

SCHOEBERLEIN & LOBENHOFFER

LONDON.

London, E.C 3 16th August, 1917

Mr. D.L. Lacombe,

RIO DE JANEIRO.

Dear Mr. Lacombe,

Just a line to send you copy of a letter received from Mr. Vidal Jessouroun and our reply. We feel rather hurt at the insinuation that we did not sufficiently protect Messrs. Jessouroun's interest as regards the price of beans shipped to England.

I should be greatly obliged to you if you would put the matter right. I can conscientiously say that we have always placed Messrs. Jessouroun's interests before ours and done our utmost to obtain satisfactory prices. I remind you of sale n° 60 where we could easily have pocketed the half-a-crown over-price obtained, but which we have returned to you in full.

I should esteem it a great favor if you would write a private line to Mr. Vidal to put matters right. I do not want any ill-feeling to prevail between Messrs. Jessouroun and ourselves. You have no idea of the trouble I have taken over this business and the sacrifices we have incurred. Without boasting, I can say that there is no other firm in Europe who have done for Messrs. Jessouroun what we have done. When the Food Controller's Order was issued, we had 120,000 bags on our shoulders for which we assumed responsibility towards Messrs. Jessouroun although our contracts with our buyers were automatically cancelled and under the Food Orders we should have had a perfect legal right to cancel all unshipped orders. This we have not done, in Messrs. Jessouroun's interest, but the strain on our capital was at time

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Mr. D. L. Lacombe, Rio.

very great. We had to make serious financial sacrifices in order to protect Messrs. Jessouroun and even now we are still responsible for nearly 34,000 bags afloat by the steamers "AMAZON", "WAIMANA", "STRABO" and "DESNA". I had personally to appear before the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies, but I am thankful to say that the interview was very satisfactory indeed; but you can imagine how much I shall feel relieved when once the whole of this business is liquidated.

I may also add the last year when the prohibition of coffee shipments to Scandinavia was issued a number of your shipments were detained for which we made you payment, but even now we are still out of pocket for some of these coffees and the carrying charges which we shall have to pay amount to a very considerable sum. To this has to be added the loss of interest.

As soon as the remaining bean shipments have come to hand, I shall report on same.

You will agree with us that Messrs. Jessouroun have no reason to complain about the way in which we handled their business and I am really surprised at Mr. Vidal's remark. That "DUPLEIX" business is very unfortunate but I am doing all I can to save Messrs. Jessouroun from a bigger loss. I hope to have more definitive news in time for the next mail.

I may interest you to hear that Mr. Schoeberlein was for over three months in hospital, but has now been cured and has rejoined his corps.

Trusting that you are in good health,

I remain, dear Mr. Lacombe,
Yours very truly,

(Signed:) SCHOEBERLEIN & LOBENHOFFER.