

1925

E. AFRICA
ZANZIBAR

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FROM

Resd. Holms

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DATE

10 November 1925

FOR CIRCULATION

Mr. Jeffries

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420

Centralization of Records

I have begun to review expressed in Report
of E. A. Commission. Enclose copies of
memoranda by Director of Agriculture
and 4 Director of Medical Sanitary
Service.

Previous Paper

Apr. 52213
Aug 10
Uga

MINUTES

Mr. Jeffries

This paper seems to have been
misplaced with the files from
other dependences & so not to have
been dealt with at the time of
receipt I have now added a
summary to those in 49309.

Chas

10/21/26

Subsequent Paper

Apr. 57169
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25

No. 355.

THE RESIDENCY,
ZANZIBAR.

10th November, 1925.

430

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 173 of the 25th of August asking for my observations on the views expressed on page 85 of the Report of the East African Commission dealing with the question of the centralisation of research.

2. I enclose herewith copies of Memoranda by the Director of Agriculture and Acting Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, with whose views I am substantially in agreement.

3. I regard the re-establishment of Amani Institute as a central Scientific Institute of supreme importance for all the East African Dependencies; and the formation of a separate Scientific Service, as suggested by Mr. Kirkham, appears to be the best way of avoiding possible friction between the staff of the Institute and the officials of the Government Departments. I believe that this was considered necessary by the German Government and that the former staff at Amani was independent of the Colonial Government.

4.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. C. M. S. ALBRY, P.C., M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

DOWNING STREET.

4. Scientific investigations in medical and veterinary matters could not be undertaken at Amani, and in view of the different diseases prevalent in the several East African Dependencies, it would certainly seem advisable for each Dependency to have its own Research Laboratory, the results of the work and the reports of the Research Officers being forwarded for publication to some central Institute.

5. This Protectorate, though small, is fortunate in possessing two laboratories, both of which are in the same building, and two Museums (one scientific and one popular). A Chemical Research Department is at present being organized by Mr. Kirkham in the Agricultural Offices similar to the one which was founded by him at Nairobi in 1920, and which is referred to in the Report of the Commission. With such a wealth of material and equipment at hand, it is possible, as pointed out by Dr. Spearman, that in the event of a Tropical Diseases Research Institute being founded in East Africa, Zanzibar in spite of its insular position, may offer greater attractions and facilities than any other centre.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

BRITISH RESIDENT.

MEMORANDUM UPON THE CENTRALISATION OF RESEARCH
IN EAST AFRICA.

The scheme proposed by Sir David Price for establishing Amani as a central Scientific Institute requires the various units scattered throughout the East African Territories in one which has received a considerable amount of criticism from Directors of Agriculture and others in various Territories concerned. These officials have quite rightly pointed out that much of the research work required in the elucidation of agricultural and scientific problems must inevitably be carried out on the spot, and that a central Institution must therefore be supplemental to the work which the Territories are doing individually. Sir David Price postulated that such an arrangement would be unsatisfactory:

- * It is vital to the success of the Institute at Amani that every Department of Agriculture in East Africa shall co-operate loyally with that Institute. To ensure this all possibility of friction, such as the maintenance of rival workers might engender, must at the outset be removed.

A territory maintaining a scientific staff of entomologists, chemists, mycologists, etc. is not likely to be enthusiastic in the support of an Institute, outside its control, where work of a similar nature is being undertaken. A Government expects its technical and scientific staff to be competent to deal with the problems within the purview of the faculties possessed, and the scientific man demands as his right that he may himself

himself prosecute those lines of research which have suggested themselves to his mind. The supplemental position of the Amal Research Institute appears, therefore, to be extremely difficult to hold on account of the natural disinclination of Governments to subscribe to an outside organisation for further assistance in services which they already maintain and of the unwillingness of scientific men to hand over to others lines of thought for research thus reducing themselves to the position of hacks. It would be extremely difficult to draw a line between the work which should be done in the local ~~institutions~~ ^{institutions} ~~should be done~~ ^{should be done} ~~institutions~~ ^{institutions}.

2. It is ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~considerable~~ ^{considerable} ~~other~~ ^{other} scientific ~~research~~ ^{research} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~agricultural~~ ^{agricultural} ~~department~~ ^{department} or whether ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~possible~~ ^{possible} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~combine~~ ^{combine} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~functions~~ ^{functions}. The views of one who has been both a ~~Member~~ ^{Member} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Research~~ ^{Research} ~~Department~~ ^{Department} and a Director of Agriculture may perhaps be worth recording. My experience in both capacities leads me to the conclusion that agriculture and science should be under separate direction. I have a sufficiently high appreciation of the importance of agricultural policy and practice and of scientific methods and ideals to be of the opinion that it is infrequent that the direction of both could be in the same hands without detriment to one of these interests; in other words it is seldom that one person is thoroughly well qualified to advise upon the business policy of a country and at the same time to direct research into the laws of nature. The stage has arrived in our evolution when a higher standard of efficiency in both

both agriculture and science may be demanded of servants of the State, and the separation of control of these two equally essential services is necessary for the fulfilment of this demand.

3. The suggestion which I made in 1920 to the Government of Kenya, when Sir David Prain's volume was submitted, was that an Imperial (East Africa) Scientific Service could provide a solution of the difficulty. The amplification of Sir David Prain's scheme which I ventured to put forward was that Amani, if considered suitable, should be the Headquarters of an Imperial Scientific Service which should be responsible for all scientific investigations (other than medical and veterinary) in the country bounded by the Juba River on the North, Zambezi River on the South, Indian Ocean on the East and the Great Lakes on the West. The idea was to regard this as a Region and not as a group of political entities. Agriculture like Administration, cannot be handled in this way as the diversity in the social development of the inhabitants in different parts of the region necessitates a corresponding diversity of treatment. Scientific research, on the other hand, is seriously handicapped if political boundaries have to be respected. The scheme submitted embraced Meteorology, Geology, Entomology, Botany and Mycology, Chemistry and Soil Survey; Marine Biology of the adjacent Ocean and of the Great Lakes and systematic study of the fauna. Anthropological research would also be encouraged though a special staff was not considered advisable; administrative officers in the Territories would be encouraged and their work co-ordinated. It should be understood that the whole staff of this Service would

not be working at Amari but would be posted to various parts of the Region as requisite and as regards scientific work having an agricultural application, in consultation with Directors of Agriculture.

The organisation of such a Service would bring about an esprit de corps necessarily lacking among scientific men working under present conditions; it would ensure a better appreciation of their work and hence increase the output; it would provide a means of promotion and of transfer from unc congenial surroundings; lastly, Amari would be a centre with which all scientists would be in direct contact and to which they would be called when ~~facilities~~ there would enable them more readily to solve the problems upon which they were engaged.

4. The effect upon Agricultural Departments of separating Scientific Research from their control requires consideration. It is highly probable that the Heads of these Departments would be almost unanimous in their protest against such a movement. It will be claimed that as the progress of agriculture is largely dependent upon scientific research, and as a Director of Agriculture is responsible to his Government for the improvement of the industry, therefore scientific research must be under his control. The argument is, however, specious. Scientific Research officers may be subordinated to Directors of Agriculture but unless the latter are themselves scientists the research itself is obviously not under their control or direction.

Another point should be borne in mind - the greater part of the work done by entomologists, mycologists, etc. attached to agricultural departments cannot be described as Research. Identifying pests and issuing the usual instructions for their destruction is work which should

be done by properly trained Agricultural Officers. These same officers would be competent to advise upon the suitability of soils for various crops and the nature of any treatment necessary for their amelioration. It is not necessary to retain a Research Chemist to give such advice. My contention is that with a staff of agricultural officers properly qualified in Tropical as well as Temperate Climate Agriculture a department is completely fitted for its function of applying scientific principles to agricultural practice. The discovery of new scientific facts and principles is obviously not the function of an Agricultural Department.

5. I am ^{in favour of} establishing central laboratories for Scientific Research as recommended by Sir David Prain, approved by past and present Secretaries of State and endorsed by the East Africa Commission.

The difficulties and dangers pointed out by Sir David Prain on the one hand and by Directors of Agriculture on the other concerning the maintenance of rival staffs and the necessity of research being carried out on the spot are met by the suggestion I have put forward that all scientific research workers in the territories concerned be formed into a Scientific Service, the Headquarters of which will be at Amani. At first these officers may remain in their present positions seconded to the Agricultural Departments, but their work would be co-ordinated through Amani. As the staffs of Agricultural Departments become more highly qualified, (as must result from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture degree being in future a sine qua non qualification) much of the present necessity for maintaining scientists on agricultural staffs will disappear

disappear and more of the research work will gravitate to the central Institution - though complete centralisation is quite impossible. The development of the Scientific Service and of Amani must be by a process of evolution. Consideration must be given to present prejudices and low capacity of agricultural staffs to supply common scientific knowledge. Where no prejudice exists, as in fertilizer research, will be more rapid. I would suggest that the mycological work of this Department be transferred to Amani as soon as possible.

(Signed) H. Kirkham.

Director of Agriculture.

6th October, 1952.

MEMORANDUM ON CENTRAL LABORATORIES IN EAST AFRICAN TERRITORIES (EXCLUDING AMANI).

The area of territory covered by the East African Group of Protectorates and Colonies is so large and means of communication as yet so slow and uncertain that the establishment of one Central Research Laboratory for the investigation of diseases of men and animals for all these territories is in my opinion an impracticable proposition. In different areas too different diseases predominate and what may be a serious problem for one Territory is not of great importance

Continued and persistent research work is however a necessity for progress in the knowledge of tropical diseases of man or animal and their prevention and cure.

It would therefore seem essential that each Territory should be provided with its own Research Laboratory staffed by officers of the local Medical and Veterinary Services. To a certain extent this is at present the case, the various laboratories in the different Territories each being centres where valuable original research work is carried out. But in all, and I think this is a mistake to be rectified, pure research work has to take second place to the routine work. The Laboratory is essential to the Hospital and routine work, such as the examination of slides for malaria and stools for ankylostomiasis, is a necessity. An adequate Staff should however prevent such work interfering with individual research workers, and in addition I think a well equipped and well known Laboratory will attract voluntary workers as is the case with the Wellcome Laboratory in Khartoum.

Research work entails considerable expenditure with often no apparent result, yet it is entirely due to such work that the opening up of Africa has been made possible and that natives of temperate lands can live healthy and useful lives there.

It seems to me therefore that each Territory should have its own Research Laboratory for the investigation of diseases, adequately staffed with the necessary bacteriologists, protozoologists, entomologists, veterinary pathologists and chemists etc. These should be under the control of the Director, himself a capable research student, who should be responsible for the satisfactory administration of the Laboratory to the Director of Medical Services. The combined output of the various laboratories should be controlled and collaborated by a single body such as the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene who would issue periodically reports and précis of the work done, progress made and knowledge gained, as is at present done by the Bulletin of Tropical Diseases.

Finally I desire to take this opportunity of drawing attention to what I submit is a regrettable omission in the report of the East Africa Commission. Mention is made of Laboratories in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and the lack of them in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, whilst the work done by the Economic Biologist in Zanzibar and the Museum established by him are entirely ignored. Yet this Museum is unique on the East Coast and is a matter of surprise to visitors and of pride to those connected with it. Unfortunately owing to restriction of space it has recently been found necessary to convert part of the Museum into an Office and this practically nullifies its value and appearance. It is however hoped that this is only a temporary

measure and that with an added wing to the Building the Museum may be restored to its former condition.

I need not here dilate on Dr. Aders' excellent work in connection with East Coast Fever and Trypanosomiasis in cattle, his work in connection with economic diseases of plants, nor his present valuable researches in malaria and filaria, the prevention of mosquitoes, and the destruction of their breeding places, work requiring considerable research into the habits of various species of mosquitoes.

It should be added too that without his years of hard work and collection of material it would have been impossible to have prepared the Public Health Exhibit for the Peace Memorial. In this connection I would add too that the Public Health Exhibit in the Peace Memorial can never replace the Museum in the Health Office. The one is interesting and instructive to natives and visitors, the other is a necessity for the research worker in Tropical Diseases. This Laboratory and Museum too have proved very useful to recently joined medical officers and have helped them to gain valuable practical experience.

In addition to the Museum and Laboratory of the Economic Biologist, Zanzibar is also fortunate in possessing a Public Health Laboratory equal in equipment and finish to any Laboratory in East Africa. A very great deal of work, though not research, has been and is being done in this Laboratory. With a skilled Bacteriologist in charge, the work, both routine and research, should equal any in East Africa.

The two Laboratories with Museum, comprehensive library, materials for health propaganda, including lantern slides, cinema films and pamphlets, and the wealth of clinical material at hand, represent possibilities for the establishment of a Tropical Diseases Research Institute, which could

equal

equal any in the Crown Colonies and Dependencies.

I trust therefore, when the extension and intensification of the medical and veterinary research work in East Africa is considered, that the claims of Zanzibar will not be overlooked.

Sd/- B. Spearman.
Acting Director of Medical and
Sanitary Services.

22nd October 1926.