

1911

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S. Abyssinian Frontier

Trade Dept. Adis Ababa resp. control.
Trade prospects to

Mr. Zoller

Just say that a copy of
Capt. Thompson's report will be sent
to the Genl of the S.A.P. who will
be able to say anything to his power
to encourage the trade between Abyssinia
and the S.A.P. - say that Genl P. J. J. J.
attention will be called to the
recommendations of the last year
of Capt. T. J. J. J. - a copy of
the summary to the Genl, calling his
attention accordingly?

H. J. R.

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above $\frac{4000}{1176}$

Capt. Thompson's report

1911
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Coff

FOREIGN OFFICE,

April 10 1911.

1905/14)

Sir:-

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Change
hand 3.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey, to transmit to you herewith for Mr. Secretary Harcourt's consideration, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Adis Ababa on the subject of the Southern frontier of Abyssinia and the prospects of trade being developed between Abyssinia and the British East Africa Protectorate.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

W. Ransley

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

1130
APR 1 1911

BRITISH LEGATION,
ADIS ABABA,
3 MARCH 1911.

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Sir,

With reference to your telegram of the 11th February instructing me that the Frontier question should be left in abeyance for the time I have the honour to report that I saw Fitawrari Hapta Giorgis in the presence of Nagadaras Igaju and Dejaz Lul Saged a few days ago and told him that His Majesty's Government, recognizing the present difficulties of the Abyssinian Government, consented to postpone further discussion of this question for the time but that they must clearly understand that if any serious raids took place from now onwards His Majesty's Government would be obliged to occupy Major Gwynn's line in order to protect the lives and interests of our tribes. In the mean time our frontier officials would continue to maintain the present position and would not occupy north of the red line.

While relieved that further discussion on this question was postponed they expressed considerable indignation that I should have declared that under any circumstances we should occupy the line without their consent, which meant to say that if they would not agree to the new frontier we should take it by force, and that it was unjust to punish the country for the acts of a few robbers whom they could not control.

I pointed out carefully that there was no question of a forcible occupation without further discussion if they

SIR E. GREY. BART. M.P.
ETC., ETC., ETC.,

if they would restrain their subjects from raiding our country, that while I recognized that the Abyssinian Government could not prevent individual acts of robbery they must be held responsible for the acts of large bands of raiders, such as had violated our territory for years past, even if the latter were acting directly contrary to Government orders. I pointed out again that if we were to continue to observe our promise not to occupy north of the red-line they must prevent their subjects from raiding, which hitherto, in spite of their promises, they had not done. Thus the friendly settlement of this question at a further date consequent on a renewal of the discussion depended entirely upon themselves.

As soon as they understood and were satisfied with this declaration I mentioned the question of trade and made that any Abyssinian who wished to enter our country for legitimate business or with a desire to trade with Kairoiti had only to go to the officer at Fort Harrington and he would be given the necessary permit.

Facilities to trade with Kairoiti will do much to restore order on the frontier as most of the hunters are Tigraons, broken men without chiefs, who would rather prefer to trade on their own account than run the risks of hunting for the profit of others. Mr Hope has already written to me on the trade question and I am of opinion that a considerable part of the commerce of South Abyssinia could be drawn down to Kairoiti. The distance is nothing for an Abyssinian and by trading south of the line he would escape all the tolls and impositions which await him on the road to the capital. Messrs Clayton and Chalet of Addis Ababa are in communication with the Government of the Protectorate with regard to the establishment of an agency somewhere in the vicinity of Fort Harrington and I am of the opinion that this idea should be encouraged.

I am convinced that for some time to come the Abyssin-

Abyssinian Government will prevent any serious raids and this period could be utilized to establish ourselves firmly from the administrative and commercial point of view which will not be without effect up here.

In the mean time I would strongly recommend that Mr Wore should be authorized to patrol the frontier so far as is possible with the limited force at his disposal and that any raiders that can be caught should be tried at Fort Warrington in the presence of an officer from the Abyssinian side, and sent to Nairobi for punishment instead of being handed over to the Abyssinian authorities.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

with the highest respect,

Your most humble, obedient servant,

W. G. G. G. G.

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19th April 1901

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Mr. Fisher

Mr. J. J. ...

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April 1900

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