

EAST AFR. PROT

8622

86.22

REC'D
PER 16 FEB 17

Cowan E.A.

1917

15 Feb

Last previous Paper.

11.9

6646

Plans for local Hemp plantations
Certificates of priority.

Ands it difficult, p. ... explained to
submit to Ministry of Agriculture - Confidential
apply to meet all requirements, & suggest other
proceedings.

2 no ill. Good all around.

20 Feb 17

Mr Butler

I think what Mr Cowan has to do
first of all is to send in - to Pirbright
Clee, with copy to me - a complete statement,
with references, of existing orders - see
Mr Kellaway's letter of 31.1.17 attached to
1045. This should present no difficulty,
& he could repeat it at intervals as
further orders for up and down
are placed.

I do not think it was intended that
he should give details (including names
& addresses) of requirements.

If I may telephone to him in
this sense I will try to bring him
up, as it is not desirable that the

no
prepar 7 - 10692

A

Next subsequent Paper.

10/11613

Atlas Securities Co's application (6676)
should be held up indefinitely

6/20/27

~~W. Steel~~
W. Steel Midland

2/20

20. 2. 17

H. J. D.
20/2/17

As proposed by Mr Bottomley at A.
In writing subsequently to Mr Kellaway
he asks for sanction for the printing
actual notes so submitted and a
conditional understanding that under
new national funds supervene the
balance of requirements may be approved,
so that when notes are placed for
them, sanction will be forthcoming
from the priority list

B.

21-22. A.S. 12. 21. 2

In telephoning to Mr Cowan I explained (with
Mr Steel-Midland's approval) that it was
intended to proceed as at B.

6/20/27

S.R. Cowan

8622
Recd
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W.W. COWAN
M. ST. C.E.
L. T. E.S.
P.L.S.

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

15th February 1917

419

W.O. Battenley Esq
The Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

Dear Sir, B.N.A. Signal Hemp Plantations.

Some days ago Mr. Steel-Maitland telephoned asking me to make a formal application to the Priority Committee for Priority Certificates in connection with the Plant and material required for the various plantations, the needs of which we laid before him on December 22nd, and were sent to you in tabular form on January 4th. We also asked me to send him a copy of the application.

I find considerable difficulty in making a comprehensive application for all requirements. Some of the requirements, such as those relating to repairs and renewals, are in their nature unascertainable at present, and with others consisting of a large number of small items it is difficult to carry *the burden to the point of obtaining the* definite information in regard to all items simultaneously as to price, name of supplier etc. required for the completion of the Priority Committee's application forms.

It will be within your remembrance that when we had the honour of meeting Mr. Steel-Maitland we made a request for his assistance in obtaining from the Government a broad decision upon the question as to whether they considered the National importance of the industry to be such as to justify the comparatively small expenditure in labour and home resources required to put these Plantations in a producing position (and maintaining the production in others). The request was set out in this form in the memorandum

left with Mr. Steel-Maitland.

It will greatly facilitate the execution of the necessary work referred to if we could learn that, without receiving any definite undertaking, we could go ahead, and that Certificates would be granted as required for the material scheduled in our table, subject, of course, to any national need arising which was of dominating importance.

There is a large amount of preliminary work to be done, and I do not see how it is possible to make an inclusive application. If the course suggested by Mr. Steel-Maitland be followed it will be necessary to send in a series of applications, and thus be faced with the difficulty which has beset us during the last year or so in making our applications piecemeal, namely, a delay of many weeks between our application and the granting of a Certificate, followed by the similar delays in obtaining licenses for shipment. Prices alter and ships are missed, apart from the difficulty in obtaining firm quotations when we are unable to give the Suppliers an idea as to whether a Certificate will be granted or not.

We had in our minds that the method we proposed would save a great deal of Government time, as they would be able to deal with the question as a whole instead of going through the process of consideration afresh in regard to each of perhaps many hundreds of items.

I should be grateful if Mr. Steel-Maitland would consider the position from the point of view explained in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

P. Dobson