

EAST AFR PROT

28530

28530

21 JUN 15

Governor  
No. 51  
Conf 51

1915

20th May

Last previous Paper

M.O.  
7034

PRICES FOR PETROL

The copies of correspondence as to excessive prices charged by the importing Companies. Afraid it would be useless for Prot. Govt to attempt to oppose them. Ask if anything can be done in England to keep price within reasonable limits.

Pr. G. Fuller.

Send copy of the report & enc. with copy of 7034 copy, to the C.A. for their records.

H. J. R.

22/6/15

Pr. J. Anderson

In addition, I would like to see the question of using alcohol properly considered by a competent authority such as the C.A. and being cleared [the Government has already done work for the R.A.C. in connection with the question of using alcohol as a motor spirit]. It seems to be the case in our transport provisions the probability of obtaining

Copy of the 1915

next subsequent Paper  
Ca  
41186

It appears that the birds to which we refer are  
they have been country of the Atlantic coast  
we probably have a number of them at the  
Date Oct. 24 1875

28530

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NAIROBI, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 51.

20th May 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose copies of correspondence relating to the excessive price charged for petrol in this Protectorate by the importing Companies.

Mr. Comm: M'bsa  
6th May 1915.  
Committee of Supplies  
17th May 1915.

2. I am afraid that the interests controlling this industry are so strong that it would be useless for this Government to attempt to oppose them as any such action would probably only result in the complete withdrawal of supplies.

3. In these circumstances I have the honour to enquire whether it would be possible for any measures to be adopted in England which would have the effect of keeping the price of this commodity within reasonable limits.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

*Albany Boydell*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, F.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 41  
Provincial Commissioner's Office

Bombay

6th May 1915

28530  
21 JUN 15

Sir,

Price of Petrol.

I have the honour to lay before you the question of the price of petrol and venture to suggest that the matter should receive the attention of Government.

- 2. The facts are as follows:- There are two main brands of petrol in the country viz:-
  - (1) Pegasus - this is American petrol, originally Standard Oil Co.
  - (2) Shell - this is Sumatra petrol.

3. The agency for Pegasus petrol was taken over from Oswald & Co by Smith Mackenzie & Co at outbreak of war.

The consignment now here was declared for Customs purposes at Rs 9/24 per case of 8 gallons and is sold by Smith Mackenzie & Co at Rs 11/50 per case.

4. The Shell petrol was declared at Rs 4/97 per case, a large consignment was sold to Government at 12/65, since then it has been reduced to Rs 12 per case or Rs 11/50 if a purchaser buys 10 cases.

5. The amount supplied to Mechanical Transport and Government Departments during the last 6 months i.e. from August 4th 1914 to April 4th 1915 is 5,300 cases, of which only 280 cases were of Pegasus Brand.

6. In addition to the above the following has been lost through leakage and evaporation.

Hon'ble

Chf of Secretary.

2.

140A

279½ cases Pegasus

79 cases Shell

5 cases Heavy Petrol (brand unknown)

7. It will therefore be seen that we are paying a very excessive price for our petrol. The solution is not easy because petrol can only be transported over seas in oil steamers and these steamers belong to the great oil firms.

8. It might however be possible through the Home Government to make some more reasonable arrangement with the heads of the Asiatic Oil Co or it might be possible to import a consignment from the Persian Oil Fields in which Government holds a large interest.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(sgl) G. W. Hobley

Provincial Commissioner.

Confidential.

Central Committee of Supplies,  
Nairobi House,  
Nairobi.  
17th May 1918.

Price of Petrol.

Your memo no; S. 11975/4 of May 11th.  
.....

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that for some months past my Committee has been considering if any fruitful action could be taken towards the two Companies from whom petrol has been bought by Government.

2. It is realized that the Agents of these two brands of petrol in Mombasa have little or no voice in fixing the selling price in this country; but my Committee has been of opinion that the monopoly owned by their Principals is powerful enough to dictate its own price inasmuch as serious opposition might well be answered by a refusal to send supplies of petrol.
3. My Committee does not anticipate that the first alternative suggested in para. 2 of his letter by the Hon. the Provincial Commissioner, Mombasa would meet with success but endorse his recommendation that some such effort be made.
4. It does not however favour the second alternative mentioned in the paragraph quoted viz; "that it might be possible to import a consignment from the Persian Oil Fields in which Government holds a large interest." For inasmuch its view such action, which would apparently secure the possible success to free carriage in military transports, would tend to retaliation by the Petrol Combine after the War in the

form of a still higher price.

5. I am to suggest that a permanent reduction in the local price of petrol could perhaps be attained by the institution under Government supervision of a factory in this country, where the necessary vegetable products abound, for the manufacture of motor spirit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. Logan

Secretary.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

Gov. 28530/1915

Exp.

153

July 1915

Gentlemen,

Amund 11186

I am to transmit to you the accomp. copy of a despatch from the Gov. of the E.A.P. with its enclosure on the subject of the cost of the patrol required by the Port. Jut., together with a copy of correspondence with the British Petroleum Coy. on the subject of their Trade in petrol in the Port.

1. Mr. Honour Law will be pleased to be furnished with such extracts as you may have to offer on the points raised in the above.

(Signed) H. J. READ

For the Under Secretary of State

DRAFT.

to Board Agents

MINUTE

Mr. Chamberlain 7/7/15

Mr. Bottomley 7/7/15

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. P. Fisher

Sir H. J. J. J.

Sir J. Anderson

Mr. Steel-Maitland

Mr. Honour Law

57-20 Nov (for 1880)

12 Feb (M. 7024)

13 -