

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.

2217

32213

SEP 23 1909

Office or Individual

Foreign

1909

27 Sept.

Last Previous Paper

for 202142

S. Fronker of Abyssinia

Sends letter from Maj. Guyon with memo on situation and proposed changes in Boundary lines. Considers that the compensating areas East of Khara Moyde may fairly be set off against one another, & that it would be desirable to hold to Maj. Guyon's line. Requests line West of Moyde considers it best to hold to Maj. Guyon's alternative line.

32023 (marks)

W. Fiddes. (see 70/32023)

On the accompanying maps (sheets 1 & 2 of T.S.G.S. 2286) Major Guyon has shown clearly the modifications he has suggested, & in some cases made by the erection of beacons on the treaty line. The determining factor is always the possession of sufficient water to render administration possible.

Copy (maps only) D.M.O. cons 26 Oct. 1909. W.D. 36835. Quad 79 N or 79 S.

He proposes to give H. H. G. a long strip at the foot of the Bona escarp (right in the middle of sheet 1), where the treaty line would cut us off from all permanent water, to give Abyssinia in return.

Subsequent Paper

70.

32000-11-08

a block further east, between Chillako & the River Dawa, which our tribes ~~can~~ do not find indispensable, and which Major Gwynn has induced them to part with cheerfully. The grounds of this exchange are detailed in the parts of the report which I have marked (a) & (b). We should certainly adhere to these modifications.

West of Uruu the treaty line again cuts us off from water as far as Lake Stephanie. Major Gwynn cannot suggest any balanced arrangement here, & can only propose that we should claim the line indicated by green crosses, on the ground that it is necessary for administrative purposes. (See the section of his report marked (c)). The F.O. are prepared to take this line with the Abyssinian Govt. The question of administration in this region is not pressing. But if ever we are to have a practicable boundary in this neighbourhood, now is the time to get it, & we may therefore concur in the F.O. pressing for it.

(Sheet 2)
Beyond Lake Rudolf (Major Gwynn)

has only sought to get a more or less natural boundary. The exchange of territory is pretty equal. Administration on the British (Upanda) side of this line is out of the question in the immediate future. Major Gwynn thinks it would be enough to reserve the right to occupy up to his line at any time desired by H.M.G.

It is impossible for me sitting in an office at home to criticise a piece of boundary work like this. But Major Gwynn's report makes an excellent impression, & satisfies me that he has weighed very carefully the considerations involved, & that his recommendations deserve acceptance. We ought, I suppose, if only as a matter of form, to send the report or a copy of the F.O. letter (maps in original for return) to the D.M.O., & to say that, subject to any remarks which he may have to offer, we propose to tell the F.O. that we agree the Major Gwynn's line

should be accepted the modification
between Uman & Lake Stephanie claimed,
& that the Abyssinian Govt should be
informed as Major Gwynn proposes as
to the line west of Lake Rudolf.

We ~~should~~ ^{also} tell the W.O.
that the S. of S. ~~Govt~~ ^{appreciates} very highly
the excellence of Major Gwynn's work,
and the value of the advice which he has
given, not only in connexion with actual
boundary questions, but also as to the
problem of administering the districts
bordering on the boundary.

Zfar.

01-8. P. 10

store P. 19

Essept.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 28498/09.

and address—

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

C. O. 374
2217

CCO
29 SEP 1909
FOREIGN OFFICE

September 22nd, 1909.

21

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of a letter from Major Gwynn containing a Memorandum dealing with the situation on the Southern frontier of Abyssinia and proposed changes in Boundary lines.

Although the question is one which more especially concerns your Department, I am to offer the following observations for Lord Crewe's consideration:-

As regards the actual frontier, Sir E. Grey is of opinion that the compensating areas East of Churre Moyole may fairly be set off against one another and that it would undoubtedly be desirable to hold to Major Gwynn's line.

As to the line West of Moyole, Sir E. Grey, as at present advised, is inclined, on the grounds of ad-

ministrative

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

administrative necessity, to Major Gwynn's alternative line. The area of land His Majesty's Government would thus gain is valueless and the whole frontier is sufficiently favourable to the Abyssinians for them to make this concession. In case they should refuse, the pressing of the Garre claim to Guba Gollgallo would probably make them give way.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

Falaguppell

ABYSSINIA.

[July 28.]

REC'D
20 SEP 1909

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION I.

376

[28498]

No. 1.

Major Gwynn R.E., to Foreign Office.—(Received July 28.)

Sir,

55, Eaton Terrace, London, July 27, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th June, 1909, transmitting a copy of Lord H. Hervey's despatch No. 33 of the 20th May, 1909, relative to the southern frontier of Abyssinia.

The despatch was received after I had completed the draft of a memorandum dealing with the situation on the southern frontier, a copy of which is now inclosed.

Mr. Zaphiro's points have, I think, been dealt with in the memorandum.

The only substantial difference of opinion as to facts is that whereas I consider the frontier west of Moyale can be sufficiently watched by patrols based on the wells near Moyale and at Burroli, Mr. Zaphiro thinks that the well at Burroli does not form an adequate base.

I agree that the control would be more effective and easier if the wells detailed in the first paragraph of Mr. Zaphiro's despatch could be included in British territory.

Mr. Zaphiro is unwilling to recognize that by the treaty of December 1907 we have concluded a bargain with Abyssinia, and that the mere fact that it is a bad bargain is no ground for repudiation.

His remark that we have left the best of the "Golbo" to Abyssinia can only refer to the valuable shooting rights which, as I have pointed out in the memorandum, the Abyssinians have fairly secured under treaty.

If we wish to maintain our reputation for straight dealing with the Abyssinians, it would be the worst policy to try and get them back by trickery or misrepresentation.

It would be difficult to suppress, and out of the question to "doctor," the new maps of the frontier, and unless this is done, the first person competent to read a map could show the true effect of the treaty-line to the Abyssinian Government.

Mr. Zaphiro's proposal to hide the meaning of the line as finally delimited by an indefinite verbal description, in order to allow him to maintain the claims he has up to the present made, should not, I consider, be entertained for a moment.

The rectification of the frontier entailed by my alternative recommendation west of Uran would meet practically all Mr. Zaphiro's objections and give us the Uran wells. The only valid plea for demanding this rectification is its necessity to allow efficient administration. It is useless to base the demand on the ground that water supplies are required for natives on our side, as this clause in the treaty giving natives the right to water on either side of the frontier in accordance with established custom, disposes of the plea, however useless the proviso would prove in actual practice.

I believe that a straightforward demand for rectification, made good by effective occupation, would be acquiesced in, and would cause less friction than the subterfuge proposed by Mr. Zaphiro.

Till it is decided whether this rectification is to be demanded, it would perhaps be best to leave things indefinite, and on these grounds I direct Mr. Zaphiro to disclaim knowledge of the results of the delimitation west of Moyale. This was sufficiently true, as he did not accompany the commission beyond that point.

The string of names in paragraph 23* of Mr. Zaphiro's description of the boundary means nothing, but might be taken as making Mount Burroli a point on the frontier.

This I expressly avoided, as the pass between Mount Burroli and the foot of the escarp is necessary to the use of the patrols based on Burroli well.

It would perhaps be well therefore to instruct Mr. Zaphiro to adhere to my directions.

I should like to add that I fully appreciate the difficulties that will be added to Mr. Zaphiro's position by an abandonment of his previous claims and a stricter

* See Map, T. S. G. S. [2286].

interpretation of the frontier-line, but it would have been quite beyond the scope of my powers as demarcation commissioner to have maintained his claim in full.

I have, &c.

C. W. GWYNN.

Inclosure No. 1.

Memorandum respecting the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia.

WHEN Captain Maud, R.E., surveyed the southern frontier of Abyssinia in 1902-03, he found the Abyssinians in effective occupation far south of the line accepted in principle by the Emperor Menelik in 1898.

He therefore searched for an alternative line which would not entail the displacement of the Abyssinians or the necessity of administration on the British side. The line recommended by him was recognised as a working frontier for some years, and was finally adopted in the treaty of the 7th December, 1907.

Before the signature of the treaty it was found that some form of administration was necessary on the British side, despite the concessions which had been made to avoid it. Mr. Zaphiro was appointed to watch British interests, and he has established what is practically an administration.

The natives tend to rely on his protection more and more, and the excellence of his work makes it the more necessary to establish its continuity and to regularise it. This has for some time been recognised, and Sir J. Harrington submitted a scheme for administration by British officers.

The fact that Mr. Zaphiro was appointed before the treaty was drafted makes his position in important essentials different from that of officers who may succeed him. His instructions, though defining the working frontier in some detail, summarised the boundary as leaving the low southern plain of the Golbo in British territory and the Boran highlands in Abyssinia.

Acting on these instructions, and latterly following what he believed to be the spirit of the treaty, Mr. Zaphiro has always claimed a number of wells as British, which the treaty definition of the boundary placed in Abyssinia; nor have the local Abyssinian officers disputed his claim.

These wells are for the most part absolutely essential for the maintenance of administration, as the treaty line excluded almost all the permanent water supplies from British territory. Thus to the east of Churre Moyalo there is no permanent water near the frontier for about 100 miles, and to the west for about 130 miles.

Mr. Zaphiro has also up to the present been allowed to move freely along the frontier in Abyssinian territory, but the privilege cannot be relied on in future.

When the detailed delimitation of the frontier, in accordance with the treaty, had to be undertaken, it was necessary either to regularise or abandon Mr. Zaphiro's claims.

Although the treaty provided for the appointment of a joint commission of demarcation, the duties of the commissioners were not defined, except in the short section between the Dawa River and Gulf Kuffole, where the absence of natural features had rendered an exact description of the boundary impossible.

In the absence of Abyssinian commissioners the British commissioner adopted the view that the natural features named in the treaty definition of the boundary were used merely for the identification of the line, and not as hard and fast points to which it was necessary to adhere.* That, provided he could arrange for the equitable balancing of concessions, he was free, within reasonable limits, to introduce modifications where necessary to secure a workable frontier.

As the necessity of future administration appeared to him clear, a frontier which could not be administered would have been unworkable. He therefore decided to introduce modifications which would regularise Mr. Zaphiro's claims so far as they were necessary for administrative purposes.

A description of the frontier region and its inhabitants is necessary to show how the question of future administration presses for settlement, and how the details of the frontier delimitation are bound up with the question of administration.

* The Abyssinians appear inclined to treat the points named in the treaty as finally fixed points, and Lord H. Hervey was, I think, inclined to agree with them.—C. W. G.

Broadly speaking, the country on the British side of the frontier may be divided into two sections:—

1. The Golbo plain, inhabited by brown nomadic tribes of Somali or Galla origin.
2. The Stephanie and Rudolf and Akobo basins, inhabited by sedentary black tribes.

The Golbo extends from the Juba River on the east to Lake Stephanie on the west. On the north it is bounded by the Dawa River and Boran highlands, while on the south it stretches to the coastal districts near Kismayu and to the Lorian Swamp. It is for the most part thickly covered with bush and good grass, making an excellent grazing ground.

After the rains, which are regular and abundant, there are numerous water holes, hills scattered for some distance in the plain south of the Boran highlands.

These supplies of water become exhausted before the height of the dry season. The inhabitants and wild animals then seek the perennial water found in the Juba and Dawa rivers, at the foot of the Boran escarp, at the oases of Eil Wak, Wujera, Marsabit, Kuroli and Gorai; and in exceptionally dry seasons move even to the Lorian Swamp.

The distribution and movement of the tribes are influenced by several factors. Its unhealthiness and the prevalence of "fly." It is necessary also to reserve the grazing in the neighbourhood of the perennial water for the end of the dry season. The temporary water supplies can only be used when they are so situated with reference to the permanent supplies that flocks can move from one to the other during the dry season.

The people in the Golbo own camels, cattle, sheep and goats, but do not cultivate at all with the exception of a few small communities settled on the rivers.

West of the Golbo the country of the blacks is poor and stony, intersected with waterless mountains. The population is scanty and of a very low grade. The few Turkana tribe, formerly well populated, have been devastated by the Abyssinians. The marches of the frontier.

It is only in the Golbo section that the question of administration presses and that modifications of the boundary were necessary. In the east the Dawa River forms a good boundary for 100 miles, but the state of unrest among the Somali tribes close to the frontier is serious. The raids of Abyssinians from the north and the Mullah from the east has caused a general movement of the tribes of the Webi Shebeli Valley south-west and west. Thus on the northern bank of the Dawa the area between the Dawa and Ganale, reported uninhabited by Captain Maud, is now occupied by the Yabeina Dagodi driven from the east bank of the Web River by the Abyssinians. These people attacked again by the Abyssinians are trying to gain a footing south of the Dawa, where there has already been an invasion of Rer Afgab O'len and other tribes driven west by the Mullah. Much inter tribal fighting has taken place and there has been a general importation of arms. Several communities practically of brigands have been formed, who will not obey the recognised tribal authorities but loot and murder indiscriminately.

The Juba which is fordable during the dry season merely forms a screen behind which these bands can organise their raids into Italian territory. The Italians have recently commenced in earnest to try and develop the country on the opposite bank and can scarcely tolerate the existence of this Alsatia. The administration of this district is necessary in connection with that of districts further west and could probably be best carried out by the same organisation.

One of the first steps must be to check the immigration and invasion of fresh tribes from the north, this could not well be accomplished by an extension of the Kismayu Government.

After leaving the Dawa River the boundary as defined by treaty follows the boundary between the Garre and Boran tribes through an elevated plain rising gradually from the level of the Golbo to that of the Boran Plateau. This plain affords good grazing but the water supply is limited and non-permanent in character. During the dry season many of the Garre move to Gadladuma and other wells in Boran territory.

The Garre are a tribe of Somali origin who entering the country from the east, extended up the right bank of the Dawa as far as Guba Gallallo.

This place is still looked on as the tribal headquarters and is the burying place of

the chiefs. The Garre adopted the Galla language and religion when they became subject to the Boran kingdom, which at the zenith of its power extended along the Dawa to within 30 miles of its mouth, and as far south as Eil Wak. The Garre have recovered their independence, but even now some of the wells at Eil Wak belong to Boran families living in the highlands.

The tribal boundaries of the Boran and Garre are therefore ill defined and are further confused by the existence of the slave tribe of Gabras, also of Somali origin, some of whom are subject to Boran and others to Garre families. The limits assigned by Captain Maud are probably the nearest approximation to an accurate representation of the present distribution of the tribes, but the claim of the Garre to Guba Gallallo is sufficiently valid to have been advanced and should be considered in estimating the extent of the concession made to Abyssinia in the modification of the treaty line.

This district was practically the only one in which the boundary could be modified in favour of Abyssinia in exchange for modifications securing water supply further west.

By making concessions here discussions as to tribal boundaries were avoided and Ali Abdi, chief of the Garre, readily withdrew opposition to the arrangement when he understood that Gaddaduma would be placed in British territory.

West of the Garre Plain the boundary skirts the Boran Plateau of Diri. This is an elevated plain falling to the Golbo by a gentle incline at its eastern and western ends but rising in the south to a rim of hills forming the crest of a great line of escarpment running from the Arballe neighbourhood in the west for 150 miles to Gaddaduma on the east.

At its centre the line of escarpment form an obtuse angle, this salient being called Uran.

West of Uran the escarpment is parallel to the strata and is consequently unbroken in character and little water is found at its base.

East of Uran it breaks on the contrary across the strata and is deeply indented.

The Golbo Plain runs up the indentations in narrow flat valleys divided by steep spurs. In almost every valley, generally at the head, are perennial sources of water.

In describing this feature Captain Maud says that the spurs are essentially part of the Boran upland and for this reason suggested a line practically tangential to their southern extremities. It would have been even more true to say that the valleys are essentially part of the Golbo but presumably Captain Maud did not attach importance to this, as a note on his map shows that he considered the immediate foot of the escarpment to be uninhabited. As has already been pointed out this is not the case in the dry season when the inhabitants of the Golbo move to the water. Another fact which Captain Maud had no opportunity of discovering, but which Mr. Zaphiro has reported, is the effect this feature has on the destruction of elephants by the Abyssinians.

During the rainy season and subsequent months the elephants graze northwards across the Golbo finding water in the rainpools. By the time the escarpment is reached these pools have dried up and the elephants unable to return till the rains break are forced to remain in the vicinity of the water at the foot of the escarpment. Lateral movement is prevented by the waterless plain at each end of the escarpment.

The Abyssinian hunters established at the water holes slaughter the elephants as they come to drink, driving them against the inaccessible sides of the valleys.

Mr. Zaphiro takes a very high estimate of the drain on the elephants of British East Africa which this slaughter entails but it is undoubtedly true that the question is not merely one of the extermination of elephants in one particular district; a great migratory movement of the animals is affected.

An even more serious matter than the destruction of elephants is that numerous well armed parties of Abyssinians are established in the immediate neighbourhood of the frontier at the only sources of water available for natives living in British territory who have consequently no escape from their depredations.

It is practically impossible for the Abyssinian Government to control these hunting parties without co-operation from the British side unless a general permission is given to Abyssinian officers to cross the frontier. To grant such a permission would probably produce an even worse state of affairs than the existing one, as a very slight acquaintance with Abyssinian methods would show.

The need therefore for British administration is imperative. Mr. Zaphiro with the few untrained Abyssinians at his disposal has been some check on the hunters, but an admission of the Abyssinian ownership of many of the valleys will limit his power even though the modifications introduced in the boundary enable him to patrol it.

At its extreme eastern end the escarpment breaks up into a series of detached hills, the intermediate openings rising more or less steeply from the lower to upper plains. The first opening is at Gaddaduma (Kuddaduma) where is also situated the most easterly of the series of water supplies at the foot of the escarpment. Gaddaduma has thus a double importance as a pass and as a water supply.

As already stated a large number of the Garre move in the dry season to Gaddaduma and to Gurar a little further east, where the water generally lasts till well into the dry season. When the Gurar supply fails the Gurar grazing grounds are within reach of Gaddaduma. Gurar belongs to the Garre and Gaddaduma to the Boran, though the Garre have a traditional right of watering there. The Gaddaduma water is also used by Boran and Sakuyu families living in British territory.

Although the place belongs to the Boran on the Abyssinian side of the frontier it is not of as great importance to them as to the people on the British side, as the former have the alternative watering places at Bor, Le, &c., in Abyssinian territory. Moreover, as the treaty line leaves no permanent water near the frontier in British territory between Jara and Churre Moyale, the importance of the Gaddaduma Pass with its water supply to the maintenance of any form of administration on the British side is apparent, and points to the necessity of modifying the strongly marked salient in the treaty line at Kuffole.

On account, therefore, of its importance to the natives on the British side, and as a point required for administrative communication, Major Gwynn decided to modify the treaty line so as to place Gaddaduma in British territory.

Between Gaddaduma and the Uran Salient it was clear that the frontier could not equitably be modified so as to place all the valleys in British territory, as there was no country of at all the same value which could be conceded in exchange. On the other hand, a strict adherence to the treaty line would have rendered administration of British territory impossible. Major Gwynn, therefore, adopted the middle course of introducing modifications which left the majority of the valleys in Abyssinia but placed in British territory a number of wells at such intervals that patrols based on them could control the section of frontier concerned and intercommunicate without using Abyssinian territory. Incidentally this solution may tend to check the wholesale slaughter of elephants by providing a certain number of safe watering places.

In exchange for the above modifications in favour of British interests, a large tract of Garre country with the wells of Chillako was conceded to Abyssinia, and the Garre claim to Guba Gallallo was abandoned.

The frontier was marked accordingly with stone cairns as far west as the Uran neighbourhood, and the natives on the British side were informed; those on the Abyssinian side were not allowed by the Abyssinian frontier officers to have dealings with the British commission, but they are probably fully aware of the settlement which has been made. The effect of these modifications is shown on the attached map.

From the Uran Salient the frontier leaves the escarpment and runs through the plain to Lake Stephanie, which, like the rest of the Golbo, is frequented by various nomadic tribes.

In the dry season these assemble round Mogado and the craters of Gorai and Dillo in Abyssinian territory, and at Marsabit and Kuroli south of the waterless Huri Hills. Between Uran and Lake Stephanie lateral communication without using Abyssinian territory is impossible, Surdu being the only permanent water near the frontier on the British side. The question of the administration in this section is not pressing, as only occasional parties of Abyssinians are tempted south.

When they do move south they establish themselves at Kuroli and Marsabit, and this may be checked by the establishment of the post at Marsabit.

As there was nothing to concede in exchange, Major Gwynn was unable to modify the boundary so as to get over the disadvantage of lack of lateral communications. He suggests an alternative line which, by taking in the waters of Mogado and Gorai, would secure communication and also provide a better defined boundary lending itself to administration. In the absence of a compensating concession, this modification would have to be claimed as necessary for administrative purposes. His Majesty's Government is not for the present committed, except by the treaty definition, to either line. No beacons were constructed west of Uran, except two at Lake Stephanie, as it was considered undesirable to encourage natives to look for protection when no administration was possible. Either alternative line is sufficiently

marked by natural features for description in communications to the Abyssinian Government.

In the second section of the frontier, west of Lake Stephanie, the British commission found the Abyssinians established in the posts indicated on the map. At the north end of Lake Rudolf they had brought together a considerable population of the black tribes (fishers and cultivators) found in the neighbourhood of the lake, and these people seemed fairly contented and prosperous. At the posts in the low country most of the soldiers, though under the command of Abyssinians, were blacks, Arabs, &c., belonging to Leontieff's old force. Without these men the Abyssinians could probably not maintain the posts, as the Abyssinians in charge were miserably ill. A withdrawal of Abyssinian authority may fairly be anticipated in these districts on the death of the Emperor. The exact limit of the Abyssinian permanent posts on the west shore of Lake Rudolf was not ascertained, but it is probably no further south than on the east shore, an abandoned post on the east side of the lower Kibish was observed. On the other hand, large Abyssinian raiding parties had recently penetrated far into the Turkana country. There was no attempt made to conceal the fact that these parties had been sent out to skim the country before the British Government had actually taken it over, and in order to establish a claim to a further advance of the frontier.

Kenyasmach Rata, the officer in charge of the post at Maji (in conversation), claimed the country for several marches south and west of the treaty line on the strength of such raids.

The British commission explored the Kibish Valley and the plateau lying west of it and south of the head waters of the Akobo. This country is called Tirma by the Abyssinians. It is of little value, as though it formerly supported a considerable black population, the merest remnant has survived the Abyssinian raids.

With a view to establishing a claim to the country, the Abyssinians had formerly a few small posts in it, but these were found abandoned. The country is unsuitable for Abyssinian permanent occupation, and is in every way inferior to the higher plateau at Maji and to the north. There is therefore no reason for further concessions to Abyssinia in these districts, whatever claims may be advanced.

On the other hand the country is so remote that its administration on the British side in the immediate future would be out of the question.

It does not form an avenue for trade, and as none of the great tribes in British territory are concerned, a failure to administer it would have no effect on prestige, the few inhabitants are of a low grade and have never learned to look to us for protection.

It should be sufficient to communicate the detailed map and description of the frontier to the Abyssinian Government and reserve the right to occupy up to that frontier at any time if desired. The raids into Turkana country can only be dealt with by an extension of Uganda administration or by strengthening the tribes itself.

Taking the frontier as a whole, it is strongly recommended that His Majesty's Government should treat the delimitation of the frontier as a *fait accompli*, and avoid further discussion of the question with the Abyssinian Government. Discussion will merely encourage the Abyssinians to make good their arguments by further aggression, and at the best can only lead to further expenditure on commissions which would be more usefully applied to the establishment of administration. In the western portion of the frontier the death of the Emperor Menelek may very probably lead to Abyssinian withdrawal, and a policy of action is probably best.

In the east, however, the elephant hunting on the Boran escarp is likely to draw Abyssinians whatever happens in Abyssinia, and the Somali question is rapidly becoming more acute; nothing therefore is likely to be gained by delaying the establishment of administration.

There are two other considerations which affect the question of administration and must be discussed, namely, the positions of Mr. Zaphiro and of the Boma Trading Company.

Mr. Zaphiro has in many ways done extraordinary good work in collecting information, checking Abyssinian depredations and maintaining order among the tribes in British territory. His influence extends through the whole Garre and Boran country, and his relations with the Abyssinian frontier officers are very good. He cannot, however, check Abyssinian aggression in the Rudolf district or control the Somali tribes in the extreme east, and, as already stated, the delimitation of the frontier will to some extent limit his power.

It would be impossible to replace Mr. Zaphiro by any one man, his experience and

7
knowledge of languages is unique. But Mr. Zaphiro cannot go on for ever; the loneliness of his position, his health, the uncertainty of his future prospects may at any time cause him to throw up his appointment.

It must be recognized, too, that the temptations of Mr. Zaphiro's position are great. He could enrich himself by exactions from the natives, illicit ivory trading, &c. Moreover, it would be most difficult for him to rebut charges of such misconduct if they were brought, owing to the isolation of his position. Without training, and accustomed to the moral code of the Levant, Mr. Zaphiro might in perfect good faith do things which would lay him open to attack.

Now, unfortunately, Mr. Zaphiro's relations with the officers of the Boma Trading Company and with the Somali traders in the country are bad. The former undoubtedly resent being under the control and criticism of a man who they consider a Greek adventurer, and whose honesty they profess to distrust. The latter also dislike and distrust Mr. Zaphiro on account of his nationality and partiality for Abyssinians.

They probably also hope to get rid of his control, and, in any case, try to foment the bad blood which they are quick to see exists between Mr. Zaphiro and the company officers. Mr. Zaphiro is excitable and suspicious to a degree, and cannot be said to handle the situation with tact.

The presence of the Boma Trading Company on the frontier is most unfortunate. Their officers make no concealment that their ambition is to have the administration of the frontier districts placed in their hands. This is undoubtedly the origin of most of the friction with Mr. Zaphiro.

At present the company maintains posts at Churre Moyale, Dolo, and Marsabit, apparently at heavy loss, and the tendency is to blame Mr. Zaphiro for their want of success.

The position of the company's officers is undeniably invidious, especially where as at Dolo their action is restrained by Mr. Zaphiro without his being able to control the natives.

The proximity of the Italian post at Lugh makes the situation more galling. It can only be hoped the company will shortly abandon an unsuccessful venture.

Meanwhile the presence of two Englishmen without authority and under the orders of a Greek has not a good effect on the Somali tribes.

Summary.

There are two questions to be settled:—

1. The policy to be adopted as regards the future administration of the frontier.
2. The final settlement of the delimitation of the frontier.

Under the first heading it is urged that, although an attempt was made to find a frontier which would not require administration, experience has already proved the object has not been attained. A form of administration has been started by the appointment of Mr. Zaphiro, and the time has come when Mr. Zaphiro must be replaced by British officers. Delaying facing this question will probably entail greater expense in the long run, owing to the development of the Somali question in the east. For the present a forward policy is required only on the Boran frontier and to the east.

Under the second heading it is urged that the exact line of frontier adopted in the treaty entails a system of non-administration. If the frontier is to be administered, whether by Mr. Zaphiro or British officers, modifications are necessary.

It is urged that the modifications made by the delimitation commission give only the minimum requirements of administration, and therefore their acceptance by the Abyssinian Government should be insisted on. It is for decision whether an alternative line suggested by the British commission in the portion of the frontier between Uran and Lake Stephanie should also be claimed from the Abyssinian Government, in view of possible future administration requirements, although the question of administration does not press for settlement in this neighbourhood.

To
32213

Earl

380

C. D.
R. 23
D. 25

to 26 Oct 09

The H.S. for the

DRAFT.

msd 36835

Colonies presents his
Compliments to the D. M. O.

And, with reference to Co.

J.M.O.

MINUTE.

Mr. ~~W.D.~~ 24

Mr. Butler 22

Mr. ~~W.D.~~ 22
Mr. ~~W.D.~~ 23

Mr. Antrobus.

Mr. Coz.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Col. Seely.

The Earl of Crewe.

6399 note of the 25th March,

~~transmits~~ ~~copy to~~ ~~submit~~ a copy

alone of a letter from the D.O., in
which is enclosed a copy of

~~copying~~ a letter from

Major Probyn R.E., containing

a memorandum on the

subject of the situation

in the Southern boundary

of Abyssinia & proposed

changes in boundary lines

yo. 27 Sept
— In print
maps in my possession

to be written on 32229.

32223
C. D. 23
D. 25

26 Oct. 07

Majors General Gurney may
 have to offer, it is for me
 to inform the G.O. that
 Lord Curzon agrees that
 Major Ferguson's line
 should be accepted and
 the modification of the
 frontier between Khasi
 & Khasi States claimed,
 and that the Abipinian
 Post should be improved
 as Major Ferguson proposes
 and the line west of
 Lake Kundul.

The Secretary
 W.D.

Sir

With reference

to the letter from the
 Dept of the G.O. last

I am etc to ~~request~~

you to inform the A.C.

that the report of Major

C.M.G. & SO.,
 C.W. Ferguson, R.E., on the Southern

Frontier of Abipinians

has now been received.
 A copy of the report has been
 forwarded to the G.O.
 and Curzon appreciates

very highly the soundness

of Major Ferguson's work

and the value of the

advice which he has

1898 22/10

to Mr. Butler 22.

Mr. Read 22

Mr. Fiddler 23

cannot find that
 anything of this kind
 has been said to me
 & it is due to
 Major Gurney.

H.B.

Edinburgh

Since not only in
connection with actual
boundary questions, but
also as to the problem
of administering the districts
indicated on the boundary

In etc

(Signed) G. V. FIDDES.