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U.S.D. 66

SEP 26 JUL 1912

Donald

STOCK DISEASES

1912

Report by the Acting Chief Veterinary Officer showing the present position of Stock Disease and the inadequacy of the staff to deal with it.

June

previous Paper.

20953

Mr Butler

This was handed to me today by Mr Mac Small. He & Mr Studdy are very distressed by the extent of the mortality among sheep at the Nauroka Farm, and after speaking to Mr Rees I agree that we would have the best of which I submit a draft.

~~Mr Rees~~ Sir J. Zibbles

W.D. 26.11.

Has July 20.

You will have seen

Supplement Paper

23603

seen from some papers which I circulated
yesterday how difficult it is to find
Veterinary Officers for the Colonies.

W. J. R.

26/VI

15th June 1912

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer,

Nairobi.

15th June 1912.

The Hon'ble the Acting Chief Secretary,

Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to ask you to submit to His Excellency for his consideration the following remarks showing the present position of Stock Disease in the Protectorate and the staff, which I must ask him to look upon as totally inadequate, that exists to cope therewith.

The veterinary staff available for district work in the Protectorate consists of seven Veterinary Officers and one Chief Stock Inspector. Of this two are on leave and four become due within the next six months. One returns at once and will be stationed at Nairobi, and three now on the Masai Move will not be able to leave that until its completion.

The following tables show (a) the present distribution (b) the distribution at the termination of the Masai Move and (c) the distribution of the Veterinary Staff which in my opinion is most desirable if the stock of the Protectorate is to be efficiently safeguarded. Mr Sturdy has already and frequently urged the necessity for this organisation.

	A.	B.	C.
Mombasa.	x	x	x
Nairobi.		x	x
Nakuru.	x	x	x
Ludwa.	x	x	x
Kenia and Laikipia.			x
Basin Gishu.		x	x
Southern Masai Reserve.			x
Northern District Frontier.			
Masai Move.	xx		
On Leave.	xx	xx	xx
Laboratory in absence of V.P.			x

488
26 JUL 1917

In the large native area of North Kavirondo. Underpest has for the past 18 months been prevalent and in order to permit of the transport of the great amount of native produce grown in this Province a constant service of ox carts must be maintained. The nearest Veterinary Officer is stationed at Ludwa and with one Stock Inspector is responsible for not only this but also for the extensively stocked Basin Gishu and the native territories south of the railway extending to the German border.

This district is over two hundred miles across and the Veterinary Officer's whole time is occupied in dealing with outbreaks of contagious disease in the more remote parts. Upon the temporary Stock Inspector therefore rests the responsibility of passing through the umbere (about 500 per head) of Uganda, Karionda, Kenya and Masai. These are moving down country to the European farms.

All these have to be inspected and inoculated at Kisumu, Kericho or Kibigori and again at Fort Taran. It will be obvious that he has no time to deal with outbreaks of disease away from this route.

Within the past three months Rinderpest has been reported from different parts of East Africa and on several European farms at Mombasa, whilst East Coast Fever has made its appearance in the heart of the Usin Gishu Plateau. These far removed centres cannot be attacked simultaneously by one Veterinary Officer and either the native owned cattle or the Usin Gishu must suffer, while there remains the very grave risk that one or more may rapidly spread owing to the enforced delay in dealing with the disease.

The Veterinary Officer, Nakuru is single-handed in dealing with the country from Londiani to Kijabe, the greater portion of which is heavily stocked with valuable imported and grade animals.

In this District is the native area administered from Ravine in which East Coast Fever is endemic and liable to spread on to the adjacent farms. Recently this disease has occurred on Lord Hindlip's land at Njoro remote from the endemic area and within ten miles of Nakuru itself. Reports from the settlers in the vicinity create a suspicion that this disease may have a wide distribution than is at present proved. I need hardly emphasize to His Excellency how serious would be the position if this be true.

Rinderpest also exists at Mombasa and requires a constant supervision and repeated inoculations, whilst a mortality exceeding 90% has occurred among the young sheep on the Haiyasha Government Farm and is prevalent also on the neighbouring farms.

The to and fro movement in this district is very large and cannot be interfered with without imperilling the success of the settlers and in addition there is an extensive trade in sheep, upwards of 30,000 of which must be inspected and allowed at Nakuru also.

For the purpose of the Masai Move the routes to be followed through the above district have been selected through un-infected parts. Two Veterinary Officers, the Chief Stock Inspector and five specially engaged Stock Inspectors are

necessary to protect both the Masai herds and those on the land adjoining the routes.

A further possible source of danger to the Rift Valley lies in the cattle from the Boran and Juba countries. No Veterinary Officer is available to control this movement and the necessary inoculations and supervision are performed in the hands of a temporary Stock Inspector who is also responsible for the health and dipping of grade sheep passing through settled areas from the North.

The presence of a Veterinary Officer stationed at Mombasa is essential in order that new diseases be not introduced from over seas. His duty does not allow of his inspecting any outbreaks of disease at a distance of more than a few miles from his headquarters.

The whole country from Kilibe to Mombasa is dealt with from Nairobi where no Veterinary Officer is at the moment stationed. In the Ukamba Province are three East Coast Fever Control Areas, two of which are in the charge of temporary Stock Inspectors and the third is supervised by a native boy.

Outbreaks of Rinderpest have recently occurred and such inoculations as can be affected have to be left to our Indian Assistant from the Veterinary Dispensary.

This would show how impossible it is for the existing staff to pay adequate attention to the normal health of stock in the country and in addition to cope with outbreaks of disease at isolated and different points. The table laid out at the commencement of my letter shows and addition of four Veterinary Officers to be necessary. As however any appointment to the Laboratory would at the present time be of a temporary nature, and as the Chief Stock Inspector has previously been in charge of the Northern Frontier District an addition of two to the staff will greatly assist our difficulties.

I must point out that the greater the delay the more

wide-spread will become disease and I would urge upon
His Excellency the desirability of these appointments being made
at once.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

443

W. H. B.
Acting Chief Veterinary Officer.

Sent out per
27 July 1912
Knutcher

Acting Chief Secretary
Launce

Ans'd 26/7/12

DRAFT

(for code)

Wimmer

Nairobi

MINUTE.

Mr. H.S. 26. 111

Mr. Butler 26
Mr. Read 26
Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

Conson. in minute.

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Jewsmallow
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90 per cent rentality

has been found among

young sheep at Nawasha

Procurement Form O blue pro

Have they paid percentage
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of rentality in total

sheep stock extension of

your limits and principal

Carbon

Cause of death