

1936

PART II

C0533/466

KENYA

38103

38103

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORTS

Previous

Mr. Arty 24/2
S. J/S. 24/2
R297

PART I

Subsequent

1937.

R. 297 24/2

R. 309 16-1

R. 309 12-1

R. 309 23-1

R. 309 23-1

R. 309 25-1

R. 309 25-1

R. 309 25-1

Mr. Tempary 1-2

R. 297 3/2

R. 309 21/2

Mr. Foster 23-1

Mr. Flood 24

R. 297

F. Col. Sec. 300. 22.10.36

Spares to Library. Two 12 copies of Annual Report for 1935, Vol. I.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

*This had still
had a copy
before going to
Africa.*

This deals with 1935 so is a bit late, but its better than the 1934 one. It is not very informing & the main figures are 'wrong somewhere' & confusing by flitting from bags to cows.

Erosion is being recognized as a danger and a good deal of work goes forward on it. The risk of famine is passing as the natives grow more food.

1 Part by
J.S.O. 16.4.

The report gives a fairly comprehensive picture of agriculture in Kenya during 1935.

The value of agricultural produce exported from the Colony showed a considerable increase over the 1934 figure amounting to £913,510; the total is the highest since 1930. Increases in the value of exports were seen under coffee, sisal, tea, maize, cotton, wattle extract, wheat flour, cattle, sesame oil, fodder and offals, decreases were shown under hides and wattle bark.

The increase in the export of coffee was due partly to a late crop in the 1934-35 season followed by an early crop in the 1935-36 season.

A noticeable feature of the coffee trade was the marked increase in the proportion consigned direct to the United States and Canada which amounted

to 123,497 cwt. as compared with 52,347 cwt. in 1934 and 29,659 cwt. in 1933.

The maize season was on the whole fairly favourable, while satisfactory progress was shown in relation to the operation of the maize grading scheme.

The sisal industry experienced a considerable amelioration in conditions owing to the marked rise in price which occurred during the year. The increase in production was continued and exports reached the figure of 32,136 tons valued at £493,112, as compared with 24,016 tons valued at £311,371 in 1934. The Sisal Industry Committee made considerable progress in the furtherance of projects in the interests of sisal growers and a research programme under the direction of Dr. Gibson, Principal of the Linen Industry Research Station at Lambeg in Northern Ireland was instituted. Provision was made with a view to the ultimate establishment of a High Level Research Station for sisal in Kenya and a small financial contribution was made towards the expenses of the Low Level Research Station at Mlingano in Tanganyika.

Under the head of European agriculture details are given of the work accomplished in a number of directions. The conclusion has apparently been arrived at that the possibilities set out by green manuring in the drier maize growing valleys in the Colony, as a means of soil ^{improvement} ~~improvement~~, are limited and it is thought that composting, which does not involve

so heavy a drain on soil moisture, is probably a much more hopeful method of soil improvement in these drier areas.

Satisfactory progress has been recorded in connection with the wheat breeding work and certain new crosses are regarded as sufficiently promising to allow of issue in small quantities. It is noteworthy in connection with wheat growing that "take-all" disease is assuming alarming proportions in certain districts. This disease is also under investigation in this country at Rothamsted; no doubt the workers in Kenya are aware of this and of the nature of the results so far achieved.

Considerable attention has been devoted to the cultivation of pyrethrum and, in particular, a study has been made of the various types of drier in the Colony. The preparation of a satisfactory product depends on close attention to the conditions under which pyrethrum is dried, and discoloration of flowers and consequent lowering of the commercial value of the product results from the use of too high temperatures in attempts to accelerate the rate of drying.

A good deal of attention has been devoted to forage crops in view of the necessity for supplemental feeding of cows in all areas where dairying is practised by European planters, and in the same connection attention has been given to trials of grass species and of leguminous pasture species, combined with grazing trials and rejuvenation of pastures. Work of this description is of considerable importance.

Increased attention has been devoted to the serious problem of soil erosion in both European and native areas and the conclusion was arrived at that

this important subject was not receiving sufficient attention. Considerable activity has been displayed in efforts to bring home the danger of erosion. A bulletin and two memoranda on the position were published during the year and a number of demonstrations were undertaken in connection with methods designed to combat the evil, while the urgent necessity for checking erosion on farms was stressed at a meeting of farmers attended by members of the Plant ^{Training} ~~breeding~~ division of the Department.

It is satisfactory to observe that in measures of this description cordial co-operation exists between the Agriculture and the Forest Departments. The successful handling of a large scale problem such as this demands close co-operation between the technical departments concerned with the problem, particularly Agricultural and Forestry Departments and the administrative service.

In so far as native agriculture is concerned, it is satisfactory to note that as a result of measures that have been undertaken the danger of famine in the main native reserves appears to have been perceptibly diminished and it is considered that if the present efforts of the Department are continued and supported by necessary administrative measures, the danger of famine in main native reserves can soon become negligible as compared with conditions existing a few years ago.

In so far as native cash crops are concerned, the production of cotton has made further

further marked progress. The total production for 1939-40 is estimated at 16,750 bales as compared with 4,777. The opinion of Mr. Killip is that while certain areas are very suited to the growth of the crop advances may be made in the future by a series of simultaneous investigations with a view to its extension, as is also the point that more should be done for additional subordinate staff, a larger number of trained agricultural officers spending a larger amount of time on better experimental work.

The development of wattle planting is also noteworthy, especially in connection with the value it possesses for the reclamation of exhausted or eroded land and steep hillsides. It is estimated that during the year, wattle planted areas increased by about 80,000 acres and that now there are about 1,000,000 acres planted under this crop.

There is an interesting discussion of the progress made towards the introduction of mixed farming in the native areas. The establishment of a system of mixed farming on parallel lines to that which is obtaining outstanding success in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria is an obviously badly needed development, but for success in this direction it is necessary that the various natural and economic living factors should be fully appreciated. For success it is necessary that propaganda should be preceded by a period of extensive experimental work of sufficient duration to enable the underlying limited factors to be exactly ascertained. In this connection, the necessity for the establishment of additional experimental stations is stressed and no doubt provision for this will be made as circumstances and financial commitments permit.

Interest

Interest also attaches to the section dealing with native agricultural training. It is, I think, a general principle in relation to such schemes that they must be adapted to the needs of the population they are intended to serve and that there is only a limited outlet for natives who have received training of the type which is at present being given at the Scott Agricultural Laboratories. Concurrence may be expressed in the view that the training given at native agricultural training centres must be largely based in the future on the idea that the majority of people will return to work their own smallholdings in their reserves; in such circumstances it is clear that the training that they must receive should be based mainly on practical considerations in relation to the type of agriculture which these people can with advantage follow in after life. The operation of instructional smallholdings is one very sound line of ^{development} ~~experiment~~ in this direction.

It is satisfactory to notice that a marked advance is recorded in the improvement of the quality of native produce through the operation of inspection services in the main districts of the Central Province and in the Nyanza Province Native Reserves. The compulsory services are at present confined to wattle bark and, in the absence of legislation for instituting the compulsory inspection of other exportable products, a voluntary service, in agreement with the buyers, has been established at a number of points in Central Province and South Kavirondo.

The

5

The system is reported to have worked very well but is liable at times to breakdown in the absence of authority.

A commencement has not yet been made with the operation of marketing schemes under the Native Produce Marketing Ordinance, but it is anticipated that the system will be introduced in the Central Province in 1936.

The section dealing with Animal Industry discusses a large number of points concerned with animal diseases and animal husbandry. An important problem is that of tick eradication which, although it presents no actual physical difficulties, is complicated in Kenya by the apparent impossibility of controlling the movements of native-owned stock. Concurrence may be expressed in the view that until adequate facilities are provided for much more extensive dipping and fencing it is hopeless to look forward to anything approaching eradication of tick-borne disease.

Taken as a whole the report indicates that satisfactory progress is being maintained and that in relation to native agriculture the developments which were alluded to by Mr. Stockdale in the previous year have been further extended. The report is somewhat difficult to follow owing to the system of recording results which necessitate frequent cross-reference; it might be better if a rather more general grouping of subjects could be adopted in subsequent reports.

[Handwritten signature]

22.1.37.

Let's a good report give an excellent impression of "Civilians". I see from p. 58 that they are starting to name copper plants to natives. This is a welcome & ~~surprising~~ development? I thought there was a sort of colour bar?

I would like you in case you had heard this point

G. L. Pearson
2/27

It was only the election recently which was really bad but Govt. some time ago decided to allow copper growers of Andhra under suspension in selected areas Bhub & More to begin. They have started apparently

J. F. Flood
23-1

M. Walker is doing better as Director

Put by

G. L. Pearson
2/27
at mill

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Special Delivery

4 Col Sec 300 24-11-36
The 12 copies of Annual Reports for 1935, Vol. II

D. Kempson

It will be interesting to all to see Volume II which contains reports of the various heads of the various sections of the Agency.

Dept.

C. H. Pearson
29/11

b
600

Seen with interests the report giving additional detail concerning the matters dealt with in part I but does not call for special comment.

H. Kempson
1.2.37

H. Kempson
1/2/37

H. Kempson
1/2/37

17/12/36
The S. of G. has time to report that he has seen reports which show a good deal of progress. They are out of date & no action is called for but they are useful stuff in them.

1.2.37

1.2.37

It is a good report & gives an excellent impression of "Economic".
I see from p. 58 that they are starting to issue coffee plants to natives. This is a welcome & ~~very~~ surprising development? I thought there was a sort of colour bar?

I return to you in case you had missed this point

G. L. H. Pearson
23/1

It was only the Arabica variety which was really banned but Govt. some time ago decided to allow coffee growing of Arabica under supervision in selected areas Embu & Meru to begin. They have started apparently.

G. L. H. Pearson
23-1.

Mr. White is being better in District

Put by

G. L. H. Pearson
23/1
amir

(Orig. Ser. on 28000/36) de Col. Ser. 301 24-11-36
The 12 copies of Annual Report for 1955, Vol. II

D. Pennington

It would be interesting to all interested parties to all
Volume I which contains reports
by the various heads of the
various sections of the Agric.
Dept.

C. H. Rossmore
23/11

6
END

Seen with interest the report gives additional detail concerning the matters dealt with in part 1 but does not call for special comment.

H. K. Pennington
1.1.37

? list by
C. H. Rossmore
23/11/37

H. K. Pennington
23/11

1.1.37 above

of the S. Dept. has time he might like to look at these reports which show a good deal of useful activity. They are full of data & no action is called for but there is much useful stuff in them.

G. L. H. Pearson
23-1.

WOG 26.2.37

It is a good report upon an excellent impression of "Livestock".
I see from p. 58 that they are starting to raise coffee plants to natives. This is a welcome & interesting development. I thought there was a sort of colour bar?

I wrote to you in case you had missed this point
G. L. A. Hanson
23/

It was only the Arabian variety which was really raised but last year they decided to allow coffee growers of Arabian with experience in selected areas. Enke & More to begin. They have started apparently.
J. F. O. Hood
23-1.

Mr. Walter is being better in Simla
Put by
G. L. A. Hanson
23/

Mr. Col. See
3011
24-11-36
The 12 copies of Annual Report for 1935, Vol. II.

D. Pennington
I would be interested to all relevant reports which contain reports by the various branches of the various sections of the Agric. Dept.
C. H. Crosswell
29/11

Seen with interest the report gives additional detail concerning the matters dealt with in part I but does not call for special comment.

H. Thompson
1.1.37

Let by
C. H. Crosswell
4/2/37

J. F. O. Hood
4.2 above
J. F. O. Hood
23/

Mr. S. J. has time he might like to look at these reports which show a good deal of useful activity. They are full of detail & no action is called for but there is much useful stuff in them.

J. F. O. Hood
24.1.

WOL 26-2-37

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