

Nor must it be forgotten that we have only recently been introduced to modern civilisation, and that our history, glorious though it be, has not prepared us for ready adjustment to conditions which are often quite beyond the range of our experience. Nature herself has never gone forward by sudden bounds, and no country has been metamorphosed in a night.

With our well-known eagerness for progress—given time, and the friendly advice of countries whose geographical position has enabled them to out-distance us in the race—we shall be able to secure gradual but continual improvements which will make Abyssinia great in the future as she has been throughout the past. But, if we try to go too fast, accidents may happen.

We should like to hear from the Members of the League whether they think it right that means of pressure should be exerted upon us which they themselves would doubtless never accept.

We have the honour to bring to the notice of all the States Members of the League of Nations the correspondence which we have received, in order that they may decide whether that correspondence is compatible with the independence of our country, inasmuch as it includes the stipulation that part of our Empire is to be allotted to the economic influence of a given Power. We cannot but realise that economic influence and political influence are very closely bound up together; and it is our duty to protest most strongly against an agreement which, in our view, conflicts with the essential principles of the League of Nations.

Addis Ababa, this twelfth day of Senié in the year of grace 1918 (June 19th, 1926).

(Signed) TAFARI MAKONNEN,
Heir to the Throne of Abyssinia.

ANNEX 2

LETTER FROM HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S MINISTER AT ADDIS ABABA TO HIS
IMPERIAL HIGHNESS TAFARI MAKONNEN, HEIR-APPARENT TO THE THRONE
OF ABYSSINIA.

ADDIS ABABA, June 9th, 1926.

In obedience to the instructions which I have received from His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to hand to Your Imperial Highness the text of the note which His Majesty's Government addressed last December (Appendix) to the Italian Government asking for their co-operation in the negotiations with the Abyssinian Government regarding Lake Tsana when His Majesty's Government decide to reopen them. A translation of the note in Amharic is attached.

In accordance with Article 18 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the notes exchanged between His Majesty's Government and the Italian Government will be laid before the Secretariat of the League, but for reasons of friendship and courtesy the two Governments desire that these notes should first be shown to the Abyssinian Government.