

EAST AFR. PROT

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BEA Copy

1919

24 Dec

Coal for Railway 1920 Supply

Previous Paper.

Copy contract as duly accepted for supply of Transvaal coal for 1920. As done but to arrange for cargo on Clan Macpherson re-ordered on 1919 contract unless agreed that balance of 1919 contract, if any, is taken at 31 Dec shall be cancelled.

Subsequent Paper.

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Subsequent Paper.

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## British East Africa Corporation, Limited.

90, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, December 24th, 1919.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
 Colonial Office,  
 Whitehall, S.W.1.

Sir,

COAL FOR EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS.

We have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 70228/19 of 17th. inst., and beg to confirm contract as duly accepted, to supply you with Transvaal Witbank Coals from the Collieries of the Transvaal Coalowners Association during 1920, as follows:

1. Specification, Transvaal Witbank, as for the 1919 and previous contracts.
2. Quantity - Thirtyfive thousand (35,000) tons of 2240 lbs., with ten per cent more or less.
3. Delivery - F.O.B. Delagoa Bay into steamers, nominated by you (or the Crown Agents on your behalf) loading and trimming in ships' holds to be done by sellers and at their cost.
4. Price - Twentyeight shillings (£1. 8. -) per ton of 2240 lbs. (this confirms the reduction of ninepence per ton as unofficially forecasted lately to Mr. Bottomley by present signer). This price of 28/- shgs. is based on the South African Government railway and Harbour rates and charges as to-day ruling, and any changes that may be made in same by the South African Government, whether by way of increase or decrease, are to be for account of

yourselves as buyers, i. e., to decrease or increase the F. O. B. price as the case may be.

5. Payment - Three quarters against invoice to be rendered on cabled advice of each cargo as shipped, and balance against Bill of Lading. Weight for invoice to be the shipped weights as per Government Port Meterer's certificates at Delagoa Bay, or S. A. Government Railway certificates - all as heretofore.

In reference to a January cargo, as referred to in second para of your letter under reply, we are glad to say that Crown Agents have nominated s. s. "GLAN MACPHEE", to load 5000/6000 tons about 15th. January, and we have taken action with the Collieries accordingly. The letter from Mr. Holt (Crown Agents' office) notifying the steamer, states that that cargo will be "on the 1919 contract". Your own letter refers to it as being "at the 1919 contract revised price of 25s/9d. per ton". To clear any possible misunderstanding, we ought perhaps to say that, as promised unofficially by the signer to Mr. Bottomley, we are gladly doing our best to arrange that this cargo shall be reckoned as on the 1919 contract and at the 1919 price of 25s/9d., and we may say that we quite expect to obtain you this concession, but owing to the cable delays, we have not yet heard whether this is agreed to or not by the Colliery. We are therefore not yet able to assure you on the point.

Time is short, especially in view of cable delays, in which to arrange all these matters, and as it appears to us especially important that the ship be on no account kept waiting, we have made it absolutely clear that the cargo must be ready for the "GLAN MACPHEE", whether that cargo is to be eventually reckoned as on the 1919 contract or on the 1920 contract. We have no doubt that you agree with our action re this, and we look forward to the pleasure of being able to report in due course that the upset is in accord with your request.

It is agreed that the balance of the 1919 contract, if any, untaken at 31st. December, shall be considered as cancelled, except so far as "CLAN MACPHEE" cargo may or may not come into that question.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA CORPORATION LTD.

*John Beckett*  
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Managing Director.

E.H.M.L.