



DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.  
No. 2129

2129  
17 JAN 07

Individual  
Biggs & Messrs  
1907  
1950/07

(Subject.)

Concession for Ry. from Voi to Tanga  
Can give proof of financial ability  
Have dissociated themselves from E. Africa  
Done early interests

(Minutes.)

We read  
You, Col. Sadler & I saw  
Mr. Russell Biggs & Mr. St. John  
Biggs on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
They did not give any proof of  
financial ability merely stating  
without proof that there was  
£500,000 ready to make the  
railway with  
Col. Sadler pointed out  
1) That the whole traffic in goods  
& stores from Voi was only  
700 tons a year

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10140

(2) That the Railway could only  
be of value as tapping German  
territory, & that the Germans  
was opening up communications  
in their own territory via the  
Rufer River, & would doubtless  
direct the traffic to that route.

These views seemed to weigh  
with the applicants, especially the  
fact of their left stating they  
would obtain from Mr. Jolly  
further info on the point.

The general impression made  
by them was not favourable.

I think the matter may not  
be worth writing again.

W. J. J.

one

472

307



Y. BIGGS & CO. MERCHANTS

79, GRACECHURCH STREET,

C.O. 2129

LONDON, E.C. 4

REF. 1249 CENTRAL

16 January 1907

The Right Honorable

The Earl of Selkirk and his wife, 16, Grosvenor Place,

Secretary of State for the Colonies  
Downing Street

My Lord

We have the honor to acknowledge your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

We are very pleased that Col Saddle's has arrived as all the preliminary negotiations were carried on London here & our only regret.

We are quite prepared to give your Lordship's satisfaction - factory proofs of our financial ability to secure the business through to a successful issue.

As regards Messrs F. Kender's Co we consider that we have dissociated ourselves from them after the first meeting that we have received at their hands through Col Saddle's your Lordship will be able to obtain information that they have recently tried to obtain our assistance to secure concessions in Abyssinia our interests in which they refuse to recognise although they obtained the whole of their communication from us.

We trust that your Lordship will be able to grant us an early answer as we are anxious to proceed with the business at once.

We have the honor to be

Yours obedient servant  
Jolly Blythe

70/21  
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