



EAST AFR. PROT
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34306
REC'D
NOV 10

African Station
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Bacon Factory

1910

- Nov.

Submit explanation as to management & states action taken. Give info resp. interference & enclose copies with local manager.

at previous Paper.

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31249

M^r Root Fidiles

our letter of the 6th of Oct. and d

Send the Govt a copy of this letter, but not of its enclosures. I do not think we ought to put the Company's correspondence with their Manager into the hands of the local Govt. This info. with ref to his telegram of the 28th Sept explaining that the letter from this office of the 31st of Oct. here referred to was merely a reminder; and ask receipt, etc and say that a

Copy for 694. 16 Vol

at subsequent Paper.

2892

copy of the letter has been sent
to the Com.

For B

Nov 10

H J R

10/11

alone

Nov 10/11

506

26

113



Carlton House,
Regent Street,
London,
S.W.



Reference 2249/1910

Sir,

In reply to your letter of Oct. 31st, I beg to explain that the delay which has occurred in replying to your previous letter of Oct. 5th, has been occasioned by my desire to possess the Earl of Crewe with a detailed explanation relative to the management of the Bacon Factory cabled to him by the Governor of British East Africa. As however, the full particulars could not be received before the 5th, inst I desire at once to place before his Lordship the answer, in general terms, to his enquiry.

In the first place I would like on my own behalf, and that of my Directors to express our obligation to Lord Crewe for promptly informing us that our representative is, apparently failing to carry out the full purpose of his appointment, for we on our side are determined to make our enterprise the success it ought to be, and we shall carry that determination into effect if it should cost us in capital more than the sum which constitutes our obligation to H.M.'s Government, and we have therefore the very best reason to correct any error of administration which may have occurred.

On receipt of your letter of the 31st, inst, we cabled the Manager of the Bacon Factory as follows:—"The Government has complained strongly that farmers are not paid by you for last four months. Telegraph the amount of stock you hold, how much you owe, and what is due to you from customers" To this we received a reply which may be summarised thus. He held in stock bacon to the value of Rs.9000, was owed by customers Rs.5000 and himself owed to farmers 3000

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including the number 20.

rupees (£200).

He had a balance at the Bank, and he remitted by cable a further sum over and above his indebtedness, with instructions to pay the farmers without delay. I may remark in passing that the total amount of out-standing debt does not seem to justify any very serious criticism from the farmers, though it is contrary to my orders and our policy to keep a single pig producer waiting for the value of even one pig.

I may say that the Manager is a responsible man, authorised to engage what assistance he thinks fit - no limit being set to his authority in this particular. As a matter of fact shortly after I left British East Africa in last spring he allowed his white assistant to leave on the ground there was nothing for him to do. Later on he informed us that pigs were coming in with a rush, and he sent up one of our white men from the coast to assist him, who is still at the factory. I wish to emphasize the position of our manager and his freedom to add to the staff without reference to the London Office. I have written him that if legitimate complaint occur again due to his non-provision of adequate staff, or any needless delay in payment for pigs, we shall be obliged to dispense with his services. His standing orders are to pay cash down for pigs on delivery, and as he can always have sufficient money from us for that purpose, there is no likely to be any repetition of carelessness.

It is only just to this man to add however, that on no single occasion has the present staff proved insufficient to deal with all the pigs offered.

In conclusion I should like to put before Lord Greve points of interest respecting our enterprise. When we entered on the experiment of pig-curing in the tropics - pioneers in British East Africa - there were but a few pigs in the country; we nevertheless engaged a first rate bacon expert

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as Manager on a salary of £160 per annum, and for six months he was not able to purchase one pig. After that they averaged two per week, and in the second year, three per week. As the industry took root, we spent up to £200 in those two years, meaning a loss of £5 per pig. In order to encourage breeding and to prevent disappointment among inexperienced farmers, I directed that every pig brought to the factory was to be taken, irrespective of its use for curing purposes (pigs reared on certain food, and pigs not fulfilling certain conditions cannot be cured at all) and this order still holds good. Consequently though we pay for everything bought, a proportion of the stock has to be either destroyed as unfit, or kept at the factory and fed for a period of weeks, on suitable food. We have thus spent since the inception of this work £5500 of course without receiving, or looking for any profits.

The full equipment of plant for the most up-to-date factory processes leaves England the first week in December. I would not allow it to be sent out before, as the material for its use did not exist in the country, and the machinery, much of it delicate and complicated, would have rusted and spoiled. Now that pigs are assured in reasonable quantities and with regularity hitherto wanting, their being cured is done with the utmost rapidity.

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of the correspondence on this subject between the factory agent and myself. I also enclose letter from the contractors for the new plant and machinery, in which they state that everything will be ready for shipment by the first week in December.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

John Thomas

General Manager, of the
East African Estates.

To the
Under-Secretary of State, for the Colonies.

308
NOV 10

Carlton House,
Regent St.
S.W.

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Dear Sir,

It is with difficulty I can express the surprise and annoyance occasioned to me and the Directors by the receipt of the enclosed communication from the Government respecting the condition of affairs at the Factory.

You will remember that we cabled you immediately regarding a telegraphic explanation. I have now to tell you that the explanation to your cable and letter received on the 21st inst. is not satisfactory. On your own showing reveals a disaster of my express directions which the Directors will not regard as most serious.

1. I instructed you to accept all goods offered and to pay cash on delivery, in order that every possible encouragement might be given to the farmers and growers to breed pigs as rapidly as possible. These instructions have not been obeyed. It is quite true that the outstanding amount of your indebtedness is comparatively small, but you had no business to have had debts - I am not received of it. I have since that time been in receipt of your cable of the 20th. You have never mentioned that your goods were sold and the Bank was running low or that you required further assistance. It was impossible for me to know your financial position, since in spite of repeated instructions written and cabled to send me a weekly cash statement regularly, these overdue accounts are still not received, and indeed but for the Government's action, which has put us under an obligation to His Excellency, we should still be unaware that you were in arrears with your payments.

(9)

I may mention that I have in receipt of the...
in addition to those of the...
management of the...
acknowledging...

This is a state of affairs...
activities.

With regard to the...
as another carried with it...
help you requires for...
increased. You could have...
100 lbs. per month to keep...
correspondence...
for not having...
of course, have had even a...
essential long before...

and you will remember that...
think as better as...

While I have no wish to...
judgment in this matter, you...
this matter are regarded very...
and if anything of this...
regret will be... to discontinue...

However, I feel sure that you will be more...
future, and that when next the...
will be... to...
arrangement.

Yours truly,

Wm Thomas

General Manager.

Wm. Thomas

copy

Uplands Bacon Factory,
Essexport.

Mr. Norman Grasse,
East African States.



Dear Sir,
Your cable to me this evening and I replied as per enclosed copy. As explained in my last letter I have been unable to make payments on account of the great number of pigs coming in. Perhaps I ought to have wired you more money as it was going out so fast, but sometimes there would be a lull for a week or two, and it appeared as though with money coming in at the end of the month I should be able to meet all, and as I was instructed not to cable unless urgent I did not do so, and this agitation has been opened suddenly by a few, who I am told like to see their names in print, and are amongst the worst pig-feeders in the country, and do nothing but rubbish here, those who are of real service to us, say nothing and the matter has now even almost blown over.

I was speaking to the Governor when he visited the Factory, and no doubt he communicated with you after being here, as he enquired fully into everything. I told him that we had been very much pushed owing to the unforeseen increase in delivery of pigs, and that although I had been working almost day and night, I had found it impossible to attend to all correspondence, and he asked why I had been left alone to cope with the work, as he said it was not right, but I explained that it could not be helped and that I knew everything possible was being done to get me assistance, and in the meantime I did all I could to keep things going. I presume he was not quite satisfied, as he advised me not to go on working as I had, as it was more than a person could stand. However, I assured him that it could not be for long, and as Mr. Ridler was coming I would soon have help and all would be put right.

He enquired into erection of new Factory and amount already expended, he told the other gentlemen with him that the syndicate was proved to have paid about 25000 on buildings etc. already erected.

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but that he could not see anything but that value, and he seemed
sceptical as to the intention to erect a better factory. I told
him that I had been assured, whilst before the Directors in London
that such a place would be built and completed, and that there
was no doubt as to the intention of the syndicate, and
he said he was glad to know all, as everyone here appeared to doubt
it.

I do not think much notice need be taken of the unrest, as I
am sure it is confined to a few who like to make themselves heard
when there is a chance, and certainly the best customers of the
factory have assured me that they do not join in it, and if you
send me the extra money, this will make me independent of accounts
owing to the factory and then I have no doubt about being able to
put matters right.

Mr. Ridler has done well under my directions during the past
week, although not yet strong I am getting about on my crutches,
but hope to be able to discard them in another week, and by that
time I think the darkest cloud will have passed.

I do not think it will do to expect any falling off of the
supply of pigs as so many are going in for feeding, and it is the
fear of not having a market when they have them ready more than
anything else that is affecting them, as all are asking when the
building operations are going to commence, and when we are going
to start exporting, as the local demand is about fully met at
present, and as to this matter of exporting, there is at present a
large part of the bacon coming in, which on account of bad feeding
is not good enough quality to export. I have tried to get some to
make experiments with the different sorts available, but they do
not make it up in earnest. However, I arranged with a large dealer
at Liverpool last week to send me lots and agreed to share the
extra cost, with him so as to find out the best mixture of food to
produce bacon of good quality, and I hope the trials will have good
results, as much of the bacon for flavour is no better than the
American Bacon of 15 to 20 years ago.

We took stock at the end of September. Mr. Ridler weighed all

(2)

the bacon, and will certify as to weights. I have put it at prices to allow for any reductions, and it comes out at Rs. 9116, and every pound of it is good and not such as I took over when I came, therefore if the balance sheet is satisfactory, the port can be expected to be better, as much of the stock I took over was not good enough to send out, and I had to boil it up for grease alone.

The book debts I have not yet got out the totals, but they can not be less than about Rs. 5000 owing, and the money owing for bills (including those received up to to-day, will not exceed Rs. 3600, I am giving the latter figures from memory, as I am writing this to get off at once, as it may then perhaps catch Monday's mail, but I don't think I am far out, and I hope within a few days to see the newspapers, which I am sure will prove the correctness of what I have stated.

I regret very much that I have been unable to prevent this complaint and can only assure you that if it had been in my power to have done more it would have been done.

I am, Sir,

Your obediently,

W. A. Tunstall.

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Copy.

35, Queen Victoria St.,

London, E.C.

Nov. 3rd 1910

Messrs. Messel & Sons, Ltd.,

Carlton House, Regent Street, S.W.

34-99

8 NOV 10

Dear Sirs,

In reference to your enquiry as to how the work is proceeding in regard to the Complete Bacon Factory, for which you favoured us with your orders we beg to say that the Engine; Boiler; Refrigerating Compressor; Surface Evaporative Condenser; Refrigerator; Brine Pump; Water Pump; Cooling Battery for Log Chilling; Cooling Pipes for Curing Room; Sausage Room and Bacon Store, Patent Runner Rails for Hogs; Switches; Hooks for Hogs; Wood Iron Buildings; Insulation and Doors, and practically the whole of the work we have in hand for you is well on the way and will be ready for shipment the first week in December.

Yours truly,

For the Linde British Refrigeration Co., Ltd.,

(Signed) T. L. Lightfoot.

Managing Director.

Per. C. F. T.

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