

Financial Commissioners Report

Agricultural & Veterinary Sections

Previous

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Subsequent

1937

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Mr. Stockdale 3-10

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Mr. Stockdale 13/10

Mr. Flood /

299 24/10

R 297 24/10

c.i. Financial.  
Agricultural.

1. Note by Mr. Stockdale on the Agricultural and Veterinary Sections of the Pim Report.
2. Governor tel. No. 233----- copy----- 30.9.56.  
Requests that Mr. R. B. Edwards, Deputy Director of Animal Industries be warned of possible retirement as result of Pim Report.

Orig. on  
P.F.

Sir Alan Pim has gone at considerable length into the organisation of the Agricultural and Animal Industry Department in Kenya, his discussion of which covers thirty pages of the report (123-152). In paragraph 249, pages 139-140, Sir Alan Pim says that in Mr. Milligan's opinion it would be better to have 2 Directors instead of having 1 Director and 2 Deputies, as at present. He further deals with the suggestion in paragraph 259 on page 151, where he says that the only real solution is to have 2 departments, agricultural and veterinary, with a Director at the head of each. The two departments would be independent of each other, but would be linked through working under the same Secretary under Sir Alan Pim's proposed reorganisation of the secretariat. This would enable the Director of Agriculture to get into much closer touch with the working of his department and incidentally would give the Director of Veterinary Services increased responsibility.

As regards the personal aspect of it, the proposal to place <sup>the</sup> Veterinary Department under the Chief Research Officer (Mr. Daubney) was put forward by Mr. Waters as a part of his scheme of reorganisation, and Sir Alan Pim sees no objection to it as a temporary measure, and indeed thinks there is much to be said for it, though as a permanent arrangement it is open to objection, owing to the fact that it may be difficult to obtain a future officer capable of doing the administrative work

work as well as directing research. In the present instance, Sir Alan Pim agrees that Mr. Daubney could be placed at the head of the Veterinary Department, when formed, and this involves the termination of Mr. Brassey-Edwards' appointment.

Mr. Brassey-Edwards is now 53 years old, has 24 years' service and has been Chief Veterinary Officer in Kenya (Deputy Director, Animal Industry, and Chief Veterinary Officer) for the past seven years. He can therefore retire or be retired at any time, and he is already qualified for the maximum pension for which he can be eligible. In 1933 Mr. Wolfe, who was acting as Director of Agriculture, said that this was Mr. Brassey-Edwards' last tour of service. In 1934 the Governor reported that he lacks personality and driving force, while in 1935 he said that Mr. Brassey-Edwards, while keen on his work and responsible for considerable progress in some directions in the native reserves "is, however, rather obstinate and tactless, which faults are inclined to cause friction in the Department". I was not particularly impressed with him myself when I saw him, and I think that in view of the concordance of opinion between Mr. Stockdale, Sir Alan Pim, and apparently the Governor, a warning as proposed in the telegram may properly be issued.

J. L. W. Flood

3.10.1936.

I agree that the warning should be given but it might be postponed until after Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> as Mr. Brassey-Edwards is one of the Colonial Empire delegates to the Imperial Scientific Conference. This Conference terminates on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

J. A. Stockdale  
3/10

I agree as to the warning but before the separation of the Agric. & Vet. Divs. is settled, reference should be made to the report of Lord Plymouth's Committee on the relations between the two Divs. in general.

S. J. P. P.

5.10.36

S. J. P. P.

I have had Mr. Brassey-Edwards as the Governor asks. His leave is up on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> and the letter should go to him on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> or soon after.

W. L. S.  
5.10.36.

J. L. W. Flood  
at once

That is the point. He has been the least tactless.  
L.S.

But we are anxious, if it can be avoided, not to pick + choose among Sir A. Pim's recommendations.

To H. H. Brassey-Edwards — 9/10/36

Mr. Brassey-Edwards called in a great state. He had entirely failed to understand our letter and thought that it meant that he was to be thrown out at once. He wants to go back to Kenya and he had intended only to serve a short tour and then retire and settle down in Kenya, and he was immensely relieved when I told him that there was no earthly objection to his going back if he wanted to. I added, however, that if Government proceeded to implement the Pim Report, as was its intention, it might find it desirable to call upon him to retire. He murmured something about 3 months' notice, to which I replied that he need not have 3 days', especially after the warning which he had had. It is not a case of retrenchment for economy. He realises the situation now, I think, and proposes to return on the 29th with the full understanding that he may be placed on pension at any time.

J. L. G. Flood

12/10/36.

H. Brassey-Edwards. ----- 12.10.36. Acks. No. 5 and notes contents; does not wish to make any alteration in his arrangements as he intends to return to Kenya as an official and future settler.

Mr. S. G. de

See above. We can send a copy of the con. to Kenya.

J. L. G. Flood  
13.10

By air mail  
19/10/36

To Kenya 822 (4/10/36) 19/10/36  
2 Answer

Initials  
L. G. Flood  
15.10.36  
Promo. Case 25  
Promotion Branch

C. O.

*would you agree to this?*

*8*

Mr. Flood. 15.10

Mr. Stokdale 15/10

Mr. Flood 16

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Stothburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

AIR MAIL.

*P.S.*

DOWNING STREET.

10 October, 1936.

C.D  
16 OCT  
19

*A*

Sir,

I have the honour to

acknowledge the receipt of your telegram

No.233 of the 30th of September, and to

enclose a copy of correspondence with

Mr.Brassey-Edwards, from which you will

observe that he has decided to return to

Kenya as he wishes to settle there on

his eventual retirement from the public

service. Mr.Brassey-Edwards fully

~~understands~~ *realises* that he can be called upon to

retire at very short notice. and is

returning on that understanding.

2. In this connection I may

perhaps state that I am ~~strongly~~ in

favour of implementing Sir Alan Pim's

recommendation.

DRAFT.

K E N Y A.

NO. 822

Governor.

(2)

*(3)*

**FURTHER ACTION.**

of committees for the separation of  
the Agricultural and Veterinary

Departments. *end of arranging  
for a distribution of work  
in connection with animal  
husbandry.*

two sections over the Departments are  
separated, and I should be glad to

receive your recommendations on this

important question should it be

decided, after your discussion, to

carry out Sir Alan Min's proposals.

3. I may also add that in

conversation, Sir Alan Min stated that

he was somewhat perturbed at the amount

of damage which is being caused in

Kenya by attempts to stimulate the

production of crops for export. In

paragraphs <sup>254</sup>242 of his report, he draws

attention to the danger of ignoring the

risks of erosion in efforts to increase

native crops, but it is doubtful whether

the point has been sufficiently emphasized

in the Report. It may well be that the

fertility of the soil will be seriously

impaired

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permit U.S. of S.

Paris, U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

impaired if the policy of ~~free~~ <sup>free</sup> farming

production is followed without

careful thought for the normal

productive capacity of the soil and for

the maintenance of fertility -  
I have, etc.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

3775/3/36.

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C. O.

Mr. *Swain* 9/10/36

Mr. *Wood* 7.10

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

\* Sir C. Bottomley. 7.10 *f*

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

NOT to issue before the 9th October.

9 October, 1936

Sir,

I am etc to inform you that in view of the recommendations

contained in Sir Alan Pim's Report, it is possible that the Department of Agriculture in Kenya will be reorganised in the near future.

2. The Governor of Kenya has considered it advisable therefore, that you should be warned that in consequence of the reorganisation proposed he may find it necessary to call upon you to retire from the service.

DRAFT for Consent

*H.H. Brassey-Edwards* OBE

*Am*

*copy to Kenya (5)*

FURTHER ACTION.

*Ch to be on*  
*1989 EA*

The Kenya Government at  
short notice. Mr. Omsby-  
Fore feels that, in these  
circumstances, it is only  
fair, in your own interests,  
that you should be warned  
in this sense prior to the  
expiration of your present  
leave on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October,  
in case <sup>you would wish to make</sup> ~~this should involve~~  
any alteration of your  
private arrangements.

in order to facilitate  
the re-organization of the  
Dept.

Sam L.C.

D  
1/11 J. G. H. Flood



What action is being taken 28  
in this? 1003

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 30th September, 1936. Received 10.13.A.M. 30th September.

No. 233.

Reference Kenya note of the 4th April Brassey Edwards deputy Director of Animal Industries. In view of the possibility of reorganisation of Department of Agriculture as result of Pim report I shall glad if person named may be warned that if he returns to the service of this Government on expiry of his leave he may be called upon to retire at short notice.

Mr Boyd

Sir A. Pim & Mr Stockdale have had a talk and are in agreement that Mr Brassey Edwards ought, in the proposed new organization, to be replaced by Mr Dambney. Mr Brassey Edwards is 53 & has 26 years service, and has been chief Vet. for 7 years. So he can go - or be told to - at any time and will get his maximum pension. In 1933 he was thought to be going to retire at the end of ~~his~~ the term but apparently now wants to hold on till 55.

I think we should proceed to warn him as proposed

His leave is up on 29 Oct.

I believe Br.E. is no longer a candidate for 1003. W.S.E.

19  
E  
Mr. Flood,

Note on the Kenya Report.

Sir Alan Pim came in to see me yesterday afternoon to discuss the agricultural sections of his Kenya Report. He enquired as to my re-actions to the proposals for the separation of the Veterinary services from the Department of Agriculture, and I said that as far as I could see at present I was generally in favour of the proposals, and that they were, in fact, along lines which I had recommended some years ago to Uganda when the quarrel between the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments in that Territory was intense, particularly in respect of animal husbandry.

I told him that I thought that the scheme as outlined in the Kenya Report would be workable if a suitable man were placed in charge of the newly proposed Veterinary Department. I said that I, personally, would have some hesitation in recommending the proposal for adoption if Major Brassey-Edwards was to be selected for the headship of the Veterinary Department. With this view he entirely agreed, and he, in fact, went further and said that the proposed new arrangement might be doomed to failure if Major Brassey-Edwards were entrusted with the Veterinary Department. He said that Major Brassey-Edwards had a very considerable following in the Colony itself, particularly in official circles, but that he and Mr. Milligan had come to the definite conclusion that he was quite unfit for successful administration of a large Department. He, Sir Alan Pim, thought that if we here approved of the proposed

change,

change, it should be stipulated that Major Brasseley-Edwards should be called upon to retire. He thought that the Department could be entrusted to Mr. Daubney, the Chief Veterinary Research officer. Normally, he would not be in favour of placing a research man in charge of a Veterinary Department, but he had formed the opinion that Mr. Daubney was exceptional and, whilst being an outstanding specialist, also had a very broad outlook in respect of veterinary matters generally. He gathered that he also was an efficient administrator. // Sir Alan Pim then discussed the agricultural work of the Department, and I gathered from him that he thought that whilst Mr. Waters was somewhat lacking in personality, he had a sound grip of Kenya's agricultural problems, and that it would be undesirable to consider the transfer of Mr. Waters from Kenya for another two or three years. He thought that if Mr. Waters could concentrate on the agricultural work, his value in the Colony would soon be shown, particularly in respect of the agriculture in Native Reserves. Sir Alan Pim also discussed Mr. Wolfe whom he said had a very large following in the Colony. He formed the impression that Mr. Wolfe was excellent on paper and in the preparation of memoranda, and that he could make out a good case before a Committee, but both he and Mr. Milligan were not satisfied with the soundness of Mr. Wolfe's views on a number of agricultural matters. // He further said that he was somewhat perturbed at the damage

which

10  
END

which might result from the drive which is taking place in Kenya in the development of the production of export crops. He felt that this was being pushed too far and at too fast a rate. He had sounded a note of warning in regard to this in his Report, but he felt perhaps even more strongly about it than he had stated in the Report. His conclusion was that the land would not stand this increased production, and that in a few years a serious depletion of soil fertility might result if the policy were continued without more careful thought being given to the normal productive capacity of the soil. Sir Alan Pim also mentioned that he was of the opinion that a similar result would be seen in Tanganyika, as the result of the drive that has taken place in recent years for the production of economic crops. He also felt that there was a beginning of the same problem to be seen in Uganda. With these views on the question of the conservation of soil fertility I am in agreement with Sir Alan Pim. Judgment has to be used in connection with any campaign for pressing forward with the production of economic crops in East African territories. I have already intimated this here, particularly in regard to parts of Tanganyika, but I do feel that when the Report of Sir Alan Pim on Kenya is under consideration, we here should endeavour to examine this aspect of the problem carefully, and issue a warning to the Kenya Administration.

*F. A. Shindala*

19th September, 1936.

*One aspect of the expansion of the Col. Dept. from the Agricultural Dept. was not mentioned, but it should not be overlooked. The Col. Dept. will cost a deficit of £70. A thin may be slight increase of expenditure in connection with this part. This does not seem to have been considered.*

*N.P.*

*W.P.*