations with approximately 130,000 acres in which Sisal is grown.

The more important of these are:-

<u>Owner.</u>	<u>Locality.</u>	<u>Manager.</u>
Messrs Wilkins & Wiss.	Korogwe.	Mr Deininger.
Mr Kath.	Nogbesi.	Mr Weber (a Swiss).
Ngobesi Valley Co.	do.	Mr Schwabil (Prisoner of War)
Mauri Co.	Mau.	
D.O.A.F.G.	Gomba.	Mr Reinhardt (Prisoner of War).
Mr Thomas.	Kombo.	Mrs Thomas.
Mr Keiser.	Mkombara.	Mrs Keiser.
Mr Eicler.	Tonga.	Mr Eicler.

The records of this office show that in 1914 some 2600 tons of Sisal were produced.

The value of the Sisal produced varied considerably but the average appears to have been between five and six hundred marks per ton.

Two methods of planting the Sisal were adopted:-

(1) Slips or pulpilles were taken off the stems of plants that had run to seeds. These were planted in seed beds and transplanted into the land when about six months old.

(2) Runners were cut from the roots of plants and these were planted direct into the cultivated field.

Under both methods the plant took from two

to three years to mature before the fibers were fit for cutting. The second method was more generally adopted as the more simple and efficacious.

The life of a Sisal plant is estimated at some three years from its reaching maturity and two cuttings of fiber per annum can be obtained. After the third year the plant usually goes to seed, puts up a tall wooden stem similar to that of the cactus, the plant is then ordinarily removed. In good ground one or two replacements can be effected by planting the slips or cuttings between the places occupied by the removed plants.

Speaking generally the sisal plantations appear to have suffered less than could have been anticipated. Weeds of course abound and doubtless the plants have deteriorated. On the whole however the plants seem healthy. From personal observation I would estimate that less than 5% have as yet gone to seed. I am advised that so long as the plant has not gone to seed and the leaves are green and healthy the quality of the fiber remains practically unchanged.

As most of the plantations are situated in the vicinity of the railway along which the troops advanced practically all tools for cultivation and machinery for the treatment of the fiber have been removed or partly destroyed and a comparatively large outlay would be necessary before reproduction work could be undertaken.

Five samples of sisal fiber are forwarded herewith. The fiber was ordinarily graded into three classes. The samples forwarded are all of the first class.

Daressalam.

10th November 1916.

To The Chief Political Officer.

From The Political Officer,  
Daressalam.

Reference No. 103/7 of 9.11.16.

There is only one large Sisal plantation in this District in working order and that is at Ruvu owned by a Greek Katoxoulos.

He has 300 tons of Sisal ready baled.

It is well fitted with machinery.

There is a plantation at Sego belonging to a German Enkenau but the Sisal has not been cut yet.

I have not been able to visit the District yet but from what I am told the other plantations are chiefly Rubber.

(Signed) J.O.W. HOPE,

Major.

Political Officer.

Pangani.

5.10.1918.

From Assistant Political Officer.

Pangani.

To Major Dundas,  
Political Department,  
Darassalam.

With reference to your No.105/2 of the 17th ulto the samples of hemp were sent to you on the 25th, but as regards the information you require about the various Sisal factories, without prolonged enquiry I am only able to give details of one, the most important. There are no educated employees of the other factories from whom I can make enquiries but the following information, as far as the output is concerned, will be found to be representative of them all.

There are five estates in the District of which four are owned by limited Companies.

1. The largest belongs to the D.O.A.G. and comprises 3 plantations Langoni, Mwera and Kikokwe.
2. The Vogt Landische Industrie and Plantagen Gesellschaft, called Kilimanguido.
3. The Kidifu plantation owned by an Assyrian.
4. The plantation of the Deutsche Agaven Gesellschaft, called Buschirhof.
5. A plantation belonging to two partners Roth and Schafer.

The soil is most admirably suited to Sisal and the omnipresence of water in the subsoil has in most cases allowed of the factories being built on

the

the most suitable sites for transport of the leaves.

All these plantations have go-downs on the banks of the Pangani River and trolley lines leading from them through the planted areas.

In peace times these factories together with the Kigombi Estate (Tanga District employed about 30,000 labourers mostly Wanyamwezi brought from a distance.)

The following are some details of the Bushirhof plantation.

Belongs to the Leutich Agaven Gesellschaft. Area, under Sisal 3768 acres; unplanted, 2000 acres chiefly forest and bush; 17 acres of 2 year old Sisal. There is one factory building with 3 decorticators driven by two new Korona steam engines and one of older pattern.

Trolley. Two locomotives out of order, 7 kilometers loco line and 6 kilometers light truck rail, 10 loco trucks besides numerous others wrecked.

The Estate employed 1500 labourers per month at wages of 13 to 14 Rupees per month.

Sales were made up to 5 to the ton. The average output was 40 tons per decorticator per month. The pre-war price was about M/s 800 per ton. The factory possessed its own wharf, to which, although about 2 miles up the river, a steamer can come alongside. The cost of transport was thus considerably reduced.

In the case of Bushirhof the factory building was not placed conveniently in the centre of the productive area.

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The Staff consisted of:-

- 1 Manager at a Salary of Rs 500 per Month.
- 2 Asst. Managers " " " 350 and 250 P.M.
- 1 Paymaster " " " 500 per Month.
- 2 Engineers " " " 300 and 250
- 2 Mechanics " " " 250 and 150.

(Signed) D.K.S. GRANT,

Captain.

District Political Officer.