

1937

38092

CO533/480  
KENYA

38092

NATIVE AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

(A) IN CULTIVATION METHODS UNDER IRRIGATION.

(B) IN MARKETING OF NATIVE CROPS.

(GRANT FROM CARNEGIE CORPORATION)

Previous			
		<del>297</del>	9/7
		297	12/7
		R. General	13/7
		R. 297	19/7
			21/7
1936		309	
		Mufashin	
Subsequent		298	20/7
SEE 38184/1/37		299	27/7
"See 38092/1 - 38092/100"		297	24/8
1938		R. 309	26/8
		M. Tovey	27/8
R. 297	1/6/7	M. Grossmitt	
R. 309	2/6	R. 299	3/9
Mufashin	8/6	297	4/9
S. F. Stansall	8/6	Th. Selby	6/9
M. Flood	16/6	297	7/9
S. C. Cotteridge	15/6	83 (Genl)	8/9
R. 309	7/6	297	3/10
R. 297	24/6	309	5/10
R. 309		Mufashin	29/3
S. C. Cotteridge	24/6		
S. C. Cotteridge	24/7		
S. C. Cotteridge	24/7		
R. 309			
298	5/6		
297	7/7		

Governors Deputy (Wade) No. 81 Conf. 22.5.37  
Consider irrigation scheme should be shelved in favour of soil erosion research  
and comments thereon requesting appointment of a Trinidad graduate to replace  
Mr. Maher, Agric. Officer, who is being seconded in connexion therewith.  
(Duplicate reqd. on 38184/2/37 "Soil Erosion")

See the note  
flagged on  
23041/34 and  
Nos. 9 and 10  
on that file.

No 12  
38094/35

The story of the £7,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation goes back to 1933. It will be remembered that in the first instance the approved grant was to meet the salaries and expenses for five years of two additional Agricultural Officers (of the Trinidad standard) whose primary duties would be the supervision of native coffee growing.

In August, 1935, we told Dr. Keppel that it had not been practicable to utilize the grant for the purpose for which it was made. We eventually secured the approval of the Corporation for the utilization of the grant in the following way:-

(a) "That an officer should be selected to undergo a year's training in India in irrigation practice, and should thereafter devote his services to the instruction of native growers in Kenya in cultivation methods under irrigation. His first task would be to instruct native growers in the Kamasia Native Reserve, where a survey for the irrigation of between 1,000 and 2,000 acres in the Perkerra Valley is being carried out with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund".

(b) "That an officer specially trained in agricultural economics should be selected for the training of natives in the reserves in improved marketing methods".

It was agreed that the Kenya Government should second two officers from the Agricultural Department for this work over a period of five years,

No 1  
38092/36.

and that the two officers should be replaced by Trinidad graduates on temporary engagement for a period of five years. In January, 1936, the Governor asked that in view of enquiries being conducted by Mr. Milligan no steps should be taken for the present to engage the two Trinidad scholars.

We are now told that the survey for the irrigation of the Perkerra Valley has revealed that the area is capable of cultivation with irrigation, but that the capital cost would amount to £18,050, and that to provide for maintenance and for repayment of capital with interest would necessitate the imposition of an irrigation rate of £5s.10 per acre per annum, which is regarded as quite beyond the resources of the inhabitants (Njemps). Even if each family cultivated two acres only a small portion of the area would be utilized. The introduction into the area of Kamasia natives from the immediate neighbourhood is open to objection because of opposition from the Njemps who are jealous of their land rights.

Government is therefore forced to the conclusion that the experiment would not be justified at present, and that the problem of soil erosion is of much greater urgency. An officer of the Agricultural Department, Mr. Maher, has been seconded for a soil erosion survey of the Colony. To replace him it is desired that a Trinidad graduate should be appointed on agreement, and that the cost of his appointment should be charged to the Carnegie grant

grant instead of the cost of the special Irrigation Officer.

Before considering the appointment of the Agricultural Officer, presumably we must get Dr. Keppel's approval of X. It would have made things easier if the Governor had given us an idea of how long Mr. Maher will be seconded for soil erosion work, but in writing to Dr. Keppel we might assume that it will extend over the five years so that the Corporation may be assured that their grant is being used for a special purpose.

C. A. Fozzard

7.6.37.

It is most unfortunate that Kenya has had to modify its proposals for settling his grant so many times. At least two of the factors which have decided them to abandon the irrigation proposal ought to have been known when the proposal was first drawn up; viz the difficulties about settling on the land any other natives than those of the Njemps tribe & the small number of those natives. It seems to me that the inevitable effect will be to cause the Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation to suspect that any further application from Kenya is based on inadequate consideration. However, this is no reason for

Spending money on a scheme wh.  
is now considered to be less  
justified than another; & in the  
circs. we can only proceed as  
requested. i.e. ask the Trustees to  
agree to this diversion of their grant.

When the letter has gone  
the file shd. go to appt. Dept. to  
consider the ~~possibility of appointing~~  
~~the possibility~~ of selecting a  
Trinidad graduate for immediate  
service, or whether it will be  
necessary as a stop gap to appoint  
an assistant agricultural officer  
temporarily.

J. P. Rasmussen  
8/6

I agree that under the circumstances explained  
it would be preferable to drop the Kerkennah Valley  
scheme for the time being & to concentrate  
on the Soil Erosion problems.

Mr. Parker is an able officer & I agree with  
his assignment to soil erosion work, but he  
should be afforded an opportunity of visiting  
America in order to see how soil erosion  
work is carried out in practice. His  
knowledge at present is purely theoretical  
& practical acquaintance with actual anti-  
soil erosion measures is essential if  
success is to be achieved. I have expanded  
on this file 38184/27 Kenya. Mr. Parker  
has an awful lot to learn.

It will further be quite desirable to assign  
a Trinidad graduate for Kenya this year. Incumbent  
already notified from Nigeria, Gold Coast, Uganda,  
Nigeria & Malaya. Another would probably  
& there will be two or three vacancies which will  
have to be filled this year. Kenya will, I fear,  
have to wait until next year and whilst I would  
not oppose the selection of an assistant agricultural  
officer for a year I do feel, after my visit to Kenya  
that the Dept. of Agriculture there will be better  
served by the selection of Trinidad graduates for the  
next few years rather than by additions of  
assistant agricultural officers. After all, these  
assistants do not "cut much ice" with the  
settlers and <sup>land</sup> progress in rubber schemes is not  
to be made by officers who are not of the  
highest calibre with the widest possible  
training

J. F. Stockdale  
8/6.

I am minuting separately on file 38184  
to which Sir F. Stockdale refers.

It is very awkward to go to the Carnegie  
Trustees again and say that it is now proposed to  
do something still different with the grant which  
they produced. I know quite well, of course, that  
what has happened has been that the people in Kenya  
have been clutching at every straw they can see in  
the way of financial grants, and their tendency is

to regard such grants as general revenue which can be spent any way they like. It is recognised, however, that the tiresome formality of getting approval for the diversion of funds must be gone through.

Kenya now appears to have got involved. They have been intending to teach the natives to grow coffee. Then it was intended to use the money for training a selected officer in irrigation methods, the idea being that such instruction should be carried on in the irrigated area. This instruction would, of course, deal with other crops than coffee, but it would be to the benefit of the natives. It now appears that though an irrigation project is perfectly practicable, yet it would cost a fair amount (£16,000) and Government would not be able to get that back by charging rent for the irrigated ground because the tribe concerned, the Njemps, would not be able to find the money. Further, the area would be too big for the Njemps and if the neighbouring tribe of the Kamasia is introduced, there may be fighting.

I don't think this attitude on the part of Kenya is at all logical. They will talk away about soil erosion and the need for preventing it, and they will talk about the need for preventing famine, and still do not appear to contemplate carrying out the irrigation work without trying to get the money back from the people. One knows that Kenya is hard up, but a work of this kind which will benefit the native population and be of general good might,

5  
one would think, be put in hand without thoughts of getting the money back <sup>directly</sup>. It appears, however, that they have put in a general soil erosion survey which does not recommend carrying on with the Perkerra project.

The action to be taken is apparently first of all to get the approval of the Carnegie Trustees for this fresh diversion, i.e. explain to them that it is now considered that the irrigation project should be deferred for the present, since it would prove more costly than Kenya can afford and would be beyond the capacity of the natives affected to make full use of, and so that it is now proposed to detail an officer for special work in connexion with soil erosion which is becoming a serious menace, particularly in native reserves, and to invite the grant to replacing him while seconded and ask whether the Trustees would agree.

It would also seem necessary to say something to Kenya and I submit the draft of a despatch.

J. H. Kent

14.6.1937

I think it will be best to have a trip to Dr. Keppel, for consult. And I feel that, even if it costs us the grant, we cannot avoid mentioning that our brother is already engaged on the work. We had not thought that he will continue on that work if the money labors.

[I regret the Perkerra scheme, but we cannot press for irrigation much of which

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It would also seem necessary to say something to Kenya and I submit the draft of a despatch.

S. I. O. 7/2nd  
14.6.1937

*I think it will be best to have a note to Dr Keppel, for control. And I feel that, even if it costs us the grant, we cannot avoid mentioning that Mr. Baker is already engaged on the work. We had not thought that he will continue on that work if the money lapses.*

*[I suggest the Parkera scheme, but we cannot press for irrigation much if...]*



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It would also seem necessary to say something to Kenya and I submit the draft of a despatch.

S. I. O. 7/2nd  
14.6.1937

I think it will be best to have a talk to Dr. Keppel, for concur. And I feel that, even if it costs us the grant, we cannot avoid mentioning that the trader is already engaged on the work. We need not imply that he will continue on that work if the money fails.

I suggest the Perkerra scheme, but we cannot press for irrigation much if that

which would not be used or  
paid for, though the latter should  
be a secondary consideration.]

C.C.B.

15.8.37.

Wm

2

Mr. Keppel - memo - 23.6.37

Sir G. Tomlinson

Refer to despatch you left  
would you please say if you  
think that, in addition to trying  
to divert some money to this  
service would bleed him for  
Dr. Baker's study in America  
was on the "Soldier's" scheme?

C.C.B.

24.6.37

I think at any rate  
Mr. Baker might put in an  
application for a grant from  
the Refreshment Fund which  
of course is administered here  
by a Committee.

But his application would  
have to be considered along  
with others & I can't pledge  
the Committee in advance.

I think this had better not  
be suggested officially in the  
despatch. That would almost  
commit us to approval in  
advance. It might however

The Committee  
recommends selected  
applications to the S. of S.  
for approval of grants.

suggested % , but it should be  
explained that no promise can be  
given until the application has been  
examined.

S.J. P.?

24.6.37

I have dictated a letter (forwarded  
with copy) to Sir A. Wade. It should  
go off with the despatch.

C.C.B. 25.6.37

3 To Kenya - Conf - (1 ansd) - 3076/37

Seen July 9/37

4 To Sir A. Wade. 30 - 30.6.37

R. G. Tomlinson

S. DR. F. P. KRPPMI (S/O TO SIR G. BOTTOMLEY).....7.7.37.  
(2 ansd.) Approves diversion of part of grant to provide  
an Agric. Officer to take the place of the officer  
seconded for soil erosion duty.

Copy 24/37 on  
30/8/37 copy 2/3  
on 30/8/37

Approved: Mander.

Notes in  
Genl. Cl.

Copies of the  
Council should  
eventually go on  
25/11/37 Encl.

(B)

c. 192 on  
16.5.37

P.L.B.

? Thank Mr. Keppel, and inform the  
Mr. Kenya of the Trustees' approval.  
Draft herewith.

The ff should be  
brought up at the  
end of the year  
for a V.R. for an  
Agric Officer.

C. G. Tomlinson  
1937.



Mr. Parkin

I have extracted failed to find the  
pp. of which you spoke, in which Kenya  
was asked to give up on grounds of  
principle the habit of recruiting "temporaries".

I have however attached 38037/1/3, the  
minutes of 20/7/37\* in which bears the  
point of not recruiting people to dead-end  
jobs.

There is in addition the decision  
had reached on 38035/38\* not to recruit temporary  
Assistant Engineer.

Clothy White 3/2

I have a distinct recollection  
that, not many months ago, a despatch was  
sent to Kenya in which the view was expressed  
that appointments should not be made to posts  
shown in the schedule of any of the Unified  
Colonial Services on a temporary basis.  
(It was) It was explained that when it is desired to  
appoint a candidate to such a post for a  
specified period, at the end of which it may  
be doubtful if it will be possible to absorb  
him into the establishment, the proper course  
is to appoint him on the usual terms to the  
Service in question as a probationer on the  
pensionable establishment, but on the  
understanding that if he was not required in  
Kenya at the end of the specified period  
the earliest possible opportunity would be  
taken to transfer him to a scheduled post  
elsewhere.

\* flagged.

\* sent on for  
action hereafter.  
Action now  
complete. 15/2

(copy L.W.)

An exhaustive search has, however, failed  
to bring this despatch to light.

In the despatch of the 16th of December  
about the temporary Veterinary Research Officer  
the case was not put on the basis of principle  
but on the basis of expediency, in that in view  
of the shortage of candidates an offer of a  
temporary appointment would not be likely to  
attract a suitable candidate.

I have, however, now re-cast the draft  
despatch on this file on the basis of principle  
instead of expediency.

J. J. Passini

30.3.38.

V.F. read on  
38047/38

See now minute on 38047/38.  
It is, I think, more appropriate  
for the Dep. to issue on that file.

J. J. Passini  
30/3

10 So. Kenya Conf. (2). Com. 5 APR 1938 (Draft on  
38047/38 Kenya)

KENYA

CONFIDENTIAL (2)

Colonial Office,

Downing Street,

5 April, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my confidential despatch (2) of the 3rd of September, 1937, on the subject of the arrangements for the selection of an Agricultural Officer to replace Mr. A. C. Maher.

2. In paragraph 8 of your confidential despatch No. 81 of the 22nd of May 1937; it was proposed that the new officer should be appointed on agreement for five years, on the understanding that, if he proved suitable, he would be given prior consideration for any vacancy which might occur in the pensionable establishment. In my view however the proper course, in a case of this kind would be for the selected candidate to be appointed, on the usual terms, to the Colonial Agricultural Service, as a probationer on the pensionable establishment. As in the case of the Veterinary Research Officer, which was dealt with in my despatch No. 1106 of 16th of December, I should be prepared to give an assurance that, if his services were not required in Kenya at the end of the suggested period of 5 years, the earliest possible opportunity would be taken to transfer him to a scheduled post elsewhere within the Colonial Agricultural Service.

3.

GOVERNOR

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL

SIR ROBERT BROCKE-POPHAM, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C. .G., . . . . .

etc.,

etc.,

etc.

3. As an alternative to the selection of a probationer it might be possible to transfer both to this vacancy, and to the one vice Mr. Bailey which was mentioned in paragraph 3 of my despatch No. 140 of the 16th of March, an officer who is already a member of the Colonial Agricultural Service. In that event an initial salary above the minimum would have to be paid, though this should not exceed £475 p.a., and it might be possible to fill the vacancies not later than the middle of July whereas probationers could not arrive before September. If you desire that either appointment should be filled by transfer it would be convenient if I could be so informed before the end of April.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

REPLY.  
NO. 1106.

Downing Street,  
16 December, 1937.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 748, dated the 11th of September, informing you that I had, so far, been unable to secure a suitable candidate for appointment as a temporary Veterinary Research Officer.

2. Since receiving your despatch No. 213 of the 8th of April, requesting that this appointment should be filled on a temporary basis, it has become necessary for me to make arrangements for the recruitment of the two Veterinary Research Officers for the permanent establishment referred to in the third paragraph of my despatch No. 953 dated the 3rd of November.

3. Unfortunately there is still a definite shortage of qualified veterinarians in this country, a state of affairs which is especially marked in the case of men qualified to fill posts of a research nature. Thus, though the vacancies in question are being advertised in the United Kingdom, the response is certain to be small. Enquiries made in the Union of South Africa have shown that the Veterinary recruitment situation there is very much the same as it is in the United Kingdom. I am now, however, making enquiries as to whether any suitable veterinarians are available in Canada, a source of supply which has recently produced some good material. As regards the two vacancies on the permanent establishment I fear that some little time may elapse before both posts can be filled, although I have no doubt that candidates will eventually be forthcoming.

4.

VERNON,  
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,  
SIR ROBERT BROOKE-POPHAM, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C.  
etc. etc. etc.

4. The third post presents a more difficult problem, since it is evident that in existing circumstances a temporary contract is unlikely to attract a really suitable candidate. I propose, therefore, unless you have a strong objection, to treat this post as one within the Colonial Veterinary Service and to proceed with the recruitment of three Research Officers, for appointment as probationers on the pensionable establishment, one of whom can be entrusted with the special pleuro-pneumonia investigation. If all three officers prove satisfactory but, on completion of this investigation, it is desired to reduce the establishment by one post, the earliest possible opportunity would be taken of transferring one officer to a scheduled post elsewhere within the Colonial Veterinary Service.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant.

(SIGNED) [Illegible]

38092/37

7

C. O.

Mr. *Stromwith* 19/7  
Mr. *Phillips* 20/7

*Amend. (8)*

- Mr.
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

*St*

27 July '33

*Si*

2 DRAFT.  
Kenya  
Conf.  
for.

(3)

I have the honor to refer to my  
Confidential despatch of the  
30th of June regarding the £7000  
grant made by the Carnegie  
Corporation in 1934, and to  
inform you that the Trustees  
of the Corporation have agreed to  
the diversion of that part  
of the grant which was to  
have been spent on providing  
a Special Irrigation Office  
for the Perkerra River Scheme,  
to the cost of providing  
an Agricultural Office to  
take the place of the Office  
Secured for soil erosion  
duty.

Yours etc.

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

FURTHER ACTION.



16  
4

Downing Street,

20th June, 1937.

My dear Wade,

A despatch is going by this mail from the Secretary of State about the arrangements for native agricultural instruction and the Carnegie Corporation grant. As the despatch says, we have approached the Carnegie people again and the Secretary of State has blessed the suggestion that Maher or someone should be seconded to study soil erosion.

It has occurred to me that it may be possible to make use of another side of Carnegie assistance in connection with Maher's studies - I mean under the scheme which was described in the Secretary of State's circular despatches of August 4th 1932 and June 9th 1936.

Perhaps you will bear this in mind and if you so conclude arrange for an application to be made as indicated in the circular despatches. Tomlinson  
tells

SIR ARMIGEL WADE, C.M.G., O.B.E.

tells me that I must be careful not to hold out anything like a promise of assistance in this matter. Awards are subject to the recommendation of a committee here and the committee would have to consider the application on its merits with a very considerable number of other applications.

Yours sincerely,

C. O.

38092/37

See (6)

*Handwritten notes and signatures at top right.*

- Mr. Flood. 14.6
- Mr. Sir F. Stoddale 15/6
- Mr. Flood ✓
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley. 25.6 f
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.
- (Common)

*This do? J. P.*

DOWNING STREET.



30 June, 1937.

Sir,

I have etc. to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch No.81 of the 22nd of May on the subject of the £7,000 grant made by the Carnegie Corporation.

KENYA  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 GOVERNOR

2. I note that it is now considered that the Perkerra irrigation project should be deferred, if not altogether abandoned, for political as well as and economic reasons, and that you now recommend that Mr. Maher should be seconded to <sup>carry out</sup> ~~conduct~~ a soil erosion <sup>in native Reservoirs in Kenya.</sup> ~~survey of Kenya, with particular~~ reference to native areas. I

**FURTHER ACTION.**

I appreciate the importance of the task which is being assigned to him and I readily convey my approval of Mr. Maher's secondment for this purpose

purpose, the importance of which cannot, in my opinion, be over estimated.

3. I am advised, however, that it will not be possible to assign a Trinidad graduate to Kenya this year. There are already more vacancies than there are scholars and some vacancies which are urgent may have to go unfilled. I think, therefore, that it <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ be best to wait till next year until a Trinidad graduate is available.

I note that you suggest the appointment of an Assistant Agricultural Officer as a temporary measure, pending the arrival of a Trinidad graduate. I should not oppose the appointment of such an officer for a year, but I am advised that the interests of the Agricultural Department will be better served by the selection of Trinidad trained men than by the appointment of Assistant Agricultural Officers who cannot be expected to have the necessary qualifications and training to enable them to <sup>carry on</sup> ~~superior~~ the difficult work of <sup>controlling</sup> agriculture in native reserves.

C. O.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Farbinson.
- Sir G. Tomkinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Perm. U.S. of S.
- Perly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

**DRAFT.**

4. I am advised that Mr. Maher ought, for his own interests and in the interests of Kenya, to be afforded an opportunity of visiting the U.S.A. in order to study the ~~the~~ practical methods in dealing with soil erosion. At present Mr. Maher's <sup>of soil erosion is limited</sup> knowledge ~~can only be theoretical~~ and practical acquaintance with actual work is essential <sup>and</sup> ~~if~~ success is to be achieved. You will no doubt consider the desirability of adopting this suggestion.

5. I am not, of course, in a position to say whether the Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation will agree to this second diversion of the grant which they were prepared to provide, but <sup>steps have been taken</sup> I propose to approach <sup>to invite their consent.</sup> them in order to secure their consent.

In any event, I think that the

**FURTHER ACTION.**

secondment of an officer, such as Mr. Maher, to deal with this present question, is very desirable and I am glad to think that your Government is giving serious attention to the problem.

I have, etc.

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

C. O.

S-o for Sir Cecil Bottomley's signature.

Mr. Grossmith 17/6/37  
Mr. Paskin 17.6  
Mr. F. Stoddart 17/6  
Mr. Flood 18.6

Sir C. Parkinson.  
Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley 18/6

Sir J. Shackburgh.  
Permit. U.S. of S.  
Perly. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

Handwritten: (5)  
Stamp: JUN 21

Downing Street,  
28 June, 1937.

Dear Mr. Keppel,

I regret to have to worry you once more regarding the £7,000 grant made by the Carnegie Corporation to the Government of Kenya in 1934 for the development of native agricultural instruction with special reference to coffee growing. In your letter to me of the 10th October 1935 you agreed that the grant in question could be utilised for making provision for two specially trained Agricultural Officers for the connection with the Perkerra River Irrigation Scheme and for instruction in and the supervision of the organised marketing of native agricultural produce. It will help perhaps if I mention that as regards the Perkerra River Irrigation Scheme the proposal was that an officer should be selected to undergo a

DRAFT.

DR. F.P. KEPPEL.

Carnegie Corporation,  
522 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

Not  
38092/37

FURTHER ACTION.

year's training in India in irrigation practice, and should thereafter devote his services to the instruction of native growers in Kenya in cultivation methods under irrigation. His first task was to be in the Kamasia Native Reserve, where a survey for the irrigation of between 1,000 and 2,000 acres in the Perkerra Valley was being carried out with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund. That survey was completed ~~recently~~ <sup>when</sup> it was found that though the project for irrigating the area was possible, the cost would be more than the Kenya Government could afford, <sup>while the action suggested would only make a small use of it.</sup> ~~and beyond the capacity of the natives affected to make full use of.~~ The Kenya Government has therefore been obliged to refer the project for the present.

You are no doubt aware that the problem of soil erosion has been acute in Kenya for some time. It is now a serious matter, particularly in the Native Reserves, in spite of the persistent efforts of the Government; and, in consultation with Sir Frank Stockdale, the Secretary of State's Agricultural Adviser,

the

C. O.

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Sir C. Parkinson.  
Sir G. Tomkinson.  
Sir C. Bottomley.  
Sir J. Shuckburgh.  
Parlt. U.S. of S.  
Parly. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

for five years or so

The Govt. of Kenya has been advised that

DRAFT.

the duty, who has already begun his task

has  
the Colonial Government decided to second an officer <sup>to carry out a general</sup> in connection with a soil erosion survey of the Colony, with special reference to native areas. <sup>What we should have been most grateful for</sup> ~~We shall be most grateful if the~~ <sup>of the approval of the Trustees for</sup> ~~should be possible for~~ <sup>Trustees would agree to</sup> the diversion of <sup>that part of</sup> the grant <sup>wh. was to be spent on providing</sup> for the cost of the special

Irrigation Officer, to ~~provide~~ <sup>providing</sup> for the cost of an Agricultural Officer to ~~be~~ <sup>take the</sup> ~~selected~~ <sup>replacement</sup> of the officer so seconded for soil erosion. <sup>and hope</sup> I ~~do~~ hope that it will be possible for you to recommend this to the Trustees.

The training of natives in the Reserves in improved marketing methods is, of course, still proceeding and the cost of the officer appointed to replace the officer seconded for this purpose is reimbursed from the grant. ~~£27,000~~

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) N. S. Bottomley

FURTHER ACTION.



Duplicate vid on 38/84/2/37 Sub Group

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AIR MAIL

KENYA  
No. 81



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

22 MAY 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to correspondence terminating with Mr. Thomas' Confidential despatch of the 14th February, 1936, on the subject of the utilisation of the grant of £7,000 from the Carnegie Corporation.

(4) on 38092/36

2. The amended scheme included the selection of an officer to undergo a year's training in India in irrigation practice and thereafter to devote his services to the instruction of native growers in Kenya in cultivation methods under irrigation. The intention was that his first task should be to instruct native growers in the Kamasia native reserve, where a survey for the irrigation of between 1,000 and 2,000 acres in the Perkerra Valley was carried out with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, the sanction for which was notified in despatch No. 178 of the 6th March, 1936, from Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister (now Lord Swinton).

Amend - (3)

(9) on 23224/36

3. A report on the Perkerra project was prepared by Mr. H.S. Garrick, late of the Irrigation Department, Punjab, and submitted by him to Government after consultation with the hydrographic Surveyor, Public Works Department; this included a report on a soil survey by the senior Agricultural chemist. The scheme recommended in this report is a project for the irrigation of an area of 2947 acres, for the production of food crops, at a capital cost of

The RIGHT HONOURABLE  
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON. S.W. 1.

of 16,000. It is stated that the land in question would be capable of supporting a family of four persons to the acre, and on this basis approximately 2,900 families or 11,600 persons could be settled on the irrigable land, which is situated entirely within the area occupied by the Njemps tribe. An economic irrigation rate calculated to provide for maintenance and for repayment of capital with interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  would amount to approximately Shs.10/- per acre per annum.

4. Although the scheme is endorsed by the Director of Public Works as technically sound, there are objections of a financial and administrative nature which cannot at present be overcome. In the first place it would be quite impracticable for people of the Njemps and Kamasia tribes to pay an annual irrigation rate of Shs.10/- on an acre of food crops. Secondly, the total population of the Njemps tribe amounts to only 1,572 persons and it will be seen that even if each family were to cultivate two acres, only a small portion of the area would be utilised. It would, therefore, be necessary to introduce Kamasia natives from the immediate neighbourhood to cultivate, and, in view of the normal lack of friendliness existing between these two tribes, it is anticipated that considerable opposition to such a proposal would be evoked among the Njemps, who are jealous in respect of their land, rights and do not encourage interpenetration.

5. One of the main objects of the Lerkerra project was to reduce the expenditure on famine relief. During the last ten years the net total amount spent on famine relief in the Baringo district was #6,602, or an average of #660 per annum. It is estimated in the report that the irrigation scheme, allowing one acre to a family, would reduce the cost of famine relief for the district by one half, an estimate which may well be optimistic, but even so

the saving to Government would be only £330 per annum while the maintenance costs of the irrigation project would not be less than £500 per annum.

6. It appears that no cheaper scheme would be practicable and the conclusion has been reached that from a purely local point of view the expenditure required would not be justified. The scheme could be supported on the ground that, as an experiment, it would provide experience which would be of value at a later date in connection with other irrigation schemes which might be undertaken in the Colony, but in view of more urgent requirements such as those disclosed in a recent soil erosion survey of the Baringo district (which does not recommend that the Perkerra scheme should be proceeded with), the present is not regarded as the right time for such experiments, even in the absence of administrative difficulties such as have been indicated above. It is regretted, in view of the assistance obtained from the Colonial Development Fund for the preparation of the scheme, that this decision should have been necessary; it has been taken only after full consideration and with reluctance.

7. It follows as a natural corollary that there is no immediate need for an officer of the Agricultural Department to be seconded in connection with irrigation, although I fully realise the desirability of having such an experienced officer available when circumstances permit and when other more pressing needs, such as that referred to in the succeeding paragraph, have been satisfied.

8. You are fully aware of the serious situation in this Colony regarding soil erosion. Advantage was taken of the presence in this Colony of your Agricultural Adviser, Sir Frank Stockdale, to acquaint him with the position, and

it

it has since been decided that Mr. A. C. Maher, Agricultural Officer, shall be seconded for work in connection with a soil erosion survey of the Colony and thereafter on measures to combat this menace, with particular reference to native areas.

It is suggested that this secondment should be regarded as taking the place of the secondment proposed in connection with irrigation, and that in order to replace the officer so seconded a Trinidad graduate should be appointed as Agricultural Officer on the usual 30 to 48 months agreement, which can be extended to 54 months if required. This together with leave earned at its conclusion at the rate of 4 days per mensem would amount in the aggregate to 5 years.

It is suggested that the officer selected should be informed that he is being appointed on agreement on overseas terms for a period of 5 years on the understanding that if he proves suitable he will receive prior consideration in connection with any vacancy on the pensionable establishment which may occur in the interval. It should be made quite clear to him, however, that so long as he continues to serve on the terms of his agreement the post occupied by him will not carry pensionable status.

In regard to the salary scale to be offered as you are aware the present scale is £372 to £528 while the new scale is £400 to £840. You may deem it necessary to appoint the candidate selected on this latter scale in which case provided he is a Trinidad graduate the Governor would be prepared to agree to an initial salary of £475 per annum. Should the appointment be made on the present scale, it is considered that an initial salary of £444 would be adequate, in view of the terms of Lord Passfield's despatch No. 735 of the 17th September, 1929, although re-

cently

(17) on 15657/29

cently, in the cases of Messrs. R.S. Ball, H. Halerow and J.T. Moon, Agricultural Officers were appointed at a commencing salary of £480 per annum.

9. The procedure adopted in the use of the grant in the case of the marketing officer is that the cost of the officer appointed to replace the officer seconded to the marketing service is reimbursed from the grant. It is proposed that the same procedure should be adopted in the case of the officer seconded to the soil erosion service, namely, that the cost of his relief should be met from the grant. I have asked that this relief should be a Trinidad graduate, but pending his arrival it would be of material assistance if an assistant agricultural officer could be appointed temporarily, the grant bearing his cost.

10. Subject to your approval and that of the Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of these proposals, it would be appreciated if an officer might be selected for appointment at the earliest possible opportunity, as Mr. Laner has already commenced his survey of the eroded native areas. In this event no expenditure will be incurred under head IIIA, Agricultural Department extraordinary items of the Estimates, Expenses of visit of Irrigation Officer to India, £480.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Adriano*

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.