

37126

26 October 05



The Secretary
Bd of Agriculture
& Fisheries
Mogadishu

Sir
I am directed by
Mr. De. Lytherton to
ack with our confession
of his thanks the receipt
of your letter of 14/10/05
of the 17th inst on the sub-
ject of diseases of stock
in the E. A. P., a copy
of which will be sent to the
Comr. with a request
that specimens of the organisms
referred to in the 4th para.
may, if possible, be forwarded
& transmitted to the
Board.

With refer to the last para of
your letter I am to advise
that land suitable only
is the subject
is suitable for grazing the
country but a large
and that the normal
numbers are of such
great as 5000 acres.
Jan 1906

275

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

E. AFRICA
W. AFRICA
No. 37955



C.O.
37955
25 OCT 05

(Subject)

005

Veterinary Hygiene

Items by Mr. Read as to measures
for improving

~~in October~~ (Minutes)
Mr. Cartwright

In remarks with
length given point to the importance
of the same.

Sum 5/-
6. 11

A regular arrangement for obtaining
advice & will be very useful to us
in such places as the Bechuanaland
Protectorate.

att. 26 Oct

I refer with all that the Board
says, and also that it may be
possible to carry his proposals into
effect. Mr. De. Lytherton
The Secretary
Bd of Agriculture
& Fisheries
Mogadishu

6
Dear

the letter will be
well for the purpose
is only one point
for consideration
to you of course
you know better than
what the colonial
wants.

Edmunds Durkin
has two kind
Administrative. He
may wish to send

Dear Dad

I think the letter will do
well for the purpose.

It is only one point
out for consideration, & I

will write to you, of course,
you know better than
I what the Colonial
wants.

For Edmund's suggestion

Home has two branches

Administrative. The

may wish to send

REVISE 2

37955

The present memorandum relates to veterinary matters in the British possessions in East and West Africa.

There are various important questions connected with both wild and domestic animals in these possessions which are being dealt with in a very inadequate manner, and the whole subject requires to be taken up with the assistance of experts and placed on a satisfactory footing. The following are some of the veterinary problems with which we are now confronted in tropical Africa.

I. INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE IN (a) WILD ANIMALS (b) DOMESTIC ANIMALS

With regard to (a), this is a matter of special importance to the East Africa Protectorate, where the game is a valuable asset. The money brought into the country by sportsmen is helping to develop it, and it is very desirable that the diseases to which the animals are liable should be investigated and precautions taken against epidemics similar to those which have done so much mischief among the wild game in South Africa.

With regard to (b), this is also a matter of special importance to the East Africa Protectorate. In the healthy parts of the Protectorate the majority of the European settlers are engaging in agriculture, and a large number of domestic animals are being imported. It is therefore necessary to take at the earliest possible moment an accurate knowledge of the animal diseases peculiar to the country, and to take steps to guard against the introduction of fresh diseases by means of imported stock.

There are considerable numbers of domestic animals in certain parts of our West African possessions, and it would add largely to the prosperity of these possessions if we could introduce horses, sheep, etc., into other parts where, in account of the local diseases, they are at present unable to live.

The question of the investigation of animal diseases has recently assumed still greater importance on account of the transmissibility of such a deadly disease as trypanosomiasis from animals to human beings.

At present little or nothing is being done in the way of the local investigation of the animal diseases in East Africa. In West Africa, one of the veterinary officers attached to the West African Frontier Force in Northern Nigeria and two or three members of the West African Medical Staff are doing what they can to investigate horse sickness, but to obtain the best results it will be necessary to employ a highly qualified veterinary officer, who can devote his whole time and energy to research.

II. ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL VETERINARY DEPARTMENTS

In West Africa, with the exception of Northern Nigeria where there are two veterinary officers attached to the Mounted Infantry of the West African Frontier Force, there is nothing in the shape of a veterinary department. In the British East Africa Protectorate there is a small veterinary department, which appears, from a recent letter from the Board of Agriculture, to be constituted on an entirely inadequate basis.

The Board point out that the indigenous diseases of any particular Colony are often more or less local, and that the ordinary education obtained at home does not qualify a veterinary graduate to deal with them, unless he has had a supplementary training as an investigator; that in a new Colony, where the services of a few veterinary surgeons are secured at the outset to deal with thousands of animals, the practice of veterinary medicine is not simply that of the healing art, but that it means rather that the veterinary officer must be skilled in legislative and preventive medicine, including such an intimate knowledge of the subject of serum therapeutics as will enable him to devise modifications of known methods of immunization which will be applicable to the diseases of the country. They point out that the seniority of service generally entitles men to hold the most responsible posts, and that of importance that a veterinary service in a developing country should not be

representatives from both
only one. I have therefore
tentatively suggested
Amendments on the
If the Committee are not
to advise on expert veterinary
expert cases it. If the
to advise on administrative
questions relating to animals
the Board might wish to
two representatives, hence
original note "no representative
it had better be made
clear, don't you think

James
C. Colburn

commenced with mediocre men, as it is probable that when the more advanced condition of affairs demands greater talent, the only posts which would attract the right type of officer are already occupied; and that it appears desirable to encourage some of the best qualified men to accept service in the Colonies, a step which, under existing conditions, they are unwilling to take, as they have better opportunities at home. They conclude by expressing the opinion that a salary with a maximum of £800 a year would be a fair and attractive remuneration for a suitable Chief Veterinary Officer in the East Africa Protectorate, and that the services of well-qualified assistants might be obtained for £400 a year, rising after three years' satisfactory probation, to £600 a year by annual increments. The salaries of the European staff of the East Africa Protectorate Veterinary Department authorized in the Estimates 1904-5 were—

Chief Veterinary Officer	£
Assistant Veterinary Officer	550
Three Veterinary Assistants	500
	350

We tried recently to obtain candidates for the three last named posts, but, after applying without success to all the veterinary agencies, we had to raise the terms, and, even then, only succeeded in getting one moderately qualified man and another who was not a proper veterinary officer at all. The third vacancy is still unfilled for want of a suitable candidate. The fact is that a really good veterinary officer is more difficult to obtain than a good doctor, and, if we desire to make real progress in this branch of administration, we must be prepared to spend the money required to obtain efficient departments. The War Office have recognized the necessity of this, and are taking steps to reorganize their veterinary department on a far wider basis than exists at present.

(II) TRAINING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

One of the most important points to be considered in connexion with (II) is the training of candidates. Professor McFadyen, the Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, and one of the highest authorities on veterinary matters, has constituted a post-graduate course at the College for the instruction of veterinary officers in the diseases peculiar to the tropics. Mr. Stockman, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Board of Agriculture, has under his control an experimental farm and laboratory in the country where experiments in immunization are being conducted. I think that it ought to be made a rule that all candidates selected for appointments in the veterinary service of tropical Africa shall undergo the necessary course of instruction at both these institutions—their fees for tuition, board, and lodging and an allowance of 5s. a day being paid by the Government; as in the case of doctors selected for the West African Medical Service.

IV. SELECTION OF SUITABLE STOCK FOR IMPORTATION INTO OUR AFRICAN POSSESSIONS, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIVE BREEDS, &c.

These are questions of the greatest importance in the development of our African possessions. In parts of West Africa horses, cattle, &c., cannot live at present, and the development of the country is seriously hindered. To take one instance only, native produce in some parts of the Gold Coast is conveyed to the coast in carts rolled along the road; in other parts goods are conveyed on the heads of carriers. The introduction of a suitable draught animal, immune to the local diseases, might revolutionize the whole system of transport, assist the development of the country, and save the tremendous sum of the large expenditure which it has at present to incur in conveying stores to the distant parts of the country.

In East Africa experimental farms have been established for the purpose of discovering what breeds of sheep and cattle are most suited to the country. This is a most difficult question requiring the best expert advice. Some parts of the Protectorate are infected with certain diseases, and can only be stocked with animals born and reared in other parts of the world where those diseases are prevalent. At the same time care must be taken that new diseases are not introduced by the importation of infected animals from other countries. In order to deal satisfactorily with

these questions very wide scientific knowledge is required. The same may be said with regard to the question of the improvement of breeds by crossing, the domestication of wild animals, &c.

V.—WILD GAME RESERVES.

This is an important matter from various points of view. In the first place we have accepted certain obligations under the international Convention relating to the preservation of wild game.

To make a country like East Africa possible for the healthy existence of horses and cattle, game reserves must be formed, and such wild animals as bear up to diseases must be killed off or otherwise removed from the agricultural districts. Hunting of wild game being one of the chief attractions for travellers in East Africa, we ought to see that the reserves are not unnecessarily large; and, on account of the transmissibility to human beings of, at any rate, one disease to which wild animals are prone (typanosomiasis), we ought also to see that the wild game, whether within or without reserves, is kept well away from the civilized parts of the country.

VI.—QUARANTINE.

It is scarcely necessary to enlarge on the various questions which have to be dealt with under this head.

I think that it will be seen from what has been stated above that the quarantine question is a very important one for our possessions in tropical Africa, and that in view of improving the present state of affairs, I would suggest that a special committee should be formed for the purpose of advising the Secretary of State, and that it should consist of Professor McFadyen (if he will consent to be a member), Mr. Stockman, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Board of Agriculture, and a member of this Department. Professor McFadyen and Mr. Stockman were members of the committee at the recent International Veterinary Congress at Brussels, the former being a member of the Tropical Diseases Committee of the Royal Society of the Cancer Commission, and, as I have stated above, one of the highest authorities on veterinary matters. The latter was Chief Veterinary Officer of the Government, and therefore possesses valuable local knowledge of African conditions in addition to his high scientific attainments.

I have talked matters over with him, and find that he would gladly serve on the Committee. If the proposal is approved, I could send Professor McFadyen, whom I know personally.

H. J. E.

26th October, 1906

to advise him ^{of the} ~~the~~
necessary questions ^{are} ~~is~~
business as to
inquire whether you would
be willing to form a
committee of this kind
to give ^{for} ~~the~~ benefit
of your valuable
experience.

3. The other members
of the committee will
probably be a representative
of the B^t of Agriculture
and a member of
the Dept^t. It is

proposed that ^{at} the meetings
the committee should
be held in this office.
but it is not anticipated
that it will be very frequent
so some hall there may
be necessary.

Yours
J. A.

60
37955
2. 1/2 p. m.
4. 2 p. m.

DRAFT.

The Secretary to the
Board of Agriculture

9 Nov 65

MINUTE.

- Mr. Read. 7 Nov.
- Mr.
- Mr. Astor.
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Lucas.
- Mr. Graham.
- Sir M. O'Malley.
- The Duke of Marlborough.
- Mr. Lyttelton.

Dear Sir,
I am directed by
Mr. Lyttelton to
request you to inform the
Board of Agriculture the
the various
important questions
connected with both
wild and domestic
animals - the Game
Laws & Protection
especially those in
tropical Africa, which
he wishes to be taken
up and dealt with in
an adequate manner.
Yours faithfully
Sam^r J. Lyttelton