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Flax expert
Flax growing by disabled soldiers

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Colonel Wedgwood, — To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether anything has yet been done in connection with the recommendations of the Empire Flax Growing Committee as to the sending out to British East Africa of a flax expert, and also as to the scheme for the extension of flax production by settlements in that country of slightly disabled soldiers. [Thursday 14th August]

For oral reply

Secretary of State for the Colonies

(1) The memorandum accompanying the original report — ³²⁵ 43155 Expt. Col. You will notice that in Govt/42774 the Director of Agriculture recommended experts first and a Flax Growing Committee later. The Govt. however considers that the latter should come first in order with the idea that the Growers should make their own arrangements for trading etc. In principle I think he is right, but from the point of view of getting a flax on a secured market I imagine that it would be better to have an immediate expert report on the subject.

(2) Col. Ridge's scheme seems still
waiting for replies from the
Ministry of Pensions & Labour, but we
have practically finished satisfying
ourselves as to the nature & terms of
the scheme (see notes 28/11)

The scheme is a simple plan
of providing a pension for
the widows of the deceased
and for the children of the deceased
who are under 16 years of age.
The scheme is based on the
assumption that the deceased
has a certain amount of property
at the time of his death.
The scheme is intended to
provide a pension for the
widow of the deceased for
the remainder of her life.
The pension is to be paid
at the rate of 10% of the
deceased's net worth at the
time of his death.
The scheme is intended to
provide a pension for the
children of the deceased for
the remainder of their lives.
The pension is to be paid
at the rate of 10% of the
deceased's net worth at the
time of his death.

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[Letter on the scheme 28.11
can be taken as done 28.11]

28/11

next page sent
for reply 14/12

Expd.

No actual steps have yet been taken on the 341

recommendations of the Empire Flax Growing Committee, pending communication with the Governor, but my hon. Friend is assured that these recommendations will not be ignored.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lieut.-Colonel Amery): No actual steps have yet been taken on the recommendations of the Empire Flax-growing Committee, pending communication with the Governor, but my hon. and gallant Friend can rest assured that these recommendations will not be ignored. As to the second part of the question, an area suitable for flax growing has been set aside by the Governor for settlement by slightly disabled soldiers, subject to approval by the Colonial Office of the nature and terms of the scheme proposed. A particular scheme has recently been under consideration, and a final decision upon it is awaiting the result of correspondence with the other Departments interested in the disposal of the semi-disabled officers for whose benefit the scheme is intended.

MR. GUNN: Should be included in the scheme?

LIEUT.-COLONEL AMERY: Yes, when it is settled.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE: Is it not a fact that this scheme has been under consideration now for about five months, and that there has been a great deal of delay in getting a decision on this matter?

Lieut.-Colonel AMERY: Is the first instance of the scheme under consideration was on an entirely different basis. In its present form it has not been under consideration for very long.