

EAST AFR. PROT
1045

1045
REC.
JAN 5 1917

Cowan Esq

1917

24 Jan

Last previous Paper
300
62007
16

Swal industry

Sendy papers statement reep local plantations
in E.A.P

W. Butler

It was suggested at the interview that
Mr. Cowan might see Mr. Street headland
again when his statement was ready,
and these papers should go at once
to Mr. Street headland, who, I believe,
has other applications for facilities
of the kind (not East African)
which it is proposed to deal with
at the same time?

As I understand the matter, the
time when work is sent out in the
papers: covering the table are those
required at once on the minimum,
but in order to prevent a renewal
of the application it would be to
submit the

Ward

Subsequent Paper
MO
2490
2/676
1097-48. Wt. 30722-18, 20000. 11.18. D.S.S. 8 122 41.

Ward to cover the amount required

bring the next 12 nos for show
parts of the machine. It is
not clear whether or should
include the Redan / 4318 or
whether Mr Talbot wants to continue
in getting his £3792 order
carried out. Perhaps I should
ask Mr Coan about these points?

C.C.S. 6/1/17

W. Read.

Robt

Ask Mr Coan to send the papers & related matters
promptly - & at once

Copy attached
C.C.S. 8

H. J. R.
87/1/17

W. Steel-Blackland

C.C.S. 87/1/17

bring the rest 12 and for show
parts of the machine since. It is
not clear whether we should
include the Redan 19318 or
whether Mr. Tolbot wants assistance
in getting his £3792 order
carried out. Perhaps I should
ask Mr. Cowan about this point?
W.C.S. 6/1/17

W. Read.

John

Copy of Crown
minutes - & the said the papers & matters
at once
City attached
W.C.S. 8
H. J. R.
87/1/17

W. Steel-Parland

W.C.S. 87/1/17

Downing Street,

8 January, 1917.

Dear Sir,

British East Africa Sisal Plantations.

Thank you for your letter of the 4th. There are one or two points in the statement about which we are not quite clear.

In the memorandum covering the tabular statement you give a list of requirements (£3369 in all) necessary to complete equipment. Would you kindly let me know whether this ^{is} to be regarded as the minimum requirements or whether, in addition, provision for (say) one year's spare parts and maintenance is to be included in the minimum?

Also whether the machinery (£4318) for the Kedai Plantation is to be regarded as included in the request?

Finally, as Mr. Aston Talbot's outstanding machinery (£3792) is not included in the covering

statement

statement we are not sure whether he desires assistance in getting his orders through or not.

Your statement is going forward to Mr. Steel-Reidwald at once, but I should be glad if you could let me have an early answer to this letter, so that he may see it with the statement.

Yours faithfully,

BCA

383

4, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,

C LONDON E.C.

1045

REC'D
REC'D 5 JAN 17

4th Jan. 1917.

W. Bottomley, Esq.,
The Colonial Office,
Whitehall, S. W.

Dear Sir,

B. E. A. SISAL PLANTATIONS.

I am now able to enclose the Statement which Mr. Steel Maitland asked for on December 22nd.

I regret that it has been impossible to obtain the information before.

I shall be glad to give any explanation or supplementary information I can.

Yours faithfully,

Edwin Cowan



384

EDW W COWAN,
MINISTER
MINISTER
FREE

4, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, E.C.

30th Dec, 1916

W. Bottomley, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
W.

*P.S. I have a
telegram this
morning to say that
a letter to Mr. Steel
to Mr. Steel on Monday
Xmas Day only needed
his house to be forwarded
to his present address.*

Dear Sir,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA SISAL HEMP PLANTATIONS.

I have done the best I can since our conference on Friday week last to get into touch with other plantations and to obtain from them particulars of their requirements in order that I might prepare a statement which Mr. Steel Waitland asked for.

I am sorry that replies have not come in early enough to enable me to hand the statement in to-day, but I hope to do so on Monday or Tuesday of next week at the latest.

I have prepared a tabular statement dealing with seventeen plantations in B.E.A.

You asked me if I would give the names of the gentlemen who attended the conference on Friday week last. They are given in my letter dated the 15th inst. with the addition of Mr. F. R. Swift, who, as you probably will know, first introduced Sisal Hemp into B.E.A. and was also a member of the Legislative Council.

Yours faithfully,
Partlow

FDW W. COWAN
MINISTER
OF FINANCE
1917

TEL. NO. 7088, CENTRAL LONDON
TELEGRAMS, "WORLDWIDE," LONDON

385

4, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, E. C. 4.

11th Jan. 1917

W. Bottomley, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

Dear Sir,

B.E.A. SISAL PLANTATIONS.

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I have now seen Mr. Talbot, the owner of the Murere plantation and Mr. Henry Portlock representing the owners of the Nedal Plantation.

Answering your first question, the £3,388 in the statement set out in the memorandum provides only for the completion of the equipment of these unfinished factories. It is our desire to send out forthwith all necessary spares, the cost of which are set out in the table. The total amount under this heading for the six plantations specified is £1,424.

As regards maintenance for these plantations, very little will probably be required during the first year of operation, but my estimate for the requirements of these plantations per annum amounts to the figures given in the table, the aggregate of which for the six plantations is £1,125.

In reply to your question relating to the Nedal Plantation,

W. H. H. H. H. H. H.

11th Jan. 1917.

Portsmouth to ... I am desirous to ship
this plant as quickly as possible.

Mr. ... has written a letter which
I have just received, in which he says that he expects
that they will be ready to commence cutting in October of this year.
Lastly, with reference to Mr. ...
... he asks me to inform you that he has no wish to press for
permission to complete the manufacture and ship the machinery at
present, as he thinks they can get on all right with the Nairobi Co's.
... supply during the next year or two.

I told him that it was of great importance that he should
press for anything that was not, in his opinion, necessary.

I trust that the above answer will give you all the
particulars you require, but I shall be glad to supplement it with
any further information if required.

Yours faithfully,
John Bowman
Plantation

U.S. I regret that inadvertently Millifi of Power Hand's Fibre Co.
Ltd. was not included in my table. I have seen Mr. Cooper
this morning, and inform me that their plantation is completely
equipped at present, and does not require any special facilities.

R. B. Stanley

I think that is the case to be put into action
for the Steel Maitland's letter of 1917
1917

387

31st January, 1917..

Dear Steel Maitland,

In answer to your letters regarding the machinery
and appliances for Sisal Crop, I have consulted our
Priority Branch and they tell me that they are unable to
identify the applications to which you refer.

Would you be so good as to let me have details of
the applications in question and I will have the matter
immediately looked into.

Yours faithfully,

J. Kellaway

The details should include names of farms
names of machines etc.

Steel Maitland Esq., M.P.,
Colonial Office,
S. F.

R. B. Taylor

That there is no need to bring the matter
to the attention of the Board of Directors
of the Steel Maitland, Ltd. - ABC 4297

387

31st January, 1917.

Dear Steel Maitland,

Further to your letters regarding the machinery
and appliances for Steel Crep, I have consulted our
Priority Branch and they tell me that they are unable to
identify the applications to which you refer.

Would you be so good as to let me have details of
the applications in question and I will have the matter
immediately looked into?

Yours faithfully,

J. Kellaway

The details should include names of firms
makers of machines etc.

Steel Maitland Esq., etc.,
Colonial Office,

S. A.

I spoke to Mr. L. W. Cooper.

He told me that he had got a certificate for the 4 lots of materials called upon to get them in 3 weeks.

As regards the rest no application had been sent in to the Priority Committee before hearing from me. I told him I would not ask for the report. He must get the officers to send in their applications. Send me a list and I will then pick it up.

I suggested he should do this without delay in his own interests and he agreed.

A.S.M. 31

27/1/17

Thanks to Mr. Bellaway
for his letter of 27/1/17

6th January, 1917.

Dear Mr. Bellaway,

Your letter of 27/1/17 has reached me. Your letter of the 17th inst. regarding the Electricity Committee. I am glad you say in the first paragraph that with regard to the second paragraph I will not touch with the Electricity Committee as to the machinery for it.

Yours faithfully,

J. Bellaway

Arthur Steel-Kidland, Esq., M.P.,
Colonial Office, S.W.

No.	Name and Address of Proprietors.	Name of Estate.	Whether Producing	Date Crops ripe for cutting	Output per Annum at 645 tons per Decorticating Machine	Acreage planted for how many Decorticating Machines	Annual value of output @ £55 per ton.	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required to complete equipment	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required for Maintenance (per annum)	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required for extensions.	Authority for particulars given in this Schedule.	Remarks.
1	Swift & Rutherford, C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Pundamilia Chania Bridge B.E.A.	Producing now	---	645 tons	one	£35,475	---	£200.0.0. (includes freight)	---	Campbell B. Hausburg, Cowden, Kent. (Director of the Company)	This is the first Sisal Plantation in B.E.A.
2	Sisal Limited, C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Makuyu Chania Bridge B.E.A.	Producing now	---	645 tons	one	£35,475	---	Spares say £100 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer.	
3	Sisal Limited C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Maregua Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 12 months ago	645 tons	one	£35,475	£170	spares £253 Maintenance £175	not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £62) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
4	Thika Sisal Co., Ltd., C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Thika Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready now	645 tons	one	£35,475	£251	Spares £283 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £92.15.0) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
5	Mr Alan Davies Evans C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Thika Ranch, Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 12 months ago	400 tons ?	one	£22,000	£104	Spares £178 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £49) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
6	Kabuku Ltd., C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Kabuku, Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready now	645 tons	one	£22,000	£1800 excluding rails & trucks say £150	Spares £196 Maintenance £175	Nothing during 1917	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	
7	Kenani Fibre Lands, Ltd. C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Kenani, Athi River, B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 6 months ago	1290 tons but first year only 645 tons	two	£35,475	£140	Spares £334 Maintenance £250	Cultivator not exceeding £500	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer.	For this Plantation the Company is considering the advisability of sending out another Decorticating, Oil Engine & Shafting, etc., as about 2,000 acres have been planted
8	Posho Ltd., C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Kituamba Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 12 months ago.	645 tons	one	£35,475	£174	Spares £198 Maintenance £175	Five trucks £110.0.0.	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £54) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
9	B.E.A. Corporation, Ltd. Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.	Matwapa, Mombasa, B.E.A.	Crop not ready	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Major Leggett Managing Director, Gresham House, Old Broad St. E.C.	
10	B.E.A. Corporation Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.	Vol, B.E.A.	now producing	---	400 tons ?	one	£22,000	---	---	---	Major Leggett, Managing Director	
11	The Atlas Securities Co., Ltd. Capel House, 54 New Broad Street, London, E.C.	Kedai, Near Ndii, B.E.A.	Crop not ready	First cutting ready Dec. 1917	450 tons	one	£24,750	£4,318.10.11	---	---	Henry Portlock, Managing Director, 54, New Broad St. London, E.C.	"A large sum has been spent on the estate, and the planted area is being increased with a view to increased output"

No.	Name and Address of Proprietors.	Name of Estate.	Whether Producing	Date Crops ripe for cutting	Output per Annum at 645 tons per Decortiating Machine	Acreage planted for how many Decortiating Machines	Annual value of output @ £55 per ton.	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required for complete equipment	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required for Maintenance (per annum)	Estimate of F.O.B., Cost of Plant & Material required for extensions	Authority for particulars given in this Schedule.	Remarks.
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	Sisal Limited, C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Makayu Chania Bridge B.E.A.	Producing now		645 tons	one	£35,475	---	Spare say £100 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer.	
3	Sisal Limited C/o E.W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Maragua Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 12 months ago	645 tons	one	£35,475	£170	Spare £253 Maintenance £175	not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £62) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
4	Thika Sisal Co., Ltd., C/o E. W. Cowan, 4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.	Thika Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready now	645 tons	one	£35,475	£291	Spare £283 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £92.15.0) is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
5	Mr Alan Davies Evans C/o E. W. Cowan, 4, Queen Victoria Street London, E.C.	Thika Ranch, Chania Bridge B.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready 12 months ago	400 tons ?	one	£22,000	£104	Spare £178 Maintenance £175	Not ascertained	E.W. Cowan, 4, Qn. Vic. St., E.C. Consulting Engineer	Insulated cable (value £49 is most urgently needed for this Plantation.
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	B.E.A. Corporation, Ltd. Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.	Matwapa, Mombasa, B.E.A.	Crop not ready								Major Leggett Managing Dir- ector, Gresham House, Old Broad St., E.C.	
10	B.E.A. Corporation Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.	Voi, B.E.A.	now producing		400 tons ?	one	£2,000 ?				Major Leggett, Managing Director	
11	The Atlas Securities Co., Ltd. Cajel House, 54 New Broad Street, London, E.C.	Kedai, Near Ndii, B.E.A.	Crop not ready	First cutting ready Dec. 1917	450 tons	one	£24,750	£4,318.10.11			Henry Portlock, Managing Director, 54, New Broad St. London, E.C.	A large sum has been spent on the estate, and the planted area is being increased with a view to increased output up to 1000 tons per annum

London, E.C.												
11	The Atlas Securities Co., Ltd. Capel House, 54 New Broad Street, London, E.C.	Kedai, Near Ndii, E.E.A.	Crop not ready	First cutting ready Dec. 1917	450 tons	one	£24,750	£4,318.10.11	---	---	Henry Portlock, Managing Director, 54, New Broad St. London, E.C.	"A large sum has been spent on the estate, and the planted area is being increased with a view to increased output up to 1000 tons per annum
12	British East Africa Fibre & Industrial Co. Ltd Seymour House, Waterloo Place, London, W.	Ndaraga, E.E.A.	not commenced	Crop been ready some months.	645 tons	one	£35,475	---	---	---	Enquiries made from Mr Griffiths acting for Mr Hollins	
13	British East Africa Fibre & Industrial Co., Ltd., Seymour House, Waterloo Place, London, W.	Kiwani E.E.A.	not commenced	Crop ready	400 tons	One ?	£22,000	---	---	---	do.	
14	British East Africa Fibre & Industrial Co., Ltd., Seymour House, Waterloo Place, London, W.	Masongoleni E.E.A.	now producing		400 tons	One ?	£22,000	---	---	---	do.	
15	East African Estates Ltd. Carlton House Regent Street, London, W.	Gajzi, E.E.A.	now producing		600 tons ?	One	£33,000	---	---	---	Enquiries made from General Owen Thomas	
16	Mr. A Aston Talbot, Trehelford, Breconshire, Wales.	Murega, Ruiera E.E.A.	Commenced 1 ton per day.	Crop ready about 12 months ago.	645 tons	One	£35,475	£129	Spares (none required) Maintenance £175	See Note in Remark Column	A. Aston Talbot & his Engin- ers, Messrs Hobey & Co., Lincoln.	Two 100 H.P. Oil En- gines & Electric Gen- erators, two Electric Motors & Switch Panels are on order for this Plantation, but the construction has been suspended by the makers on account of Government work. A Rolling Press & De- fertilizer chain has also been requisit- ioned. Total value of above = £3792.10.0.
17	Nyali Fibre Estates Ltd. C/o Messrs Gray Dawes & Co. Winchester House Winchester Street, London, E.C.	Nyali, Mombasa, E.E.A.	now producing		500 tons ?	Two ?	£27,500	---	---	---	Enquiries made from Messrs Gray Dawes & Co.	
							Total	Total	Total			
							£7836. 10.11	£ 3217	£10			

Paulet Brown
A. Queen Victoria St.
London E.C.
January 4, 1917

1. On the appended Tabular Statement have been set out the requirements of a number of Sisal Hemp Plantations in British East Africa so far as they can be ascertained.

The facilities desired are as follows:-

- (a) The granting of Priority Certificates for the manufacture of machinery and material necessary for the completion of these Plantations on which the Crop is ready or nearly ready for cutting and for the continued operation of factories already at work.
- (b) Prompt granting of Licenses to export necessary machinery and material.

NOTE:- A Permit and a Priority Certificate for the manufacture of £257. 15. 0. worth of insulated cable is most urgently required for four Plantations.

2. The Proprietors of these Plantations have been led to make this application on account of the difficulties which have been experienced in the past which difficulties are now being experienced to a greater degree.

NOTE:- A full explanation has already been submitted in the Memorandum dated December 22nd, 1916.

3. The figures on the appended Statement relating to Plantations not yet at work may be summarized as follows:-

Six Plantations where the Crop is ready for cutting.

<u>Estimated Value of Annual Output:</u>		<u>Amount to be expended to complete equipment.</u>	
Maragua	£35,475	Maragua	£170. 0. 0.
Thika Sisal Co.	35,475	Thika Sisal Co.	251. 0. 0.
Kenani	35,475	Kenani	140. 0. 0.
Thika Ranch	22,000	Thika Ranch	104. 0. 0.
Kabuku	35,475	Kabuku	1800. 0. 0. 750. 0. 0.
Kituamba	35,475	Kituamba	174. 0. 0.
	<u>£ 199,375</u>		<u>£ 3389. 0. 0.</u>

The above estimate shows that by the expenditure of £3389 a product can be obtained valued at £199,375 per annum (expenditure 1.7% of value of annual output).

The amount estimated for material for maintenance including Spares is 1.3% of the estimated annual value of the product from the plantations concerned.

One Plantation where Crop will be ready for cutting at end of 1917:

Kedai	£24,750	Kedai	£ 4,318.10.11.
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Paul Brown
Queen Victoria St.
London E.C.

Private.

Downing Street,

6th January, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vaughan Davies,

Thank you for your letter enclosing that from Colonel Davies-Evans with regard to his son's requirements of insulated cable for his sisal plantation in British East Africa.

Colonel Davies-Evans is not quite right in thinking that my 'sanction', or that of this Office, is the one thing necessary in order to allow of the export of this cable. The final authority is the Priority Committee of the Ministry of Munitions, but what I have done is to see a Deputation of those who are interested in the matter, among whom was Mr. Cowan, so as to consider whether the circumstances would justify our making representations to that Committee on their behalf. The position now is that Mr. Cowan is to collect particulars of all the plant required which will, of course, include Mr. Davies-Evans' portion, and will submit these to me. I will then give

my

my fullest consideration to see whether
one ought to press the matter with the
Ministry of Munitions in view of the general
situation and the respective urgency of this
case.

Yours sincerely,

AS-11

COPY.

Downing Street.

6th January, 1917.

Dear Sir John Boreston,

Thank you for the letter from Harries.

I had already heard from Colonel Vaughan Davies who had written on Colonel Davies Evans' behalf, and I think the best thing I can do is to enclose you a copy of the letter I have sent in reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) A. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Butler

The paper as to the deposit
 has not, but the intention is
 that Mr. Cowan, the man
 mentioned, is collecting further
 - glass of all the plants & regions
 for S. A. P. S. and plantations. He
 will submit it to Mr. Seid
 Hartland who will consider
 whether we can pass the
 Permit Commission

give facilities

The answer to these letters
 is that full course will
 be given to W. Davis, & his
 case with the others when
 particulars of their
 requirements are received.

from Mr. Cowan

Oct. 4/17

Miss Palfrey

7 April 1918

W. Butler

The paper is to the Department
line or 4, but the position is
that Mr. Cowan, the engineer
mentioned, is collecting further
evidence of all the plants & regions
for S. A. P. sugar plantations. He
will submit it to Mr. Scott
Hartland who will consider
whether we can pass the
Permit Committee
give facilities.

The answer to these letters
is that full consent will
be given to Mr. Davis, being
care with the others when
particulars of their
requirements are received.

from Mr. Cowan.

Oct. 4. 17

W. Butler

1 April

2003

To B. Stanley

With these letters have come
 long Mr. Steel's (Hartland's) absence
 letters & refer to the same case.

They said it is the same
 registered but could you let me
 know what was the cause of
 the deputation & since then
 it is by a fine

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4/1/17

Camp Birch,
Abergavenny.

Jan. 2 - 1917

Dear Mr. Neil Maddison

The enclosed letter is from
the Law Lieutenant of
the County, which speaks
for itself & it is only
necessary to send a small amount

Lang Buch,
Abergswitz.

Jan. 27 1917

Dear Mr. Karl Maitland

The enclosed letter is for
the Loan Lieutenant of
the County, which checks
for study & is de ore,
receives a small amount

Camp Dulch,
Aargau.

Jan. 2 = 1917

Dear Mr. Stel Maitland

The enclosed letter is from
the Local Lieutenant of
the County, which speaks
for itself & it is only
necessary to make a small comment

I will, can you please
help him to get the

series of papers. I shall

be very much obliged

can do so

Yours truly
William Dawkins

31st Dec. 1916.

W. H. and J. A. J. J.

Dear Vaughan Davies

I do not know whether you can or will help me in this matter, but anyhow shall ask and if you do not see your way please do not hesitate to say so.

My son Alan after years of hard work in Africa was on the eve of making a small fortune in Sisal at his Thika Ranch, in British East Africa. Then war broke out which delayed the shipping of an expensive lot of Plant for manufacturing the fibre, but at last I managed to have it all delivered except a small portion which leaves by the Carlisle Castle on the 12th Jan. But there is also a small length of Insulated Wire to go and without which Plant costing some £5000 is useless and Alan is losing his opportunity of clearing some £100 a day while his crop is being ruined. The Govt. have prohibited the export (except under exceptional circumstances) of Insulated Wire and the sanction of

Mr. Steel-Maitland is required before the Makers will provide the wire. You are sure to know The Under Sec. and I should be so grateful if you could put in a word to help us. Alan fought through the Boer and early part of this war ; Both his brothers are serving as also both his ~~employ~~-employed men and one of mine who was out there. If Govt. really require all the wire made there is nothing to be said, but otherwise I think that some consideration might be shown in such a case. After all the bit of wire to cross the Thika river is a very small matter but means so much to Alan.

I am pressed for post, wishing you and Mrs. Vaughan Davies the best of New Years

Yours very sincerely

A. Davis-Watts.

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A. Davis-Watts.

THE NATIONAL UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

399

OF CONSERVATIVE & LIBERAL UNIONIST ORGANIZATIONS

Principal Agents,

JOHN BARRINGTON

WILLIAM JENNENS

THOMAS COX, Secretary

Honorary

Secretaries

Unionist Central Office,
St Stephens Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.

PLEASE REFER TO

IN YOUR REPLY

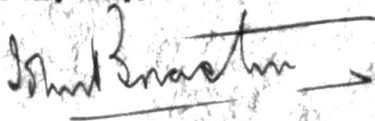
3rd January, 1917.

Private.

Dear Steel-Maitland,

I enclose copy of a letter I have received this morning from Mr. A. G. Harries, Unionist Agent for Cardiganshire.

Yours very truly,



A. D. Steel-Maitland, Esq., M.P.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S. W.

COPY.

400

The Drill Hall,
Aberystwyth.

2. 1. 17.

Private & Confidential.

Dear Sir John Boraston,

I am extremely loth to trouble you, and would not do so were it not that I have occasion to write you on behalf of one who has always been such a staunch supporter of our Party, and, not only this, but has done so much to assist in the difficult work of recruiting in the County.

Col. H. Davies Evans, of Highmead, Llanybyther, is the Lord Lieutenant of the County. His son, Alan, is settled out in British East Africa and fought through the Boer War, and also in the early stages of this War. He is now losing at the rate of £80 to £100 a day through not being able to complete his plant for preparing fibre, and his crop - the result of many years work - is being ruined. The plant itself has been delivered, but the one thing necessary - a length of insulated electric cable - is missing, and it appears this cannot be obtained owing to the prohibition by the Government. Col. Davies Evans writes me to ask whether some thing can be done to bring these facts before Mr. Steel-Maitland, who is now Under Sec. for the Colonies. The engineer who supplies the plant has already seen Mr. Steel-Maitland, but the Col. thinks that perhaps a word from you might help to enlighten

the Undersecretary as to the true position. In writing to me he says, "of course, if the Government require all that is made of insulated cable there is nothing to be said, but if it is only a matter of preference among the Settlers then I think my son, Alan, should have the preference".

I might say that the Colonel's three sons have given up their means of livelihood for service.

May I hope you will do something in the matter.

Yours very faithfully,

(sgd) A. G. Harries.

P.S. Please address your reply to Unionist Offices
Lampeter.