

1935

38022

KENYA

C0533/454

38022

1935

SISAL INDUSTRY

DECORTICATING MACHINERY

Previous

23092/34

Subsequent

1936

(38022/1/36 - SISAL LEAVES)

297

297

19/10/35

25/1/36

08
Agriculture,
Social Industry.

1. Hydraulic Engineering Co. Ltd. _____ 15 January '35

Submit a memo. in which they give details of their work of construction & installation of air decontaminating machines & seek assistance from the Govt. in order complete their programme, & also an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Replied graphically
after speaking to
Mr. Hudson

J.P.
15/1

Capt. Magnall saw Sir C. D. Stanley yesterday; Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Flood & I were present. He left this letter. Much of what he said, in amplification, is to be embodied in a supplementary letter, wh. should arrive in a day or two. The intention is then to submit the case to S. of S., and, if he approves, to put up a case to the C. of S. for further assistance.

Wart.

J.P. Freeland
15/1

2. Capt. Magnall (S.O). _____ 30 January '35

Encls. an official letter enclosing a supplement to his memo of 15 Jan. '35 (No. 1) & expresses regret that it has not been sent earlier.

Quite shortly, the story revealed by these papers is this:-

By 1932, Capt. Magnall had

sial deconstructs, calculated to produce better results, and with less consumption of power & water, than the present machines (mainly of German origin) at present in use.

He obtained a grant of £500 & a loan of £700 from the Colonial Development Fund.

The Secretary of State, when in Kenya at the beginning of 1934, was greatly impressed with the possibilities of the new machine.

Capt. Stangwell obtained orders for 3 deconstructors (Nija Grogan & Mr. Nanyi Khabaka, ^{the latter} being two of the purchasers.) When these were installed, very serious defects became apparent, and Nija Grogan is threatening Capt. Stangwell with an action for non-performance.

Capt. Stangwell's firm is at the end of its financial resources. If a child were forthcoming, he would

defects of those already made, & hand them over to the purchasers in substitution. For this purpose, he suggests a loan from the Col. Development Fund (through the Kenya Govt.) of £7000. He does not state what securities he could offer - a very essential point, which must be cleared up before the C.D.F. are approached.

S. J. P. with no doubt be glad of Mr. Stockdale's advice before deciding whether or not an application should be forwarded to the C.D.F.

J. P. Stockdale
1/2

It is a sad story but not unusual in such cases. On general wide policy it would pay all round to finance the development of efficient British machinery. The benefit would accrue to the S.A. & to the people, the E. A. Govts. indirectly but substantially - British trade generally, & to the manufacturers here. But it depends on an efficient machine being produced at the end. Otherwise the money is spent to little purpose.

Normally, an inventor backs his own ideas or gets some one to find the money and the history of such matters is full of failures and also of successes gained by pertinacity against original failure. If this comes into the latter class all will be well.

The question is "can Govt. be asked to risk £7000 more or less than?" These ...

machine. But on this I can form no opinion nor I think could anyone else. There is always the risk of another failure.

S. S. G. 2.2.

The experimental machine made by Capt. Mangnall was promising, but the output from the machine was only two tons of fibre per diem. In the commercial models he expected an output of at least four tons of fibre per diem but, as I stated in my minute of 1.3.34 in Kenya 23092/34 I had seen so many differences between the claims for and the actual performances of fibre extracting machinery, it was necessary to be cautious. I gather from Capt. Mangnall that in the attempt to speed up the machine mechanical faults were disclosed and the steel ropes used proved to be unsuitable. It is now stated that steel ropes cannot be used in the conveyor mechanism if an output of four tons per diem is to be arrived at. A new form of conveyor mechanism will have to be provided and this will necessitate some remodelling of the machine.

Capt. Mangnall believes that this can be done and asks financial assistance with this end in view. Whether the remodelled machine replacing the steel conveyor ropes by a chain-gearing (and chain gearing is employed in the Robey machine) will be successful cannot be accepted as being absolutely certain.

In any case, we have not heard a word from the Kenya Government or its Department of Agriculture on the models already

out there and it seems desirable to secure some information from the Colony at an early date.

I appreciate Capt. Mangnall's difficulties and also his desire to replace the three machines with what he considers will be efficient replacements, but the most that we could contemplate, I feel, with Government finance would be to support an application for funds for the construction of one new model machine, if the parties to whom supplies have already been made will agree to stay their claims against Capt. Mangnall's Company until such time as the new model has been made and tested in East Africa. There will be arguments as to who is to receive the first remodelled machine, but it should be possible for them to come to some arrangement over this matter if the two unsuccessful parties in the draw are promised replacements if the first machine proves, as it is hoped, to be successful.

To make one machine instead of three would cost, say, £3,000, but it seems wiser to consider such an amount rather than the £7,000 on what after all is rather a gamble.

Capt. Mangnall should be required to state what guarantee he could give. Personally, I would be rather inclined to go to the C.D.F. for a free grant of £3,000 for one further trial machine, to be converted into a loan, if it is successful, with the cost of two further machines.

F. H. Storkdale

4th February, 1935.

I agree with Mr: Stockdale's minute.
 Although a great deal of work has been put into this, the thing is still clearly " a gamble".
 The certainty of success expressed by the Co: does not fit in very well with their own record of the endeavours made to evolve a really sound working machine with the advantages claimed for it.
 2. It is very difficult here to forecast the probable C D A C attitude. We stand ^{any} much greater chances of success, however, by putting it on the basis Mr: Stockdale suggests. On the whole, I rather think they'll take the risk, in view of the very great advantages which success would bring. They almost certainly can't get any security - real security; but I think they'd risk the loss, all the same. But for that they'd want some clean-cut expression of opinion from the local experts, endorsed by the Govt: of Kenya-- as Mr: Stockdale suggests. At the moment we have nothing but the Interested Co's ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ expressed conviction.
 The 6th: February 1955.

*agreed
5/2/55*
 I agree. If this is approved, we should telegraph to Kenya for Govt. reports on the machines, sent out, the reports to be sent by air mail & summarized by telegram; and a memo: for C.D.A.C. should be prepared in advance. Capt. Mansuetti has no time to lose.

I agree.
 I think it is so important to get the right machine that I hope the C.D.A.C. will make the venture. It is in a sense a gamble; but not more so than much research work, & it is the only feasible means to a very important end.

*P.L.
6/2*

to Capt. Mansuetti - comm - 12.2.55

Draft memo. for C.D.A.C. herewith; the terms suggested have been agreed with Capt. Mansuetti.

(Revised pp. to me for final action)

*agreed
14/2/55*

*Mansuetti
14/3*

I am uncertain whether Mr: Freeston's minute covers the point I have inserted as an addition to the draft memo: The amended draft is, I think, in accordance with Mr: Stockdale's intention--but I pass through him to make sure of this point. The omission of this clause--the ink addition to the draft--would make things easier vis-a-vis the C D A C; but, if it is in fact necessary, I'd put it in. Perhaps the point was discussed with Capt: Mangnall? On the information we have, it looks as if it would be necessary later to provide funds for three machines.)
The 14-2-35.

Handwritten signature and date
14/2/35

S - C. Bottomley
Alternative addition now suggested after discussion with you & Th. Stockdale this morning.

Handwritten signature and date
15.2.35

5. C.D.A.C. 1105 _____ 18 Feb 35

No reply to No 4 has yet been received.
Handwritten initials and date
22.2.35

Consent of No 3 can wait till after the C.D.A. meeting
Handwritten signature and date

3. How Tel 48 cons 22 Feb 1935
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

4. Governor Bygone Tel 38 _____ 26 Feb 35

Handwritten note
Returned to Registry
25/2

State that no officer with necessary experience of soil is available to furnish report on machines. Furnishes views of Chairman of Kenya soil growers Assoc & suggests Conrad Webb should be consulted.

It was intended to communicate this to C.D.A.C. at their meeting yesterday; but they dropped the application without session for the departmental representatives.

We can only await the C.D.A.C. letter.

Handwritten notes
12/3
Wait
17/1

Handwritten signature and date
28/2

8. C.A.A.C _____ 6 March 35

Remnd. a free grant of £3,000 under certain stated conditions for the replacement of one defective machine on the assumption that the S.O.S is satisfied as to the ability of Capt. Mangnall to undertake such a replacement.

As regards the sentence at X on p.2, I understand that the Committee felt unable to exclude the possibility that Capt. Mangnall's Company, having accepted the £3,000, might fade into

only possible way of protecting the Treasury
against this contingency would be to
defer handing the cash to the Company
until the machine had been completed,
shipped and installed. This would be
unduly hard on the Co., who would
have to borrow meanwhile. We might,
of course, offer to hand over £2000
on receipt of evidence that the machine
has been loaded on ship, & the remaining
£1000 when it has been installed in situ.
But, on the whole, I should be prepared
to take the risk of taking Treasury
that S.F.S. is satisfied as to the ability, &c. &c.

N: 7 has not been commented
either to C.D.K. or Treasury. Though it
does not give the specific assurance
asked for in 4, it is good enough,
so far as it goes. The Chairman
of the Navy Secret. Comm. is, I think,
still Col. R. Maxwell, whose judgment
is reliable. If Mr. Stockdale agrees,
we may ignore the suggestion as to

I agree that it is unnecessary to consult Major Cassid
Wolch and also with the proposals of the Director
regarding the handing over of the fund in two
instalments.

J. A. Stockdale

8/3

If Capt. Mangnall's Co. doesn't undertake the replacement
no one else can. So better that! The only thing to do is
to take the risk.

J. A. Stockdale

9.3

A. in no. 7 is explainable by the fact
that we did not in no. 4 say that the
old model would be used out in Kenya.

I agree that we should at
bring Major Wolch into this. He has
been, lately, in close touch with
Major Egan and is likely to have
got from him as adverse an opinion
of the machine as to present him
from giving impartial advice.

It is feared. If Treasury
express any doubts, unofficially, they
should be told of this. It is minutes of
Feb. 6th.

Oct. 11.3.35
an

Also this
unusually in
view of the
British
position laid
down by the
C.D.K.

10 J. H. Law & Co Ltd _____ 11th March '35.

State that they have produced a new desiccator & request that no further ~~other~~ financial assistance may be given to any other machine maker until a full report on their machine is received & also that assistance offered to local producers to purchase desiccators may also cover the purchase of their machines.

This is the first that we have heard of a British rival to the Mangnall machine

? Ask. receipt; say that S.F.B. is interested to learn of their intention to place on the market a new type of Sial desiccator, and that if they will supply further particulars of the performance claimed for the ~~model~~ ^{model} ~~machine~~, and of the estate in East Africa where the new machine is to be tried out, S.F.B. will invite the Gov. of the Colony to report upon its efficiency. Say that S.F.B. does not propose to interfere with the arrangements already made for affording C.D.F. assistance to the manufacture of the sial desiccator machinery; and that

* I think it's a full size machine. They say nothing of a 'model'
J.2.4.7.

no decision has yet been reached regarding the scheme for financing E. Africa Sial producers in the purchase of new machinery. The question whether such a scheme if adopted, should cover the purchase of Messrs. Law & Co.'s machines can best be considered when full reports have been received on its efficiency, per cost and performance.

Copy correspondence to Secy. C.D.F. Treasury / FF. Gov. Kenya

J. H. Law & Co
12/3

- A. The Machine. There is no reason why assistance should be refused to one manufacturer in his experiments simply because another is at work on the same problem. If Law & Co had applied - and been able to get Kenya to back them - the C.D.F. would have considered their application too - whether favourably or not - no one can say. As it is, Law & Co say they have produced a machine and are going to try it. All right. If they can make a better one than Mangnall's they'll get the trade. The C.D.F. is only financing experiments and if they fail or if a better machine comes along the money is spent and that's that. Govt. has no interest financially in Mangnall's which is probably what Laws are afraid of. Not having an interest Govt. has no reason to support any one British machine as against another.
- B. The scheme for financing purchasers. This is still in the air. When it was mooted Mangnall's was the only improved British machine in view. If there are

others than it will be for Kenya to decide what conditions will be laid down for assistance. I would suggest perfectly general conditions such as that Govt. will be ready to advance money for the purchase of sisal machinery

- a) To approved estates
- b) For the purchase of approved British machinery
- c) on ^{fair} easy terms of interest & repayment

Said terms would be in any sound estate and any sound machinery - and we don't want more.

? As proposed but we should say that any scheme for financing the purchase of machinery will be run by the Colonial Govt.

J. S. G. Flood
12.3.

Jayne
J. S. G. Flood

13/3
13/3/35

So proceed. I am no mean to send on unless the Treasury, when they get the correspondence, suggest that we should sacrifice but marginal to an entirely dark area.

L.S.S. 13.3.35
since

11 To James F. Low + Co. (10 annod.) 18/4
18/3/35

12 To C.D.A.C. } (14c 10 + 11) 13/16 21/3/35
13 " " " }

14 To Gov. Kenya 214 (14c 10 + 11) A/1 — 21 March 35
(annod.)

attach to pp. please
J

Mr. Flood.

I attach a copy of my reply to Mr. Hale of the Treasury regarding the Kenya Sisal Decorticating Machine.

L.S. Smith

21.3.35.

off action

~~To Kenya, 214 (W/O 10-11) A/H 21 1935~~
~~7 August~~

DM

Captain Mangnall called this morning and saw you and me. The construction of the new machine is proceeding actively and he hopes to ship it in June; it will be sent to Major Grogan's estate at Taveta.

His Company is holding a shareholders' meeting next Wednesday and he wishes to include in his speech a reference to the new scheme. As regards Condition A (paragraph 6 of the memorandum in No.5) he proposes to write to the three owners by next Sunday's air mail.

As regards payment it was agreed that the following instalments should be issued:-

- (a) £1,000 on receipt of Captain Mangnall's assurance that the three owners have agreed to stay their claims.
- (b) £1,000 when the machine is shipped from England.
- (c) £500 a month after (b).
- (d) £500 when the machine has been installed at Taveta.

Drafts herewith which should get off as soon as possible; l.f. action as indicated.

Director
22/3

15 Treasury _____ 23 March 35
 Sanction a loan of £3,000 on certain stated conditions in accordance with records of C.O.A.C.

16 To Hydrostatic Engineering Co. *6/100* 23/3/35

124 Air Mail
23/3/35

To Kenya, 217 (1/100 5, 8, 9, 15+16) 23 MAR 1935
7 August

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

18. J. F. Low & Co Ltd 19th Mar 35
Ack. No 11 state that it is anticipated that the machine will be despatched to E.A. towards the end of May, when a further communication will be made.

19. The Hydraulic Engineering Co Ltd 25th Mar 35
Ack. No 16, state that terms & conditions of advance are accepted & that they are communicating by an airtel with the three entities concerned.

Delivered 18 & 19
Effaction v. draft (16)
(7)

OAS.
Copy of 18 to L.F. ref 14
" 19 " " " 17

27/3/35

- 20 To G.A. (w/c 5, 8, 9, 15-17) B/C
- 21 C.D.A.C. } 30/3/35
- 22 Hoang. (w/c 16) B/C
- 23 To Hanga 236 (w/c 19) } 1 APR 1935
- 24 To Hanga 237 (w/c 18) }

DM

25. Brown Agents (Mun) 11th Apr 35
Suggest that it will be necessary for them to enter into a formal agreement with the Hydraulic Engineering Co Ltd in connection with the C.O.F. advance, & request that a schedule of appropriate payments may be furnished.

I have returned Mr. Lamont's minute to him, after speaking by telephone. CA. have all the material for working out the schedule.

I have also written Lt Col. Mangroff S.O., when we shall hear in reply to 25 16.

Put by
27/3/35

26 To CA. returning No 25 14.5.35
27. Capt Mangroff 16.5.35
Explains delay

It is comforting to know that two of the three purchases have agreed. But I don't see how we can help Capt. Mangroff to overcome the intricacies of Nanyang's attitude. If he is in India, not even the Vignots Dept. can bring pressure on

him; and in any case Uganda knows nothing, & would probably care less, about the scheme as a whole.

~~It might be useful to have a talk with Capt Mangnall on Tuesday. If you agree, I will ask him to call on you, & come across when he arrives. You may wish me to suggest this to him.~~

~~Stuckists~~
16/4

I have spoken to Mr. Stuckists, who agrees with the above. D.L. to Capt. Mangnall.

~~Stuckists~~
17/5 at

Capt. Mangnall called yesterday. I took him to see Mr. Stuckists. A copy is attached of a note sent to Sir Basil Blackett last night.

Wait.

~~Stuckists~~
21/5 at

28. To Capt Mangnall (27/5/55) 23.5.35

29. Minute by Secretary COAC to the Chairman as regards waiving of certain stipulations governing B.O.F. grant to Hydraulic Engineering Co

30. To Capt Mangnall sp 24.5.35

31. " Hull (Dress) sp 24.5.35

11/26/55

30/3/32 The Hydraulic Engineering Co Ltd — 30/4/55
Apply for final instalment of £2,000 & cancel value of letters showing acceptance of supply of new machine

D/L Dept.

The required conditions having been fulfilled, will you please arrange with Treasury to issue £1,000 from the C.O.F. to Kenya account with C.A.?

~~Stuckists~~
3/6/55

33 To Treasury

34 BA w/c 33

} 6/6/55 a 402 a/c

DM

Transferred to
A/C on 2nd file

35. Treasury 14 June 55
States that £1000 has been transferred from the C.D.F.
to the C.A.'s A/c in respect of first instalment of loan
for Swal Decorticating Machine Scheme.

no. 32.

Treasury have notified issue of
£1000 (on 402/35 A/c). I submit
dkt for consen to Gov. informing him
of the issue & enclosing copies of the
rel. notes for inform.

I learn from S. A. that they
have now paid the £1000 receipt
from the Treasury. ~~no reply to 32 is~~
required

* 28/6/55

I have
19/6/55
E. Green 29/6

E. Green
28/6

36 To Kenya, 490 (1/15 32 + 34 formal) 3 JUL 1955

also 1/15 32 open
36

37. Brown Agents 14 July 55

Encls. 2 copies of agreement with the Hydraulic Engineering
Co Ltd regarding the loan of £5,000. States that first instalment has
been advanced to the Company & Presumes Kenya Govt. will be
informed accordingly.

? copy of 1 copy of the Agreement
to C.A.F. Kenya. Cf. Ref.
36.

Account Dept to see
(A. Brown) 11/7/55
Director
" Jovi

To Kenya, 542 (1/15 37 + 1 copy agreement) A/1
25-11-1955

JM

seen 39. To Capt. A. R. Mangnall (50) - cons - 25 July 55
40. Capt. A. R. Mangnall (50) 26 July 55
requests that 200 swal leaves may be obtained from S. E.
& states they will meet all charges in connection therewith.

41. To O.A.C. Gold Coast Adm. cons - 27 July 55

Mr. Stott
? You will tell Captain Mangnall
what has been done
Mr. Director,

done. You are sending a telegram to the
Gold Coast to change cold storage to 'banana
storage room'. Green swal leaves of frozen

not completely.

They might just be in the 'meal room'
instead of in the recreation room because
of change in a cool temperature

J. A. Starkdale

Td. was sent yesterday. Attach - put by

30
Starkdale
31

42 To O.A.C. Gold Coast Tel 110 — 30 July 55

43 To Capt. Mangnall (S.O.) - 1400 word — 30 July 55
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

R80 (encl. 4) 41 44

R293 (encl. 3) 44

44 O.A.C. Gold Coast Tel 95 — 13 Aug. 55
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

States that social leaves were shipped on the Atoka
on 11th August.

in reply to Capt. Mangnall as to
draft here with Capt. Pennington
14. P.S.

Starkdale
wct

To Capt. A.R. Mangnall 2/6 15/8/55

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

46. Capt. A.R. Mangnall (S.O.) — 24 Aug. 55
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE No 45. States that he will write when everything is ready
for the mail to Chester, that the new conveyor is satisfactory

The Stockdale

To me (I have made no
promise!) & put by

Starkdale
27/8 wct

The Director,

For I. R. I'm prepared to go if
you will when the imitation comes. I think it
would be useful to see the machine complete,
in case there are any further difficulties

J. A. Starkdale
28/7

Sen. Putby

Starkdale

47. Capt. Mangnall 2/6 29 Aug. 55
Request further shipment of leaves

48 Tel. No 129 to Gov. G. Coast 2 Sept 55
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

R80 (encl. 4) JM

49. O.A.C. Gold Coast Tel. 105 — 10 Sept. 55.
Social leaves shipped to Sierra 8th Sept.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE I have told Mr. Stockdale, who will inform
Capt. Mangnall.

This afternoon Mr. Alexander Hamilton, f

Mitchell Cotts, telephoned to say that the machine referred to in No 10 is now in Kenya, & to ask that we should invite Govt to watch its performance & submit a report. Mr. Hamilton is calling on Friday at 3-0 pm. to elaborate the story.

B.v. to me on Friday morning

Hamilton
10/9
etc

Mr. Stockdale.

Mr. Alexander Hamilton called this afternoon bringing with him Mr. A. F. Procter; they are both partners in the firm of Mitchell Cotts, who are the accredited agents of Messrs. James F. Low and Company, with whom we had correspondence at Nos. 10 and 11 on this file.

The new decorticator of which Messrs. Low hold the patents is known as the Hollier machine. It is designed as a portable unit mounted on a truck, with Dunlop pneumatic tyres, which also carries the power unit of 16 - 21 h.p. The weight of the whole outfit is about 30 cwts; its output is estimated at about 2 tons a day of ten hours and its cost will be roughly £800 plus a royalty on each ton produced. The system employed, so far as I

was able to understand it from the not very lucid descriptions given me, involves the use of two rollers revolving at different speeds, armed with rows of teeth or needles of varying thickness. It is claimed that treatment in this machine involves little or no wastage of fibre from the butt end of the leaf and no water is required for washing the decorticated fibre.

One of the Hollier machines is already in operation on Grant's estate at Kitale next to Bibby's sisal estate. (It will be recalled that Messrs. Bibby have ordered one of the new Mangnall machines). Mr. Procter is going out by the aeroplane of September 29th to see for himself how the machine is working.

The real object of Mr. Hamilton's visit was to seek confirmation of what we had already told Messrs. Low (No. 11 on the file); namely, that any scheme for the large scale financing of purchase by sisal estates of new machinery would not necessarily be limited to the Mangnall machines. I told him that the large scale scheme was at present more or less in abeyance, but that I had no doubt that, if and when it was revived by the Kenya Government at the instance of the local sisal growers, it would be applicable to any type of machinery which had proved its worth.

I suggested to Mr. Procter that he should get into touch with Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell, Chairman of the Kenya Sisal Growers' Association, and with someone in the Agricultural Department, e.g. Mr. H. Wolfe, whom he has already met in London. I further promised that we would

notify

notify Government of his arrival with some reference to the purpose of his visit.

Messrs. Low and Mitchell Cotts have been keeping their plans very much to themselves. They have not taken Mr. Wigglesworth into their confidence; nor has Mr. Anderson been consulted. There is apparently no specification, drawing or photograph of the Hollier machine available for our inspection.

They asked me various questions about the performance, etc., of the Mangnall machine; I declined to furnish the information, pointing out that we should observe a similar discretion as regards passing on to the Hydraulic Engineering Company anything that I might have gleaned from our talk this afternoon.

We might, I think, write as in draft herewith by next week's Air Mail. The despatch is deliberately diffident in asking for reports on the machine, in view of what the opponent told us in No. 7.

J. B. Denton
13.9.35.

I have taken out the word comparative in para 3, as for the inventor's minute about the two machines are so different in character that it will be very difficult to compare the results obtained from them.

The Hollier machine is an attempt to solve the problem of a light weight portable machine. I inspected the D'Arville machine designed for the same purpose when I was in France in May. It should bear the claims of its makers even as at X in the inventor's

minute, but on my inspection I found that the machine would not produce despatched film of commercial quality. Several changes in the construction were suggested & since I understand how much has been made, but even now it has not been possible to deal with the butt ends of the cores without wastage of film and it has been demonstrated that waste of the washing of the despatched film is necessary. Anyone who claims that he can produce prime aerial film without washing I must frankly say that I would not believe him. I therefore advise caution with the parties interested in the Hollier machine.

To Stockdale

14/9

Interesting. There seems to be a good prospect of the Mangnall machine proving sound. There will of course be other machines with various claims to greater efficiency and they may work. There is room for lots of them.

J. B. Denton
14.9.

By air mail
27/9/35 - 58

20 Kenya, 741 — copy 17 SEP 1935

Mr. Stockdale

We visited the Hydraulic Engineering Co. works at Chester on Saturday & you may care to record your impressions of the new

decorticator (I understand from Capt. Rangell
that it is to be shipped to Major Gage
at Taveta by a steamer leaving Liverpool
on Thursday 3rd Oct; that it will be
accompanied by a foreman, & that Capt.
H. himself will be going out later).

J. A. Shinkale
30/9.

Certain changes have been made
in the design of the new model of the Magnall
machine in order to provide for chain con-
veyors of the leaves through the decortivating
drums instead of the rope conveyors which had
previously been found to have been unsatis-
factory. The "change over" of the fibre from
one chain grip to another has been ingeniously
arranged and springs have been adopted to take
up automatically the slack in the smaller chain.

Enquires were made as to what might
happen to any parts of the machinery if the
conveyor chains broke. Steps have been taken
to safeguard against broken ends of chains
getting to the decortivating drums and it
is to be hoped that the provision made against
a chain breakage is adequate.

Sisal leaves were decorticated
without the use of water in our presence and
the fibre which came from the machine was very
clean indeed. I have never seen such good
decortication with leaves three weeks old.
The decortication is done on both sides of
the leaf, as four drums have been provided
instead of the two common to the Krupp or

Robey

Robey machines. This enables a wider setting of
the decorticators and results in less cutting of
fibre in the leaves. Some loss of fibre was
noticed but too much account should not be attached
to this as the leaves used were, as stated above,
three weeks old. Provision has been made for access
to the blades of the decorticators and special
arrangements have been made to prevent fibre from
being caught up in the links of the chain. The
crushing rollers have also been changed to some extent
and the decorticator has been provided with a "feed
conveyor" chain and tables for the receipt of the
leaves. The leaves are fed in singly on the
"feed conveyor" and it is calculated by the makers
that with this conveyor, if kept fully fed, an
output of four tons of dry fibre per day of ten
hours should be possible.

The whole machine is a good job and one
can only hope that it will be successful. Care
and thought have obviously been given to its
construction.

J. A. Shinkale

2nd October, 1935.

Sac. C. D. H. }
Dr. H. } to see
Sir C. Boothby } + put by
3/10/35. }
J. A. Shinkale
3/10 alt

Yes: we have told Kenya it will be shipped about now
(para 3 of 50) as this is no need to say more. They will report
progress in due course.

J. A. Shinkale
3/10

See West 5.10

AM

51. J. Macrae - S.O. 4. 10. 35

(Draws diagram of the Hollier deconstructer
& furnish name of the firm concerned.)

52. TO J. Macrae (S.O. 1st) 9. 10. 35.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

53. C.A. (L/C 54) } 11. 10. 35
TO }
54. Trans. } 402 c/c.

Mr. Hamilton of Messrs Low & Mitchell Cotts and Mr. Gowens (?) came in to see Mr. Freeston and myself yesterday. Mr. Gowens (an engineer) had recently been out to Kenya and he was able to give the latest information regarding the Hollier machine. The first tests made on Mr. Grant's estate at Kitale were encouraging, but certain structural changes had to be made. The new parts required to effect these changes had been made and were being sent out to Kenya. A second machine with the modifications mentioned above was also under construction and would be shipped to Kenya. Sisal interests in French West Africa were also interested in the machine and it was expected that one would be ordered for trial in that area. Higher engine power would be needed than was at first anticipated for the high altitudes of Kenya. It was proposed to replace the 16 B.H.P. engine by one of 28 B.H.P.

Drawings and photographs were shown of the machine and some specimens of fibre which had been produced. The samples submitted were stated to have been unwashed and unbrushed. They were of good quality and of reasonably good colour. As far as one could judge by artificial

artificial light the fibre was slightly greenish but it compared very favourably with dry fibre obtained from other machines. A percentage yield of 2.2% of dry fibre was obtained in the tests and it was stated that another .4% could be secured if a second drum attachment were made for treating the butt ends.

We were informed confidentially that the cost of the machine and engine would be in the neighbourhood of £800, but that it was likely that machines would not be sold but supplied on a hire basis with royalty on the fibre produced from them.

We were further informed that the performance of the first test machine had created considerable interest in the Colony and that its prospects seemed to be sufficiently promising to warrant Messrs Low & Mitchell Cotts exercising their option. On this point a decision had to be come to within a week or so.

It was mentioned that supplies of fresh leaves were required for tests on machines as constructed in this country and Mr. Freeston promised to arrange for leaves from the Gold Coast to be supplied if required as was done for Mr. Mangnall.

F. A. Sheldale

17th October, 1935.

Purdy

Sheldale
17 Oct

R80berke 51.

R299 52

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

55. H. B. Waters (Conf.) - S.O. - 28.9.35.

States that he will report regarding the "Hollis" decorations as soon as he gets information as to the trials. Adds that if the trials are successful, Mess Mitchell, Cotts & Co. intend to apply for financial help from the C. D. F.

19
56 Mitchell Collier Co Ltd (Alex. Hamilton) — 1-11-35
Ards to be supplied with, say, three parcels of
Sisal leaves at intervals. Provisional method of
despatch agrees to pay charges involved.

This is in pursuance of a promise
made to Mr. A. Hamilton by Mr.
Stockdale & myself at the discussion
on 17th Oct. (recorded above).

Ships leave Acra on 10 Nov
& fortnightly thereafter.

D. L.

A. Hamilton
2/11.

57 Tel to Gov. Gold Coast, No. 179 ^{cons.}
(Recoverable) 2/11/35

~~Ards branch for action
on 57~~

~~Ref to cables Nos
57, 58, 56.~~

~~58 To Alexander Hamilton (cfr 57) dtd 6/11/35~~

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

~~59 Alex. Hamilton —~~

~~7. 11. 35~~

~~Ards. (58) states that he awaits note of cost
advice as to shipment received of the three lots
of sisal leaves~~

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

(Rec 59 cont.)

60 O.A.B. Gold Coast - Tel. 140 - 7.11.35

State that Sial shipment is being made on 10th Nov., 20th Nov., & 8th Dec.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Please aft s.o. for my sig.
E. Th. Hamilton telling him the name of the ships and the date & port of arrival in the U.K.

J.P. Hamilton
8/11/35

To Alexander Hamilton s/o 12/11/35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Gen. Kempa. 926 Cons. 12th Nov. 35.

Action for recovery of cost of
No. 57 also taken on 5/11/35
J.P. Hamilton

Accs branch for
No. 57

4.6 copies
No. 57, 55

56.59

63 A. Hamilton 13.11.35

State that he is writing to Elder Dempster's transits a note of all the changes.
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To C.O.A.C. (w/c 62) B/16 25/11/35

65 A. Hamilton 3.12.35

Reports that through faulty packing the leavers & the "abosso" have rotted some water. Requests that a cable be sent at their expense regarding the shipment on the 8th Dec. asking for two further lots goods differently.

D.H., after speaking to you.

In the circus, we need hardly recover

the cost of this tel, as I will so inform

X Th. Hamilton in sending him a copy
J.P. Hamilton
4/12

To Gov. G.C. Tel no 205 - 4.12.35

In direction
made on 10/12/35
action at 2
R80 repeated

To A. Hamilton (w/c 66) s/o 10/12/35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

68 Gov. Gold Coast - No. 695 - 13.12.35

Reports that the shipment of seal leavers which left Accra on 10.11.35 received similar treatment to that accorded previous shipments & that enquiries are being made from Elder Dempster's. Adds that special care is being taken regarding the shipment on 22.12.35 & 5.1.36.

Staff to: The Hamilton Transit
C.P. Ross with
8/1/36

69 To A. Hamilton s/o 11/1/36

70 A. Hamilton 13.1.36

Reports that the 2nd & 3rd shipments of leavers have arrived in poor condition. Refers to a request for two further shipments & gives instructions regarding packing.

Mr Hamilton doesn't say the date on which he wrote to Mr Stockdale.

It is possible that the cables arrived too late for Mr Stockdale to make any arrangements about the packing of the consignment sent from Accra on the 5th January

? Put by C.P. Ross with
15/1/36

J.P. Hamilton
15/1 at Accra

71 Crown Agents

13.1.36

Encs. copy letter from the Strachan Engineering Co. regarding as to payment of the final instalment of £500 in respect of the new model Sial Decorticating Machine.

In accordance with Clause 2 of the Agreement of 25 June 1935 (See No. 3) on the file) the final instalment of £500 cannot be paid until a report has been received from the Secretary that the machine has been installed. - (The report will be sent to the S.G.S.) We must tell C.A. as soon as the report arrives. C.A. Forsythe
Wait. 17.1.36

J.J. Cassin
2/1
at once

72 Gov. Galt Coast - No. 440 -

20.1.36

Reports that owing to an oversight its good leaves on board the "Albatross" were stored in the parcel room instead of in cool storage.

Is it worth passing this information on to Mr Hamilton, or shall we wait for him to call as whether the consequences of the 22 Dec. & S.G.S. journey arrived in good condition?

C.A. Forsythe
17/1/36

No. 70

NB

72. Pass on the information to Mr. Hamilton.

71. Now tell Gov. that the C.A. have read an application from the Gov. for the payment of the final instalment of £500, & ~~also~~ remind them that this cannot be paid until the Gov. has reported that the machine has been installed.

a def. is now in, saying that the machine has been installed.

14/1

J.J. Cassin
2/2
at once

73 To A. Hamilton

210

18/2/36

Gov. Byrnie - No. 30 - 17.1.36

~~DESTROYED UNDER SEAT~~

The decorticating machine has now been installed at Taveta Estate vis working on commercial production.

75 6A final instalment of £500. 6. 2. 36

No there has been some delay

C.A. should pay the £500 - the last instalment - at once.

It can be claimed from the Treasury afterwards.

Submit Draft C.A. Forsythe
to C.A. 20/2/36

Action is being taken on 10/1/36

cl. 2 of the agreement (No. 3) provides for this final payment "within seven days after the receipt by the C.A. of a report from the Govt. that the machine has been installed"; the report has been in the C.O. for nearly a fortnight, so it is clearly right to tell the C.A. to pay "as soon as possible".

J.J. Cassin
2/2

76 26 L. A. — 71 Arrsd: — 21 FEB 1936

77 A. Hamilton — 19-2-36

Comments regarding the passing of road
leaves represent a visit to Mr D. Prokin.

Mr Strickdale

Please see Nos. 65, 66
(2 & 7) on the file

Did you by any chance hear of
this matter at Accra?

C. A. Foxworth
26/2/36

Yes and I discussed the matter with the
Director of Agriculture and his officers. A mistake
was made in regard to the shipment on the
above but those which were subsequently sent
on the opapa were carried in the cool room
in which bananas were being carried. I saw
this shipment at Takoradi and it showed
upon arrival through satisfactorily as the
shipment was made in conditions similar
to those under which others for the Charles
Hydraulic had been made successfully.

When Mr Hamilton comes to see you, I would
be glad if he might be asked to come and
see me.

Mr Strickdale
27/2

Mr Strickdale:

Mr Hamilton called by appointment on
Wednesday. He hadn't time to go on to
you, but will ring you up with a

visit to an appointment later on. He wishes
to discuss affairs in W. Africa.

The object of his call was to enquire
into the procedure for applying for a grant from
the C.D.A.C. He explained that the two
machines wh. had been sent out to
Kenya had not been entirely satisfactory.
They had made some "improvements" wh.
turned out to be not improvements,
they are thrown back again on trying
to remedy the defects in the original machine.
He is quite satisfied that the principle of
the machine is right; that being
portable & comparatively inexpensive
(especially on their proposed buying
arrangements) it wd. be a great
 boon to the smaller growers in the
Colony. But the necessary improvements
will take time & money. He personally
thought that the manufacturers had
been a little precipitate. He thought
that they shd go slowly until they are
quite satisfied that the thing is all
right. This, he suggested, accounts for
our not having had a report on
the working of the machines from the
Gov. & their local experts who are
looking after the machines in Kenya
have been instructed not to encourage
impatience, either by the Gov. or by
potential users until the thing is

working properly.

I explained the working of the C.D.F., & told him that my application wd. have to be submitted ~~to~~ through & backed by the Gov. of Kenya. I warned him that the C.D.A.C., having already recommended a grant for desert-irrigating machinery, wd. no doubt need a good deal of convincing before recommending another.

My general impression was that they wd. probably not apply for a grant, but if they do they will approach the Gov. direct through their local representatives.

As regards No 77, he had heard that the last consignment of beans from the S.C. had arrived in very much better condition.

This can not be put by.

J.J. Cassin

7/3

at once.

Seen. Thank you

F. H. Hirdale
7/3

78. Hamilton

510

16 Mar 1956

Repts on condition of latest consignments, & considered. There is no need for further shipments from W. Africa.

In view of Nos 66 & 68 I don't think any further consignments will be sent from Accra, but I'll be on the safe side we might telegraph ^{to Gov. Fed. Const.} & ask that no further consignments be sent.

Attermill

20/3/56

I doubt the necessity to telegraph. Nos 66 & 68 were quite definite as to the number of consignments required.

I express regret that the last consignment was again unsatisfactory, & note that they do not require any more from W. A. for the present.

J.J. Cassin
20/3

These consignments have never been shipped in the hold of the ship and the turning of the beans at the top to a black colour is to be expected. We can however, express regret that the consignment on the Accra did not come up to expectations.

F. H. Hirdale
22/3

79. To Hamilton (58 Accra) (5/6) +

1056

180 beans 19/3/56

C. O.

38022/35: Kenya. 24

79

Mr. Pashin 4/3/36

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

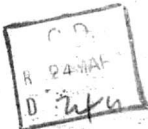
Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



25 MAR 1936

In my sig.

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

We were sorry to learn from your letter of the 16th of March that the consignment of sisal leaves in the "Acacia" did not arrive in good condition. I note that you do not require any more from W. Africa for the present.

Yours very truly
(Sd) J. Pashin

DRAFT.

Alexander Hamilton Esq.

FURTHER ACTION.

28027/51 15
78

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES { FOREIGN: NONPAREIL, LONDON.
INLAND: NONPAREIL, STOCK, LONDON.
CODES: BENTLEY'S, (FIRST & SECOND), SCOTT'S, BROOKHALL'S, A.B.C. (ALL EDITIONS), WESTERN UNION.
TELEPHONE NO LONDON WALL 4731 (FIVE LINES)

MITCHELL COTTS & CO LIMITED.

DIRECTORS
R. C. MITCHELL COTTS L. G. Dann.
ALEXANDER HAMILTON J. M. Donald.
A. F. PROCTER, C.A.

LONDON & CARDIFF.

AGENCIES
PORT SUDAN AND COLOMBO.

Agents for

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (SOUTH AFRICA) LTD
CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON.
JOHANNESBURG, LOURENÇO MARQUES, BEIRA.

WM. COTTS & CO LTD
DURBAN AND POINT, NATAL.

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (EAST AFRICA) LTD
MOMBASA, NAIROBI,
KITALE, KARAMEGA & DAR-ES-SALAAM.

DINGWALL COTTS & CO LTD
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Mr. Paskin,

3, St. Helen's Place.

London, E.C.3. 16th March 1936.

REFERENCES

Yours

Ours

A.H.

RECEIVED
7 APR 1936
C.C. REPLY

West African Sisal Leaves ex
s.s. "Accra".

Our friends in the North write us as follows :-

"We have to hand several bundles of West African Leaves ex "Accra" but, regret to report that these are not in good condition. The wrapping of this parcel is too tight around the leaves and the butt ends are enclosed.

As previously explained the lightest wrapping possible is sufficient.

The leaves are turning black at the points, and, in some of the bundles, are split along most of their length. This may be due to rough handling, but, the dryness suggests overheating in the hold of the vessel.

This parcel in no way compares with the leaves off the "ADDA" recently to hand."

The friends in West Africa still do not seem to have followed strictly the wishes expressed several times that these leaves should be lightly packed, only a few leaves per bundle and the ends left open so that the leaves are exposed. We are getting leaves from East Africa packed thus and they are arriving in much better

Answer (79)

J. J. Paskin Esq.

- 2 -

16th March 1936.

condition. However there seems no need for any more to come forward from West Africa at the moment, and I suggest that you kindly tell them so although they may probably have already stopped.

Yours very truly,

Alex Hamilton

J. J. Paskin Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.

27
77

38022 (in circ)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES: FOREIGN: NONPAREIL, LONDON
INLAND: NONPAREIL, STOCK, LONDON.

CODES: BENTLEYS, (FIRST & SECOND), SCOTTS, BROOMHALL'S, A.B.C. (ALL EDITIONS), WESTERN UNION.

TELEPHONE NO 9 LONDON WALL 4731 (FIVE LINES)

MITCHELL COTTS & CO LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:
R. C. MITCHELL COTTS, L. G. DARR,
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, J. M. DONALD,
A. F. PROCTER, C.A.

LONDON & CARDIFF.

AGENCIES
PORT SUDAN AND COLOMBO.

Agents For
MITCHELL COTTS & CO (SOUTH AFRICA) LTD
CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON,
JOHANNESBURG, LOURENCO MARQUES, BEIRA.

WM. COTTS & CO LTD
DURBAN AND PORT, NATAL.

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (EAST AFRICA) LTD
MOMBASA, NAIROBI,
KITALE, KAKAMEGA & OAR-EE-SALAAH.

DINGWALL COTTS & CO LTD
VANCOUVER, B.C.

3, St. Helen's Place.

RECEIVED
14 MAR 1936
C. O. REGY

London, E.C.3. 19th Feb. 1936.

REFERENCES:

Yours

Ours A.H.

RECEIVED
21 FEB 1936
C. O. REGY

Dear Mr. Paskin,

(73)
Thank you for your letter of yesterday, and I can quite understand the position with reference to the consignment of Sisal Leaves per "Abosso" in November last, but, unfortunately, practically every subsequent parcel has likewise arrived in poor condition, and I am sure the only thing to give these leaves a chance is to pack them, as I think we have said on several occasions, in small bundles of 10 to 12, with open ends.

Another parcel is on the point of being discharged in Liverpool from the "Adda" which arrived yesterday, and I do hope we shall hear that the condition of same is much better.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Hambley

P.S. I am anxious to meet you personally one day and hope this may be possible soon. I knew Mr. Freeston very well.

J. J. Paskin Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

C. O.

35022/35. P 18
1573 76

Mr. *Gravith* 2/7/36
Mr. *Palmer* 18/10
Mr. *Parkin* - 21
on Bond 21/10
Sir C. Parkinson.

C. O.
R. S. D.
21/10

Sir G. Tomlinson.
Sir C. Bottomley.
Sir J. Shuckburgh
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

21 February 1936.

Gentlemen. 583

DRAFT.

Comm Agent.

(71)

I am at to refer to your
communication of the 13th of January
(reference O/Kenya 80) and to
inform you that the owners
of Kenya ^{now} has reported that the
new model linal decorticating
machine supplied by the
Hydraulic Engineering Company,
Limited, has been installed
at Taveta Estate and is
working on commercial
production.

2. In accordance with the
terms of Clause 3 of
the Agreement dated

the

FURTHER ACTION.

Mr Stockdale to see
that it's at work. I have
it's doing well
J

The 20th of June, 1955,

The final instalment of
£500 of the loan of £3000
may now be paid to the
Hydraulic Engineering Co. Ltd.

I am accordingly to request
you to pay the sum of £500
to the Company from Kenya
funds, ^{as soon as possible.} ~~A formal~~

~~Application is being addressed~~
~~arrangements are being made for~~
~~to the Treasury that the~~

final instalment (£500)
of the loan from the Colonial
Development Fund ^{is} may be
transferred to your account
at the Bank of England
for credit to the Govt. of
Kenya.

Lam etc.

(Signed) J. E. W. FLOOD

Accie

Mr. Allis

Shore to E.A. Dept
for file 3802/33
8/2/36 + 1
on 12/2/36 75 29

The East African Department,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

RECEIVED
for entry
17 JAN 1936
C. O. REG.

With reference to our minute of the 14th
January (Colonial Office reference 402/ A/cs.) regarding
the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model
Sisal Decorticating Machine, I enclose for your information
copy of a further letter from the Hydraulic Engineering
Co.Ltd.

29.1.36

We have informed the firm that we are in
communication with you ^{and} we shall await advice either
from yourselves or the Kenya Government before paying the
final instalment of the loan.

W96

W. S. Lambert

"O" Department,
Crown Agents' Office,
3rd February, 1936
Gth.

COPY

THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING CO. LTD.

CHESTER,

29th January, 1936.

Gentlemen,

With reference to our letter of the 9th inst. which you kindly acknowledged on the 13th inst. our Managing Director has now returned home from Kenya and informs us that the Director of Agriculture on January 9th in Nairobi, gave instructions for a letter to be sent home that day by Air Mail notifying you officially that the machine had been completely installed and therefore the final balance of £500 had become due.

We are unaware if this letter was sent by the Director of Agriculture direct to you or to the Colonial Office.

Yours faithfully,

THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED,

(Signed) Charles C. Dutton.

Secretary.

73

C. O.

Adhams 13/2/36

Mr. Burt 14/2/36

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

14 17

A.O. for Mr. Paskin's signature

February 1936.

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

DRAFT.

(10)

Alexander Hamilton, Esq.

with reference to your letter of the 13th of January ¹⁹³⁶ the Governor of the Gold Coast has now written to say that he understands from Messrs. Alder Dempster ~~that~~ that, through an oversight on board the M.V. Abosso, the consignment of seal leaves which left Accra on the 10th of November was stored in the parcel room of ~~the vessel~~ instead of in the cold storage accommodation.

This would account for the condition of the leaves on arrival in England.

Yours sincerely,
 (Signed) J. J. PASKIN.

FURTHER ACTION.

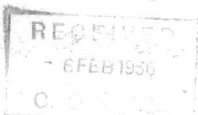
GOLD COAST.



22
32
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ACCRA.

NO. 40

20th January, 1936.



Sir,

(68)
With reference to Sir Arnold Hodson's despatch No. 695 dated the 13th December, 1935 on the subject of the shipment of sisal leaves consigned to Messrs Mitchell Cotts and Company by the steamer which left Accra on the 10th November, 1935, I have the honour to inform you that Messrs Elder Dempster Lines Limited have reported that, owing to an oversight on board m.v. "Abosso", the consignment was stowed in the parcel room instead of the cool storage accommodation. This would account for the condition of the leaves on arrival in England.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

John London

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

The Right Honourable

J. H. THOMAS, P.C., M.P.,

&c., &c., &c.

*Not Alkes
Acc*

Revised 71
then shined 33
be required
on Debt pp
upon which
believe we
also the Gov
for the Report
in due time

The East African Department,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

38022

*Copy up to
(53)*

9. 1. 36.

With reference to Colonial Office letter No.402 A/cs of the 11th October, I attach a copy of a letter from the Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd. regarding the construction and installation in Kenya of new model Sisal Decorticating Machine.

You will no doubt advise us at once should you receive from the Government a report to the effect that the machine has been installed in order that the final instalment of the loan may be paid.

Johnston

"O" Department,
Crown Agents' Office.

13th January, 1936.

Amx-76

*Green
15/1*

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.
TO CROWN AGENTS.

Chester,

9th January, 1936.

Gentlemen,

With reference to our agreement in connection with the construction and instalment of new model Sisal Decorticating Machine, we are pleased to advise you that we have today received a cable from our Managing Director, Captain Mangnall, and we give below copy of this:-

"Machine in daily production on satisfactory output quality equal premium grade Java low waste".

2. As the final instalment of £500 becomes due after a report has been received from the Government of Kenya that the machine has been actually installed on the sisal estate, we shall be pleased to hear if you are now in a position to favour us with a remittance for this amount.

Yours faithfully,

THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED?

(Signed) ?

General Manager and Director.

m.f.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES: { FOREIGN: NONPAREIL, LONDON.
INLAND: NONPAREIL, STOCK, LONDON.
CODES: BENTLEYS, (FIRST & SECOND), SCOTTS, BROOKHALL'S, A.B.C. (ALL EDITIONS), WESTERN UNION.
TELEPHONE N° LONDON WALL 4731 (FIVE LINES)

MITCHELL COTTS & CO LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:
R. C. MITCHELL COTTS, L. G. DANA,
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, J. M. DONNAN,
A. F. PROCTER, C.A.

LONDON & CARDIFF.

AGENTS
PORT SUDAN AND COLONORO.

Agents for

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (SOUTH AFRICA) LTD
CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON,
JOHANNESBURG, LOURENCO MARQUES, BEIRA.

W. H. COTTS & CO LTD,
DURBAN AND POINT NATAL.

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (EAST AFRICA) LTD
MOMBASA, NAIROBI,
KITALE, KARAKESA & DAR-ES-SALAAM.

DINGWALL COTTS & CO LTD
VANCOUVER, B. C.

3, St. Helen's Place,

London, E.C.3. 13th Jan. 1936.

REFERENCES:

YOURS _____
OURS A.H.

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Sisal Leaves.

Thank you very much for your letter of the 11th instant.

I regret to say that, also, the second and third lots arrived in poor condition. A fourth lot (which is probably the 22nd December parcel) came to hand last week, but we have not yet heard how ~~the~~ turned out. I do trust that shipped on the 5th January will be better because, apart from the delay and inconvenience involved, there is the expense, which will have gone for nothing.

As arranged with Mr. Freeston before he left I wrote a personal letter to Mr. Stockdale and suggested that still two more lots should come packed strictly as strongly recommended by the people concerned, namely in small bundles of 10 to 12 leaves only, covered with hessian but with open ends. If that is done and if the Shipowners watch the question of stowage there is a much better chance of arriving in good condition.

I am in any case obliged for the trouble taken by your office.

Yours sincerely,

Alas Family

S. M. Campbell Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

169

165

C. O.

Mr. Grosvenor 1/1/36
Mr. Campbell 8/7
Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.
Sir G. Tomlinson
Sir C. Bottomley.
Sir J. Shuckburgh
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

3802/35
R 9-JAN
D 10

To Mr Campbell's
Signature.

11 January 1936

Dear Mr Hamilton,

We have now heard

from the foreman of the
Nod Coast in regard to
the signal shipped from
Accra on the 10th of
November last.

The foreman writes
He says

"as the consignment received
precisely similar treatment,
locally, to previous
consignments which are
reported to have arrived
in good condition, enquiries
are being made of firm
Messrs Elder Dempster
Lines Limited as to
whether any change
occurred in the shipping
arrangements in respect
of this particular lot.
Special care is being
exercised

DRAFT.

Alexander Hamilton

about which Mr Foxton
(who has now left this
Office) wrote to you on
the 10th of December.

(67)

FURTHER ACTION.

exercised in respect of
current and future shipments.

The latter will be made on

the 22nd of December, 1935

and the 5th of January, 1936.

It is to be hoped that these two consignments
will arrive in good condition.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) S. M. CAMPBELL.

37 68

GOLD COAST.

Kenya
38022/35



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ACCRA.

13th December, 1935.

NO. 695

RECEIVED
- 6 JAN 1935
C. O. REGY

Sir,

(10)

I have the honour to refer to your telegram No. 205 dated the 4th December, 1935 on the subject of the shipment of sisal leaves consigned to Messrs Mitchell Cotts and Company by the steamer which left Accra on the 10th November.

2. As the consignment received precisely similar treatment, locally, to previous consignments which are reported to have arrived in good condition, enquiries are being made from Messrs Elder Dempster Lines Limited as to whether any change occurred in the shipboard arrangements in respect of this particular lot.

3. Special care is being exercised in respect of current and future shipments. The latter will be made on the 22nd December 1935 and 5th January, 1936.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Samuel Holman

The Right Honourable

J. H. THOMAS, P.C., M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.

ES

C. O.

C. D.
R 4-52
52

38022/35

N 297

66³⁸

Mr. ~~Frank~~ 12/12
Mr. Creamy 4/12/35

Kenn

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

at en.

Codes of Ser
5.0 p.m.
11-12-35
M.A.

ans 0.68

150

60)

No 302 You let. 140.

DRAFT. Tel.

For Area

Recipients complain that
beams arrived rotten and
ask that special care
be taken ~~with future lots~~ regards packing
and storage of next
consignment. They request
also that two further lots
may be sent after
shipment of 8th Dec.
I suggest you refer to

copy to A. Hamilton (67)

FURTHER ACTION.

Stockdale if available.

SEGER.

39
65

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES { FOREIGN: NONPAREIL, LONDON.
INLAND: NONPAREIL, STOCK, LONDON.
CODES: BENTLEYS, (FIRST & SECOND), SCOTT, BROOMHALLS, A.B.C. (ALL EDITIONS), WESTERN UNION.

TELEPHONE N° LONDON WALL 4731 (FIVE LINES)

MITCHELL COTTS & CO LIMITED.

DIRECTORS
R. C. MITCHELL COTTS
ALEXANDER HAMILTON
A. F. PROCTER, C.A.

LONDON & CARDIFF.

AGENCIES
PORT SUDAN AND COLOMBO.

Agents for

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (SOUTH AFRICA) LTD
CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON.
JOHANNESBURG, LOURENCO MARQUES, SEIRA.

WM. COTTS & CO LTD
DURBAN AND PORT, NATAL.

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (EAST AFRICA) LTD
MOMBASA, NAIROBI,
KITALE, KAKAMEGA & GAR-ES-SALAAH.

DINGWALL COTTS & CO LTD
VANCOUVER, B.C.

RECEIVED
12 DEC 1935
C. O. REQY

3, St. Helen's Place.

London, E.C.3. 3rd Dec. 1935.

REFERENCES:

YOURS
OURS A.H.

Dear Mr. Freeston,

Referring to your letter of the 12th November the manufacturers of the machine-write as follows :-

"Sorry to tell you the leaves ex the "Abosso" are of no value to us. They have rotted by being conveyed in a sack. We have again to repeat the request we have made several times, that in sending leaves they should be sent two bundles at a time, not more than 12 leaves per bundle, wrapped in hessian with both ends left open, the leaves being loosely tied, and the consignment should be kept in a damp place on board ship.

If the other two consignments from West Africa are on the way in sacks they will arrive here in the same condition.

From what we have seen, the leaves appear to us to have been fully better than what we have seen from East Africa, and they are certainly longer, averaging about 5 feet. We are very disappointed they have not been given to us in a usable condition, as they could have been tried out on the two machines that are to go forward by the "Director" from Liverpool 5th inst."

L. B. Freeston Esq.

- 2 -

3rd Dec. 1935.

This is disappointing. I never thought of saying anything about the packing because you have had these home before, and again the intrinsic characteristics of West African Sisal might have been different from East African. Would you mind now, however, sending another cable, again at our expense, with reference to the lot that is to leave on the 8th December, *and* asking them in the circumstances to send two further lots, but packed differently, and to have also the stowage on board ship most carefully watched. *

Many thanks, sorry to trouble you again.

Yours sincerely,

Alb. Stansfeld

* *refer that on the 8th*

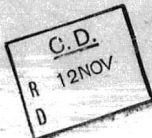
L. B. Freeston Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

C. O.

- Mr. Harvey 7/11
- Mr. ~~Allen~~ 7/11
- Mr. Palmer
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

Annul
74

Mr. Harvey



12 November 1935

DRAFT.

Kenya
No. 926
Govr.

(13424)
(36)

Sir,

with further reference to my predecessors despatches No. 236⁴⁹⁰ of the ~~1st~~^{30th} of April 1935 regarding a loan from the Colonial Development Fund to your Government in connection with the construction installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine. I have to inform you that the Crown Agents for the Colonies were ^{informed} by the Hydraulic Engineering Co. that the machine was forwarded for shipment by the s.s. "Colonial," which, it is understood, sailed on Saturday the 5th of October 1935. In view of this information, in accordance with the terms

(14)
copy to S.D.A.B.

(1490w 402%)

FURTHER ACTION.

copies for 2/ks.
- CAB

terms

expressed of clause 1 of the agreement between the Crown Agents and the Company, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my despatch No 542 of the 22nd (38) of July 1935; the second instalment of £1,000 was issued to the Crown Agents, for payment to the Company, (151 on 402%) the 13th of October, 1935 & the third instalment, amounting to £500, due to be paid one month after the sailing of the vessel, was issued on the 24th November 1935. (159 on 402%)

2. The fourth, and final instalment is due to be paid ^{to the Company} within seven days after the receipt by the Crown Agents of your report from the Govt. that the machine has been installed. ^{large} ~~it would not~~ therefore, to request that you will ^{manage} ~~be~~ ⁱⁿ ~~due~~ ^{transmitted} ~~transmitted~~ ^{the} ~~request~~ ^{in due course} ~~in due course~~ ^{in order that} ~~the~~ ^{sum} ~~of~~ ^{£500, being the amount of the final instalment of the loan, may be issued to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.}

I have etc

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

C. O. R308
Mr. Franklin 2/11
Mr. Cream 2/11/35
Sir C. Parkinson. at once
Sir C. Tomlinson.
Sir C. Bottomley.
Sir J. Shuckburgh.
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

38022/39
Kewyn
ans D. 60

C. D. R 4-NOV D 44 57 42
Good at 2.30pm (with receipt slip) 2/11/35 W.G.

C. D. R 4-NOV D

DRAFT. Tel. (in reply slip) 49
Lyon Accra

No. 179. Your let. 105
grateful if similar arrangements could be made for shipment of sisal ~~leaves~~ in three lots of about 100 leaves each at fortnightly intervals consigned on parcels receipt ^{and CO} to MITCHELL COTTS who are well known to ELDER DEHPSTER and will refund all expenses Recountable

FURTHER ACTION.
AT 2 Dpt. to see.
10/11

Copy to Alexander Hamilton (49)

Copy in comp. diff.

43 76

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES { FOREIGN: NONPAREIL, LONDON.
INLAND: NONPAREIL, STOCK, LONDON
CODES: BENTLEY'S, (FIRST & SECOND), SCOTT'S, BROOKHALL'S, A.B.C. (ALL EDITIONS), WESTERN UNION.
TELEPHONE NO. LONDON WALL 4731 (FIVE LINES)

MITCHELL COTTS & CO LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:
R. C. MITCHELL COTTS
ALEXANDER HAMILTON
A. F. PROCTER, C.A.

LONDON & CARDIFF.

AGENCIES
PORT SUDAN AND COLONBO.

Agents for

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (SOUTH AFRICA) LTD
CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON,
JOHANNESBURG, LOURENCO MARQUES, BEIRA.

W. H. COTTS & CO LTD
DURBAN AND POINT NATAL.

MITCHELL COTTS & CO (EAST AFRICA) LTD
MOMBASA, NAIROBI,
KITALE, KARAMEGA & GAR-E-S-SALAH.

DINGWALL COTTS & CO LTD
VANCOUVER, B. C.

RECEIVED
28/11/35
C. O. REGD

3, St. Helen's Place.

London, E.C.3. 1st Nov. 1935.

REFERENCES:

YOURS.

OURS. A.H.

Dear Mr. Freeston,

I saw you a little distance off on Wednesday night at the Royal African Society Dinner ~~on Wednesday evening~~ but did not get near enough you to shake hands.

Sisal Leaves. We would like to take advantage of your kind offer, so you might write out by first mail to West Africa instructing, say, three lots (perhaps 100 leaves each) to be sent home at intervals under proper stowage by Elder Dempster steamers to London or Liverpool. These could go on what is known in Shipping circles as a Parcels Receipt, which is less expensive than a Bill of Lading, and should be consigned to our order. Then when the Parcels Receipt comes home to you, or direct to us, we will endorse the proper forwarding instructions on it, and will, of course, at the same time be glad to send you our cheque for charges involved.

Many thanks.

Yours very truly,

Alex Hamilton

L. B. Freeston Esq.,
The Colonial Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

54
44

11. October, 1935.

402 A/es

Sir,

With reference to the Treasury letter No.S.34609/0226 of the 23rd March, regarding a loan of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya in connection with the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine, I am directed by Mr. Secretary MacDonald to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury that an application, a copy of which is enclosed, has been received from the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the issue from the Fund of the second instalment of £1,000, in accordance with the conditions contained in clause 1 of the Agreement between the Crown Agents and the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited to whom the amount will be re-lent.

8. I am therefore to ask that, should their Lordships see no objection, the sum of £1,000 may be paid to the Crown Agents not later than the 12th instant

THE SECRETARY,
TREASURY.

for

for credit to the account of the Government of Kenya, in order that the necessary payment to the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited may be made on the due date.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd. N. Palmer

53
46

11 October, 1935.

402 A/es

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 8th October 1935 (No.0/Kenya 80) regarding a loan from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya in connection with the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine, I am directed by Mr. Secretary MacDonald to transmit to you a copy of a letter to His Majesty's Treasury asking that a second instalment of the loan amounting to £1,000 may be transferred to your account at the Bank of England for credit to the Government of Kenya.

2. I am to request that, on receipt of the amount, you will take the necessary steps to pay a like sum to the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited, Chester, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

Sga H Palmer

THE CROWN AGENTS

FOR THE COLONIES.

TELEGRAPHIC
ADDRESS, "SPORTS CLUB, PICCV,"
LONDON.

THE SPORTS CLUB,
ST JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W.1.

5147
TELEPHONE NO.
WHITENALL 10007

4th Oct 35

RECEIVED
for entry
28 NOV 1935
C.O. REGD

Dear Stockdale,

Here is a diagram
of the Hollies decorticator
as promised.

The name of the firm
is, Yambain, Lawson
Combe Barbour Ltd
Leeds!

I am going there at
once to get ahead
with my work.

Answer (52)

Please allow me to
express my thanks for
your assistance in
my research work.

Yours sincerely,

Jas. H. Coak

HOLLIER PATENT SISAL DECORTICATOR

48

J. Macrae

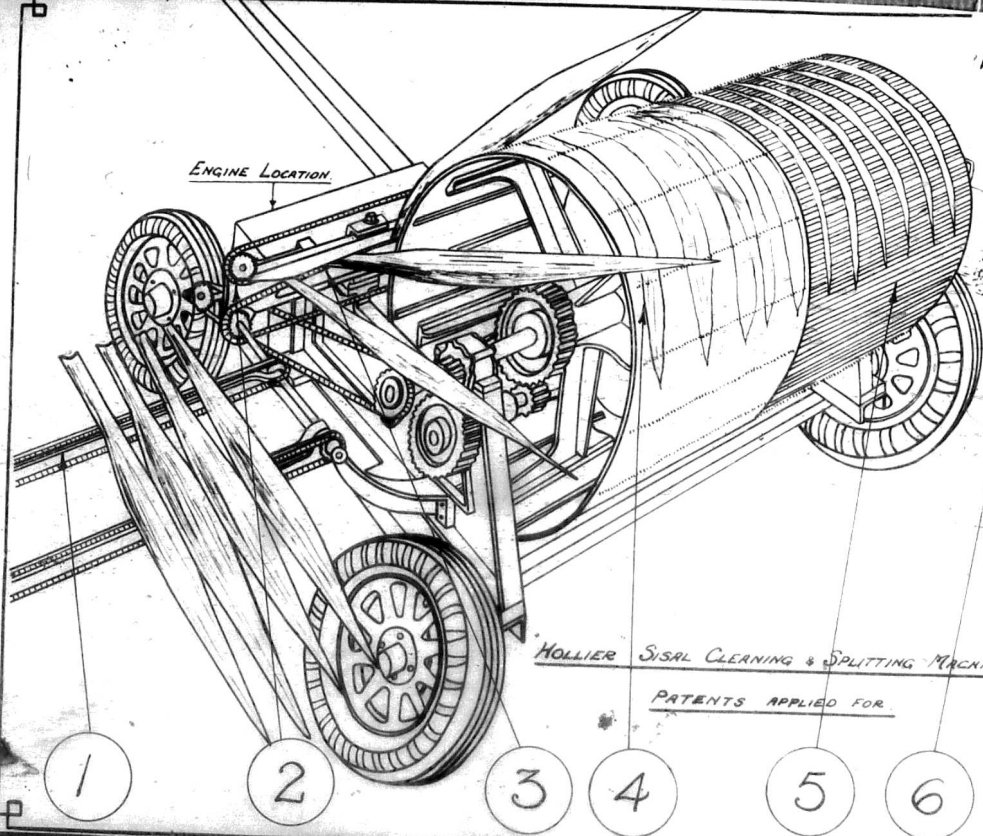
1. Is a conveyor or feed table.
2. is the opening of the feed mechanism consisting of an endless vice gripping the leaves at the extreme butt end and conveying them along the side of the drums.
3. is a double inclined plate which automatically raises the ends of the leaves perpendicularly as they are carried forward. They then come in contact with the pins on Drum No 4, which revolves very slowly and splits the leaves into fine strips, thus treating thick or thin leaves. This drum contains a mechanism for cleaning its pins at every revolution.
5. is a fast revolving drum containing hackles of varying fineness, which hackle, comb and split the fibre to any degree of fineness desired.
6. is the manner in which the fibre is delivered from the machine.

JAMES F. LOW & CO. LTD.

MONIFIETH FOUNDRY

MONIFIETH.

ENGINE LOCATION



HOLLIER SISAL CLEANING & SPLITTING MACHINE.

PATENTS APPLIED FOR.

1

2

3

4

5

6

C. O.

HD
Wg

50

Mr. Freeston. 14 9.35.

38022/35. Kenya.

Mr. Stokdale 14.9.35

Mr. Hood 14.9.35

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street.

17 September, 1935.

C.D.
R 16SEP
D 16^a

DRAFT.

Sir,

~~Sir~~

I have etc. to refer to

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister's despatch
No. 204 of the 21st March, transmitting
copy of correspondence with Messrs.
James F. Low and Company Limited on
the subject of a new machine for the
decortication of sisal, and to state
that I have now been approached by
representatives of Messrs. Mitchell
Cotts and Company, who are understood
to be the agents for ^{Messrs} James F. Low
in respect of this machine.

KENYA.

NO. 741

(14)

GOVERNOR.

FURTHER ACTION.

2. I understand that

Mr. A.F. Procter, a partner in the firm of
Messrs. Mitchell Cotts, proposes

to

to fly to Kenya by the aeroplane due to
 leave on September 29th, in connection with
 one of Messrs. Low's machines which has
 been installed at Grant's estate near
 Kitale. *It has been suggested to that he should*
~~Mr. Procter has been invited~~ *on arrival in Kenya*
 to place himself in touch with the Chairman

of the Sisal Growers' Association and with
 the Agricultural Department. I shall be
 interested to receive in due course any
 reports which you may be able to furnish in
 regard to the efficiency and performance of
 the machine.

3. I may add that it is understood
 from the Hydraulic Engineering Company of
 Chester that the improved decorticator
 perfected by Captain Mangnall with assistance
 from the Colonial Development Fund (see my
 despatch No. 542 of the 22nd July) will be
 shipped to Kenya by the end of the present

month. If it is possible for you to obtain
~~the~~ *efficiency and performance of these*
 data regarding these two types of
 machine, you will no doubt communicate them

to

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

to me in due course as I am
desirous of being kept closely in touch
 with the I have, etc.
position regarding
sisal decorticators.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

(38)

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

52.

47

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER."
CODES:
A.B.C. 6TH EDITION.
BENTLEY'S.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9384.
TELEGRAMS: HYDRONEST, PICCY, LONDON.



Chester, 31st. August 1935.



REFERENCES: YOURS
OURS

ARM/

F. A. Stockdale Esq. C.M.G., C.B.E.
2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Stockdale,

The leaves for which you kindly cabled the Gold Coast have arrived and are being very useful. They are in good condition and between 4'6" and 5 ft. long.

The machine is progressing very satisfactorily. The all important conveyor gear (now chain in place of ropes) gives a perfect grip on fibre and has been run for a considerable time and fulfills all requirements. I am determined not to be rushed this time and mean to test out every part as thoroughly as possible. As I shall not ship until the very end of September, there is time for a further batch of leaves if you could possibly get them for me. These would be used for a final run through after all previous testing and adjustment and immediately prior to dismantling.

The s.s. 'Accra' leaves the Gold Coast on Sept. 8th. and reaches Liverpool on Sept. 22nd.

I should be very grateful if you could arrange for a further supply exactly similar to the last.

Yours sincerely,

C. O.

Mr. ~~Fraser~~ 30/7
Mr. ~~Cream~~ 30/7/35

- Mr. Parkinson.
- Sir C. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Stuchburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

Kenya

C. O.
R 3100L
D 31

at use

Answered by No 449. 30/7/35
 Forward sent

DRAFT. Tel.

Gov. Accra

N^o. 110 My let. 107 for "cold
 storage" please read
 "banana storage room"

SECRET

FURTHER ACTION.

C. O.

O. D.
R 27 JUL
D 27

41 54

Mr. Weston 27/7

Mr.

Mr. Creamy 27.7.35 at once.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

H.C.

Answered by Nolt H

with sent

4:0 pm

27/7/35

WCS

No. 107 grateful if you

can arrange for shipment

in cold storage of APAPA

11th August of 200

freshly cut mature seed

leaves as large and

heavy as possible. Required

for experimental purposes

by ~~Est~~ Hydraulic

Engineering Co. Chester

DRAFT. Tel.

Hydraulic Dept for
Acacia

FURTHER ACTION.

to whom they should be consigned
and who will defray all charges

SECEP.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

40 55
TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER."
CODES:
A.B.C. 6th EDITION.
BENTLEYS.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9384.
TELEGRAMS: HYDRONEST, PICCY, LONDON.

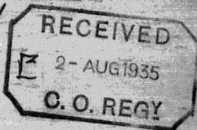


Chester 26th. July 1935.



REFERENCES: YOURS _____
OURS _____

ARM/



F. A. Stockdale Esq. C.M.G., C.B.E.
2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Stockdale,

Many thanks for your letter of the 25th. inst.
It is very kind indeed of you to help me in this matter.

I have ascertained that the Elder Dempster
Steamship 'Apapa' leaves the Gold Coast about August 11th.
and reaches Liverpool on August 25th. This is an ideal time
and, of course collection from Liverpool will be very simple
indeed.

Will you please ask for 200 freshly cut leaves
to be sent and state that these should be as long and as heavy
as possible.

We shall, of course, meet all charges in connec-
tion with their shipment.

I am sure you will be very glad to get away for a
few weeks at the end of this month, and I hope you will have a
very happy time.

Yours sincerely,

No 39
Award 40.
30 July 35

Announced by N 140

39 56

2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

25th July, 1935.

Dear Mangnall,

With reference to your telephone message two days ago, I have ascertained from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, that they could supply you with a few, possibly a dozen or so, of immature sisal leaves measuring not longer than eighteen inches, and that it would be impossible to secure more than a few leaves from La Mortels on the Riviera.

As you require not less than fifty leaves, the best course would be to secure them from the sisal plantations in the Gold Coast. They could be sent by the Elder Dempster steamships which now have cool storage accommodation for the transport of bananas. The length of journey is only twelve days and the sisal leaves would carry quite satisfactorily if they are placed into ^{cool} storage. You could not get leaves over from East Africa within as short a time as from the Gold Coast, and

if

Captain A.R. Mangnall.

if you could let us know the date by which you act-
ly require them we would telegraph to the Gold Coast to have
a hundred or more leaves shipped in order to be avail-
able in this country by the date you require them. This
telegram we are prepared to send at Government expense if
you will meet the cost of collection in the Gold Coast
and transport charges.

Will you kindly let us know by return whether
you wish us to act as suggested above?

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. A. STOCKDALE.



Register 37
57
PC file

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED.

Kenya 80

TELEGRAMS: "CROWN, LONDON".
TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 7730.

(Date with which available)

4, MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

4th July 1935

RECEIVED
-9 JUL 1935
C. O. REGY

Sir,

With reference to your letter, reference No. 402 A/Cs. of the 6th June, I have the honour to enclose two copies of an agreement with the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited in connection with the loan of £3,000 towards the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine. The first instalment of £1,000 has now been advanced to the Company and it is assumed that you will advise the Kenya Government accordingly.

In the circumstances we have requested the Company to inform us immediately shipment of the machine takes place, whereupon we will communicate with you with regard to payment of the second instalment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. Blumfield

FOR CROWN AGENTS.

A/10
No 34

Copy of 1 copy agreement to Kenya (35)

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

AN AGREEMENT made the 20th day of June One thousand nine hundred and thirty five ~~between~~ THE MECHANIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED whose registered office is at Chester (hereinafter called "The COMPANY") of the first part and THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES of Malaya in the City of Westminster (who and the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the time being are hereinafter called "THE CROWN AGENTS") acting for and on behalf of the GOVERNMENT OF MALAYA (hereinafter called "THE GOVERNMENT") of the other part.

~~WHEREAS~~ The Crown Agents on behalf of the Government have agreed to advance in instalments hereinafter mentioned the sum of Three Thousand Pounds (£3,000) (hereinafter called "the advance") towards the cost of constructing and installing in Kuala Lumpur an improved type of machinery for the manufacture of steel.

THE IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:-

1. The Crown Agents will on behalf of the Government advance the said sum of Three Thousand Pounds (£3,000) by the following instalments that is to say - On the execution of

this Agreement the sum of One Thousand Pounds; Within seven days after the date when the new machine shall have been loaded on shipboard for transport to East Africa One Thousand Pounds: On a date one month after the date of sailing of the vessel transporting the machine as aforesaid Five Hundred Pounds: Within seven days after the receipt by the Crown Agents of a report from the Government that the machine has been installed Five Hundred Pounds,

2. If within a period of eighteen calendar months after the date of payment of the first instalment of the advance the machine has not proved to be successful in the achievement of the purpose for which it is designed the advance will be regarded not as a loan but as a free grant. The question whether the machine is successful or not for the purposes of this condition shall be decided by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies whose decision shall be final.

3. Except as hereinbefore provided and except for the two years next following the date of payment of each instalment during which no interest in respect of the respective instalments shall be payable the Company shall so long as the advance or any part thereof shall remain owing pay to the

Crown Agents interest thereon at the rate of 4 per centum per annum such interest to be computed from the second anniversary of each advance and paid annually to the Crown Agents together with repayment of the respective instalment of the advance in such manner as is set forth in the columns numbered (3) and (4) of the Schedule hereto which are calculated on the basis of an instalment of One Thousand Pounds, the repayments of other instalments and the payment of the interest thereon being calculated pro rata.

PROVIDED ALSO that if the Company shall desire to accelerate the repayment of the advance or any part thereof and shall give not less than one calendar month's notice in writing to the Crown Agents the Company may at any time repay the whole or any part of the advance as part payment however being of a sum of less than Five Hundred Pounds AND FURTHER that with every repayment the Company shall also pay all interest due on the sum repaid up to the date of repayment at the rate of 4 per centum per annum as aforesaid.

4. IN the event of the Company failing to comply with any of the conditions hereto the advance shall (except as provided in Clause 2 hereof) forthwith become repayable to and be recoverable from the Company by the Crown Agents.

61

→

5. ~~THE~~ Company shall repay to the Crown Agents on demand

(i) all sums paid or which shall become payable by the Crown Agents or their Solicitors for and in respect of the costs charges disbursements and expenses in and about and incidental to the preparation approval execution and stamping of these presents (ii) All sums which shall become payable by the Crown Agents to their Solicitors incidental to or in connection with all repayments of the loan (iii) All such other legal charges and disbursements as would be chargeable against the Mortgagor had this Deed been a legal Mortgage by the Company in favour of the Crown Agents and/or the Government.

6. ~~NEITHER~~ the Governor of Kenya nor the Crown Agents nor any of them or any officer of the Government shall be in anywise personally bound or liable for any default or omission in the observance or performance of any of the acts matters or things which are herein contained.

~~IN WITNESS~~ whereof the Company has caused its Common Seal to be fixed hereto and *his William Frederick Gowers KONG* one of the Crown Agents has herewith set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

SCHEDULE.

SCHEDULE

SCALE OF REPAYMENTS OF ADVANCES ON THE BASIS
OF AN INSTALLMENT OF \$1,000

Year (After the payment of the instalment (1)	Balance of instalment outstanding at beginning of year (2)	Repayment of instalment for year made at end of year (3)	Interest at 4% for year on balance at beginning of year (4)	Total payment for year (5)
	L. S. C.	L. S. C.	L. S. C.	L. S. C.
3rd	1,000. 0. 0.	190. 15. 3.	40. 0. 0.	190. 15. 3.
4th	849. 4. 9.	196. 15. 10	38. 19. 5.	190. 15. 3.
5th	692. 8. 11.	168. 1. 3.	27. 14. 0.	190. 15. 3.
6th	529. 7. 8.	169. 11. 5.	21. 3. 6.	190. 15. 3.
7th	359. 15. 11	176. 7. 5.	14. 7. 10.	190. 15. 3.
8th	189. 8. 6.	189. 8. 6.	7. 6. 9.	190. 15. 3.

**THE COMMON SEAL of The Hydraulic
Engineering Company Limited was
herewith affixed in the presence**

(L.S.)

of *A.R. Mangnall* }
A.B. Ellington } *Directors*

SIGNED SEALED and DELIVERED by

Sir W. F. Gowers

(Sd) *W. F. G.*

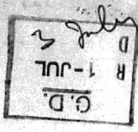
(L.S.)

**one of the Crown Agents for the
Colonies in the presence of**

N. Rae
4 Millbank SW 1.

C. O.

- Mr. ~~Low~~ 19/6/35
- Mr. ~~Palmer~~ 28/6
- Mr. ~~Drummond~~ 1.7
- Mr. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.



W.D.

~~June 1935~~
3 JUL 1935

DRAFT. *constr.*

Kenya
no. 490
for O.A.C.
(239
24)

~~30.5.35
(no. 324 encl.)~~
~~6.6.35
(no. 34 w/o encl.)~~

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy, w/o encl., for
402/35 a/c.
Copy for file
400/ a/c.

referred to in
the enclosed

Sir,
With refce. to my
predecessor's despatches nos.
236 and 237 of the 1st of
April, 1935, re: a loan from
the Col. Devt. Fund to your
Govt. in connection with the
construction and installation
in Kenya of a new model of a
siral decorticating machine,
I have re. to re. to you, for
your information a copy of a
letter with enclosures from
the Hydraulic Engineering Co., Ltd
and of a letter to the B.A. for
the Colonies.

2. The first instalment
of the loan, viz. (£1000) was
issued to the B.A. by the L.C.
~~...~~ of

Atm's Treasury on the 15th of
June 1935, and has since been
paid to the Hydraulic Engineering Corp.
I have a

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

For 38022/55

34

65

6 June 5

402 A/cs.

Gentlemen,

Handwritten mark

With reference to the Colonial Office letter of the 30th of March, No. 58022/55, regarding a loan from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya in connection with the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine, I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to transmit to you a copy of a letter to His Majesty's Treasury asking that a first instalment of the loan, amounting to £1,000, may be transferred to your account at the Bank of England for credit to the Government of Kenya.

To Treasury
6 June 1955

copy w/o encl to Kenya (36)

2. I am to request that, on receipt of the amount, you will take the necessary steps to pay a like sum to the Hydraulic Engineering Co. Ltd., Chester. The amount issued should be treated as a loan in accordance with terms set out in the letter addressed to the firm on the 23rd of March, a copy of which formed an enclosure to the letter under reference.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant

(Sd/s) H. Palmer

THE CROWN AGENTS
FOR THE COLONIES.

6 June 5

402/35 A/cs.

Sir,

With reference to Treasury letter No. S.34609/0826 of the 23rd of March, regarding a loan of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya in connection with the construction and installation in Kenya of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine, I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury that an application has been received from the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited for the issue from the Fund of the first instalment of £1,000. As Their Lordships are aware any sum issued from the Fund to the Government of Kenya in connection with this scheme will be re-lent, under the conditions set out in the letter under reference, to the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited, with the modification however, agreed to semi-officially by the Treasury, that the stipulation that the third owner of a defective machine should stay any claim against the Company, might

be

THE SECRETARY,
TREASURY.

be waived.

2. When submitting their application the Company enclosed copies of letters showing that the other two owners of defective machines had agreed to stay their claims against the Company until the new model has been tested in East Africa.

3. I am therefore to ask that, should Their Lordships see no objection, the sum of £1,000 may be paid to the Crown Agents for the Colonies who will, on receipt, credit the account of the Government of Kenya, and arrange for the necessary payment to the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited.

4. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) H Palmer

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER."
CODES:
A.B.C. 6th EDITION,
BENTLEYS.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.



LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9364.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, PICCY, LONDON.

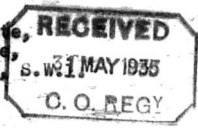


Chester, 30th. May 1935.

REFERENCES: YOURS 38022/35.
OURS ARM/

JK

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.1



Sir,

With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter dated 23rd. March, we beg to enclose copies of letters showing acceptance by two of the three parties, i.e. one letter from Mr. Bibby (Ziwa Ltd) sent direct to us on April 6th. and another letter sent by our Kenya Agents Messrs. Gailey & Roberts Ltd., to the Manager for Nanji Kalidas Metha, stating the acceptance by Major Grogan.

We understand that it has been agreed to waive the stipulation in the case of Nanji Kalidas Metha.

In view of this we now beg to apply for the first instalment of £ 1,000.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,
THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED.

[Signature]
Managing Director.

W/b
C. P. Kenya (36)

COPY

69

NEG/HM.

18th. May 1935.

- Vhedd Esq.
C/o Kanji Naranjee Esq.
Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

As promised we quote below the proviso made by Major Grogan in his letter accepting The Hydraulic Engineering Co's offer:-

- " 1. That our present site be placed at the disposal of Captain Mangnall for the immediate installation of the new type of machine which it is understood from his letter he proposes to bring out.
2. That a supply of leaf be provided for an adequate test of the machine's capacity.
3. That a reasonable time be allowed for proving that the new machine will have a capacity equivalent to that warranted for the machine originally ordered by us. "

Trusting that you will favour us with your acceptance at an early date.

We are,

Yours faithfully,
GAILEY AND ROBERTS, LIMITED.

(sgd) N. E. Gladwell.
Manager.

71

(4)

Downing Street,

24th May, 1935.

Dear Hale,

In confirmation of our telephone conversation this afternoon, I enclose a copy of the note which was sent to Sir Basil Blackett about the Kenya Sisal Decorticator scheme (the Treasury reference is S.34609/0226.). Sir Basil has minuted on the original "I agree to stipulation being waived." I understood ^{you} him to say that the Treasury would raise no objection and we shall be approaching you shortly in the ordinary way for the issue of the first instalment of £1,000.

Yours sincerely,



E. HALE, ESQ.

30th
Downing Street,
24th May, 1935.

Dear Mangnall,

You will be interested to know that Sir Basil Blackett (on behalf of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee) has agreed to waive the stipulation as regards obtaining an undertaking from Nanji Kalidas; the Treasury have also concurred.

I would suggest that you should now write officially to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, enclosing the relevant correspondence with Grogan and Bibby's and saying that you understand that it has been agreed to waive the stipulation in the case of Nanji Kalidas; and apply for the first instalment of £1,000.

It is probable that the Crown Agents will want you to sign some sort of legal document before handing over the cash; this might be expedited if, when next you are in town, you could call on Mr. Lament at the Crown Agents' Office, 4 Millbank, S.W.1.

Yours sincerely,

CAPTAIN A. R. MANGNALL.

73
29

Sir Basil Blackett.

I attach a note from the East Africa Department about the Committee's recommendation for assistance for the construction and installation of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine to replace defective machine now in use. (C.D.A.C. 1725 - copy attached).

The Department would be glad to know whether you would be prepared to agree on behalf of the Committee to waive the stipulation, as regards the third owner of the defective machines, that he should stay his claim against the Company until such time as the new model had been made and tested in East Africa.

If you consider that the Committee should be consulted, perhaps I might include a paragraph in your oral statement for next Wednesday's meeting?

A messenger will call tomorrow morning.

L. S. Smith

23.5.1955.

I agree to stipulation being waived.
M.M.M.
24/5

74

At the end of February the Committee agreed to proposals for assisting the Hydraulic Engineering Company of Chester to construct and instal in Kenya an improved model of a sisal decorticator (C.D.A.C. 1725), subject inter alia to the Company's obtaining from the owners of three machines of an earlier and defective pattern an agreement to stay their claims against the Company until such time as the new model had been made and tested in East Africa.

Two of the three owners gave the required undertaking immediately. The third, Nanji Kalidas Mehta of Uganda, is at present in India, and his Manager in East Africa will not accept the responsibility of taking a decision. It is understood that the papers have been sent from Uganda to Nanji Kalidas in India, but no reply has been forthcoming.

Meanwhile the Company is waiting for the first instalment of the Colonial Development Fund loan before completing the new machine, and the consequent delay is most unfortunate from the point of view not only of the Company but of the East African sisal industry as a whole.

It is suggested that the Committee might agree to waive the stipulation as regards the third owner. If matters come to the worst and Nanji Kalidas refuses his consent, any resultant legal action would lie, not against the Company,

but

but against a firm of agents in Nairobi who effected the sale. This firm could in turn sue the Company; but by the time these actions had been decided there is a reasonable probability that the new model would have been installed and its success demonstrated.

C. O.

R. P. Franklin / s.p.
● Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

38002/55
Kenya.



to form
L.P.



DRAFT.

Capt. D. R. Mangrath

~~2/10/55~~

Dear Mangrath
Thanks for your
letter, which I have
shown to Stockdale. He
agrees with me in
thinking that we can
do nothing to form
here as regards
Nanji Kachid. If
Nanji is in India,

FURTHER ACTION.

even the Uganda Govt cannot
bring persuasion to bear upon
him; and, in any case,
that Govt has no particular
knowledge of, or reason to be
interested in, the scheme as a
whole.

If you have any suggestions
to make, please don't hesitate
to come & see us when you
are in town.

Yours sincerely

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER."
CODES:
A.B.C. 8th EDITION.
BENTLEYS.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9384.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, PICCY, LONDON.



Chester 16th. May 1935.

REFERENCES: YOURS
OURS

L. B. Freeston Esq. O.B.E.
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

ARM/
RECEIVED
31 MAY 1935
C.O. REG.

Dear Freeston,

Many thanks for your private letter of the 14th. inst. I was away in South Wales until this morning. The hold-up is, of course, the quarrelsome Indian, Nanji Kalidas Mehta of Uganda.

Bibby agreed the Government terms direct to me immediately, and Grogan agreed through the Kenya agents.

The Indian is unfortunately at present in India, and his Manager in East Africa will not say 'Yes' or 'No'. The papers I believe have been sent to India. The delay is frightfully annoying and serious.

The Favoth machine (Grogana) produced about 400 tons of fibre in the first 5 months in spite of all the conveyer rope troubles, and there is no reason why the Indian should not have done the same had he made equal effort.

Can anything be done from this end to speed things up, as we need the first instalment of the loan in order to get ahead and not waste time.

see me.

I shall be up in town next week if you want to

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

1937-10-11

M. D. Preston Esq. O.B.E.
Colonial Office
Downing Street
London, W.1.

Dear Sir,
I was very glad to receive your letter of the 10th inst. in which you refer to the fact that the Government are to be asked to consider the possibility of a loan to the Government of the Indian States.

The Government are to be asked to consider the possibility of a loan to the Government of the Indian States.

The Government are to be asked to consider the possibility of a loan to the Government of the Indian States.

The Government are to be asked to consider the possibility of a loan to the Government of the Indian States.

The Government are to be asked to consider the possibility of a loan to the Government of the Indian States.

I shall be glad to hear from you next week if you want to

Yours sincerely,

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER"
CODES:
A.B.C. 6th EDITION.
BENTLEY'S.

19
78

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 3264.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, PICCY, LONDON.



Chester 25th March 1935.



26 MAR 1935
C. O. REGD

REFERENCE: YOURS 38022/35.
OURS AM/

34

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.1.

copy kept 25.
No 16

Sir,
We beg to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter dated the 23rd of March, addressed to the writer.

We accept the terms and conditions of the advance as there stated.

By Air Mail leaving London yesterday we communicated with the three colonies concerned in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of your letter.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED.

A. H. ...
Managing Director.

16

C. O.

Mr. Freeston. 22/3

Mr. ~~Wood~~ 22/3

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Stuchburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

548
Answered by No 19

Downing Street,
23 March, 1935.

Sir,

With reference to your

No.2

letter of the 22nd of January and subsequent conversations, I am directed to inform you that approval has now been given, on the recommendation of the C.D.A.C. to an advance from the C.D.F. of £3,000 to the Govt. of Kenya, to be passed on by that Govt. to the Hydraulic Engineering Co. Ltd. on the following terms and conditions-

- (1) The advance is to be used by the Company in the construction, shipment to Kenya and installation of an improved pattern of sisal decorticating machine.
- (2) It will take the form of a loan, issued in instalments free

DRAFT.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING CO. LTD.

Copy to Kenya (17)
S.A.
C.D.A.C.
Henry

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy to Secretary, C.D.A.C. and Treasury. Copies also required for accomp. despatch and l.f. thereon.

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

of interest for two years from the date of issue of each instalment, bearing interest thereafter at 4% and repayable by equated annuities during the third to the eighth years, or earlier at the Company's option.

(3) Should the machine prove unsuccessful in achieving the purpose for which it is designed, the advance will be regarded not as a loan, but as a free capital grant. The question whether it is successful or not for the purposes of this condition shall be decided by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose decision shall be final.

(4) As a condition precedent to the issue of any portion of the advance, assurances will be obtained from the owners of the three machines already constructed and installed in E.Africa by the Company, that they will stay any claims against the Company until such time as the new machine has been made and tested in E.Africa. It is understood that

you

you are taking the necessary steps to solicit these assurances.

(5) The instalments will be paid by the Crown Agents for the Colonies (on behalf of the Govt. of Kenya) to the Hydraulic Engineering Company as follows:- £1,000 immediately upon your satisfying the Secretary of State that the condition laid down in paragraph (4)

above of this letter has been complied with:- £1,000 when the ^{new} machine has been loaded on shipboard for transport to E.Africa; £500 one month after the date of sailing; and £250 after the report has been received from the Govt. of Kenya that the machine has been ^{actually} ~~as the case may be~~ installed on the sisal estate.

I am to request that you will be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and signify the acceptance by the Hydraulic Engineering Company of the advance on the terms and conditions

conditions prescribed herewith.

I am, etc.

(Signed) L. B. FREESTON

Telephone No. : WHITEHALL 1234.

Any reply to this letter should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY
TREASURY,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.
and the following number quoted :
S.34609/0226.



15
TREASURY CHAMBERS.

23 March, 1935.

RECEIVED
23 MAR 1935
C. O. B. B. B.

Sir,

I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Mr. Flood's letter of the 12th instant, *No 9* (38022/35), signifying Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister's concurrence in the recommendation of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee, conveyed in the Secretary's letter of the 6th instant, as modified in subsequent semi-official correspondence, that a loan of £3,000 should be made from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya to be passed on by that Government to the Hydraulic Engineering Company Limited to finance the construction and installation of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine to replace a defective machine now in use.

The loan would be free of interest for two years, bearing interest at 4 per cent. thereafter, and repayable by equated annuities spread over the third to the eighth years

Copy to C.A. (20)
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

14
82

31st March, 1955.

Dear Hale,

C.D.A.C. 1725. Sisal Decorticating Machine.

Your letter of the 18th of March (S.54609/0226). We have always regarded grants or loans from the Fund as advances. The term is used both in Section 1 (1) of the Act and in paragraph 3 of Treasury Minute dated the 4th of July, 1950.

The conditions attached to the Committee's recommendation are intended to apply to the Government of Kenya it being understood that similar conditions would be imposed by Kenya on their advance to the Company.

I have consulted the Chairman of the Committee who sees no objection to the advance being regarded as a loan, free of interest for two years, bearing interest at 4 per cent. thereafter, and repayable by equated annuities spread over the 3rd to the 8th years, with a note added

B. Hale, Esq.

to

years (or earlier at the Company's option). If the new machine is not successful, the loan would be converted into a free grant of capital, the question whether the machine is successful or not for this purpose to be decided by the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final. The loan is to be granted on condition that the owners of the defective machines will agree to stay their claims against Captain Mangnall's Company until such time as the new model has been made and tested in East Africa.

I am now to request you to inform the Secretary of State that My Lords sanction a loan of £3,000 subject to the above conditions from the Colonial Development Fund in accordance with the Recommendation of the Committee.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Secretary of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee and to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

R. V. Nield

CO

to the effect that it may in certain circumstances become
a free grant.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Flood.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L.S. Smith.

84/11/11
H 15 M
D 184

C. O.

Mr. Grossmith.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

4/12/35
Freestone 15
P.

582
Part covered. see No 18

Downing Street,

18 March, 1935.

Gentlemen,

I am etc. to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter of the 11th

(10)

of March ~~and he is~~ ^{from which he has} learned with interest ~~interested to learn~~ of your intention

DRAFT.

MESSRS. JAMES F. LOW & CO. LTD.

to place on the market a new type of
Sisal Decorticator.

2. I am to state that if you
~~would~~ ^{will} supply further particulars of

the performance claimed for the
machine and of the estate in E. Africa
where the tests are to be made, the
Secretary of State will invite the
Governor of the Colony to report upon
the efficiency of the machine.

(12) (13) (14)
copy to { C.D.C. Kenya
 { Treasury

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister
does not propose to interfere with
the arrangements already made for
affording assistance from the C.D.F.
to a manufacturer of sisal

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy corres. to Sec.,
C.D.C., Treasury,
Gov. Kenya, l. ff.

decorticating machinery. No decision has yet been reached, however, regarding a scheme for financing E.African sisal producers in the purchase of new machinery.

4. The question of whether the terms of ^{Sudan} the scheme, if adopted, should require the purchase of one make of decorticator or another, can best be considered when full reports have been received of the efficiency, cost and performance of your machine ^{and of other machines.} It will be appreciated that the administration of the scheme would, of course, be in the hands of the Colonial Govt.

I am, etc.

W. FLOOD

85
10

ON ADMIRALTY LIST.

TELEGRAMS: "LOW, MONIFIETH"
TELEPHONE: MONIFIETH W.F.



CODES (BENTLEY'S
A & S (STY)
MARGON)

JAMES F. LOW & COMPANY LTD

MONIFIETH FOUNDRY,

MONIFIETH, SCOTLAND.

11th March, 1935.

ENGINEERS, TEXTILE MACHINISTS,
IRON AND BRASS FOUNDERS.

ESTABLISHED 1801.

YOUR REF. _____

OUR REF. JW/WH

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

12 MAR 1935

sc
ACKD. BY P.C.

Sir,

We are given to understand that an application has been made to the Colonial Department Funds for financial assistance in regard to a British Sisal Decorticator for East Africa.

We are further advised that the Secretary of State has informed Sisal Producers in East Africa that he is prepared to finance purchasers of this Decorticator.

We beg to advise you that we have, for some time, been engaged in experiments at our own expense at our Works here, directed towards the manufacture of a Decorticator which would be an improvement on the present methods of Sisal decortication in East Africa.

We now feel that we have produced a machine which warrants our placing same on the market, and it is our intention to ship one machine out to East Africa during this month, together with an expert demonstrator.

This action on our part, we think, will convince you of our confidence in the machine we have produced.

We write to request that no action be taken in regard to further financial assistance for any other machine maker until you have obtained a full report on our machine.

We also request that the finance offered to Sisal Producers for the purchase of a Decorticator should also be made available to/

Hand (11)
Copy to { C. D. P. C. (12)
 { Gray (13)
 { Hanger (14)

to those planters who would prefer to purchase our machine,
which is British throughout.

Trusting the above will have your favourable
consideration,

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

pro James F. Low & Co. Ltd.
James F. Low
DIRECTOR

C. O.

Mr. ~~Frederick~~ 7/3
Mr. ~~Stockdale~~ 8/3
Mr. ~~Flood~~ 9.

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. 11.3 f

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

38022/35

Kenya

Announced by NOKS
Si

C. O.
R 11 MAR
D 11

17 MAR 1935

DRAFT. *consent - v. minute*
The Secy
The Treasury

Copy to Kenya (17)
" " " " (20)

W. ref: to the letter
from the CDAE of the
6th March (CDAE 1725.)
am re. to request that
the approval of the L.C. of
the T^y, may be expressed
of the advance of £3000
to the Govt of Kenya, to
be passed on by that

Govt. on the terms & conditions recommended by the C'ty. to the Hydraulic Engineering Co. Ltd., to finance the construction and installation of a sisal decortrating machine.

2. Since the date of the application to the Committee, the S.G.S. has received a satisfactory report from the Governor of Kenya, and he sees no reason to doubt the ability of Capt. Tangwell's Co. to undertake the proposed replacement.

Signed J. E. W. FLOOD

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY.

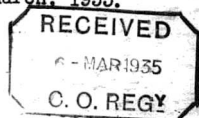
Telephone: WHITEHALL 9191.



8 88
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET,
S.W.1.

C.D.A.C. 1725.

6th March, 1935.



Sir,

I am directed by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee to request you to inform Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister that, at their 76th meeting on the 27th of February, they had before them an application, submitted on behalf of the Government of Kenya, for assistance from the Fund for the construction and installation of a new model of a sisal decorticating machine to replace a defective machine now in use. (C.D.A.C. 1705).

2. As a result of assistance provided from the Colonial Development Fund in 1932, three experimental machines were constructed and installed in Kenya. The Committee understand that the experiments which have been conducted there have demonstrated that in so far as the actual decorticating of sisal is concerned the machines

are

copy to Kenya (17/205) S.A. (20)
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

are entirely satisfactory, but that the conveyor machinery has proved to be defective. The Committee are satisfied that the best course to adopt is to replace one of the defective machines, when it is hoped that the difficulties in regard to the conveyor machinery may be overcome. They assume that the Secretary of State is satisfied as to the ability of Captain Mangnall's Company to undertake the replacement. On this assumption they recommend a free grant from the Fund of £3,000, on the following conditions:-

(a) That the owners of the defective machines will agree to stay their claims against Captain Mangnall's Company until such time as the new model has been made and tested in East Africa.

(b) That if the new machine proves successful, the advance should be regarded as a loan, free of interest for two years, bearing interest at 4 per cent. thereafter, and repayable by equated annuities spread over the 3rd to the 8th years (or earlier at the Company's option).

(c) If the new model is not successful, the advance should be treated as a free grant of capital.

(d) The question whether the machine is successful or not (for the purposes of paragraphs b ^{and c} etc. above) shall be decided by the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.

3. A similar letter is being sent to the Treasury.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. S. Smith

Secretary to the Committee.



1/9

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dated 26th February 1935. Received at 2.44 pm. 26th Feb. 1935.

PRIORITY

No 4
No 6

No. 38 Your telegrams No 41 and No 48. Regret that no officer with the necessary experience of sisal available to furnish authoritative report. Have requested reports from sisal firms which have experience of Mangnall machine but these reports have not been received. Chairman of the Kenya sisal growers association expresses the opinion that (a) machine does excellent work so far as percentage and quality of extraction are concerned (b) the only major defect is the slow rate of feeding and (c) that this defect can be eliminated. It is not however possible to say that performance claimed by the inventor viz an output of 4 tons of fibre per working day of 10 hours would be realised. Important factor is that if Mangnall machine is not perfected the only efficient machine on the market will be a German machine made by Krupp since I understand that manufacture of the Robey machine has now been discontinued. I consider it essential that conditions should be attached to any further grant that experimental work on the machine should be carried out in East Africa. I suggest that you consult CONRAD WALSH managing director of Messrs Bird & Co. who is now in London.

Conrad (14)

5
91

ans. d. 8.

C.D.A.C. 1705.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kenya: Sisal decorticating machinery.

With reference to C.D.A.C. 950 and 961 I circulate, for the consideration of the Committee, a Colonial Office memorandum submitting on behalf of the Government of Kenya, an application for assistance from the Fund for the construction and installation of a new model of sisal-decorticating machine to replace defective machine now in use.

The usual financial summary is prefixed.

L.S. SMITH.

Secretary to the Committee.

Copy to Kenya (17)
S.A. (20)

Colonial Office,

18th February, 1935.

93

MEMORANDUM.

1. Two years ago the Committee recommended advances of £1,200 to finance the construction of a new type of sisal decorticator by an English firm of which the Managing Director is Captain Mangnall. The recommendation was approved and as a result of the experimental machine constructed, orders were subsequently placed by sisal producers in Kenya for three commercial models.

2. The commercial machines were duly delivered and installed. The circumstances in which they failed to give satisfaction are fully set out on pages 4 and 5 of the attached Memorandum A by Captain Mangnall.

3. It will be seen from the Memorandum that the Company is now threatened with litigation by the purchasers of the machines which have proved faulty, and that, failing further Government assistance, the Company cannot find the finance necessary to replacing the defective machines with new models from which the defects have been eliminated.

4. In Memorandum B Captain Mangnall gives reasons for preferring complete replacement to attempting repair in situ and estimates the cost of replacing the three machines at £7,000.

5. The position has been explained to the Government of Kenya who have been asked to obtain and telegraph the expert opinion of a competent Government Officer whether the defects in the design of the existing machines can be eliminated, and whether, after such elimination, the

Performance

94

performance claimed by the inventor is likely to be realized. It is hoped that the reply from the Kenya Government will have been received before the date of the Committee's meeting.

6. Subject to a favourable report from Kenya, the Secretary of State desires to suggest to the Committee that the cost of one machine only (estimated at £3000) should be advanced from the Fund on the following conditions -

(a) That the owners of the defective machines will agree to stay their claims against Captain Langnall's Company until such time as the new model has been made and tested in East Africa.

(b) That if the new machine proves successful, the advance should be regarded as a loan, free of interest for two years, bearing interest at 4% thereafter, and repayable by equated annuities spread over the 3rd to the 8th years (or earlier at the Company's option).

(c) If the new model is not successful, the advance should be treated as a free grant of capital.

(d) The question whether the machine is successful or not (for the purposes of paragraphs b ^{and} etc. above) shall be decided by the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.

7. If the single new model is an unqualified success, Captain Langnall anticipates that he may find it possible to finance the two further machines required for replacement on the strength of orders received from new purchasers. If this anticipation proves unjustified, it may be necessary.

at

95

at a later stage, to apply to the Committee for a loan of the cost (estimated at 25000) of the two replacement machines.

8. The Secretary of State recognises that in asking the Committee to recommend even this modified measure of assistance, he is inviting their participation in an enterprise in which the element of risk is prominent. He would justify the application by dwelling on the very great advantages which success, if realised, would bring -

(a) the market for sisal machinery (including baling presses as well as decorticating plant) would be prevented from falling entirely into foreign hands.

(b) an invaluable stimulus would be given to the sisal industry by rendering possible a very considerable diminution in production costs.

Colonial Office.

16th February, 1935.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

to THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

from THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.
of Chester and London.

Some years after the war it became apparent that our pre-war markets with the Admiralty, War Office, Dock Authorities, etc., which formed the bulk of our output, were unlikely to return. One of our directors was sent to different parts of the Empire and given the task of finding if possible other British markets to keep our works employed.

FIRST STAGE.

period 1926 - 1930.

Whilst in Kenya in 1926 our director was asked to undertake the development of a new sisal decorticator which was the invention of Mr. Rutherford, the oldest established sisal planter in Kenya.

Being a class of machine suitable for our works we undertook the development. Several machines were made and representatives sent out to Kenya for long periods to carry out trials and experiments.

After spending considerable sums of money during these five years, we were forced to the conclusion that the process was incapable of producing first grade fibre.

By this time the price of sisal had fallen from £37. 10. Od. per ton to a figure far below the cost of production and even first grade fibre could not be disposed of profitably. We had no alternative but to consider this method of decortication impracticable and we wrote off the losses incurred.

SECOND STAGE.

period 1931- 1933 inclusive.

The Company was reluctant to abandon the problem, and as our director Captain A.R. Mangnall saw how to produce the required result by an entirely different process, it was decided to continue, and he took personal charge of the development. Arrangements were made with Mr. James McCrae the Managing Director of Longonot Ltd., a large sisal estate in Kenya, to put down experimental machinery in his factory.

Machinery was made, shipped and erected together with all electrical equipment for driving it. Then followed the ordinary long period of trial and alteration.

Captain Mangnall made three separate and lengthy stays in Kenya and Mr. McCrae and our agents worked almost continuously. During this period we were grateful to receive acknowledgment of our efforts and some help in the form of a grant of 2500. and a loan of 2700. from the Colonial Development Fund.

It was not until near the end of 1933 that the desired results were obtained, i.e. a fine quality fibre, a higher percentage of extraction from the leaf, reduced horse power and less water required. And it was clear that when the machine was developed commercially, the cost of maintenance would be much less than on existing machines.

With this demonstrated, the outlook of the East African Sisal Estates became infinitely brighter.

THIRD STAGE. period 1934.

The Colonial Government took great interest in the successful result of the experiments and schemes for financial assistance to enable the industry to become equipped with the new machinery were considered.

In the meantime orders were taken from three estates for one machine each. In each case there was great urgency as much of their sisal had reached the end of its growth and was starting to rot away. This resulted in, what proved to be, impossibly short times for delivery of the machines being undertaken. In the light of present circumstances this was a definite mistake on the Company's part. We should have insisted on a much longer time for delivery or let the orders go to Germany for the old type of machinery.

Pressure was applied by all concerned and everything was rushed. The planters required to save their rotting sisal, the industry generally called for quick action in order that an early decision might be reached to enable Government schemes for financial help to be brought into effect, so as to put the estates on a profit paying basis. We ourselves having become dependent on a large volume of work from this source, had no time to lose in putting this business on a paying basis.

Night and day was worked continuously on design and construction. There was no time to fully erect at our works and no chance of running tests in this country to disclose any mechanical faults.

Available materials had often to be used where more suitable ones could have been obtained on longer delivery. In spite of this we were, in view of the excellent results of the experimental machine, quite confident when the machines went out.

Unfortunately when put to work a serious fault was disclosed in the conveyor mechanism. The steel ropes employed proved unsuitable. Months were spent on the estates by Captain Langsall and our agents in trying to find a remedy.

Although it is almost impossible to calculate the output of sisal as the leaves vary so much in size and fibre content, a definite output had to be guaranteed and owing to the trouble mentioned and the mechanical feeding arrangements for the leaves being not quite adequate, the machines have failed to reach their stated output. We and our agents, between us have spent several thousand pounds trying to remedy the matter but short of sending out new machines it cannot be fully accomplished.

We are now threatened with litigation by the estates concerned for damages for loss of output.

SUMMARY.

dated 15th January, 1935.

In all but the correction of certain mechanical features caused by the excessive haste with which the first machines were prepared, we have obtained the desired results, and it is now quite certain that machines can be made which will be satisfactory in all particulars. The value of such machines to the Sisal Industry in the Colonies is of the greatest importance. This is recognised by everybody concerned, and was pointed out by the Secretary of State when he was in Kenya.

A machine of this kind can only be perfected on the estates, and the development under these conditions is very expensive and arduous. Our expenditure over the eight years has been very heavy and we have reached the point beyond which we cannot carry on this work unless a special financial arrangement can be made. If this cannot be done, the benefits of our work will never be realised and the planters will have to carry on with the present type of machine.

This means that the German manufacturers will have handed over to them a complete monopoly within the Colonies. In connection with the sisal fibre extraction machinery alone, this will be a disaster; but with it would go the supply of engines and baling plant. Also, as in some cases in Tanganyika, by virtue of German finance, the estates would of necessity have to buy their many accessories through German agencies, to the serious loss of British firms in the Colonies and British manufacturers at home.

The object of this memorandum is to ask for assistance from Government which will enable us to overcome the present difficulty and to go ahead with our programme. Perhaps the best way of producing a clear issue would be to supply the three estates with new machines having the first constructional faults eradicated. Before putting forward any concrete proposals, we should welcome an opportunity to discuss the whole matter in greater detail.

B.

22nd January, 1935.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

SUPPLEMENT OF MEMORANDUM DATED 15th JANUARY, 1935.

to THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
from THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.

The four points of detail discussed with Sir Cecil Bottomley in connection with the memorandum were as follows:-

1. The cost of our work of development in East Africa.
2. Our development of high duty sisal baling plant against German competition.
3. The mechanical reasons for the first decorticators not being completely successful.
4. Financial assistance asked for from the Colonial Development Fund.

1. The cost to us of our association with the decorticator development has been about £24,000, and in establishing improved type sisal baling plant about £3,000. In addition our agents have incurred a loss of about £3,000. The Colonial Development Fund provided a grant of £500, and a loan of £700. This makes a total of over £50,000.

2. Alongside the development of the decorticator we have also successfully established a new type high duty baling plant for sisal. Eleven of these large installations are already at work in East Africa and it is agreed by all concerned that they are the finest machines for this purpose yet made. In order to establish them against keen German competition we have been put to the expenditure mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

If at the end of all our work we cannot carry on with the decorticators, the Germans by virtue of their decorticator monopoly will be able to make it impossible for us to compete even with the baling plant. The adverse effect which such German monopoly would have on British engine builders and other manufacturers and on British merchant houses within the Colonies was dealt with in the memorandum.

3.

3. The memorandum stated that the fault of construction which is responsible for the present difficult position was in connection with the steel wire ropes employed in the conveyor mechanism. These ropes would not perform their function correctly and quickly gave out. The manufacturers of the ropes later admitted that what they had put forward was unsuitable and that they could not produce any steel ropes that would be better. New parts have been sent out to enable the machines to work with hemp ropes, but this will not make a very satisfactory arrangement. It is now clear to us that the only alternative is a heavy stainless steel chain and the arrangements for it necessitate a complete re-building of the machine. Since the machines are so far away in remote places it would be impracticable to attempt this conversion, and the only satisfactory solution is to supply new complete machines. If the new machines are made, other minor points not quite satisfactory in the present ones would be corrected.

4. We estimate that it will cost £7,000 to replace the machines. We ask that a loan of this amount be made to us by Government and allowed free of interest and for the longest period of years possible. If any portion of it could take the form of a grant we should be very grateful indeed.

Draft.

MEMORANDUM

(C.D.A.C. 950)

3/12/52
Mr. D. L. 14.2.
Sir (Campbell) 14/2
Sir C. Bottomley 15.2.
Mr. H. S. Smith

(end. to 1)

(end. to 2)

1. Two years ago the Committee recommended advances of £1,200 to finance the construction of a new type of sisal decorticator by an English firm of which the Managing Director is Captain Mangnall. The recommendation was approved and as a result of the experimental machine constructed, orders were subsequently placed by sisal producers in Kenya for three commercial models.

2. The commercial machines were duly delivered and installed. The circumstances in which they failed to give satisfaction are fully set out on pages 4 and 5 of the attached Memorandum A by Captain Mangnall.

3. It will be seen from the Memorandum that the Company is now threatened with litigation by the purchasers of the machines which have proved faulty; and that, failing further Government assistance, the Company cannot find the finance necessary to replacing the defective machines with new models from which the defects have been eliminated.

4. In Memorandum B Captain Mangnall gives reasons for preferring complete replacement to attempting repair in situ and estimates the cost of replacing the three machines at £7,000.

5. The position has been explained to the Government of Kenya who have been asked to obtain and telegraph the expert opinion of a competent Government Officer whether the defects in the design of the existing machines can be eliminated, and whether, after such elimination, the performance claimed by the inventor is likely to be realised. It is hoped that the reply from the Kenya Government

will have been received before the date of the Committee's meeting.

6. Subject to a favourable report from Kenya, the Secretary of State desires to suggest to the Committee that the cost of one machine only (estimated at £3,000) should be advanced from the Fund on the following conditions -

(a) That the owners of the defective machines will agree to stay their claims against

7. If the single new model is an unqualified success, Capt. Mangruah anticipates that he may find it possible to finance the two further machines required for replacement on the strength of orders received from new purchasers. If this anticipation proves unqualified, it may be necessary, at a later stage, to apply to the Committee for a loan ^{of the cost} (estimated at £5,000) of the two replacement machines.

would justify the application by dwelling on the very great advantages which success, if realised, would bring -

(a) the market for sisal machinery (including baling presses as well as decorticating plant) would be prevented from falling entirely into foreign hands.

(b) an invaluable stimulus would be

given

fund.
the R.S.F. to be
issued in the form
where ~~it will~~ ~~without~~
any interest-free
loan.

will have been received before the date of the Committee's meeting.

6. Subject to a favourable report from Kenya, the Secretary of State desires to suggest to the Committee that the cost of one machine only (estimated at £3000) should be advanced from the Fund on the following conditions -

(a) That the owners of the defective machines will agree to stay their claims against Captain Mangnall's Company until such time as the new model has been made and tested in East Africa.

(b) That if the new machine proves successful, the advance should be regarded as a loan, free of interest for two years, bearing interest at 4% thereafter, and repayable by equated annuities spread over the 3rd to the 8th years (or earlier at the Company's option).

(c) If the new model is not successful, the advance should be treated as a free grant of capital.

7. The Secretary of State recognises that in asking the Committee to recommend even this modified measure of assistance, he is inviting their participation in an enterprise in which the element of risk is unusually prominent. He would justify the application by dwelling on the very great advantages which success, if realised, would bring -

(a) the market for sisal machinery (including baling presses as well as decorticating plant) would be prevented from falling entirely into foreign hands.

(b) an invaluable stimulus would be

given

*Does the loan to
cover the cost of the
new machine
as a whole, or
does the price of
success of the
new machine*

*(d) The question
whether the
new machine is successful
or not (for the purposes
of para 6. or above)
shall be decided by
the Sigs. whose
decision shall be
final.*

*It is to be
issued on all lines
above but without
any interest free
period*

given to the sisal industry by ^{rendering possible a} ~~renewing~~ ¹⁰⁷ ~~proposition~~
and very considerable diminution in production costs.

C.O.

14.2.55

C. O.

Mr. ^{Grossmith} Hunter } 11/2
Mr.

Mr. Stockdale (has seen concerned)
Mr. Bashirson
Sir G. Tomlinson
11/2 atori

Sir C. Bottomley.
Sir J. Shuckburgh.
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

38
Approved 12/13/35
Key-

Coded absent
1.0 pm.
12/2/35
used

12 EB
12

4
108

DRAFT. Tol.

Grossmith
Nairobi

No. 41 You disp. 17 Jan No. 44

MANGNALL has applied for further assistance from Colonial Development Fund for ^{to finance} purposes of construction of new model free from defects which have become apparent in machines already sent to Kenya. Please furnish by air mail report by competent officer of Govt on existing machines expressing opinion whether defects in design can be eliminated and

150

FURTHER ACTION.

Recive with new disp.

whether after such elimination
performance claimed by inventor
is likely to be realized. In
view of early date of CDA
meeting this report should be
summarized by teletype.

SECRET

*The Director has seen
- mail waits 8/2*

*38022/385 109
to Dept. 8/2 3*

KENYA.

NO. 44.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

RECEIVED
- 8 FEB 1935
C. O. REGY

17/11 JANUARY, 1935.

Sir,

In continuation of my despatch No. 215 of the 26th April 1934, I have the honour to submit the following report on the position now reached in regard to the proposal that an application should be made to the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for a loan to assist the Sisal Industry to reduce costs of production by the replacement of existing plant by up-to-date and more efficient machinery.

2. In paragraph 5 of that despatch you were informed that the Sisal Growers' Association was being asked to furnish particulars of the number of estates requiring assistance and the security that could be offered in each case. Before circularizing its members on these lines, the Association submitted a memorandum, a copy of which is attached, describing an improved type of machinery other than the Mangnall Decorticator. The Association stated that some estates might prefer this system rather than the Mangnall process and asked whether Government would be prepared to include this process in the scheme. The Association was informed that Government would have no objection to the financial assistance being extended to the tow reclamation plant of the type referred to in the Association's memorandum up to a limit of £2,000 in the case of each estate provided that this process proved to

be/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MAJOR SIR PHILIP GUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S. W. I.

be successful.

3. I enclose for your information a copy of a letter that has now been received from the Association. From this it is evident that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding at this stage with the submission of an application for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund.

4. I understand that as regards the decortica-
ting plant, of which three sets are in operation in East Africa, viz. at Taveta Estates, Kenya, Messrs. Bird & Company's Estate, Tanga and Messrs. Manji Kalidas' Estate, Uganda, a defect has been found, not in the decortivating portion but in the ropeway serving the decorticator, but it is expected that this defect will very shortly be corrected. No commercial tests of the reclamation plant have yet been made and the first commercial machine is expected early in 1935, when tests will be carried out.

5. Of the Estates which are potential applicants for assistance, all are in a position to give a first mortgage and in normal circumstance to produce 1000 tons of fibre per annum. Provided that there is any future for the sisal industry, the security offered in each case can be regarded as satisfactory. On present prices of sisal fibre the security is inadequate without a recovery of prices however it is improbable that any of the estates will wish to embark on further capital expenditure.

6. I have considered it advisable that you should be fully aware of the present situation in case, should the further tests to be carried out with the machinery prove entirely satisfactory, I may be

urged/

urged by the Association to proceed with the application to the Colonial Development Fund as expeditiously as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

A. M. Wade

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

MEMORANDUM

on

TOW RECLAMATION PLANT.

The purpose of the Tow Reclamation Plant is to extract thoroughly clean, white tows from all parts of the Estate where fibre is at present wasted. In addition it will help to eliminate all those wastes that can be attributed to imperfect planting and cultivation of the main plants.

The existing sources of waste tows are the Factory Flume, the natural sucker growth and the areas of main plants that have been cut to the stage when they must be cleared up and replanted.

This already large supply could be greatly augmented by creating artificial sources by broadcasting bulbils in any odd areas of the Estate which cannot be put to any more profitable use.

The process consists of using selected combinations of Crushing Rolls to break down all leaf matter into small flakes that can be readily removed during the subsequent shaking, drying and carding operations. The process includes thorough washing and partial drying by the standard centrifugal machines and squeezing rolls, which are already included in the list of machinery to be financed under Drying Machinery.

Any special machinery is being developed by British Firms and any standard machinery can readily be obtained from the many British Firms that specialize in their manufacture.

The washing, shaking, drying and baling will be carried out at the existing Sisal Factories.

Obviously the first set of Crushing Rolls will be set down to deal with the nearest waste supply (the Factory Flume) which supply is incidentally already in a partially crushed condition.

If that source of waste is reduced at some future date into an almost inconsiderable amount, this stationary plant will still be required to work in conjunction with portable units dealing with the waste sources that are farther afield.

The next most accessible supply is the few suckers that always grow up close to the bowl of the main plant and cannot be removed till the first leaf cut has been taken.

When the supervision labour and rails are in the shamba for the next leaf cut, a portable set of Crushing Rolls mounted on a truck frame will operate in the shamba crushing down all the suckers and extra short leaf growth into a pulp of about the same consistency as the pulp in the waste flume. The machine will deliver this into trucks which will be sent back to the factory attached to the ordinary leaf trains.

At the Factory the Pulp will merely be unloaded into the flume to be carried through the stationary plant mixed/

2.

mixed evenly with any material that is coming down the flume from the decorticators.

A test, taken in the Makuyu District in 1928 under observation of a Committee appointed by the Kenya Sisal Growers' Association, confirmed previous tests and showed the tow yield from this single operation to be approximately a half ton per acre.

Several desuckering operations take place at varying intervals during the life of the main plant which, in the aggregate, should yield at least a further $\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre, while the heavy junk growth of leaf and suckers in a cut out area must be capable of yielding from two to three times as much than the desuckering operation that takes place after the first leaf cut.

On a conservative basis this makes a possible total of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre during every complete plant cycle or about 70% to 75% of the present yield of line fibre per acre.

Note:- These figures are based on the Makuyu-Thika District and may vary considerably under different local conditions.

No matter how well an extraction machine is designed and manufactured, in the normal rotation of wear, adjustments and renewals, odd knives will occasionally be trued up too sharp at the cutting edge, feed ropes will frequently run at incorrect tension, feed rope wheels will wear sharp edges that cut fibres, etc., etc., and some of the weakest fibres are bound to break under even the lightest scutching action, so there will always be some fibre coming down the Factory Flume, be it only 5%.

It is clear that relative to the main possible sources of supply, especially when allowance is made for any artificially created areas, the percentage of tows contributed by the knife extraction plant is immaterial so the development of the new Decorticator in no way affects the Reclamation Plant.

Two new developments are taking place that greatly affect the future of the East African Sisal Industry.

Every effort is being made under preferences and tariffs to encourage the use of Empire Sisal in the higher class manufactures such as marine cordage, coarse shop twines, etc.

Already the manufacturers are strongly urging the E.A. Sisal Growers' Associations to hold their qualities to closer limits as regards length, tensile strength and texture by more thoroughly grading out all those shorter, weaker, finer fibres that tend to spoil the main sample.

With present production methods these demands cannot fully be met without the grower suffering a financial loss that he cannot afford to bear as any increased revenue due to improvement in quality would be more than lost through reduction in quantity. Therefore, it has only been possible to partially meet these new needs and the subject is to be reopened in 1935.

Provided the machine is fed with leaf held to reasonably close length limits there are no technical reasons to prevent the manufacturers of decorticators modifying/

modifying their machines to give any required degree of separation, once the exact needs of the industry are known. Until Estates are equipped with plant that will reclaim the fibres so separated out in a form that will enable them to command a reasonable market price no steps can be taken to remedy the situation by either the grower or the decorticator manufacturers.

The turning of hitherto expensive shamba operations, at present being curtailed to the detriment of the main plant growth, into very necessary profit making operations, should rapidly result in an improved main growth of more even, longer leafed plants with a higher yield per acre of better quality fibre.

It is anticipated that the profits from this higher yield of better qualities from the main production will, in a few years, exceed the direct profits obtained from tow production.

A local sack manufacturing industry is being started with a potential, sheltered market of approximately 5,000,000 sacks per annum, which represents about 5000 tons of raw material annually or an amount equivalent to about 30% of the average fibre export from Kenya, taken over the last four years.

This new industry is expected to absorb all those new tows that cannot be graded to really suit either the Twine or Stuffing Trades and which only should be able to command the lower export prices. In doing this it will also prevent these lower qualities from causing a glut in the tow market to the detriment of those tows that can be graded to better standards.

This new industry will be unable to expand and Estates will be unable to secure the increased revenue from these hitherto waste materials and improvements of main growth unless some means are arranged for financing the purchase of the Reclamation Plant.

COPY.

80/14.29th November, 1934.
GSH/AEP.

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture,
Agricultural Department,
Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.
ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SISAL
MACHINERY.

As requested by Mr. Wolf this morning, I have pleasure in enclosing a schedule showing the individual requirements of the various Estates, which I trust is clear. Since writing you on the 30th October, the requirements have been reduced by £2,000. so that the total now is £54,500. I am sending this schedule in triplicate.

I should like to make it clear that whilst it is hoped and expected that the Mangnall decorticator and reclamation plant will both prove successful in commercial use, neither of these machines can yet be said to be definitely proved; consequently in the event of either not ultimately proving up to expectations, the amounts required by the various applicants, will be materially reduced. Furthermore, if there is no improvement in the existing low price of sisal, Estates may be reluctant to embark upon further expenditure. Another factor which may affect the issue is the uncertain outlook in regard to possible measures of international restriction of out-put.

In view of all these factors, the Estates cannot be bound by their provisional applications, and the amounts stated must, therefore, be treated as provisional. None the less we feel it would be advisable to get ahead with the details of the scheme, so that it can immediately be brought into operation, when the issues mentioned above have been clarified. We should like the Kenya Government fully to appreciate this aspect of the case, as naturally it is not the desire of this Association to put the Government to a lot of trouble for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
For Kenya Sisal Growers' Association.
SD:G.S.HUNTER.

116

KENYA SISAL GROWERS ASSOCIATION.
Requirements under scheme for Government Assistance for Machinery Purchases

Name of Estate	1955				1956				1957				Total				Grand Total.	
	A	B	C	D.	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
Sisal Ltd.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kakuzi Fibrelands Ltd. (3)		2000	1500			2000						3000		4000	1500	3000		£
Kakuzi } Kituamba } Kitito }	6000	2000	3000	6000									6000	2000	3000	6000		17,000.
Donyo Sabuk Est. Ltd.	2000		1500			2000		3000										
Samar Ltd.		2000	1500		2000			3000					2000	2000	1500	3000		8,500.
Dewhurst Farm.	2000		1500										2000	2000	1500	3000		8,500.
Lugari Ltd.	2000		1500	3000		2000							2000		1500			3,500.
<u>T O T A L.</u>	£12000	6000	10500	9000	2000	6000		6000				3000	14000	12000	10500	18000		54,500.

Please turn over.

Yearly Totals

1935 - £37,500.

1936 - £14,000.

1937 - £3,000.

£54,500.

A = Mangnall Decorticator @ £2000 each.

B = Reclamation Plant @ maximum £2000 per unit.

C = Heavy Duty Press @ £1,500.

D = Drying Machine @ £3,000.

N.B. Kakuzi Fibrelands Ltd. owns 3 estates, which individually fulfil the conditions.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

INFORMATION RELATING TO SISAL ESTATES.

	<u>Total area of estate. (acres).</u>	<u>Area of Sisal up to 3 yrs. (acres)</u>	<u>Area of Sisal 3 yrs. and up. (acres).</u>	<u>Factories, No.</u>
Kakuzi Fibrelands, Ltd. Mitubiri- Kakuzi Estate.	4,999	937	735	1.
" Kitito Estate	7,538	1,322	1,047	1.
" Kitumba "	5,608	1,237	570	1.
Samar Ltd. Maragua	7,138	1,200	4,200	2.
Donyo Sabuk Estate, Thika	15,000	1,200	3,390	1.
Sisal Ltd. Makuyu	15,000	1,558	2,266	2.
Dewhurst Farm, Kampi-ya-Moto.	8,761	720	1,500	-
Lugari Ltd. Lugari.	19,560	1,900	1,850	1.

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER"

CODES:
A.S.C. 6th EDITION.
BENTLEYS.

119
2

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9384.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, PIGGY, LONDON.



Chester Jan 30. 35

RECEIVED
31 JAN 1935
C. O. REGY

RECEIVED
31 JAN 1935
REFERENCES
C. O. REGY

Dear Sirs

I have been away from the works for 10 days & on returning to-day, I find to my honor that the Supplement I wrote before leaving, was not posted through accident on account of the illness of my secretary.

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch, Exchange

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

TELEGRAMS
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER"
CODES
A.B.C. 6th EDITION.
BENTLEY'S.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL, 9384.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, PICCY, LONDON.



Chester, 22nd January, 1935.



REFERENCES: YOURS _____
OURS _____

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
London. S.W.1.

Sir,

As directed by Sir Cecil Bottomley
last week I attach a supplement to my
memorandum to the Secretary of State dated 15th
January, 1935.

Not

I have the honour to be
Sir, your obedient servant

A. H. ...
Managing Director.

I am most distressed &
can only hope it has
not caused incommensurate
delay.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. ...

22nd January, 1935.

B¹²¹

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

SUPPLEMENT TO MEMORANDUM DATED 15th JANUARY, 1935.

to THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
from THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.

The four points of detail discussed with Sir Cecil Bottomley in connection with the memorandum were as follows :-

1. The cost of our work of development in East Africa.
2. Our development of high duty sisal baling plant against German competition.
3. The mechanical reasons for the first decorticators not being completely successful.
4. Financial assistance asked for from the Colonial Development Fund.

1. The cost to us of our association with the decorticator development has been about £24,000. and in establishing improved type sisal baling plant about £3,000. In addition our agents have incurred a loss of about £3,000. The Colonial Development Fund provided a grant of £500. and a loan of £700. This makes a total of over £30,000.
 2. Alongside the development of the decorticator we have also successfully established a new type high duty baling plant for sisal. Eleven of these large installations are already at work in East Africa and it is agreed by all concerned that they are the finest machines for this purpose yet made. In order to establish them against keen German competition we have been put to the expenditure mentioned in the preceding paragraph.
- If at the end of all our work we cannot carry on with the decorticators, the Germans by virtue of their decorticator monopoly will be able to make it impossible for us to compete even with the baling plant. The adverse effect which such German monopoly would have on British engine builders and other manufacturers and on British merchant houses within the Colonies was dealt with in the memorandum.

3. The memorandum stated that the fault of construction which is responsible for our present difficult position was in connection with the steel wire ropes employed in the conveyor mechanism. These ropes would not perform their function correctly and quickly gave out. The manufacturers of the ropes later admitted that what they had put forward was unsuitable and that they could not produce any steel ropes that would be better. New parts have been sent out to enable the machines to work with hemp ropes, but this will not make a very satisfactory arrangement. It is now clear to us that the only alternative is a heavy stainless steel chain and the arrangements for it necessitate a complete re-building of the machine. Since the machines are so far away in remote places it would be impracticable to attempt this conversion, and the only satisfactory solution is to supply new complete machines. If the new machines are made, other minor points not quite satisfactory in the present ones would be corrected.
4. We estimate that it will cost £7,000. to replace the machines. We ask that a loan of this amount be made to us by Government and allowed free of interest and for the longest period of years possible. If any portion of it could take the form of a grant we should be very grateful indeed.

TELEPHONE
CHESTER, 1421.
Private Branch Exchange

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

CONTRACTORS TO
THE ADMIRALTY; WAR OFFICE,
INDIA OFFICE,
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

124
TELEGRAMS:
"HYDRAULIC, CHESTER."
CODES:
A.B.C. 6th EDITION.
BENTLEYS.

The Hydraulic Engineering Company Ltd.

LONDON OFFICE:
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL, S.W.1.
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 9354.
TELEGRAMS: HYDROCHEST, H.C.C.V. LONDON.



Chester 15th January, 1955.

REFERENCES: YOURS _____
OURS _____

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
London. S.W.1.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, on behalf of my Company, the attached memorandum for your consideration. It relates to the development of the new machinery for the production of Sisal in East Africa, with which you are familiar. While this matter is a grave concern to my Company, it is vital to the well being of the industry in the Colonies.

I have the honour to be

Sir, your obedient servant

A. H. [Signature]
Managing Director.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

to THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
from THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.
of Chester and London.

Some years after the war it became apparent that our pre-war markets with the Admiralty, War Office, Dock Authorities, etc., which formed the bulk of our output, were unlikely to return. One of our directors was sent to different parts of the Empire and given the task of finding if possible other British markets to keep our works employed.

FIRST STAGE. period 1926 - 1930.

Whilst in Kenya in 1926 our director was asked to undertake the development of a new sisal decorticator which was the invention of Mr. Rutherford, the oldest established sisal planter in Kenya.

Being a class of machine suitable for our works we undertook the development. Several machines were made and representatives sent out to Kenya for long periods to carry out trials and experiments.

After spending considerable sums of money during these five years, we were forced to the conclusion that the process was incapable of producing first grade fibre.

By this time the price of sisal had fallen from £37. 10. 0d. per ton to a figure far below the cost of production and even first grade fibre could not be disposed of profitably. We had no alternative but to consider this method of decortication impracticable and we wrote off the losses incurred.

SECOND STAGE. period 1931 - 1933 inclusive.

The Company was reluctant to abandon the problem, and as our director Captain A. R. Mangnall saw how to produce the required result by an entirely different process, it was decided to continue, and he took personal charge of the development.

Arrangements were made with Mr. James McCrae the Managing Director of Longonot Ltd., a large sisal estate in Kenya, to put down experimental machinery in his factory.

Machinery was made, shipped and erected together with all electrical equipment for driving it. Then followed the ordinary long period of trial and alteration.

Captain Mangnall made three separate and lengthy stays in Kenya and Mr. McCrae and our agents worked almost continuously. During this period we were grateful to receive acknowledgment of our efforts and some help in the form of a grant of £500. and a loan of £700. from the Colonial Development Fund.

It was not until near the end of 1933 that the desired results were obtained, i.e. a fine quality fibre, a higher percentage of extraction from the leaf, reduced horse power and less water required. And it was clear that when the machine was developed commercially, the cost of maintenance would be much less than on existing machines.

With this demonstrated, the outlook of the East African Sisal Estates became infinitely brighter.

THIRD STAGE. period 1934.

The Colonial Government took great interest in the successful result of the experiments and schemes for financial assistance to enable the industry to become equipped with the new machinery were considered.

In the meantime orders were taken from three estates for one machine each. In each case there was great urgency as much of their sisal had reached the end of its growth and was starting to rot away. This resulted in, what proved to be, impossibly short times for delivery of the machines being undertaken. In the light of present circumstances this was a definite mistake on the Company's part. We should have insisted on a much longer time for delivery or let the orders go to Germany for the old type of machinery.

Pressure was applied by all concerned and everything was rushed. The planters required to save their rotting sisal, the industry generally called for quick action in order that an early decision might be reached to enable Government schemes for financial help to be brought into effect, so as to put the estates on a profit paying basis. We ourselves having become dependent on a large volume of work from this source, had no time to lose in putting this business on a paying basis.

Night and day was worked continuously on design and construction. There was no time to fully erect at our works and no chance of running tests in this country to disclose any mechanical faults.

Available materials had often to be used where more suitable ones could have been obtained on longer delivery. In spite of this we were, in view of the excellent results of the experimental machine, quite confident when the machines went out.

Unfortunately when put to work a serious fault was disclosed in the conveyer mechanism. The steel ropes employed proved unsuitable. Months were spent on the estates by Captain Mangnall and our agents in trying to find a remedy.

Although it is almost impossible to calculate the output of sisal as the leaves vary so much in size and fibre content, a definite output had to be guaranteed and owing to the trouble mentioned and the mechanical feeding arrangements for the leaves being not quite adequate, the machines have failed to reach their stated output. We and our agents, between us have spent several thousand pounds trying to remedy the matter but short of sending out new machines it cannot be fully accomplished.

We are now threatened with litigation by the estates concerned for damages for loss of output.

SUMMARY. dated 15th January, 1935.

In all but the correction of certain mechanical features caused by the excessive haste with which the first machines were prepared, we have obtained the desired results, and it is now quite certain that machines can be made which will be satisfactory in all particulars. The value of such machines to the Sisal Industry in the Colonies is of the greatest importance. This is recognised by everybody concerned, and was pointed out by the Secretary of State when he was in Kenya.

A machine of this kind can only be perfected on the estates, and the development under these conditions is very expensive and arduous. Our expenditure over the eight years has been very heavy and we have reached the point beyond which we cannot carry on this work unless a special financial arrangement can be made. If this cannot be done, the benefits of our work will never be realised and the planters will have to carry on with the present type of machine.

This means that the German manufacturers will have handed over to them a complete monopoly within the Colonies. In connection with the sisal fibre extraction machinery alone, this will be a disaster; but with it would go the supply of engines and baling plant. Also, as in some cases in Tanganyika, by virtue of German finance, the estates would of necessity have to buy their many accessories through German agencies, to the serious loss of British firms in the Colonies and British manufacturers at home.

The object of this memorandum is to ask for assistance from Government which will enable us to overcome the present difficulty and to go ahead with our programme. Perhaps the best way of producing a clear issue would be to supply the three estates with new machines having the first constructional faults eradicated. Before putting forward any concrete proposals, we should welcome an opportunity to discuss the whole matter in greater detail.