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Abyssinian Ranks in Jabbara

*Seeds for the report (27 days) by Capt Barrett
about 2nd Nov*

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A number of the 7th of Oct. in

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H. J. R.

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next subsequent Paper.

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CONFIDENTIAL
In Decree No. 1550 of 11-11-1913

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

124

MOYALE,

27th. August 1913. 13

No. 20/20/13
Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a further report regarding the influence that affected me when I wrote to His Excellency the Governor that I intended to suggest to the Abyssinians that Fitaurari Gaydu should accompany me round the Gabbra country and see if he could persuade the Gabbra to return to Abyssinian territories:-

The state of affairs on the Frontier was really serious; large bands of Abyssinians were known to be in the Gurré country; the Abyssinian officials and soldiery were very bitter over their subjects running away. I had not seen Gerazmatch Gashi but had seen minor officials. There had been raids on the Gabbra at Kalatona and Mikona. a succession of raids at different times - two at the former place, and one at the latter. In these raids a number of men, women and children had been killed, also large quantities of stock carried off. At the time I made up my mind, I had not seen Gerazmatch Gashi, but he had informed Mr. Dickinson that unless the Boran were handed back there would be trouble. This could only mean one thing;

THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

Northern Frontier District,

MOYALE.

thing; viz: the raiding of Boran in our territory. Owing to the smallness of the garrison here and the length of the frontier, it would have been absolutely impossible to protect the Boran in the event of incursions on a large scale in various directions. The question to be decided was whether it was better to gain time or let matters run their own course and risk the chance of more massacres. If any bands of Abyssinians had crossed the frontier within striking distance from Moyale, we should have interfered, as I did at Keebi Sigud, but if the Abyssinians had been in force we should probably have been annihilated, and the country would have been in chaotic state; the tribes here would have been at the mercy of any marauders who cared to cross the border. I must mention that the men, women and children killed at Mikens were well known to me, as are most of the people in this District. It may have been weakness on my part to let the personal element come into the matter, but in circumstances of this sort, it is impossible to keep it out. I therefore decided that, if necessary, I should suggest that Gaydu come with me to see what he could do with the Gabbra. The reason I thought of Gaydu is that he is a Boran, and by birth a leading Chief; though made a Fitaurari by the Abyssinians, he is still a Boran at heart. I should have seen to it that there would have been absolutely no compulsion used; if the Gabbra had declined to return, the matter would have ended, but before the discussions were over, my letter re the massacres would

would have had time to get to Nairobi, and from there wired to Adis Abeba, from which place the British Minister ^{at Adis Abeba} telephone down instructions to the local Chiefs, ^{as he did when the news of the massacre reached him.}

After I had seen Geramatch Gashi, I decided that the situation between ourselves and the Abyssinians had improved as regards the Boran question and made no suggestion to them re Geydu. The reason for this, ^{improvement} I think, undoubtedly was due to the fact that Capt. Aylmer had been killed by the Abyssinians in our territory and the local officials were afraid that on them would fall all the blame for not exercising an effective control on the Frontier. The Boran fugitives were all strongly advised to leave the vicinity of the Frontier, but from experience gained when they last ran away from Abyssinian territory in 1919, I was pretty certain they would not do this. They say that they are afraid of the Somalis on the Uase Nyiro, but a much stronger reason is that the Abyssinian Boran are attached to this part of the country and will not leave it, preferring to run the risk of being recaptured by the Abyssinians, which I think in itself shows that they are not as badly treated when in Abyssinian territory as they make out. At the present moment nearly all the Boran fugitives are not far from the border. Fortunately for them the rains were very heavy this year and they may be able to carry on until the next rains without going into Abyssinian territory

for

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