

Dr E. J. Butler

Recd

1919

24 Dec

Last previous Paper.

20 34
40634

Kind to report on fungoid diseases. Ronald
Rat. Mr Dawson, mycologist has 100 money
desires to deal with make himself but considers
an assistant should be apptd. Does not agree that
Coffee Plantation should pay for Dr Butler visit

~~Butler~~

~~Butler~~

1. Is there any probability of our
being able to obtain an
assistant mycologist nowadays,
even if the appt. were approved?

2. and can you say what kind of
salary we should have to offer?

(Mr Dawson now gets £250 (personally)

+ was having

to Lidibottan

to Parkinson

1. Not more than a probability of that I should think.

2. It would probably be quite impossible to get a

man at a rate less than that paid by Mr Dawson.

Subsequent Paper.

400

30711/20

... L. Lindbergh can say what
the Agric. Cln. will consider a suitable
scale

21/20

With regard to (1) we do not expect to get any benefit here
with the summer of 1920 and not expect supply till the
summer of 1921

With regard to (2) the Committee have recommended £500 - 25-650
as a suitable scale for Microbiologists, Plant Pathologists, Agricultural
Chemists and Mycologists, and for Assistant Mycologists in
Ceylon and the Straits £350 - 25-650

21/20

Indistinctly

2nd. 20/20/20. Letter for
concern of the committee with
Kew - say that it is presumed
that the Coffee Planters' Union
is not yet prepared to pay the
expenses of a visit by Dr.
Bridges, even if he were able to
do this - call attention to Dr.
Bridges' suggestion as to an
agent for Mycologist work
and to consider making provision
for such an agent - give substance
to X above - say that salary
is probably the between £500
and £700 - and that there is
no hope of any increase, to this
approaching the S. of Scot.
and visit by Dr. Paul-Carew
for the main object proposed

X

X. Point
to be done
will come
and
that
and

2. ask Dr. Prain's letter - & say that
question of appointing an
assistant myologist has been
referred to Prof. - but that we
understand as at K alone.

all

3.1.20

Sir H. G. ...

You will wish to see the

(1) Sir C. Bowring asked if it would be possible
to obtain Dr. Prain's attention for Sir D.
Prain doubts, for the matter is a point on which
we can have no doubt - the Collier Planters
have done well on the whole & some stand
on their own feet.

(2) I think we should give food for thought to
be released as far as possible of outside work of
Surrey & Dept. Sir D. Prain has
written to you on the point before.

As proposed

H.C.S.

3.1.20

This was brought before the Dept. Com.
yesterday. Dr. E. Nottley was present &
it was decided that the best plan was to
create an app. of a myologist with
salary of £500 - 2500 a year & that Dr. B.

to wait until we found a suitable man.
Dr. Prain would like to take Dr. B.
Dr. Prain would like to take Dr. B.

ref: O. H.

at once

H. J. R.

7/1/20

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

December 24, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 70634/1919, dated December 23, 1919, enclosing copy of despatch from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate and requesting observations on the proposal that Dr. E. J. Butler should visit the Protectorate to report on fungus diseases in East Africa.

As the request for Dr. Butler's services emanates from the President of the Coffee Planters' Union, I presume that should it be deemed advisable to approach the Government of India for the loan of Dr. Butler's services this could only be done on the understanding that the expenses, which can hardly be less than about £1000, be met by the Coffee Planters' Union.

The proposal of the Coffee Planters' Union is in certain respects a very opportune one since it indicates that the action of the East Africa Protectorate Government in asking for the services of a mycologist in 1913 (see C. O. letter of January 14 1913) was a wise and far-seeing measure. This led to the appointment of Mr. F. T. Dowson, B. Sc., a very competent and highly trained mycologist to the post that same year.

That Mr. Dowson has not, as would appear from the proposal of the Coffee Planters' Union, fully carried out his mycological researches should not, however, be considered as a reflection on the ability or competence of that officer. The time and energies of the Government mycologist have unfortunately been taken up with various duties which should not, in any way, be considered as belonging to his province as a plant pathologist and in

Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,

3. 1. 1920.

consequence the pathological work which the Coffee Planters' Union very justly point out is in need of expert investigation has perforce been prevented from receiving the attention which its importance demands.

Such as I am in sympathy with the desire of the Coffee Planters' Union that the fungus diseases of the East Africa Protectorate, on the proper knowledge and control of which the economic future of the Protectorate so largely depends, should be fully investigated, it is a matter for consideration whether the solution they propose is the most satisfactory way of dealing with the problem they have in mind. A visit from Dr. Butler would no doubt be welcomed by Mr. Townson as a useful opportunity for the interchange of ideas but it might also be construed by the Coffee Planters' Union as an expression of 'want of confidence' by his Government in the services of their own officer and on this ground it is for consideration whether Dr. Butler's proposed visit even should it be agreed to by the Government of India, can in the public interest be sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It is further a matter for consideration whether a more effective method of meeting the requirements of the Coffee Planters' Union would be not by the importation of a mycologist from India or elsewhere to pay a visit of inspection to the East Africa Protectorate, but by strengthening the mycological department which already exists in the Protectorate for the very purpose of studying and carrying out researches on the fungus diseases in East Africa.

The Government of the East Africa Protectorate are no doubt exceedingly fortunate in possessing in Mr. Townson an officer in whose judgment and competence they are able to repose such confidence that that they feel justified in

committing to him the carrying out of duties which he was not appointed to perform. This, however, is a process which can only, if carried to excess, lead to the curtailment of the work for which he was engaged.

If Mr. Dowson is to be enabled to devote adequate time to the pathological researches which he is fully qualified to undertake and for which I understand, he has recently been provided with a properly equipped laboratory, I consider it is essential that he should be afforded the assistance of a well-trained botanist versed in mycological studies so that he may be free to devote his time to the investigation of the various diseases of the economic plants of the Protectorate.

Under the present conditions Mr. Dowson has so many calls upon his time which should not in a properly organised Agricultural Department be referred to the Mycologist, that he can have but little time left for the mycological investigation for which his appointment was sanctioned.

The following extract from a recent letter from Mr. Dowson, dated November 3, 1919, illustrates the present situation so clearly that I venture to quote it:-

"My correspondence has not decreased as I had hoped with the prospect of turning my attention to 'bench work' in the new laboratory, and besides the ordinary routine letters I am now engaged in drafting an Ordinance and Regulations for the grading of maize for export. The following close upon my Annual Report and a re-drafting of the Diseases of Plants Prevention Ordinance have prevented any really serious 'laboratory work'."

I am in hopes that with the appointment of a new Director of Agriculture, which I believe has now taken place, the duties of the officers of the Agricultural Department of the East Africa Protectorate may be so arranged that Mr. Dowson will be enabled to carry out the work which he was

appointed to carry out without too many extraneous calls upon his time and energy being made, but I feel that even should this be the case it is essential that a properly trained scientific European Assistant should be appointed without delay to help forward the mycological work of the department.

This solution of the question raised in the Governor's despatch has been an urgent one for some time and that this is the solution which should be considered in order to meet adequately and in the best interests of the Protectorate the proposals put forward by the Coffee Planters' Union.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. Prain

The Gov. of the Dist. was present,
& it has been decided to
adopt the rec. of the Com.
that an Assistant Zoologist
should be appointed

~~the Dist.~~
in the Agricultural Dept.
of the Protectorate.

3. In that case, no
further action will be taken

in regard to the suggestion
that Mr. Butler should
visit Europe.

(Signed) H. & READ.

MJ EAP
73149
19

232

Q. A.

Sir
20 Jan 1920

DRAFT.

I have the honour to ack the
recd of your despatch No 988 of the 8th
of Oct regarding the suggestion that
Mr. J. P. Butler, Imperial Mycologist
to the Govt. of India, should visit

No 92
MINUTE.

EA report on fungoid disease

2. This matter was brought
before the Agricultural
Committee, at which Sir Edward
Northey was present, as it was
decided that the best ^{course} plan
would be to create an appointment
of Assistant Mycologist with salary

- Mr. Jewell 12.1.20
- Mr. Parkinson 13.1.20
- Mr. [unclear] 13.1.20
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. H. Lambert
- Sir H. Read
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Col. Amery
- Lord Milner

22/1

we can form
sent [unclear] from
[unclear]

on the scale of $\$500 - \25 ~~$\$100$~~ $\$600$

a year, without war bonus.

This course has been adopted, and steps are being taken to select a suitable candidate for the apt.

3. I may add that the salary of Mr W. J. Dawson, the Mycologist, will come up for revision before the apt. of an Assistant can be completed.

4. A copy of correspondence with the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is enclosed

I think this
as well go

To Director 2/1/21
7/1/21
From Director 2/1/21
7/1/21

VACANCY FORM.

383

John Frank
Parkinson

REFERENCE No. 73149/19 SAP

PROBATIONARY BRANCH.

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

POST OFFICE
East Africa Protectorate

CLASSIFICATION

Assistant Mycologist

DESCRIPTION OF VACANCY.

New appointment

REMARKS.

Salary £500 - £25 - £600 a year. No war bonus. Quarters allowance

REMARKS.

Not reasonable. Question of permit expenses.
States to be taken up when first
agreement expires.

was 13/1.20

acc? 12.1.20

E.A. Dept

Please see approval of Capt Macdonald
with app in file below.
For file please

Not 23/6/20

app filed by Capt Macdonald
File 14/63.

23.7.20
at all