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Foreign

1910

19 Feb

Abbyssinian Feathers

Scarcely deep. L. de. Ababa. Concern a man
that you just. He retain the saddle down a time
& should press them clean to gull-galls of the Abys
refuse to come to home. Hope that Mr. Jepherson's
will be available until conclusion of the negotiations

In writing to the F.O. on F.O. all
the rest of the 4-5-10-15-20-25-30-35-40-45-50-55-60-65-70-75-80-85-90-95-100
-4-5-10-15-20-25-30-35-40-45-50-55-60-65-70-75-80-85-90-95-100
could readily agree to allow Mr. Jepherson
business to remain at the disposal of
Mr. Jepherson until the conclusion of the
negotiations - copy of the F.O.
to the O.A.P. of the S.A.P. & Uganda
at once
to J. J. J.
23/II

personal paper

647149 (10) 10/11/10

10/11/10

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 4981/10.

Address: The Secretary of State, Foreign Office

Foreign Office

February 19, 1910.

Sir:-

With reference to my letter No. 3270/10 of the 12th instant I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa reporting a conversation with Herr Schubert, the German Officer who accompanied the Abyssinian Commission of Delimitation of the Southern Frontier Boundary.

I am to state that Sir E. Grey agrees with the view that it is of importance for His Majesty's Government to retain the Gaddisum corner, and considers that they should, as proposed in the draft instructions, enclosed in my letter above referred to, press their claim to Gaddisum if the Abyssinian Government refuse to come to terms.

Yours faithfully

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(4981/10)

Any agreement to force the Boran tribes back from British Abyssinian territory, which they may desire to leave on account of Abyssinian oppression, would, in Sir E. Grey's opinion, be contrary to the practice of His Majesty's Government who have always refused to do anything of the sort on the Sudan side. His Majesty's Government might, however, Sir E. Grey thinks, agree to discourage Boran emigration from Abyssinia as far as possible and to treat those tribesmen who only come across the frontier in the wet or dry season, whichever it may be, as Abyssinian subjects. The British Galla tribesmen being similarly treated when crossing to the North of the line.

I am to add that Sir E. Grey considers it essential that Mr. Theodor should be able to avail himself of the assistance of Mr. Kaphis until the conclusion of the frontier negotiations, and I am to express the hope that the Earl of Grey will consent to continue to lend his services until then.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient
 humble servant,

Langley

Copy.

BRITISH LEGATION,

ADIS ABABA,

21st January 1910.

167
21 FEB 10

(4981)

Sir:-

I have the honour to report that Mr. Schubert the German Officer who accompanied the Abyssinian commission as map maker has recently returned to Adis Ababa. He called on me yesterday and I asked him what the Abyssinians thought of Major Gwynn's alterations on the line. He informed me that in his opinion our chief difficulty would be in persuading the Abyssinians to accept the inclusion in our territory of Gaddaduma to which they attached considerable value, whereas they looked upon the districts given them in exchange north of Banissa, as valueless.

The question of Fort Harrington he considered could be settled without much opposition as it was merely a matter of the concession of a small area which in itself had no special value for them.

As regarded the frontier from Burulle to Lake Stephanie, while he had no information as to what Major Gwynn's ideas

were

Sir Edward Grey, Bart.,

&c. &c., &c.

were, his opinion was that the Abyssinian Government would make no strong objection to an alteration which would place some wells on our side of the border, and he told me that he would certainly advise them to accede to any request we might make on these lines as the country which would thereby be ceded was valueless to either side. He added that the only boundary mark which he had erected was a stone pyramid at the angle formed by the old red line just south of lake Stephanie.

Mr. Schulerer corroborates all that I have heard so far and it may be taken for granted that this expresses very fairly the opinions with which we will have to reckon when the negotiations begin.

It is no use blinding ourselves to the fact that the proposed alterations are all in our favour and that any territorial concessions we can make are of no great value.

The only real argument we can put forward is the fact that we have under the treaty a fair claim to consider the country north of the red line to Gulgulle and even all the district enclosed by the curve of the river from Blanka to Malka Harri or Harri country and therefore as being properly

British territory. This argument can be used as a proof that we are not moved merely by a desire to increase our territory but will scarcely be of sufficient weight to remove their dislike to sacrificing Gaddadama. The only other concession we can make is as regards the Boran tribes who settle on our side of the red line.

Mr. Schubert told me that the Abyssinians felt very strongly on this point and looked upon it as unjust that these tribesmen should be considered by our officers on the frontier as British subjects when they have perhaps put in a few years residence in British territory, whereas the Garri are, they claim, treated as British subjects even when they cross to the north of the frontier.

According to the treaty, I understand all the Boran are Abyssinian subjects, but being a nomadic tribe, like most of those on the frontier, they continually cross the line and are only too ready to settle on the south and claim our protection.

Mr. Zephiro is strongly of opinion that an agreement to prevent in future these tribes from immigrating on a large scale and from settling permanently on our side would have

considerable

considerable weight with the Abyssinians and Mr. Schubert's information certainly tends to confirm this view.

This is however all that we have to throw into the scale and it remains to be seen how far the Abyssinians will look upon these points as sufficient compensation for the Gaddaduma corner, which is evidently of vital necessity to us and must with the other alterations be insisted upon.

The temper of the Abyssinians however, so far as I have been able to judge, on this question appears to be quite friendly though they will certainly fight hard to hold their own, and I think we may be sure that the German Legation will try on the basis of Mr. Schubert to restore their prestige by supporting the Abyssinian point of view.

It is therefore perhaps as well that the negotiations should be delayed. The fact that the maps have not yet arrived here and that Mr. Laporte is going on leave will enable us to put off any discussion of the question for another six weeks if necessary, by which time the Emperor may have died and we shall have a responsible government to deal with. The Queen's influence it is to be hoped

will

will then be a thing of the past, and Mr. Schubert's leave will be up and he will no longer be here in person to influence the Abyssinians as the German Legation may desire.

I can I presume count on Mr. Zaphiro being here when the negotiations begin, as his presence will be absolutely necessary to me in answering questions of local details which are sure to be raised.

I would also suggest that I may be furnished as soon as possible with the map showing Major Gwynn's alterations in order that I can study this question.

I have etc.,

(Signed) Wilfred G. Designer