

1931

Kenya

No. 17215

SUBJECT

CO 533/413

Government Analysts Department

Location of separate

Previous

CO 5329/24

see page W. 4. 2nd (606) E.A.

Subsequent

23268/34

1. Gov. Report 258  
states no request of Gov. Analyst for creation of  
separate department, requests sanction for creation of  
separate Government Analytical department on  
understanding that it shall not be put into force  
until funds permit

I see no objection in principle  
to the establishment of a separate  
dept. & subject to any objection  
of the Dr. Stanton, I think  
we may agree to X at the end  
of para 5 of the despatch. It is  
not clear whether the Agricultural  
Chemist & the Bio Chemist is  
referred to the Analyst's fold

The Gov. order that, should  
an opportunity occur, no box  
might be given a word of warning  
as to his behaviour. From it  
it hardly appears to be necessary  
to ask him to call, but note  
must be made on his file &  
the drift of this despatch on  
it

Dr. Stanton is  
sensible that  
might affect the  
opportunity  
11/11/21

T. Howlett  
No. 48 on  
16175 EA

G. Stanton  
20.6.21

11/11/21

P.T.O.

11/11/21

This kind of thing is merely silly. It is uniformly the case that technical officers making these protests are the less competent members of their profession - in common language the protest is the expression of an inferiority complex.

Unless a number of chemists are to be grouped together in order that they may do their Government work more effectively, there is no justification for setting up a separate department with its consequent additional expenditure. I think we should not approve "in principle" but should await the statement of a

case that the interests of Government would be served by a change of the kind proposed.

H. J. Stewart  
26.6.31

W. J. Proctor.

I think you are all, as agricultural chemist is referred to. Is there really any reason why all chemical & workers should be grouped in one Dept? I believe that is the Sudan system. You may have heard something of this "wangle" when in Abyssinia.

W. J. Proctor  
31/6/31

The Protector.

The Sudan system has broken down, as it has been found wanting in the case concerning cotton in the Gezira. A Controller of Agricultural Research has been appointed and two chemists of the Walleah Research Laboratories will be attached to his service and he under his control. Agricultural chemists must be attached to Agricultural Departments if their work is to be effective in the interests of agriculture. Otherwise their work loses direction and cannot be linked up satisfactorily with that of other scientific branches of the

Department - a good agricultural chemist  
in an outlook which is completely  
different from that of an analyst  
and no useful purpose would be  
served by combining them together  
Analysts in my view should be either  
branches of a health dept or a  
separate department in general I  
think the multiplicity of departments  
is a mistake and it would waste of  
time in administrative work and  
worsening cooperation in the several

J. A. Stoddard

1/7/31

It seems clear that the  
Department of Chem. is much  
to be kept in the agricultural  
Dept - not that the Government  
is opposed any change in  
this respect

It is also clear that for  
financial reasons alone,  
we cannot now set up a  
separate Analytical Dept  
but I agree with what  
Stoddard says at the  
end of his minute.

2 (1) A.C. receipt - agree  
that for financial reasons

The setting up of a separate  
Analytical Dept is a proposal  
out of the question I think in  
any event the analysts work  
would be carried on in the new  
laboratory - but go on to say  
that the new lab. does not  
offer any real prospect  
under the old Govt. of  
providing a place for a  
separate dept. The  
place of the health dept  
further considered. The  
point of view is that  
in the department of the  
of the health dept.

(2) It is probable to consider that  
Dept. of Chem. will have  
the Dept.

(3) And then the Analysts  
to be collected as to the  
arrangement of Analysts  
parallel to the Colonies - i.e.  
and in which Colonies is there  
a separate Dept. and in which  
are the analysts placed  
under a Div. of Medical Services  
or other technical head  
for purposes of administration  
discipline? All this is  
1/7/31

As proposed: at stage (2) to  
T. Miller should see

[The position is being kept  
entirely open until we have  
a complete and full picture  
of the situation before us, but the  
impression is that the  
fundamental position of the  
subject of the proposed  
change is to be left  
as it stands, as the  
only one alternative.]

100-483-1 Approved - 8 JUL 1931

(2) or on Park road in case  
has been dealt with a 16175-2a  
(file of 20)

(3) This is a matter <sup>with</sup> which  
Personnel Division will <sup>be</sup> deal  
deal

I have had the annexed letter prepared.  
States it that no further action is necessary  
for the moment or until we get something  
further in reply to part 2 of 2.  
in all referred  
22/7/31

As action seems necessary at the 5  
moment? put by

9th March 1931

Handwritten initials

(See note of interview with Mr Fox on  
the 25th - 16/7/31)

Mr. [Name] [Name] [Name]  
[Name] [Name] [Name]  
[Name] [Name] [Name]  
[Name] [Name] [Name]

Mr. [Name]  
? further action  
R. [Name] 16/7/31

? put by  
A. [Name]  
2/6/32

Handwritten initials

Handwritten initials

COLONY.	POST.	PARTICULARS.
Nigeria.	Government Analyst.	Separate Department.
Gold Coast.	2. Analytical Chemists.	Under Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.
Sierra Leone.	No post.	
Gambia.	No post.	
Kenya.	Government Analyst.	Under Deputy Director of Laboratory Services.
Uganda.	Analytical Chemist	Under Deputy Director of Laboratory Services.
Nyasaland.	No post.	
Zanzibar	<del>Government Chemist</del>	<del>Under Director of Agriculture and Government Chemist (Joint)</del>
Cyprus.	Government Analyst.	Under Director of Health.
Gibraltar.	No post	
Malta	No post.	
Tanganyika.	Analytical Chemist	Under Deputy Director of Laboratory Services.
Somaliland	No post.	
N. Rhodesia.	No post.	
Barbados.	Chief Analytical Assistant	Under Director of Science and Agriculture.
British Guiana.	Government Analyst.	Separate Department.
Jamaica.	Director of Science	and Island Chemist (Joint)
Leewards.	<del>Government Analyst</del>	<del>and Agricultural Chemist and</del>
Trinidad	Government Analyst	Separate Department.
Windwards.	No post.	
Bahamas.	No post	
Bermuda.	No post.	
B. Honduras.	No post.	
Falklands.	No post.	
Ceylon.	Government Analyst.	Separate Department.
Hong Kong.	Government Analyst.	Under Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.
F.M.S.	2 Pharmaceutical Chemists	Under P.M.O. Chief Chemist and 3 Chemists under Director of Institute of Medical Research.
Mauritius	No post.	
Seychelles.	No post.	
Straits Setts.	Government Analyst.	Separate Department.
St. Helena.	No post.	
Fiji.	Pharmaceutical Analyst and Medical Storekeeper	(joint) under Chief Medical Officer.
Palestine.	Government Analyst.	Under Director of Department of

X 17215731 k

C. O.

Mr. Easton 37  
Mr. Parkin 2/8

C. O.  
R 4 JUL  
D 6

8 July 1931

Mr. Tomlinson  
Sir C. Bottomley  
Sir J. Shuckburgh  
Sir G. Grindle  
Term. U.S. of S.  
Parly. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State

Sir

I write to ack. the rec. of  
your Dept. no. 258 of the 18 May  
concerning a proposal to  
establish a separate Dept. under  
the Govt. Analyst.

DRAFT.

Key  
for

No. 483

I agree that for  
financial reasons the setting up of  
a separate ~~Dept.~~ Analysts' Dept.  
is at present out of the question  
& that in any event the analysts'  
work must be carried out in  
the new laboratory. I am

not however ~~clear~~ clear that  
it wd. be in the best interests  
of the Govt, even if finance  
permitted, to set up a  
separate Dept., & I should be

Had if the matter could  
be further considered

from this point of view,  
before the [unclear] [unclear]

~~proceeding with the proposal~~

to General, I feel  
that the multiple [unclear]

depths of [unclear] as the result of [unclear]  
~~unavoidable mistake~~

of time in administrative work which implies [unclear]  
and increasing competition

in the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
of cases [unclear] in special  
cases [unclear] [unclear]

of [unclear] depth way  
be [unclear] by  
~~canceling out~~

through [unclear]  
~~canceling out~~

the arguments which  
may be advanced on the other  
side, but it is not obvious  
that special concerns exist  
in this case to which your  
best refers

I have the  
attention  
of the  
CNC  
question  
all

(Signed) PASSFIELD



KENYA  
No. 258



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

8 May, 1931.

RECEIVED  
30 MAY 1931  
COL. O'NEILL

My Lord,

I have the honour to address Your Lordship on the subject of the establishment of a separate department under the Government Analyst and in this connection to refer to previous communications leading up to Sir Edward Denny's despatch No. 1182 of the 17th November, 1924.

2. It will be recalled that at that time, after the transfer on promotion of the then Director of Chemical Research (Mr. Kirkham) this small department was dismembered. Of the three officers then comprising the Department one was transferred to the Agricultural Department as an Agricultural Chemist in the recently instituted Scott Agricultural Laboratories, one was appointed as a Bio-Chemist in the Medical Department, and the third as Government Analyst was placed in charge of this work but was placed under the direction, for purposes of discipline and administration, of the Bacteriologist and Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

3. In 1927, on the resignation of the Government Analyst, Mr. Fox, who was the officer who had been transferred to the Agricultural Department, was appointed Government Analyst. In spite of the terms of his appointment which left no doubt that he was in the same position as his predecessor as regards discipline, Mr. Fox has always resented this control on the ground that the two professions of Chemist and Bacteriologist are distinct and that it was a slur on his profession to place him in

any.....

16175 KA  
8 JUN 1931

any way under the direction of the Government Bacteriologist.

4. The erection of the new Medical Research Laboratory has served to bring this matter to a head. Mr. Fox has reiterated his contention that he should be made the head of a separate Department and has asked that he should be also allowed to remain in the old Laboratory buildings. In this connection I enclose an extract from a memorandum submitted to the Colonial Secretary by the present Government Analyst on the 17th April last. With reference to the last sentence of the extract I have recently received an application for the appointment of an analyst at Eldoret for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act and should a Geological Survey be carried out from funds applied for from the Colonial Development Fund further work will also fall on the Analyst.

I mention these last two possible extensions of services required merely as instances of the natural growth of the Analyst's work.

5. It has always been felt that the coordination of one technical officer to a differently qualified officer was not ideal, but from the standpoint of economy it was necessary at the time to avoid the continuation of a separate and smaller department with its contingent extra expenditure on subordinate services: and so long as the volume of work was such as to be within the compass of a small staff the reconstitution of a small department was undesirable. It does, however, appear that the staff will require to be increased for this analytical work and, if and when this increase takes place, I should have no objection to the removal of the present control. There is, however, no question but that the activities of this branch of research work must be located in the new Laboratory. For the present I do not propose to proceed further with

the .....

the matter. Increased expenditure now, still more than in 1924, is unjustifiable, but I consider this the only obstacle and I therefore request that Your Lordship will sanction the creation of a separate Government Analyst's Department in principle, on the understanding that it shall not be put into force until such time as funds permit.

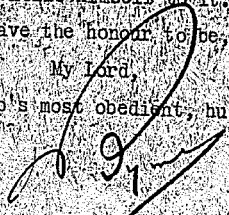
6. I desire, however, to state that the attitude of Mr. Fox himself is by no means satisfactory. There appears to have been constant friction between him and Dr. Kauntze and Dr. Gillis, and in March last the Colonial Secretary had occasion to take strong exception to the tone of a letter of Mr. Fox's in which he had criticized the action of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, and I am informed that subsequently his behaviour towards Dr. Kauntze in the matter of the submission of his Annual Report was subversive of proper discipline. I attach a memo on the subject by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Mr. Fox has recently gone to England on leave and should an opportunity occur, I trust that it will be conveyed to him with no uncertainty that, so long as it is necessary for the present position to continue for reasons of economy, he must reconcile himself to it.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,



BRIGADIER-GENERAL.  
GOVERNOR.

The Government Analyst must be a fully qualified chemist and it is necessary to reach a high standard of scientific and practical efficiency in order to obtain the qualification of the Institute of Chemistry.

His duties include investigations and analyses for all departments of Government requiring chemical advice and assistance and from the very general nature of these duties he cannot properly fit into the organisation of any particular department. He must of necessity exist as a separate unit and should occupy an independent position as head of his own department. His work not only requires knowledge, skill and experience but frequently entails heavy responsibility for, not only the freedom, but the very life of an individual may depend on his knowledge and accuracy.

He must take full responsibility for his professional work and this responsibility cannot in any way be assumed by an officer of another profession requiring different qualifications and training. Under the present organisation, although appointed to the post of Government Analyst, an endeavour has been made definitely to interfere in the work of the holder of the post by making him a section of a Medical Research Laboratory and placing him for the exercise of his duties under the control of an officer who is not a qualified chemist.

Such an arrangement is unsound, for the Analyst and Medical Officer are drawn from two distinct professions; their duties are distinct in their nature and require an entirely different training and outlook. The Medical Officer is not competent to direct the working of a chemical Laboratory and I suggest that it would be distinctly to the advantage of both Medical and Chemical Research if the officer controlling the Medical Research Laboratory was not called upon to spend a certain amount of his valuable time on chemical work.

That the medical profession holds very strong views against the subordination of a medical officer to one of another profession is clear from the statements of the Director of Medical Research Laboratory and it must be realised how illogical is the inclusion of a Government Analyst in a Medical Research Laboratory.

Under the existing organisation the work of the Government Analyst has been sacrificed to make provision for medical work; his laboratory has become the most understaffed in the Colonial Service, and his efforts to obtain a more economical and efficient working of his laboratory have proved fruitless. He is placed in an impossible position for it appears the opinion of a Medical Officer on a chemical matter is sometimes accepted in preference to that of a qualified and experienced chemist, and his opinion is not sought in matters where his knowledge might be of assistance.

The introduction of the Foods and Drugs Act may be quoted by way of example.

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No. C.158/19.

P.O. Box 641,

Nairobi, Kenya.

CONFIDENTIAL.The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
Nairobi.re: Mr. M. H. Fox, B.Sc., A.I.C., - Government  
Analyst.Ref. Interviews of 30th Jan. 1950, and 24th  
March 1951.

1. In connection with paragraph 6 of the note of the second interview referred to above, I have to report to Government that, in face of definite instructions by the Deputy Director of Laboratory Services as to the disposal of the Annual Report of the Government Analyst for 1950, Mr. Fox, on his departing leave, left orders for a member of the female clerical staff stationed at the Laboratory that she should sign the report on his behalf and thereafter send it to myself. Copies of the relevant correspondence are attached.

2. It appears that in spite of warnings which have been issued, Mr. Fox is bent on making difficulties and in particular of ignoring the Deputy Director of Laboratory Services in whose section he must work as long as it is impossible for a separate Government Analyst's Department to be created.

3. I am of opinion that Mr. Fox deserves a severe reprimand, which as he is now in England might well be administered through the Secretary of State for the Colonies and I would ask that the matter be considered from this point of view. The stipulation made when Mr. Fox was first appointed to his present post may also be taken into consideration.

(Sgd.) John L. Gilks.

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL &amp; SANITARY SERVICES.

13  
30th March, 1931.

The Government Analyst,  
Medical Research Laboratory,  
Nairobi.

re: Annual Report for 1930

In spite of many verbal requests made to you to expedite your Annual Report for 1930, I have not yet received it. I must, therefore, request you to let me have it by the 1st April, 1931, at the latest.

(Sgd.) U. H. Kanitze.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LABORATORY SERVICES.

COPY/

GOVERNMENT ANALYST'S LABORATORY,  
NAIROBI.

Ref. A/6.

31st March, 1931.

The Deputy Director of Laboratory Services,  
NAIROBI.

re: Annual Report - 1930.

Your letter No. 9/3/1/22 Vol. II, undated, was delivered to me yesterday afternoon.

Your "many verbal requests" number one with a reminder a few days ago that my report had not yet been received, and it appears that the difficulty I have, single handed and with the means at my disposal, in dealing with the work submitted to me, is not realised.

I regret that it is not possible for me to get out the report today, but it shall be done as soon as possible, and will be in the hands of the Hon. Director of Medical and Sanitary Services before my departure on leave.

(Sgd.) M. H. Fox.

GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

COPY/

14  
END

No. 9/3/1/24. Vol. II.

1st April, 1951.

The Government Analyst,  
Medical Research Laboratory,  
Nairobi.

re: Annual Report for 1950.  
Ref: your No. A/6 of 31st March 1951.

I am glad to hear that your Annual Report will soon be ready. Will you kindly note that it is to be handed to me, and not to be sent to Head-quarters.

(Sgd.) W.H. Kannze.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LABORATORY SERVICES.

COPY/

Miss Webster,

Will you please type out the following sign  
it for Government Analyst and send to the Hon. E. B. S.

I shall be glad if you will expedite as I  
have promised this before my departure.

(Sgd.) M.H.P.

10.4.51.

Insert the following in the report at point  
marked x.

"It is hoped that the new accommodation to be  
provided will enable some of this work to be  
attempted."