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DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.
GERMAN E. AFRICA
No. 39637

G.O.
39637
Recd
Nov 8 1895

Name of Individual

(Subject)

Serial

905

Anglo-German Boundary
Khartoum to Lake Tana

Previous Paper

Transmit copy sent from Berlin, and of a letter
to D.M.O. A.S. for observations

(Minutes)

Mr. Reed
Wait for the done of the P.M.O.

M.R.

at once
H. J. R.
9/11

12/6 over land 14/10
1895

Serial

Previous Paper

2 copies

C. O.
39537
REC'D
NOV 05

FOREIGN OFFICE
November 7th, 1905.

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mediate.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter 33943/1905 of the 3rd ultimo I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, for the information of Mr. Secretary Lyttelton, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin respecting the Anglo-German boundary from Laitokitok to Lake Jipe and a letter to the Director of Military Operations on the same subject.

*67 Af.
24.11.1905
L. J. Lyttelton*

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to be furnished with any observations which Mr. Lyttelton may have to make in the matter.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

F. A. Villiers

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

C. O.
39637
Recd MON 05

B E R L I N

October 24th, 1905.

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My Lord:-

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch of this series No. 123 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that I did not fail to address a Note to Baron von Richthofen conveying the proposals of His Majesty's Government as to the instructions to be sent to the Commission employed in demarcating the Anglo-German Boundary in East Africa, and I have now the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of a Note which I have received in reply, containing further proposals from the Imperial Government and requesting an early reply with a view to instructions being sent to the German Commissioner to delay his return to Europe.

I have &c.,

(Signed)

Frank C. Lascelles.

Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

C.O.
39657
Rid
NO 05

relation.

The undersigned has the honour to ¹¹apply as follows to Sir F. Lascelles & Co., & Co., note of the 8th instant, relative to the Anglo-German Boundary between the southern end of Lake Jipe and Laito-Kitok:-

The Imperial Government agrees in general to the proposals contained in the above-mentioned Note as to the identic instructions to the two Commissioners.

It must, however, be pointed out, with reference to the modification of the boundary on the Rufu River proposed by the British Government, that were this proposal adopted an equal degree of uncertainty would be produced as to the position of the boundary line on the Southern shore of the Rufu, as now appears to exist as to the Northern shore of that River. For, as the Note above referred to very justly points out, it is extremely difficult to locate the edge of an African swamp, which varies greatly with the time of year and, we may add, with

the

the rainfall.

In order therefore to fix the boundary as clearly as possible, the Imperial Government propose to word the first paragraph of Article 2 of the instructions to the Commissioners as follows:-

“(2) From this point the boundary will follow the Eastern bank of Lake Jipe, cross the mouth of the River Lumi, and then follow the Northern bank of the lake to the mouth of the River Rufu. It will then follow the main channel (Thalweg) of this River to a point which lies on the meridian of Mokinni Hill
Ac., Ac.”

The present Commission have discovered that there is a slight error as to the latitude given to the terminal point of the labours of the Commission of 1892, which according to the map I.D.W.O. 976a is $2^{\circ} 57' 36''$ S. Latitude. The present Commission has on the contrary fixed the latitude at $2^{\circ} 57' 29''$ by a triangulation from Lake Victoria, and at $2^{\circ} 57' 25''$ by astronomical check measurements (kontrollbestimmungen). The terminal point has

therefore

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therefore been placed 7 to 11 seconds too far north.

At the preliminary discussions between Colonel Trotter and Baron von Danckelman in London in December 1902 as to the programme to be carried out by the Boundary Commission, the figures $2^{\circ} 57' 36''$ were only agreed to in order to avoid an expensive preliminary expedition to definitely fix the co-ordinates of this terminal point and to check the accuracy of the map I.D.W.O.975a., which would have unnecessarily subdivided the Commission and have materially delayed the principal work in hand.

The azimuth of the boundary line Lake Victoria - Kilimandjaro does not absolutely agree with the actual ground, and Great Britain has in consequence gained a stretch of territory along the boundary in the form of a triangle, of which the base is about 9" or 270 metres and the perpendicular about 450 kilometres, or a total area of about 56 square kilometres.

As the territory west of the line Mokinni - Latema Hill also includes about 50 square kilometres this would offer an opportunity of mutual compensation.

compensation at small expense.

The Imperial Government is, however, prepared to also surrender the small piece of Cape Moku on the East Coast of Lake Victoria, which is separated from the English territory by the Treaty Boundary, and likewise those pieces of territory, which are bounded on the South by the main channel (Thalweg) of the River Rufu, on the West of the meridian of Mokinai Hill, on the north by the northern edge of the inundation area of the Rufu, and on the east by the corresponding part of the shore of Lake Jipe.

The Imperial Government has no certain information as to the present position of their Commissioner, and do not know whether the Commission has not already broken up. Should this be the case and should the British Government be prepared to agree to the above proposals, the Imperial Government are willing to instruct the Station at Moschi to proceed to the joint demarcation of the remainder of the boundary as far as the southern end of Lake Jipe with the English Commissioner.

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The undersigned begs that, in view of the pressing nature of the case, he may be informed as soon as possible of the views of the British Government, with a view to sending telegraphic instructions to the German Commission in time to cause him to postpone his return to Europe, and seizes this opportunity to renew &c., &c., &c.

(Signed) Richthofen.

Berlin,

October 18th, 1918.

copy

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Director of Military Operations, and, with reference to Major General Grierson's letter of September 18th. last, is directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin enclosing a translation of a note from the German Government respecting the Anglo-German Boundary between Laitokitok and Lake Jipe.

Lord Lansdowne considers that there is some justification for the objection of the German Government to taking the southern edge of the Tufu swamp as the boundary between Lake Jipe and the point on the meridian of Kokinni Hill, but he considers that boundary should be formed not by the

thalweg

thalweg of the Rufu River but by the southern stream of that river should there be more than one, as originally proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith.

The Under Secretary of State is to enquire whether Major-General Grierson concurs in this view and whether it would be well to dispute the German contention that Great Britain has gained territory along the line from Lake Victoria to which she was not entitled by the preliminary agreement between the two Governments.

Foreign Office.

November 7th. 1908