

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.  
1608

C. O.  
4608  
REC  
FEB 8 FEL 09

Governor. No.  
No. Conf 4

1909  
7 Jan.

Next Previous Paper.  
8/15211/8

Mr. H. G. Simpson  
Termination of Appl. as Temporary  
Bacteriologist

Submit cover with three articles from "Temporary  
News" regarding cases come with. Note that  
Cover be sent to Prof. Macfarlane & Mr. Buchanan

Send copy to Mr. J. Macfarlane &  
to Mr. Stockman 3rd Part: Note

No

at once.  
H. G. R.  
1909

S-B

Mr. Stockman Jan. 1909

C. O.

Governor's Office, 4608

Nairobi, Rec

January 7th 1909.

8 FEB 09

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Confidential (4)

(Incl. 2.)

My Lord,

43699

With reference to correspondence commencing with my despatch No. 491 of November 20th 1907 relative to the termination of the agreement of Mr. H. G. Simpson, Veterinary Bacteriologist, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence in connection which has since arisen and of three articles from the Veterinary News.

2. It will be seen from the correspondence that no mention of any complaints was made by Mr. Simpson before he left the Protectorate and I consider these complaints to be baseless.

3. The only reason given by Mr. Simpson for resigning his appointment was his wife's ill-health, and in

consideration

H. H. Principal Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Downing Street,  
LONDON, S. W.

consideration of the circumstances he was not called upon to refund the cost of his passage for which he was liable under his agreement.

4. I should be glad if copies of the correspondence might be sent to Sir John MacFadyean, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town and to Mr. Stewart Stockman Chief Veterinary Officer Board of Agriculture in order to do away with any false impressions to which the articles in question may have given rise.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,



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INCLOSURE

8 FEB 09

In Despatch No. 4 of 7 /

1909

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THE VETERINARY NEWS

[Oct. 17, 1908

THE VETERINARY NEWS.

October 17, 1908.

Who Has Blundered ?

In this issue we quote a leading article from the *Pioneer*, of British East Africa, respecting another outbreak of East Coast fever, in which the editor, usually so conspicuous for his power of glossing over and defending apparent shortcomings in Government departments in the Protectorate, launches out into the remark that "there has been a blunder somewhere." The remark is a trifle ambiguous, and the editor has not made it clear whom he considers responsible for the blunder. Whether it is the poor unfortunate cattle that are to blame, whether the settler or the native have been instrumental in causing the catastrophe, or whether his remarks are directed at the Veterinary Department, are facts upon which he does not satisfy us. He further remarks, "Drastic and quick measures should have been taken long ago to prevent its spread and ravages."

It is not such a great while since the editor printed an account of the meeting which was held in Nairobi, presided over by the Hon. the Commissioner for Lands, and attended by the Hon. the Director of Agriculture, the members of the Veterinary Department, and several influential settlers, in which the Director of Agriculture favoured the meeting with his experiences of the disease in South Africa. It was then left to the discretion of the acting Chief Veterinary Officer to put into force such measures as he thought fit for the prevention of its spread. Nairobi area had some time previously been quarantined as the only centre of infection in the Protectorate, at a great deal of expense and inconvenience to transport riders. Curiously enough, a short while after these deaths from Coast fever in Nairobi were rare, comparatively, but the "discovery" was made that cattle were dying in places some distance outside the quarantine area, and examination of their blood showed the piroplasma of Coast fever. This "new discovery" was the cause of the meeting being held, to decide what measures were to be taken to prevent its spread, now that it had appeared outside the quarantine area. It had not occurred to the authorities that it might have existed all through the country for many years, but had not been recognized till deaths in Nairobi were attributed to it, and accordingly Nairobi was quaran-

ted as the centre of infection. The then acting Chief Veterinary Officer at once put on all sorts of restrictions to combat the ravages of the disease in "fresh centres of infection," based upon those of the Veterinary Department of South Africa, where the disease was found to have a mortality of 95 per cent. It was found, however, that the mortality in East Africa was considerably less than in South Africa; in fact, in some cases the mortality was a comparatively small one. There were doubts in the minds of some of the veterinary officers and the settlers as to whether this was really East Coast fever, as the mortality did not nearly approach that of South Africa, but these were set at rest by the diagnosis being confirmed by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Board of Agriculture in London. In some cases restrictions were immediately placed on infected areas, in others the restrictions were withheld for six weeks, during which time cattle were moved in and out of the area, and then, to the settlers' surprise, restrictions were suddenly imposed on those areas when no deaths had taken place during this period or during the enforced quarantine; in other cases restrictions were not placed on similar areas.

East Africa seems to have been proved the "base" from which Coast fever was introduced into South Africa with such disastrous results: how long it has existed in this base nobody knows. The idea that the cause of the decreased mortality in East Africa should be due to an acquired immunity in the native breeds has been scorned by the Veterinary Department, but an eminent veterinary authority, writing in the *Transvaal Agricultural Journal*, has himself raised this question and offered as his opinion that its answer can only be solved on the spot or home of the disease in East Africa. Has the Veterinary Department of East Africa taken any steps to follow up this suggestion and prove or disprove the theory? If it is the only link in the East Coast fever chain of evidence which is not yet forged. The method of transmission, course of disease, and best method of eradication have been worked out in the Transvaal. The Chief Veterinary Officer of the East Africa Protectorate has just completed a tour of inspection of the methods employed in the Transvaal, Natal, Rhodesia and Orange River Colony, and in his absence from headquarters for twelve months the duties of his office have devolved on the acting Chief Veterinary Officer. We trust, on his return, he found that this officer had thereby grasped the situa-

## THE VETERINARY NEWS

October 10, 1908

## The Colonial Veterinary Service

THE Colonial Veterinary Service is a tempting bait to many young newly qualified members of the profession, and undoubtedly it is an interesting branch to serve in from many points of view; it possesses endless opportunities for the display of "hidden genius"—opportunities which could never occur in private practice or even in veterinary research work conducted at home; it affords a free, open-air existence and a certain amount of sport not untempered with an element of danger. There is the prospect of a beautiful tropical sun, and none of the dreary, foggy English winters; there is also the fact that the pay upon which the commences the work is far in excess of that which a young practitioner is likely to make for many years at home. These are prospects which stand pre-eminently before a young aspirant, and which are often too eagerly imbibed by him, before considering the drawbacks. That these naturally should be drawbacks to this branch as in other branches nobody will doubt, and it is as well for an intending Colonial veterinary officer to make the fullest inquiries he can as to the conditions of service and the nature and terms of his employment, and to have this information in black and white from the Colonial Office (if he can get it). He will find the home officials most delightful persons to meet, and full of promises, but their knowledge of the particular Colony to which he is proceeding is usually lamentably deficient, and they apparently have a very strong objection, in some cases, to backing up their verbal assurances by a written undertaking, and the reply, "We have notified the day of your arrival, and you will find everything all right when you get there," sends the aspirant away with a keen sense of his own importance, which soon vanishes on his arrival at his post—and he bitterly regrets that the glowing verbal assurances of the Colonial Office had not been officially committed to writing. We advise every candidate for Colonial employment to have any point which he raises definitely settled and in writing before he leaves England; unless he does so he will have no redress in the matter of any question which may be raised thereon in the Colony in which he may be serving.

The chief veterinary officer of a Colony to successfully carry out the work of his department should not only have the willing assistance, but the confidence, of his subordinates. If this is the right man in the right place, this will naturally follow, and life in such a department for a newly joined official is likely to be pleasant. A tactless and weak man at the head of such a department will involve not only himself and his own officials in unpleasantness, but irritate instead of benefiting the settlers.

We are given to understand that a good deal of dissatisfaction has been experienced by the junior members of the Veterinary Department of one of the youngest of our African Colonies at the treatment meted out to them by their superior officers, and that these complaints, though "officially stifled" in the Colony itself, have been unofficially ventilated at home. We trust that, in fairness to these gentlemen, these complaints will be thoroughly investigated, inasmuch as we believe that their redress will not only alleviate the existing conditions of our professional brethren, but materially improve the status of the profession with the settlers. There are gentlemen in London at the present time who can and would thoroughly ventilate these grievances officially, and we hope to see this matter rectified and the persons responsible for the unpleasantness severely dealt with. Our Colonial Veterinary Service has too much at stake to allow of personal animosity interfering with professional efficiency. We do not remember to have seen any annual report of the working of this particular Colonial department published, and we are also given to understand that a Veterinary Bacteriological Division was created there some two years ago. Annual reports have doubtless been furnished by both these departments to the Colonial Office, and we should be much interested in the publication of these.

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Nov. 14, 1908]

THE VETERINARY NEWS

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again treated with iron-alum solution, which slowly washes out the stain. The progress of the differentiation ought to be controlled by frequent microscopic examination under the low power, the sections being removed from time to time out of the iron-alum rinsed with water and examined. When a proper differentiation has been obtained, i.e., the nuclei appearing black and other parts of the cell fairly clear or smoky, the preparations should be washed for at least a quarter of an hour in running tap-water.

der to make a pretty preparation with a good of colour, it is advisable to counter-stain in the following solutions: saffranin O (Grubler), dissolved in 10 c.c. of absolute alcohol and 90 c.c. of aniline oil water. After sufficient washing in tap-water, the preparations may be referred directly into this stain, and left therein if the tissue has become sufficiently coloured, as they be rapidly dehydrated with alcohol, in xylol and mounted. Orange G (Grubler), as the stain is put into 80 per cent alcohol to a saturated solution. The slides should be through increasing strengths of alcohols to the 95 per cent solution containing the stain. They may be left for about ten minutes. Eosin or fast green prepared in the same way may be used for counter-stains.

For information I would refer the reader to the book named in the footnote.

The preparation of microscopic specimens, like the production of photographs, admits of considerable improvement according to the experience and fancy of the worker. Every microscopist who has mastered the theoretical and practical part of his craft, will soon know how to select and counter-stain suitable to his material. Although it is all aspect to unfold great truths which are not out the way for the advance of practical medicine, we cannot fail to derive interest from contemplating the exceeding beautiful complexity of such minute organs as the tracheus of a fly or the sucking apparatus of a leech.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to E. A. Minchin, M.A., F.Z.S., of London, for his great kindness in demonstrating to me the methods described above.

## The Services.

### Army Veterinary Service.

*Veterinary Corps.*—Lieutenant. John W. Minchin, half-pay to be lieutenant, with precedence below Lieutenant William H. Taylor. — Veterinary Lieutenant Daniel D. Minchin, from the Lanarkshire (Queen's Own Royal Imperial Yeomanry, to be veterinary

from the 1st Veterinary Battalion Royal Artillery, appointed to the Unattached List. — Thomas Wilson, to be veterinary lieutenant

<sup>1</sup> "The Microscopist's Vade-mecum," Lee, Sixth Edition, and "Practical Study of Malaria," Third Edition, Chesnut and Stephens.

## The Veterinary News.

November 14, 1908

### Colonial Veterinary Service.

We have hinted in recent issues at the conditions of Colonial veterinary service and particularized chiefly in regard to that of the East Africa Protectorate. We understand this particular department requires more officers, and we have heard of inquiries having been made by intending applicants for these posts, but so far we have not heard of any appointments being confirmed. We again urge on applicants the necessity of a thorough inquiry into the conditions existing at the present time before committing themselves to the expense of accepting an appointment they may later regret. From what we hear of East Africa and the conditions of service there we should say that there is room for great improvement in the veterinary department before it is advisable for a young man to risk some of the best time of his life and perhaps "ear-mark" himself from another appointment if the East African authorities do not consider him suitable. There is a diversity of opinion as to what constitutes a suitable man for Colonial service, but it would appear that what constitutes a suitable man for the Cape and Transvaal services is not acceptable to those on the spot in East Africa. We do not quite understand why this should be so, but we do know that the late Chief Veterinary Officer at the Cape (Mr. Hutchings) was a good judge of men and quick to note good qualities in them, and was always ready to lend a helping hand to the younger members of the staff—a trait of character which has been transmitted to his successor in office and is also apparent in the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Transvaal. Moreover these gentlemen are not mere figureheads; they are thoroughly well up in their work, and have the courage of their opinions—it is not necessary for them to apply to a medical man for what line of procedure to adopt. These are characteristics which are essential for a chief veterinary officer, and unless these are present as a basis, the chances of a chief pulling well with his staff and gaining the confidence of the Colony are remote. The fact of a veterinary officer being a social success is not an essential to an efficient veterinary service, and although it may appeal to a certain class of people, the stock owner who has to depend to a great extent

on the efficiency of a veterinary department for his livelihood does not appreciate this side of the question. Unfortunately East African officialdom is inclined to attach more importance to the fact of a man being a social success than professionally efficient. The "typical" class of man for the post of assistant veterinary officer in a Colonial department is perhaps in the strict sense of the word difficult to find amongst young men, in addition to a fund of professional knowledge he must be possessed of tact, a good sound knowledge of animals not only in disease but in health and be able to demonstrate that he is quite at home with them, both in handling them and discussing their various breeds and points, in addition to this he must be acquainted with tropical diseases. Beyond the theoretical knowledge of tropical diseases obtained at a post-graduate course (which is good ground work) a newly qualified veterinary surgeon enters on his duties at a disadvantage but if he has a chief veterinary officer who is interested in his department he will find that with his help he will soon be able to master this difficulty, and if the chief veterinary officer in the right place he himself will see that the new recruits of the staff is for a time after his arrival "muzzed" and supervised under his own eye.

Those responsible for the veterinary service in East Africa seems to have lost sight of this very important factor in the making up of a successful veterinary department. "Trained and finished men" cannot be obtained for the inadequate salaries at present offered. Untried, untrained men sometimes have strong views of their own, which may lead them into conflict with a non-diplomatic chief. Give a man who has a good groundwork of professional knowledge, and recognizes that for a short time he must learn under the teaching of his chief, it is not too tough to imagine that he can more easily be moulded into the style of working in the particular colony to which he is appointed than a man who comes in with fixed ideas which may be unapplicable to the particular colony. It may be said that the Service does not permit of this sort of thing, but from what we understand, up to now there has been plenty of time in the East African Department for this to be done, and had it been done we venture to suggest that there would have been fewer unpleasantnesses and "regrettable incidents."

A chief veterinary officer should remember that there was a time when he was not absolutely pro-

ficient in Colonial work himself, and although he might not have been in a position to receive much assistance from his own department, he at any rate would not owe his present position to personal prejudice levelled at him by those of the professional confrères in his department who should have been the first to lend him a helping hand.

We have received a letter from one who informs us he has been interested in our previous remarks on this subject, and attacks the East African service with almost excessive vigour. We as a profession do not recognize mere social popularity as conducive to professional efficiency, and we should be sorry to think that it should be regarded as a set-off against professional efficiency; but Service ideas apparently differ from ours on many points.

We again add a caution to intending candidates: Be careful! Make thorough inquiries before you commit yourselves to service in East Africa. There are stories in the conditions of service to be made before East Africa becomes a "promised land" for young veterinary officials. In the interest of intending candidates we shall, if they care to apply to us, be pleased to put them in communication with gentlemen whose experience in East Africa may be of assistance to them in coming to a decision.

#### A Differential Cutaneous Reaction in Tuberculosis.

Dr. LADISLAUS DETKE, (Buda Pesth), at the recent International Tuberculosis Conference at Washington, described his method of producing a differential cutaneous reaction for the diagnosis of tuberculosis. His procedure consists in the application to the skin of three different substances at the same time, namely: (a) concentrated old-tuberculin, (b) filtrate of a culture of human tubercle bacilli, and (c) filtrate of a bovine culture. The cases treated were divisible into (a) those which were sensitive to the toxin and those which were not, and (b) into cases positive to human and cases positive to bovine tuberculin. A still better differentiation between reactions to "human" and to "bovine" toxin might be brought about by using the filtrate cultures instead of the tuberculins. Investigations carried on since May, 1907, for the purpose of differentiating "human" from "bovine" types of infection had shown that the cutaneous picture remained qualitatively the same after repeated examinations, that is, a "human" case did not later on show the picture of the "bovine" reaction. When both toxins were injected subcutaneously the subject was highly intolerant of the

October 21st 1907.

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Sir,

I have the honour to enclose an application from Mr. Simpson, Veterinary Bacteriologist.

Mr. Simpson brought his wife and family to East Africa in May last; it is now necessary that Mrs. Simpson should return to Europe, and on account of her state of health Mr. Simpson is naturally anxious to rejoin her as soon as possible.

He has been put to great expense and should he leave the service before the expiration of his agreement the forfeiture of passage money home and the refunding of money for passage here will be a serious consideration to him.

I would suggest that considering the state of health of Mrs. Simpson, an exception might be made in this case, that Mr. Simpson be released from his agreement and be granted a free passage home and be excused the refunding of his passage money to East Africa.

With regard to the carrying out of the work of the Veterinary Bacteriologist, with the help of Dr. Ross I could undertake that myself.

If His Excellency could grant a personal interview with Mr. Simpson on the above subject, the latter would be grateful.

I have Ac., Ac.,

Sd/- F.R. Brandt

Acting Chief Veterinary Officer.



Veterinary Department,

Nairobi,

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October 18th 1907.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that unforeseen circumstances have arisen which render it necessary for me to place the following facts before you:-

My wife has been ordered to return to England on account of ill health and an impending operation, and will have to leave in November; she has been medically advised that East Africa is unsuited to her health and will not return.

This being the case, would you kindly inform me if it would be possible for His Excellency to release me from my duties here before my period of service expires, or, failing this, would it be possible for me to obtain leave of absence in April 1908.

I was informed by the Colonial Office that my period of service would count from the day I left England (August 11th 1906) and that three months in the Transvaal would also count in my service; in this case I shall be entitled to four months leave of absence in April provided the exigencies of the service permit.

My own wish would be to terminating appointment as soon as my successor could be appointed; but, the expense that this resignation entails will not permit me to do so. Under these circumstances may I ask you to kindly place the facts before His Excellency for his favourable consideration.

I

The Ag. Chief Veterinary Officer,

Nairobi.

I desire to point out that my continuance here will entail keeping a home for my wife and family in England and supporting myself here - an expense, which in conjunction with that of bringing them out and sending them back within 6 months is not possible. For this same reason, my resignation is impossible.

Under these circumstances I beg respectfully to lay these special facts before you in the hope you will be able to submit them to His Excellency for his favourable consideration.

I have &c., &c.,

Sd/- Henry G. Simpson  
Veterinary Bacteriologist.

1907.

45

Dated October 21st.

Chief Veterinary Officer.

No. 36.

Enclosures 1.

Received .....

Reference .....

Subject of the Despatch - Application of the Bacteriologist.

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H.E. (Through the Honourable Treasurer)

Forwarded for favourable consideration. I recommend that under the special circumstances of the case an exception be made in Mr. Simpson's favour, and it could be done I believe without extra expense to Government. If he is allowed to go home at once and given a free passage home, the expense of the two passages would be more than covered (1) by no expenditure on salary until a new appointment is made, probably in March or April; (2) by the appointment then of an officer on a somewhat lower salary who would work under Dr. Ross. I feel sure that the best plan would be for Dr. Ross to be in charge of both Laboratories, both Medical and Veterinary, and for a trained Assistant to work under him.

Sd/- J.H.

SS-10-07.

Fry.No. 181/22.

Honourable Commissioner of Lands.

Mr. Simpson is not entitled to any leave till he has completed his agreement. If he leaves before three years, he is liable to refund the cost of his passage out. The Colonial Office might be willing to waive this claim, but there is no local authority for doing so.

I do not think it at all likely that a free passage home would be sanctioned.

Sd/- G.O. Bowring

SS-10-07

1807.

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Dated October 21st.

Chief Veterinary Officer.

No. 26.

Enclosures 1.

Received .....

Reference .....

Subject of the Despatch - Application of the Bacteriologist.

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H.E. (Through the Honourable Treasurer)

Forwarded for favourable consideration. I recommend that under the special circumstances of the case an exception be made in Mr. Simpson's favour, and it could be done I believe without extra expense to Government. If he is allowed to go home at once and given a free passage home, the expense of the two passages would be more than covered (1) by no expenditure on salary until a new appointment is made, probably in March or April; (2) by the appointment then of an officer on a somewhat lower salary who would work under Dr. Ross. I feel sure that the best plan would be for Dr. Ross to be in charge of both Laboratories, both Medical and Veterinary, and for a trained assistant to work under him.

Sd/- J.N.

ES-10-07.

Fry.No.191/48.

Honourable Commissioner of Lands,

Mr. Simpson is not entitled to any leave till he has completed his agreement. If he leaves before three years, he is liable to refund the cost of his passage out. The Colonial Office might be willing to waive this claim, but there is no local authority for doing so.

I do not think it at all likely that a free passage home would be sanctioned.

Sd/- G.C. Bowring  
ES-10-07

H.E.

I recommend that Mr. Simpson be allowed to return home before the expiration of his time and that a refund of his outward passage money be not demanded from him under the special circumstances of the case. He would have to pay his own passage back.

Sd/- J.M.

H.E.

I concur

Sd/- F.J.S.  
2-11-07.

I agree - home

Sd/- J.H.S.

20-11-07.

Nairobi,

October 22nd 1933.

47

Dear Sturdy,

I am sorry to say my wife has been very queer since she has been here, and has spent the best part of the past month in bed, and Milne says she must return to England for an operation for diseased ovaries. It is hard luck as she has had this trouble before and I brought her because the Doctors at home said they thought it might get her up. I shall not risk any more trouble by bringing her out again as I do not think her constitution is strong enough for this sort of life, and expense of all this in the past have about crippled her up.

This being the case I must consider what I am to do; I cannot afford to keep two homes going and the wife naturally does not care about an indefinite separation by my staying out here alone. Under these circumstances I can see nothing for it but for me to resign as soon as I am due for leave and can get away without having to pay my passage money. I have had a talk to Brandt and he suggested that he should put the circumstances before Montgomery for his advice; he has done this but Montgomery is at the Coast with the Governor so we must await his return. It is very unfortunate as I had quite thought I was here for 3 years at any rate, but I cannot stand the worry of an invalid wife in this country, and the uncertainty of what is happening to her at home, if I remain here; and so, under the circumstances I think this is the better course to adopt. I am in no hurry to go at present and if they grant me leave in April (by which time my 20 months

months will be up, taking in my three months in South Africa) this will give you time to look round for a man to take my place here by that time.

I have arranged for the wife to leave by the German 48 boat on November 28th.

You have no doubt had all the office news from Brandt as to East Coast Fever etc. Everybody is very busy preparing for "Winston's" arrival, and old T.A. Wood is full of himself as a "toast responder" at the dinner. Nairobi is very slack and very little business doing, the races this month were a very poor show, the Sad's Club has gone "rut" and closes at the end of this month, and there is a report just come in that Lawson, the Assistant District Officer at Kisumu has committed suicide. I suppose that you heard that Pearson's wife did the same thing last week, and several of the leading lights of the place have found it necessary to take a trip up country to avoid the pressing attention of their local accounts. We are anxiously waiting the rains, it has been very hot, dusty and uncomfortable here lately and we can do with some moisture well.

Thomas is safely married and in Mombasa still and "Hell Fire Dick" has been on safari for the last fortnight. Mohamed Din goes on leave next month and we expect Fernandes, the Clerk, back at any time now and we shant be sorry to see him as this beauty here at present is neither ornamental or useful. Well I must close up, hope you are having a good time and keeping fit.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Sterdy whom with the family I hope is well.

Ed/- H.C. Simpson

COPY.

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Mombasa.

March 31st 1906.

Dear Seave,

Herewith the Boy you wanted. I gave him Rs.12 a month and found him a good chap - his worst fault is that he understands English. Have just filled myself up with German Beer and feel A.1. We are shock full (of passengers I mean) five in a cabin. Barne: is in Hospital and cant leave Mombasa. The Government Yarn stock have just landed. We are a day late starting.

My love to all

Your's ever

(signed) H.C. Simpson.