

EAST AFR. PROT

C.O
16794

16794

313
Governor

1913

th April

MR H.E. WATT'S CLAIM
COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF CATTLE

This copy of letter from the C.V.O. Does not think that he has any reasonable complaint in regard to his allegation respecting the removal of his clean cattle into an area where East Coast Fever was endemic.

Last previous Paper.

Gov
11/21

Mr. H. E. Watt Mr. H. E. Watt Mr. G. Fiddes

Mr Watt's has been finally answered on 7/21, but we also asked the Gov for his opinion on Watt's allegation that he was allowed to move clean cattle into an area which the authorities had good grounds for believing to be endemic.

This deed, and enclosures, show, I think, that the charge is quite unfounded. In moving the cattle, the authorities had to take Mr Watt's own word for the cleanliness of the area into which the cattle were moved. It eventually became clear that the whole farm was endemic.

I cannot see what other evidence than the settler's own word can be obtained by the authorities, as to the freedom of any part of a farm from infection.

? put by H. F. D. 21-5-13

Mr. Brandt makes out an overwhelming case, but there is something wrong with his or his Watt's data. We can have this alone.

Sub-by

As regards Major Henderson, the amount
on draft on 7721 does not appear to have
been carried out. P.S. please send me
book papers, but I doubt if a letter
to Major H. is required.

W.S.B.
21/5/13

H. J. B.
22/5/13

Mr Butler

Major Henderson may be
seen; he it is hardly worth while unless he
returns the charge, when his can be fired
in his.

? Paddy
P.M. 22.5.13

I agree

W.S.B.

23.5.13

at once

S.P. Co

HEB
No. 65/19/13.

270
SUBS
3

1143

REC
19 MAY

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Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer,
Nairobi.

24th April, 1910.

The Honourable The Chief Secretary,
Through the Honourable Director of Agriculture,
Nairobi.

Sir,

re Mr H. E. Watts' claim for compensation.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your memo. No. 507 of the 13th instant, re Mr H. E. Watts' claim for compensation, and to report as follows.

2. The statements made by Mr Watts, in the extracts referred to in Colonial Office Despatch No. 194 of 18th March, are very misleading.

The first blood slides ever received from Lumwa which showed the parasite of East Coast Fever were:-

1st April, 1910. one calf of Mr Watts'

2nd April, 1910. one heifer of Mr Watts'.

No cases having previously been reported from Lumwa, that district had, up to the above date, been considered to be a clean area as regards this disease.

3. Veterinary Officer Thomas proceeded to Mr Watts' farm as soon as the first case had been diagnosed. It was found that up to the time of their deaths the two animals above referred to had been running with the remainder of Mr Watts' cattle, and also with those of Mr Gift which

(2)

which were pastured on Mr Watts' farm. The whole of these cattle, therefore, had to be considered an infected herd, and were, therefore, not clean.

4. In order to prevent the further spread of East Coast Fever among the cattle on Mr Watts' farm, it was decided to move them from that part of his farm where they had hitherto grazed and which was, therefore, infected, to another part of his farm where, he declared, his cattle had not previously grazed and which might reasonably be supposed to be clean and was so definitely stated to be by Mr Watts himself.

This movement was carried out, but before doing so, in order to prevent the possibility of East Coast Fever infected animals being taken from the known infected portion of his farm to the selected clean position, the whole herd, together with those of Mr Blift, were kept on a strictly quarantined intermediate portion, also stated by Mr Watts to be quite clean, for a sufficient time to ensure that none of them were infected.

To do this entailed a great deal of supervision, a Stock Inspector was engaged in branding the cattle and taking their temperatures twice daily for a month, and a large amount of fencing was erected on Mr Watts' farm all of which was done at Government expense.

5. Had it been known at that time, as further investigation has since proved, that East Coast Fever exists in a mere or less endemic form upon the whole of this farm, as well as over a great deal of the surrounding district, none of this work would have been undertaken, it being, of course, so much labour in vain.