

1930

Kenya

No. 16240

SUBJECT

C 0533/401

*The Linal Industry Ordinance*

Previous

See 15845/29 (Linal Research)

Subsequent

~~S/A~~

Reports read from Trade Office

23159/34

17169/31

1. Gov. Grigg, 407. .... 10th June 30.

Its copies of a Bill entitled "The Sisal Industry Ordinance, 1930", with obsons - will be glad to receive comments as early as possible.

? as in draft ... (referred from comment)

C. Eastmond

in Stockdale to see later

~~To Gov. Tel. No. 122 - 16th July 30~~  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

I have already discussed informally the question of Sisal Research in East Africa with the Director of the Research Station, Amami. There appears to be a distinct line of division between the work which could be carried out at Amami and that which <sup>could best</sup> be carried out by Dept. of Agriculture in Kenya & S. S. or by an unofficial organization. The Amami programme for the next five years will be discussed by a Sub-Committee of the Advisory Council of Agriculture & Animal Health at a meeting to be held on Wed. next July 28<sup>th</sup> - I would suggest that this dispatch be made available to that meeting.

Yes, acct

If this is agreed to, the papers should be passed on to the Comtee. J. A. Stockdale 15/7/30

I have kept this paper by me pending the completion of the Report of the Amani Sub-Committee. This Report is now completed. Reference is made in it to the fundamental research on sisal which should be carried out at Amani, and it is being suggested that, in view of the proposals formulated by the East African Sisal Growers' Association for the establishment of a special crop research scheme for sisal, arrangements should be made for the Director of Amani to meet in conference representatives of the sisal industry and the Directors of Agriculture of the Dependencies concerned to discuss the research programme at Amani in relation to the work which is contemplated under the Association's scheme, in order that overlapping may be avoided.

The Sub-Committee's Report will be considered by the Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture on the 19th September, after which copies will be forwarded to the East African Governments.

G. Cready

12.8.30.

Wait for Bill which should be before long.

W. Allan

M. J. ...

3  
Secretariat 3 p.m. .... 21st July, 1930.  
Trs. 2 copies of a Bill entitled "The Sisal Industry Ordinance, 1930", omitted from No.1.  
Please see previous minutes, also minutes and correspondence on 15845/39.

This scheme has been brewing for some time. Apparently also a similar scheme is brewing for coffee. The schemes were considered by the Agricultural Commission who expressed their general approval with the principles involved, see section 51-55 of their report. I attach opposite extracts from the Governor's despatch concerning on the report and the Secretary of State's reply.

I gather that there are precedents for this sort of scheme in South Africa. The only thing at all analogous that I know of in East Africa is the arrangement where the N.I.C. pays for station officers in Kenya (and Northern Rhodesia).

There appears to be a great objection in principle to the proposal provided (a) the financial side of them is such that they will not overlap with the Amani programme. (b) the finance, the 1930 estimates of the Government include a provision for the same. (c) the cost of 15,000; this includes a grant of 2500 to the sisal coffee and sisal growers which was included at the instigation of the Amani Committee.

It is intended to proceed with the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission on this matter. As regards (b) see Mr. Cready's note opposite Mr. Stocksale's minute of 10th ... part of the research

3A  
3B

Items 61-67a  
Item 67a

Possibility this figure of 15,000 (or 14,500) will be materially reduced - see existing proposals for ... through?

research is to be carried out at Mombasa, as is apparently thought desirable, and if the proposed funds set up, the question would arise whether some contribution should not be made by the East towards Mombasa.

I spoke to you and you thought that perhaps we should discuss with Mr. Stockdale and Mr. ... perhaps they ... by telephone. ... refer to at ... Mr. ... of the latter conference ... (Stockdale's visit.)

E. Eastwood  
18.8.30.  
JMK:am  
18/8/30

I attach a note of the discussion this morning.

It was decided that no definite reply should be sent to the Governor until after the meeting of the Colonial Advisory Council on the 19th. September. It was thought that it would also probably be desirable for the scheme to be further discussed during Mr. Stockdale's forthcoming visit to East Africa.

I submit draft interim reply to the Governor for consent.

E. Eastwood  
20.8.30.

I am preparing a short note on ...

These proposals for amendment to the ... Council ...

Finance Sub-Committee  
J. Allen  
27.8.30

and when the draft has been the ... before ... the ... for ...

JMK:am  
27/8/30

recd  
X.P. 30  
at once

4 No. - Gov. 654 - 1. Approved - 27 AUG 1930

Recd. to  
Mr. Curran  
V. Mr. Allen  
re: ...

Mr. Allen

The form of the Bill seems to be all right, subject to what is said in the Memorandum (30) about sections 7, 10, 11, & 12.

Sec. 4. It might be better to say ... a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

Sec. 6(1)(b). I agree that a time limit should be fixed by some suitable amendment, so as to give effect to Mr. Stockdale's point that Govt. financial assistance should not be for an indefinite period.

Sec 9(1)(a) - "or" may be a printed error for "and" in this part of the Bill.

Approved 20 Feb 27/8/30

H. Duncan

Went JMK:am

4/9 at once

5. Capt H. J. dated 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 30

6. draft minutes of  
Extract from the sixth meeting of the Colonial  
Advisory Council held on 19th. September 1930.

7. Minute by Mr. Stockdale.

Mr. Creasy

Mr. Allen

This has been waiting for

25783 / B / 30

was reply to no. 1 on this

file. I submit it

for comment.

*(Signature)*

22.10.30

and suggest the omission of the  
... of ... of the ...  
... of ... of the ...  
... of ... of the ...  
... of ... of the ...

G. Creasy  
25/10/30

*(Signature)*

30/10/30

It will be convenient to indicate briefly  
what this is all about.

In No. 1 the Governor submitted a draft  
of

of a Bill for the establishment of a special  
sisal research scheme in Kenya to be financed partly  
by means of a levy on sisal fibre exported, and  
partly on grants by Government on a pound for  
pound basis. The scheme was discussed with Mr.  
Stockdale before his departure for East Africa,  
(see memorandum 3 (c) in the file), and it has  
been considered by the Colonial Advisory Council of  
Agriculture and Animal Health. The scheme is  
summarised in the memorandum prepared for the  
Council by Mr. Creasy, (see No. 5 in the file), and  
the Council, (see minutes in No. 6 of the file),  
recommended that the proposals submitted by the  
Government of Kenya should in general be approved  
subject to certain remarks in regard to co-operation  
with Amani.

Mr. Stockdale also left on record in No. 7  
on the file his views after the discussion by the  
Council. The accompanying draft embodies  
the advice given in these papers, and also the Legal  
Advisers' criticisms on the Bill.

*(Signature)*

30.10.30

Sir S. Wilson

The only point which I need  
say this on is the fact that the  
... could be committed for a  
... of years to a contribution to  
be fixed from time to time, which  
is expected to be in the order  
of neighbourhood of £5000 a year.

I showed very much like the  
European planters, and  
others, to have this money  
spent up money for their own  
research, but there is not  
so much money for everything and  
there might be historical  
expressions.

C.S.S. 3 11.30

Rec of State.

Infrec

7/16

5.11.30

8 to Cor. 883 - 1 Quod. 11/11/30.

9 P.S.A. Fibre & Industrial to \_\_\_\_\_ 12 December  
request be allowed to give opinions on proposals  
contained in draft Ordinance.

Stock Exchange, Year  
Book & ~~Advt~~  
Ed. Manual.

This is one of the stamping  
Leggett's Companies, forming 6800  
acres in Kenya. It is thus a  
company of some importance.

W. the draft Bill & enclosed  
in us:3 provision is made for a  
levy on all social operated  
it for a gov't contribution of an  
amount equal to the levy. The  
money so raised will be

by a Ctee under the  
Chairmanship of  
the Director of  
Agriculture of which  
3 out of 4 members  
will be appointed

administered } to East Africa  
Social Services Association. 4  
this levy is really, as the  
present letter alleges, unrepresentative of the industry as  
a whole, some alteration of  
the arrangement for the  
administration of the fund  
would certainly be  
necessary. This however  
does not affect the principle

of the scheme which the C.P. has already approved.

It might be <sup>of course</sup> replied that the Directors are likely to address the C.P. of the report to & that any such representations would receive careful consideration. Point out

however that it would ~~be~~

be necessary to refer the matter to the ~~Coal~~ Government <sup>the more satisfactory course would appear to be to</sup> ~~submit~~ <sup>submit</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>to the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup>

It may be <sup>rather</sup> direct ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~likely~~ <sup>likely</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~address~~ <sup>address</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~report~~ <sup>report</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~might~~ <sup>might</sup> ~~therefore~~ <sup>therefore</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~satisfactory~~ <sup>satisfactory</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~address~~ <sup>address</sup> ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~comments~~ <sup>comments</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~desired~~ <sup>desired</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> ~~direct~~ <sup>direct</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Coal~~ <sup>Coal</sup> ~~Government~~ <sup>Government</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~averse~~ <sup>averse</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Bill~~ <sup>Bill</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~present~~ <sup>present</sup> ~~session~~ <sup>session</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~L.C.~~ <sup>L.C.</sup> ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> ~~so~~ <sup>so</sup>, ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~reason~~ <sup>reason</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~reports~~ <sup>reports</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~made~~ <sup>made</sup> ~~locally~~ <sup>locally</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~once~~ <sup>once</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~order~~ <sup>order</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~taken~~ <sup>taken</sup> ~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> ~~consideration~~ <sup>consideration</sup> ~~during~~ <sup>during</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~debates~~ <sup>debates</sup> ~~upon~~ <sup>upon</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Bill~~ <sup>Bill</sup>

[Add that it will be noted that the Bill is at present in draft and that the usual opportunities for discussion & amendment will occur during its passage through the Leg. Co.]

I send copies of course to the D.A. Lt. 8, telling the Company so. C. Frankland  
12.30 8.12.30

Barlow will say that we are not at all - the best of it. Now - that C.P. has agreed to the Bill in principle. In that case we should continue that we will nevertheless be glad to receive any representation which the C.P. desire to make, but that it will be appreciated that it will not be necessary to refer the matter to the Coal Govt.

It might therefore be more satisfactory for the C.P. local reports to address such comments as it is desired to make direct to the Coal Govt. - and that C.P. is not averse whether or not the Coal Govt. propose to take the Bill at the present session of L.C. - if so, there will be the more reason for reports to be made locally at once in order that they may be taken into consideration during the debates upon the Bill.

All Partners

And add that they would be at liberty to communicate

the ...

I send one [ ] copy of the Bill to the D.A. Lt. 8, telling the Company so. C. Frankland  
12.30 8.12.30

of the scheme which the S.P.  
has already approved.

... might? reply  
of course  
that the Director and  
likely to address the S.P. of  
they want to & that any  
such representations would receive  
careful consideration. Point out

know that it would ~~be~~  
be necessary to refer the  
matter to the Col. Government  
the more satisfactory course is, upon the  
subject (L.C.) by ~~the~~

→ direct  
the main representation to the  
local  
[Add that it

will be sent to the Police  
at present a draft  
to be used for  
discussion & amendment  
will occur during its passage  
through the Leg. Co.]

I send copies of  
memo to the O.A. L.A. ref. 8,  
telling the Company so.  
O. Richardson  
written 8/12.30 8-12-30

then ...  
...  
...

I was told [ ]  
that the possibility  
that will not be  
able to ...  
the session - as  
the way returning  
for minutes ...

But I am not sure that we  
should not say - see page 4  
11 Nov - that S.P. has  
agreed to the trial in  
principle. In that case we  
should continue that we will  
nevertheless be glad to  
receive every representation  
wh. the Coy. desire to  
make, but that it will  
be appreciated that it  
will be necessary to refer the  
report to the Leg. Govt.  
& that it might therefore be  
more satisfactory for the Coy's  
local reports to address  
such comment as it is  
desired to make direct  
to the Col. Govt. - and that  
S.P. is not aware whether  
or not the Col. Govt. propose  
to take the Bill at the  
present session of L.C. -  
if so, there will be the  
more reason for reports to be  
made locally at once  
in order that they may be  
taken into account during  
the debates upon the Bill.

Alfred ...

And add that they would ...  
of course be at liberty to communicate

to the S. of the industrial company  
representations made to the  
local Govt.

[We might very possibly find  
it desirable to call the D.A.G.  
that he need not regard the  
S. of the approval of the bill  
as shutting out the possibility  
of amendments intended to  
make the scheme more  
representative].

15.9.12 30

Sec of State

? as prepared

G.A.6

15.12.30.

18/12

To B.E.A. Fibre & Industrial Co. 1. DEC 1930  
(9 Annul)

To you 1000 w/c 9/10 1/1. 19/12/30

12 B. E. A. Fibre & Industrial Co. 18 December 30  
Acknowledge to 10 with thanks

Mr. Whitcombe

2/12/30

Thames

P. S. Whitcombe

23.12.30

at Home

EW

13 Mr. Atchdale (Patent) 16 & 17 January  
States as to advances to assist silk industry

See on No 6 on X, 17/12/30

see enclosure

20.1.31

Mr. Eastwood

nothing has been received in reply  
to No 8.

Thames

21/5/31

I expect we shall deem the reply when the  
business comes in; if it does for con. allowances. There  
seems no necessity for a reminder now.

No. Mail

1/11/30 27/9/31

2/15 at 10

R D  
17 MAR 1931  
CO CE

Extract from letter from Mr. Stockdale (at Mombasa) to  
Mr. Greasy, dated 16th February, 1931.

I have just received from Moore a copy of the Report of the Coffee and Sisal Committees in Kenya and from Harrison a copy of Cameron's telegram about the sisal industry in Tanganyika. As I indicated in my telegram on the maize question, there would appear to be a case for sisal and this could be met through additional credit facilities. The Kenya Committee has reported and recommended assistance through the agricultural advances scheme, but I cannot see from the Report what security is being offered. Until one can be satisfied in regard to the security offered, one should be very cautious. I do not like the Tanganyika proposals, and I do not think that it has been realized there what a difference there is between assisting maize and assisting sisal. Coffee I did not think should require assistance, but the position, it is now claimed, has changed because certain merchant houses have declined to make further crop advances. The position is not very different from that of the Kilimanjaro Greek planters, who appealed to the Secretary of State last year, and Cameron then said that they did not deserve sympathy. I still feel that coffee is on a different footing to even sisal, but that there would be no harm in extending short-term credit if satisfactory security can be offered. The Governor of Kenya does not like the idea of any Government assistance but, during our discussion on the issue, I informed him of the assistance that the Home Government had had to provide to agriculture through its short-term credit schemes in co-operation with the Banks. When the whole position is being examined it is necessary to realize that maize is an

annual

annual crop. The last Kenya crop was harvested, or about to be harvested. Some of the crop was in crib. It was partly weevilled and even some of the crop in the field was this year affected. Quick disposal of such affected maize was essential and, in order to prevent the spread of stalk borers in some areas, it was essential that the crop should be harvested without delay, the stubble burnt and the land ploughed. Delayed action was most undesirable, as the crop rapidly deteriorates if kept in this country. Lands for maize next season had also to be broken without delay in order to profit from the first rains. Delay would have resulted in poorer crops and a much more serious position next year. Land values would have deteriorated and a number of really honest growers would have been quite unable to carry on.

Sisal is a crop which takes 3-5 years to come to maturity and may be cut for 4-5 years or sometimes longer. If no cutting is done increased poling will result, and the plantation will "run out" at an earlier age. The stoppage of cutting for one year might not mean serious deterioration. Its effect would be mainly disorganization. Stoppage for periods longer than this might result in deterioration as poling would result very largely and need extensive replanting when operations began again. To maintain regularity of supplies some replanting must be arranged for every year - otherwise deterioration of the property results, and the capital invested in the machinery cannot be utilized to its fullest economic advantage. In other words, sisal is not - as is maize - an annual crop but a semi-permanent one. Steady production is essential if possible, but a reduction of production would not necessarily mean much harm to the plantation. On the other hand, it must not be overlooked that any reduction of production on any estate means a pro-rata increase in the cost of such production.

11

Coffee, on the other hand, is a permanent crop and the greatest danger run in neglecting a coffee property is the increase of pests and diseases. In years of favourable climatic conditions this increase will not be serious, but if the year was a dry one or if periods of drought were experienced considerable increase might occur and damage result. Under such conditions estates which have been able to cultivate satisfactorily have the right under the Plant Protection Ordinance to request protection, and the Government can order remedial measures to be applied or to carry out such remedial measures and then claim costs. One might say that Government should take this risk as coffee is so valuable an industry that finance will be found from one source or another other than that of Government. My view is that the finance would be forthcoming for coffee, but difficulties might be experienced.

Whatever is decided upon, it is in my view essential that the same conditions should apply for sisal both in Tanganyika and Kenya. In regard to coffee, the two industries are not quite in the same position, but it is clear that what is done for one will be expected by the other. Further, if assistance is granted to sisal it is quite clear that, sooner or later, assistance will have to be accorded to coffee, as there is bound to be considerable pressure brought to bear on the Governments until such has been effected.

Personally, I think that if additional credit facilities can be provided against satisfactory security, the position of the industries would be secured and that if this is done the maize industry of Kenya could be told that it would have to adopt a similar policy next year and that no subsidies

subsidies whatever would be considered. I have promised  
H.E. to be available from March 7th to 14th, on my return  
from the Seychelles, if he wishes to consult me further.

0

3

pc  
13  
12  
B.C.A. Fibre and Industrial Co., Ltd.

TELEGRAMS: EYSTAFRIK NIOOY LONDON.  
CABLES: EYSTAFRIK LONDON.

TELEPHONE: GERRARD 6326.

CODE:  
BROOMHALLS.

STATES:  
MABONGALENI, KISWEZI, M'DARUGU,  
MAGOGONI,  
AND AT  
NAIROBI, E.E.A. PROTECTORATE.

CARLTON HOUSE.

REGENT STREET,  
(NEAR WATERLOO PLACE.)

RECEIVED  
19 DEC 1930  
COL. OFFICE

LONDON, 18th December, 192 30.  
S.W.1.

Your Ref. 16240/30.

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

Sir,

NO. 10

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of yesterday's date regarding the Kenya Sisal Cess Bill, contents of which are carefully noted.

We propose to adopt the suggestion in the second paragraph of your letter and are authorising our Local Representative at Nairobi to address our protest to the Colonial Government direct.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Secretary.

O. O.

X 15 240/30 k10 14

Mr. Carlson 17-12

Mr. Allen 17/12

Mr. Parsons 17/12

Mr. Tomlinson

Sir C. Ballouley

Sir J. Sturtevant

Sir G. Grand

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

17 Dec 30

Sir

(4)

I am etc to ack. the recd of your  
 letter of the 4 Dec. ~~concerning~~  
 regarding the draft Kenya Social  
 Industry ~~to inform you that~~  
 a Bill; ~~to express his request~~  
~~that an earlier reply has not~~  
~~been sent.~~

DRAFT.

2 Secretary

British East Africa  
 & the Industrial  
 Co: Ltd.

Copy 400. 1000 of 19/12/30

although ~~my~~ <sup>very</sup> ~~kindly~~  
~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~sent~~ ~~to~~ ~~you~~ ~~and~~ ~~is~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~sent~~  
 agreed to the B.E.A. in principle,  
 Nevertheless he will be glad to  
 receive any representations which  
 your Company may desire to make  
 in regard to it.

It will be appreciated however  
 that it will be necessary to refer  
 any such represent<sup>ation</sup> to the  
 Colonial Govt & it might  
 therefore be more satisfactory  
 for ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> local representatives  
 of the Company ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> address ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~matter~~ <sup>matter</sup> to the

Copy of 9 letters  
 5000 for use  
 2 of 2

Colonial Govt. Direct.

~~3. I am to add that~~

3 The Govt is not aware whether or not  
the ~~Govt~~ party proposed to take the

Dile at the present session  
of the day is: Council. & if

so, there would be the more  
reason for <sup>the company's</sup> ~~the Govt's~~ representation

to be made locally in order

that they may be taken into

consideration during the debates on

the Dile. In that case the Co.

is free/wards of course

to be at liberty to send to the

Govt the substance of my

representation made locally

(Signed) A. C. G. PARKINSON.

**B.C.A. Fibre and Industrial Co., Ltd.**

15  
9

TELEGRAMS: EYSTAFRIK PIGGY LONDON.  
CABLES: EYSTAFRIK LONDON.

TELEPHONE: GERRARD 8328.

COSEY  
BROOMHALLS  
ESTATES  
MARONGALENI, KIWENZE, W'DARIUQU,  
MAGOGONI,  
AND AT  
NAIROBI, E.S.A. PROTECTORY.

CARLTON HOUSE,

REGENCY STREET,

(NEAR WATERLOO PLACE.)

LONDON, 4th December, 1923.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Passfield, P.C.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
LONDON, S.W., 1.

35

My Lord,

The East African Standard in its issue of the 8th November, which contains a debate on the Estimates in the Kenya Legislative Council on Thursday, the 8th November, reports that a Draft Bill regarding Sisal Services in Kenya Colony has "been referred to the Secretary of State at his request and for his advice inasmuch as a new principle was involved."

The Press report states that the Bill has received the approval of the Sisal Growers' Association in Kenya but that, in view of the serious depression which exists in the Industry, the operation of the Bill should only be applied in a very restricted manner at present.

I desire to point out that this Company has already registered a protest to the Director of Agriculture, Nairobi, against the proposed "Bill to impose a levy on the export of Sisal Fibre and to regulate the expenditure of the proceeds thereof and of sums granted for the purpose for the improvement of the Sisal Industry." Certain reasons were given at the same time.

From enquiries which have been made, it has been discovered that of 71 Sisal Estates growing Sisal in Kenya, 24 only appear to be represented on the Sisal Growers' Association.

Up to the present, my Company has not felt disposed to become a member of the Kenya Sisal Growers' Association, but as we are the largest Company incorporated in the United Kingdom, whose activities are devoted exclusively to Sisal cultivation in Kenya, I suggest for your favourable consideration, that my Board be permitted to give a considered opinion upon the proposals contained in the Bill, which, from the Draft Ordinance in my possession, introduces features and principles of far reaching magnitude.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

Secretary.

Answered. 17/12/30  
Copy for 10/12/30 of 17/12/30

C.O.

16240/30

816

Mr. Eastwood 22/10

Mr. Creasy 25/10

Mr. Allen 30/10

Mr. Parkinson 31/10

Sir C. Bottomley 31/10

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindall

Mr. ...

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

*[Handwritten signature]*

**DRAFT** for consen

No. 1

KENYA

NO. 883

O.A.G.

C.D.  
R 7-NOV  
D.P.

Downing Street,

October, 1930.

Sir, *SS*

I have the honour to refer to Sir Edward Grigg's despatch No. 407 of the 19th June and subsequent correspondence regarding a Bill entitled "The Sisal Industry Ordinance, 1930".

2. Sir Edward Grigg invited my comments on the principles ~~involved~~ <sup>of</sup> the Bill, namely that a levy should be raised from the sisal industry to create a fund to finance measures of sisal research, and that the Colonial Govt. should contribute to this fund on a pound for pound basis. In general I concur in the view expressed by the Agricultural Commission, which is supported by the Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture and Animal Health, that when agricultural industries have reached a certain stage of development they should finance their

1 extra copy to be made and sent to me to send to Mr. Stockdale G. Creasy.

own

own research; and the scheme for the sisal industry contained in this Bill is, I am advised, on suitable lines. In particular it gives to the Director of Agriculture substantial control over the work to be financed out of the fund; experience elsewhere has shown this to be most desirable, at least in the early stages of such a scheme.

3. There appears, however, to be a certain danger of over-lapping between the work to be financed from the fund and the research on sisal to be undertaken at the E.African Agricultural Research Station at Amani. I have recently forwarded to you in my despatch No.813 of the 16th October, copies of the report of the Sub-Committee of the Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture and Animal Health on the future programme of work of the station; and you will have seen that, in that report, the Sub-Committee recommended that considerable long-range research on problems connected with the sisal

(3<sup>5</sup> on  
25383/B/30 )

sisal industry should be carried out at Amani. In connection with the report of the Sub-Committee, the Council also ~~considered~~ the scheme outlined in the Bill. While approving the scheme generally they emphasised again the importance of fundamental research being conducted at Amani, and they considered that the work which it was proposed should be undertaken by the physiologist on the physiology of fibre production and by the plant breeder on selection and breeding would be better done at the Station. It was felt that, in that event, direct contributions might be made <sup>under</sup> from the Scheme towards the Amani Station, or officers appointed under the Scheme for such work could be stationed at Amani.

4. As regards the finance of the Scheme it would, I think, be desirable that the Government should not promise <sup>be committed to the provision of</sup> to provide a contribution in perpetuity, <sup>but</sup> ~~except~~

except  
but for a limited, though fairly long, period,  
say, five years; and it will be well to amend  
I consider that the amount of the Govt. contribution  
for Edward Gugg  
which ~~you~~ proposed would be reasonable having

regard to the importance of the industry.

5. I understand that a scheme is now being prepared to enable the coffee industry to finance its own research. I trust that when definite proposals are formulated they may be on the same general lines as the present proposals. As at present advised, I should regard as undesirable proposals for a scheme on a more ambitious scale.

6. As regards the Bill I see no objection to the proposals in clauses 10 and 11 so far as minor appointments are concerned but I consider it desirable that, at least to begin with, all the higher paid technical officers should be appointed members of the Agricultural Department under clause 11 and should be seconded for service under clause 12.

I should wish to be consulted in regard to any such appointments before they are made. Such additions to the establishment of the Agricultural Department would have to be shown in the Estimates and the inclusion of the necessary provision would

therefore

the clause 6  
so as to  
make it clear  
that the period  
for which the  
Govt. will  
make the  
contribution  
will be  
determined  
by the Govt.  
from time to  
time.

therefore be subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, clause 11 as worded

might however be interpreted as requiring the approval of the Leg. Ccl. for the actual appointment to offices so created.

I assume that this is not intended and some amendment of the clause would appear to be desirable to make the intention clear.

7. The following points of detail have been noticed in the course of examination of the Bill:-

Clause 4. It is suggested that the last line should read "not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months".

Clause 6 (1)(b) ✓

Line 3: "grants-in-aid" should apparently be "grant-in-aid".

Clause 7(2) and (3) ✓

No provision is made for the re-nomination of members whose year of office has expired.

Clause 9(1)(d) The word "and"

apparently

apparently should be substituted for "or"

in the last line.

Clause 12 ✓

There is no provision in this clause  
for the payment of pension contributions.

I have, etc.

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

X Ea 1 7 19  
~~MR. ALLEN~~

The papers dealing with the proposals for the Sisal Industry Research Organization in Kenya were considered by the Advisory Council at its last meeting - held on the 19th - and an extract from the minutes of the meeting was to be attached to the papers.

The Council agreed that it was desirable to encourage organized industries to start research organizations financed by a cess on exports and, in regard to the sisal proposals for Kenya, desired that co-operation of research work for sisal by the East African Sisal Growers' Association, by the Tanganyika growers, when an association is formed, and by Amani should be kept in view. It was particularly urged that long range research should be carried out at Amani, and that the Kenya Growers' Association, through its proposed research organization, might consider subsidizing specialized work for sisal at Amani or providing, at their expense, for the attachment of officers to Amani for such research work.

In any reply to Kenya these views might be conveyed, as it is desirable to work for the organization of research for sisal in East Africa as a whole. There is no reason why Kenya should not begin and Tanganyika later follow on similar lines - both being linked to Amani for long range work.

J. A. Storkdale

24.9.30.

Please see memo 1-11  
re: sisal research work

and 9/30

6  
1

6. Sisal Research in Kenya.

The Council had before them a paper (C.A.C.47) regarding proposals which were under consideration for the establishment of a special Sisal Research Scheme in

21

Kenya, to be financed partly by means of a levy on sisal fibre exported and partly by grants from Government.

The Council were agreed that organised industries in the Colonies should be encouraged to provide their own research services, wherever possible, and recommended that the proposals submitted by the Government of Kenya should, in general, be approved. It was felt, however, that the fundamental investigations, such as those which it was proposed should be undertaken by a physiologist on the physiology of fibre production and by a plant breeder on selection and breeding work, would be better done at Amani and that, in that event, direct contributions might be made from the Scheme towards the Amani Station, or that officers appointed under the Scheme for such work could be stationed at Amani.

The Council were informed that, whereas the sisal producers in Kenya were organised under the East African Sisal Growers' Association, no organisation existed, as yet, which was representative of sisal growers in Tanganyika Territory. It was felt that it would be desirable that such an organisation should be established in the Tanganyika Territory and that a similar Research Scheme could, with advantage, be initiated there, and that arrangements should be made for the fullest possible co-operation between these two organizations, the Departments of Agriculture of Kenya and Tanganyika Territory, and the East African Agricultural Research Station at Amani in regard to sisal research. Mr. Stockdale was requested to examine the position during his visit to East Africa.

5 22

COLONIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE AND  
ANIMAL HEALTH.

-----oOo-----


C.A.C. 47

Sisal Research in Kenya.

Proposals are under consideration for the establishment of a special Sisal Research Scheme in Kenya, to be financed, partly, by means of a levy on sisal fibre exported and, partly, by grants from Government. The Scheme is to be administered on the advice of a Committee which will consist of the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, one member to be nominated by the Governor, and three members to be nominated by the East African Sisal Growers' Association, and it is proposed that the fund which will be established should be devoted to the following purposes:-

- (a) Experiment, investigation, and research in connexion with the sisal industry;
- (b) the study of the economics of the production of sisal;
- (c) the improvements of machinery or plant for the production of sisal fibre by giving rewards therefor, or by making advances in aid of the construction or testing of mechanical or other devices for the production of sisal fibre;
- (d) the payment of the salary and allowances of officers and servants of the committee and the establishment of a provident fund for such officers or servants;
- (e) the preparation and publication of statistics and reports relating to the sisal industry;
- (f) any other service which, in the opinion of the committee, is calculated to promote the welfare of the sisal industry or the more economic production of sisal fibre.

23



It is contemplated that, under the Scheme, the administrative and research work should be carried out, for the most part, through the Department of Agriculture. In submitting the proposals to the Secretary of State the Governor has stated:-

"The first appointment desired by the Sisal Growers' Association is that of an Agricultural Economist for the purpose of studying the economics of the industry, especially in regard to the cost of production. It is also considered that a Physiologist should be appointed to study the physiology of fibre production, and a Plant Breeder to proceed with the work of plant improvement through selection and breeding, and that these two research officers should work together so that their work may proceed *pari passu*. It is a matter for consideration whether this particular service could not be centred at Amani with such supplementary investigations and trials as may be found necessary and advisable in Kenya, though it is open to doubt how much support any such proposal would receive from unofficial interests here. Another direction in which it is contemplated that part of the fund might be spent is in regard to the assistance of inventors in improving machinery and equipment for the abstraction of fibre from the plant."

The Council is asked to consider these proposals, particularly in relation to the programme of work on sisal which the Amani Sub-Committee has recommended should be undertaken at the East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani (C.A.C.44).

(Signed) GERALD CREASY.  
Secretary.

Colonial Office.

27 August, 1939.

O. O.

16240/1930 Kenya

4/24

Mr. Eastwood 2078

Mr. ~~Chambers~~ 218750

Mr. ~~...~~ 22/2/20  
K.M. 2318

Sir C. Bottomley W. H. ...

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Permit, U.S. of S.

Early U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street,

27 August, 1930.



Sir,

I have, etc., to refer to your despatch No. 407 of the 19th of June, regarding proposals for the institution of a separate research organisation for the sisal industry.

DRAFT.

KENYA

No. 654

Gov. in connexion with the Report of its Sub-Committee on the future programme of work of the East Africa Agricultural Research Station at Amani.

2. This proposal <sup>shortly</sup> will be considered by the Colonial Advisory Council on Agriculture and Animal Health at their next meeting on the 19th September, and I shall address you further on the subject <sup>shortly</sup> after that date. I hope by that time <sup>the</sup> report of the sub-committee of the Council on the future programme of work of the Amani Institute will also be available.

I hope to be able to send a full reply to your despatch <sup>by</sup> about the end of early in October.

I have, &c

(Signed) PASSFIELD

Recirculate to note to  
Bring up 20 Sep.  
Noted

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Stockdale, Mr. Creasy and Mr. Allen discussed this this morning.

Mr. Stockdale considered that the Bill was generally acceptable in principle. He considered that it was a good thing that when crop industries had reached a certain stage of development, they should be financed <sup>with one</sup> by research. (This was also the opinion of the Agricultural Commission.) The particular scheme gives the Director of Agriculture fairly firm control over the programme of research. Mr. Stockdale regarded this as most important. Experience elsewhere has shown that industries which start research work on their own are apt to go off the rails unless the Director of Agriculture has a very considerable say in the programme. He regarded it as essential, however, to get quite clear the relation of the work to be paid for out of the proposed fund to the work at Amani. All long range research work should be carried out at Amani, and paid for by Amani funds. [The future programme of work at Amani is <sup>now</sup> being considered by a sub-committee of the Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture and Animal Health, in consultation with Mr. Nowell, and their report will be <sup>considered at the Council meeting on</sup> available after September the 19th.] It will include provision for a physiologist for work on sisal. [Short range work <sup>should</sup> be paid for out of the fund, and could be carried out, either in Kenya or at Amani.

at the commencement

Mr. Stockdale also considered that it would

be

be a good thing if a similar scheme was started in Tanganyika. This will very likely follow from the institution of the Kenya scheme. The object to be aimed at was co-ordinated research for the whole of East Africa under the direction of a managing committee consisting of the Director of Amani, Directors of Agriculture of Kenya and Uganda, and representatives of the growers.

[Close Union w help this]

As regards finance, Mr. Stockdale thought that the Government should not promise to provide a contribution in perpetuity, but for a limited though fairly long period. In any case, not less than five years. The maximum Government contribution would be £5,000 and the actual contribution would probably be considerably less. In principle, Mr. Stockdale considered this contribution reasonable having regard to the importance of the industry, (value of the annual export of sisal is approximately £500,000). Whether at the present juncture Kenya can afford this amount is another matter. The Governor has recently been informed that the S. of S. considers it most important that all expenditure which is not <sup>of an</sup> ~~considered~~ <sup>character</sup> absolutely essential, should be postponed. It is unlikely, however, that much if anything will be required during 1931, and it

It is considered that the expenditure of the S. of S. on sisal should be postponed 2/1/31

would perhaps suffice when replying to ~~replied~~ <sup>to say that the S. of S.'s approval of the principle of a</sup> the Governor <sup>of the need for economy when the time</sup> ~~of the need for economy when the time~~ <sup>comes for him to face the case</sup> ~~comes for him to face the case~~

actual expenditure of govt in any one year, the amount (if any) of which must be divided having regard to the general financial situation at the time

Approval of the scheme for sisal would virtually commit the S. of S. to approval of <sup>coffee</sup> a similar scheme for Kenya. It is understood that the

17  
the proposals of the Coffee industry <sup>are</sup> were much more ambitious, but they are not yet ripe.

*Just*  
Mr. Stockdale would consider a scheme for coffee similar to this one justifiable and desirable, but not anything on a ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ambitious scale to start with.

\* As regards details:

Section 6(1)(b) should begin:- "For a period of X years". "Grants-in-aid" in line 3 should perhaps be "Grant-in-aid"

Section 7(2) & (3). Provision should be made for the re-nomination of members whose years of office <sup>has</sup> have expired.

Sections 10, 11, & 12. The proposals as regards the staff to be paid out of the fund are not quite clear. It seems desirable that to begin with all the higher paid and technical officers should be members of the Agricultural Department, seconded for service under the scheme. There ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> be no objection to the Committee appointing clerical staff, etc., but it should be made clear that the approval of the S. of S. would be required to the appointment of higher grade officers.

## II

In Section there seems no reason for requiring the approval of the Legislative Council to the appointment of persons to the Agricultural Department; the provision for their salaries <sup>Dec. Co.</sup> would need their approval in any case.

In Section 12 provision should be made for pension contribution.

3 B  
18

orig. ref. no. 6 a  
15853/1/22

conf

Extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State  
~~for the Colonies~~ to the Governor of Kenya, dated  
10th April 1930.

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X

X

X

7. I shall await with interest the further communication which you promise in paragraph 7 of your despatch regarding coffee and sisal research. You will, I feel sure, agree that it is very desirable that the specialised work on these two crops in Kenya and at the East African Agricultural Research Station at Amani should be so arranged as to prevent over-lapping and to ensure the fullest co-operation. You will no doubt forward in your further despatch programmes of the work which it is suggested should be undertaken in Kenya in regard to coffee and sisal; on receipt of these, I shall be glad to arrange for them to be examined by the Colonial Advisory Council on Agriculture and Animal Health.

X

X

X

3A  
29

orig. negd a no 4 a  
15856/12729

Extract from a despatch from the Governor of Kenya  
to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated  
25th February 1930. (Copy no 29)

x

x

x

S. In regard to the proposals of the Coffee  
Planters' Union and the Sisal Growers' Association  
that the industries which these bodies represent  
should institute their own research services, concrete  
proposals have been submitted to Government by the  
bodies in question and are at present receiving my  
consideration. As Your Lordship is aware a token  
sum of £500 was inserted in Estimates as an earnest  
of Government's intentions to implement the proposals  
of the Commission in this connection so far as the  
finances of the Colony will permit. Of the two  
industries, the coffee industry is the more important  
from this point of view, but I do not anticipate that  
schemes will be sufficiently advanced this year to  
entail any considerable expenditure by Government. I  
will address Your Lordship further on this matter  
should it be possible to make arrangements by which  
research services can be undertaken by these industries  
with or without the assistance of Government.

x

x

x



30

THE SECRETARIAT  
NAIROBI  
KENYA.

WHEN REPLYING  
PLEASE QUOTE  
No. S. / C. AGR. 1713/25  
AND DATE

RECEIVED  
12 AUG 1930  
COL. OFFICE

21st July, 1930.

The Colonial Secretary of the Colony and

Protectorate of Kenya presents his compliments to the

Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and with  
reference to the Secretary of State's telegram No.

(No. 2) 122 of the 16th July, 1930 has the honour to transmit

two copies of a Bill entitled "The Sisal Industry  
Ordinance, 1930", which it is regretted were not

(No. 1) received with Kenya despatch No. 407 of the 19th June,  
1930.

h/4

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A Bill to Impose a Levy on the Export of Sisal Fibre  
and to Regulate the Expenditure of the Proceeds  
thereof and of Sums granted for the purpose for  
the Improvement of the Sisal Industry.

**A Bill to Impose a Levy on the Export of Sisal Fibre and to Regulate the Expenditure of the Proceeds thereof and of Sums granted for the purpose for the improvement of the Sisal Industry.**

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor of the Colony of Kenya, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "the Sisal Industry Ordinance, 1930", and shall come into operation on such date as the Governor may, by proclamation in the Gazette, appoint.

5 2. In this Ordinance—

Interpretation.

"committee" means the committee constituted by section 7 of this Ordinance;

"Director" means the Director of Agriculture;

10 "fund" means the fund established by section 6 of this Ordinance;

"sisal fibre" means the fibrous product derived from the plant *Agave rigida*, var. *sisalana* and allied species.

15 3. There shall be paid to the Commissioner of Customs a levy on all sisal fibre produced in and exported from the Colony.

Levy on sisal fibre exported.

20 4. Any person who exports or attempts to export from the Colony any sisal fibre without paying such levy thereon shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable, on conviction before a magistrate of the first or second class to a penalty of one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for six months.

Penalty.

25 5. (1) Not later than one month before the date on which this Ordinance is brought into operation the Governor, with the approval of the committee, shall by order fix the rate of such levy and such rate shall remain in force until a new rate is imposed in manner hereinafter provided.

Governor may alter rate of levy.

(2) Not later than the 30th day of September in any year the Governor, with the approval of the committee, may by order alter the rate of such levy, and such altered rate shall come into force on the first day of January next following the date of such order.

(3) The rate of such levy shall in no event exceed the sum of ten cents of a shilling on each hundredweight or part of a hundredweight of sisal fibre produced in and exported from the Colony.

35 6. (1) There shall be established a fund which shall consist of—

Establishment of fund.

(a) all moneys collected from the levy on sisal fibre at the rate for the time being in force under this Ordinance;

- (b) a grant-in-aid from the Government of a sum equal in amount to the sum collected from the said levy on sisal fibre. Such grant-in-aid shall be paid into the fund quarterly at the end of March, June, September and December and each such grant shall be of a sum equal in amount to the sum collected from the said levy during the preceding three months; provided that the total of such grant in any one year shall not exceed the sum of £5,000;
- (c) such other contributions or donations as may from time to time be made to the fund.
- (2) Such fund shall be lodged with the Treasurer, and shall be placed by him to a separate suspense account in the name of the Director, who shall, with the consent of the committee, apply such moneys to the accomplishment of the objects and purposes of the fund.
- (3) The Director shall keep account of the receipts and disbursements in connexion with the fund and shall render to the committee statements showing such revenues and expenditure as required by them.
- (4) Within a reasonable time after the expiration of each year the committee shall cause to be prepared a statement of the receipts and disbursements during the previous year, and such statement shall be subject to such audit and published in such manner as the Governor may direct.

Constitution of Committee.

- 7. (1) There shall be constituted a committee to be known as the Sisal Industry Committee, which shall consist of—
  - (a) the Director of Agriculture, who shall be chairman;
  - (b) four members of whom one shall be a person associated with the sisal industry to be nominated by the Governor, and three shall be nominated by the East African Sisal Growers' Association.
- (2) The members of the committee, other than the chairman, shall hold office for one year.
- (3) If any member of the committee resign or die the authority which nominated such member may nominate another person to take the place of such member, and such person shall hold office until the expiry of the term of office of the member in whose place he is nominated.
- (4) If any member of the committee is absent from the Colony for a period of more than four months during his term of office the authority which nominated such member may appoint a fit and proper person to serve on the committee during the absence of such member.
- (5) In the absence of the Director from any meeting of the committee a chairman for such meeting shall be chosen by the members present.
- (6) The Director or, in his absence, the chairman shall have a casting vote.
- (7) At its first meeting the committee shall fix the number required for a quorum and makes rules for the conduct of its business.
- (8) The Director shall at any time summon a meeting of the committee upon receipt of a requisition signed by two members of the committee calling upon him to do so.

- 8. The committee shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall be capable in law of suing and being sued, and of purchasing, holding and alienating land and other property movable or immovable.
- 9. (1) The fund shall be devoted to—
  - (a) experiment, investigation and research in connexion with the sisal industry;
  - (b) the study of the economics of the production of sisal;
  - (c) the improvements of machinery or plant for the production of sisal fibre by giving rewards therefor, or by making advances in aid of the construction or testing of mechanical or other devices for the production of sisal fibre;
  - (d) the payment of the salary and allowances of officers and servants of the committee and the establishment of a provident fund for such officers or servants;
  - (e) the preparation and publication of statistics and reports relating to the sisal industry;
  - (f) any other service which in the opinion of the committee is calculated to promote the welfare of the sisal industry or the more economic production of sisal fibre.
- (2) No expenditure from the fund shall be incurred on advertising for purposes of sale, marketing or manufacturing any product of sisal fibre, or on any similar service.
- 10. (1) The Governor, on the advice of the committee, may appoint fit and proper persons to promote any of the objects to which the fund may be devoted. Such persons shall be remunerated at such rates, and be employed on such terms and conditions as the Governor, on the advice of the committee, shall decide.
- (2) The whole of the cost of and incidental to the employment of such persons shall be borne by the fund.
- 11. The Governor may, on the advice of the committee and with the approval of the Legislative Council, appoint fit and proper persons to be members of the Agricultural Department for the advancement of any of the purposes of this Ordinance. The whole cost of such persons, including a contribution in respect of their pension rights (if any) shall be chargeable to the fund.
- 12. The Governor may, on the advice of the committee, order that the services of any members of the Department of Agriculture be devoted wholly or in part to sisal services, and thereupon the whole or such part of the cost (as the case may be) of such officer, including salary, passages, medical and other privileges, allowances and reasonable transport and travelling expenses; shall be chargeable to the fund.
- 13. The Governor may direct that there be paid from the fund a sum representing laboratory costs and materials used in connexion with the purposes of this Ordinance; provided that the sums so directed to be paid shall not in any year exceed in the aggregate two per centum of the fund, and provided further that no sum shall be chargeable against the fund in respect of services directly connected with the administration by the Department of Agriculture of the Diseases of Plants Prevention Ordinance.

The committee to be a body corporate.

Purpose to which fund may be devoted.

Governor may appoint staff.

Secondment of agricultural officers.

14. All sums chargeable against the fund under sections 10, 11, 12 or 13 of this Ordinance may be deducted from any grant in aid of the fund to be made by Government.

Government  
powers of  
exemption

15. The Commissioner of Customs on the advice of the Director may exempt any consignments of sisal fibre exported for exhibition or experiment from payment of the levy imposed by this Ordinance.

#### OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Agricultural Commission in paragraphs 51 and 55 of their Report state as follows:

51. One general question, which has occupied much of the attention of the Commission, is whether some of the agricultural industries of the Colony have not reached the stage of development that calls for their own research departments, supported by contributions from the industry. At a certain stage of specialization the needs of the industry can no longer be adequately met by a share in the research services of a department upon which many other calls are made. This stage of development may have been reached by the coffee and sisal industries. Both of them are highly specialized; both are intensive cultures in which research is essential.

55. As regards sisal also the Commission has received a research scheme about which negotiations have already been carried on with the Department of Agriculture. Again, while approving it in principle, the Commission desires to express no opinion about the details of the scheme, which, in its present form, differs somewhat from the coffee scheme, in that it contemplates the retention of the sisal research organization within the department.

The report of the Select Committee on the Draft Estimates for 1930 contains the following appendix:—

Having considered the memorandum submitted by the East African Sisal Growers' Association, under date 6-9-29, the sub-committee recommends:—

- (a) That legislation be introduced to give effect generally to the proposals of the Association; further, that as and when funds accruing from the levy proposed to be imposed, Government should provide, under Supplementary Estimates if necessary, the contribution which it undertakes to make.
- (b) That, excepting in so far as research work thereon may be involved, Government should not contribute towards expenditure incurred on marketing, manufacture and cognate services.
- (c) Apart from the appointments proposed, viz., Agricultural Economist and Plant Physiologist, that the cost of services such as may be rendered by other officers of the Department of Agriculture should be regarded as part of the Government's contribution on the pound-for-pound basis.

This Bill provides for a levy on all sisal fibre produced in and exported from the Colony not exceeding cents 10 per hundredweight or part thereof.

The amount raised from such levy is paid into a fund to which Government contributes on a pound-for-pound basis, with an annual maximum of £5,000.

The fund is administered by a Sisal Industry Committee, under the chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture, and the fund may be devoted to the purposes set out in Clause 9.

Provision is made in Clauses 10, 11 and 12 for the appointment of officers for research work on sisal. The cost of officers of the Department of Agriculture engaged on such work, and of laboratory costs and materials is a charge against the fund; and may be deducted from the Government grant.

The provisions of the Bill have been approved by the Sisal Growers' Association.

KENYA.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

No: 407

RECEIVED  
14 JUL 1930  
COL.

H  
19 June, 1930.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship copy of a Bill entitled "The Sisal Industry Ordinance, 1930."

2. This Bill has been drafted in consultation with a committee of the Sisal Growers' Association, and has, with the exception of the provisions contained in Section 6 (1) (b) which have been embodied in the draft for the consideration of Executive Council, received the approval of that Association. The sum of £5,000 stated in Section 6 (1) (b) of the draft is a tentative figure and probably well in excess of anything which the Colony would be called upon to pay during the initial stages of the scheme at any rate. As at present advised, however, I consider that it will be necessary to fix some maximum to the Government contribution which could possibly be brought under review from time to time. I have not as yet sought the advice of my Executive Council on this Bill, as I am awaiting any comments which the recently appointed Board of Agriculture may wish to make upon it, but I have deemed it advisable to address Your Lordship on this matter at once inasmuch as the levy provided for in the Bill introduces a principle hitherto unknown in this Colony.

3. The first appointment desired by the Sisal Growers' Association is that of an Agricultural Economist for the purpose of studying the economics of the industry especially in regard to the cost of production. It is also .....

*See the Annual Report - 27 AUG 1930*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON. S.W.1

also considered that a Physiologist should be appointed to study the physiology of fibre production, and a Plant Breeder to proceed with the work of plant improvement through selection and breeding, and that these two research officers should work together so that their work may proceed pari passu. It is a matter for consideration whether this particular service could not be centred at Amani with such supplementary investigations and trials as may be found necessary and advisable in Kenya, though it is open to doubt how much support any such proposal would receive from unofficial interests here. Another direction in which it is contemplated that part of the fund might be spent is in regard to the assistance of inventors in improving machinery and equipment for the abstraction of fibre from the plant.

4. The relevant sections of the report of the Agricultural Commission which dealt with this matter are quoted in the "Objects and Reasons" and it is the case that Sir Daniel Hall was of opinion that the coffee and sisal industry should contribute towards the cost of services rendered for their advancement, though it would be a matter for further examination and consideration as to the control which should be set up and the relationship between the organization so established and departmental services. In this case a via media has been reached whereby the fund will be under control of the Committee appointed under the Bill and the administrative and research side of the work will fall to be carried out for the most part through the Department of Agriculture.

5. I shall be grateful if I may receive Your Lordship's comments on the principle contained in this Bill as early as possible, as I anticipate that considerable

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local pressure may be put on Government to proceed with  
the Bill as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant

*Edward Gigg*

GOVERNOR

