

1925

AFRICA

C. O.

9421

27 FEB 25

640

Date

1925

*Office
Bookkeeper*

CARBON FUEL

The one here is a ... fuel is ... experiments to obtain ... the shell of ... report of calorific test

(Cover page ...)

MINUTES

It must clear that ... can be ... at the moment ... request ... vegetable waste ... might ... her letter ... were ...

*17 JUN 1925
23 JUN 1925*

M.I. (4444)

AFRICA 2

The samples are in powder form and somewhat dirty to examine.

I think that we might write to Mr Jarvis ~~at~~ (or Mr Simpson) and see what suggests.

2/3/25

Yes - put up diff to Mr Jarvis for my sig. We can show it to Mr [unclear]

Wed. 2.3.25

See [unclear] & her letter to Mr [unclear] saying that we are bringing in [unclear] to the advice of the [unclear] [unclear] of Uganda. S.H. 5/3.

Mr Gibson 1/24/26

Mr Strickley

Mr Ogilby Gore

X L.H. [unclear] for my records with application - C2

Mr Taylor called this morning and left the attached summary of Mrs Hart's career

She has apparently got sufficient material now to carry out a test at St. Alfred Herbert's Laboratory at Coventry and is anxious that we should send a representative should the test show that the process is likely to be of practical value, who would apply for financial assistance to carry out experiments on a larger scale. At present she is hampered by lack of funds and accommodation.

I spoke on the telephone to the West. Research Council of the Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research, & they said that they had never heard of [unclear] that is in process. They [unclear] have

have projects of the same kind put
up to them, but these do not come
to anything, and they seemed rather
skeptical as to the value of Mrs Hart's
experiments. However they suggested
that we should send them the
paper and ask if they considered it
worth while to send a representative
to look into the matter.

I send them copies of Mrs.
Hart's four letters on 9/6/21/25, &
the same explaining that the
samples have not been returned,
and that the only action taken here
has been to ask the O.A.C. of
Singapore if we can procure specimens
of the vegetable waste to which Mrs.
Hart refers. They that Mrs Hart's
representative has now informed us
that we are ready to give a
demonstration at Singapore in
a or three weeks and has invited
the C.O. to arrange for an
expert to attend with a view to

if I should think the
L.D. The covering
is not so good as the
paper used for
specimens. It is better
possible, I believe, but
too much - C

a grant being made in aid of
further experiments if the test is
satisfactory. Observe that it would
undoubtedly be of advantage if it
was possible for a satisfactory fuel
for locomotives, steamers etc. to be
produced in E. Africa by an economical
method from the vegetable waste
products available locally, & ask
whether the Dept. consider that Mrs.
Hart's process is likely to have any
practical value & whether they think
it worth while to send a representative
to the demonstration.

Add that Mrs Hart has
expressed [through Mr Taylor] the
hope that a decision as to the sending
of a representative may be communicated
to her by June 18th.

12/6/25

D. STIR rang up
May at 5.10. & said they
didn't think it worth
while to send a rep
to the demonstration
P.B.D.

12/6/25
at 11.15
12/6/25

Scientific Work, Papers and Publications
by Mrs. Ernest Hart.

Mrs. Hart matriculated with honours at the Apothecaries Society, the only examining body then open to women.

She went through the curriculum of study for a medical degree, both in London and Paris, and was for three years a student carrying out original research work in Ranvier's Laboratory at the Collège de France in Paris, and she published in this connection:-

1) "A Micrometric Numeration of the Blood-Corpuscles, and the Estimation of Their Haemaglobin." (The Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.)

2) "Dr. Norris's Third Blood-Corpuscle: A Criticism and Re-formation." (London Medical Record.)

She also translated Cornil and Ranvier's Manual of Pathological Histology (1842 pages), which was published by Smith, Elder, and Co.

As a stagiaire in Charcot's wards in Paris, Hystero-epilepsy was the subject of study, and she published "The Great Hystero-epileptic Attack" in the London Medical Record.

Later her "Diet in Sickness and in Health" was published with an introduction by Sir Henry Thompson, also "Alcohol, Food or Physio?" "The Feeding of Infants", and also a paper in the British Medical Journal on "Our New African Protectorates: their Climatology and Health-Conditions", which was republished by Stanley and sent by him to every Member of Parliament.

In the "Cottage Industries of Ireland", an address given before the Society of Arts, which was awarded the Medal of the

Society); an account was given of the Technical Teaching scheme carried out by Mrs. Hart in the poverty-stricken congested District of Donagh, Support was afterwards given to this public work by a vote to Mrs. Hart in Parliament for £1000 for the granting of teachers, maintenance of the school at Donagh, and the branch schools at Glencolumbkille, Milford, and the expenses of the itinerant technical teachers.

For several years, Mrs. Hart has been engaged in Laboratory Research work on Dyes: Processes of Waterproofing; Nitrocellulose with special reference to the microscopic structure of the fibres nitrated; and latterly, almost exclusively to the study of carbonising vegetable products in the open air by means of inhibitory chemical action. She is convinced that by this means (patented), countries now destitute of coal, peat or lignite, but abounding in the products of their forests or prairies, can provide themselves with unlimited supplies of fuel for power.

TAYLOR & CO



27, Lincoln's Inn Fields
London W.C.2

645

9th June 1925.

Dear Sir,

re MRS ERNEST HART.

We thank you for your letter of
the 6th inst and will call and see Mr
Jeffries as suggested on Friday morning
next at 12.0'clock.

Yours faithfully,

Arnold Taylor

E. E. V. Gent Esq.

Colonial Office.

Downing Street. S.W.

W. Jeffries

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Colonial Office,
Banking Street, S.W.

5th June, 1953.

Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of June in regard to Mrs. Ernest Hart; I think that it would probably serve your purpose best if you wish to discuss her process for the production of carbon fuel for Mr. Taylor to call and see Mr. Jeffries in the Uganda Department of this Office, on Friday morning at 12 noon.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary.

PHONE NO. 338 (HOLBORN)

47 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London, W.C. 2.

BARNARD, TAYLOR & CO

D. C. TAYLOR
F. P. BRINDLEYTELEGRAMS:
TAMARISK HOLB. LONDON

4th June 1928.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Ernest Hart has shown us the correspondence which has recently passed between her and yourself for the Rt. Hon. Grimsby-Gore relative to her process for producing carbon fuel from Nile Mud and other vegetable waste.

Will it be convenient for you to give our Mr Taylor a few minutes conversation on the subject one day next week (except Wednesday) on behalf of Mrs Hart.

Yours faithfully,

Darnley Taylor

The Private Secretary
To The Rt. Hon. W. S. G. Grimsby-Gore, M.P.
Colonial Office.
Downing Street, S.W.

18 Millers Road,
N.W.6
10.III.1925

648

[Handwritten signature]

The Hon. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.

Dear Sirs

I have to-day received from the laboratories of Sir Alfred Herbert at Coventry, the B.T.U. of the coconut shell carbon, and learn with great satisfaction that it gives the high value of 12.400.

Yours faithfully

C. W. Hart

*Attach to Mr.
H. 11. 125*

SRETA

649

10th March, 1926.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Ormsby Gore asks me to thank you for your letter of the 7th instant and to say that your further information and requests are being communicated to the Acting Governor of Uganda.

Yours truly,



Private Secretary.

Part Seq.

18 Hilltop Road

7: III: 25: N.W. 6

The Hon: Sturges Gore M.P.

Copy is included
in the Smithsonian
letter to the
journal
1/10/19

Dear Sir

I thank you very cordially
for your valuable & practical efforts
to obtain for me in Uganda the vegetable
waste materials which I require.
I will ask however, that the materials
should first be sent me in three or four
lots by parcel post so that practical
laboratory tests can be made & the B.T. be
obtained, before large quantities are dis-
patched for a test for steam raising.

Mr. Robert Williams, were good
enough to get me from Bkartons, 6 boxes
(2 of long) of papers which had been
collected for a paper-making experiment - after
wards abandoned. The fact that the papers
had been collected for paper-making,
made it unsuitable for carbon-production,
as the seeds, 2 inches wide at the base are
all of soft pulp

Archdeacon of Buzander, who has kindly busied
 himself in getting me samples with the floating
 islands of Suva, formed of
 long entangled roots, which make almost
 steady deposits, would be the best material
 for my purpose. He has sent me small samples
 but I asking too much in supposing that
 it would be so good as to make inquiries
 about these floating islands of Suva,
 which the Archdeacon says are sometimes
 acres in extent.

I shall be extremely glad to receive samples
 of sugar-cane waste. Several years ago
 I went to the West Indies, & reported on the
 sugar question for an American newspaper.
 The word waste was written all over it.

I will send you in a few ~~more~~ days
 sample of cocoa nut shell carbon with
 B.T.H.

Believe me, dear Sir
 Yours faithfully
 A. L. Hart

Research Laboratory
Sheriff Road
N.S.S.

18 Hilltop Road
N.S.S.
24. 11. 1924

C O
9421
27525

the Hon. G. S. A. Prusty-Gore, M.P.

Dear Sir,

I listened by wireless, with keen interest, to your speech at the dinner of the African Society, for I have been long interested in the industrial development of this wonderful Continent.

I know several of the old explorers - Stanley, Arce, and Thomson, and have felt an interest in Africa and especially in the industrial development of Ghana and the Sudan.

I have now a special reason for being interested for, recognising the great need in these countries of fuel for manufacturing purposes, I have been experimenting in my laboratory to ascertain if we could obtain carbon fuel from such materials as Nile Sudd, the waste materials in sugar manufacture, and other vegetable waste materials.

Messrs. Williams succeeded in obtaining for me a large consignment of paraffin, which can be converted into a carbon fuel.

I am eager to go to Ghana to start a carbon fuel making factory, but I think it is also very necessary before taking such a step, to have the scientific and manufacturing data of the whole process and present current established.

The scientific tests, and the large scale tests as a steam raising fuel, are made at the laboratory and I shall start next of the work of Alfred Herbert Ltd. at Coventry for

24. II. 1925

the latter a half cwt. of carbon is necessary, and this takes some time to make by means of mere laboratory appliances. But as soon as I have sufficient carbon made of Uganda waste or wild materials, I will let you know and ask you to be so good as to be present at this demonstration of steam-raising at Sir Alfred Herbert's, or to send a representative.

Mr. Lugmore, the great traveller, says in one of his books that "fuel is the crying need of East Africa," and writes me that he has put a footnote in his book on the West Sudan, in reference to these new carbons. And the African World has offered me an article on the subject, but I do not wish for any pronouncement to be published until the most satisfactory tests have been made as to the value of the carbons for manufacturing purposes.

You spoke particularly in your address of the waste in maize. I obtained the other day two cots of maize and after extracting the grains, found I could get a very good carbon from the waste. I send a sample together with samples of Budd carbon.

I shall be glad to give you the fullest information of the progress made in this undertaking, and if you can send me specimens of vegetable waste, such as refuse in sugar crushing, I should be greatly obliged.

I may add that I have arranged to exhibit these new carbon fuels at the Palace of Engineering at Reading.

I beg to remain

Yours faithfully

W. H. Hart

Research Laboratory
3 Sheriff Road
N.W. 6

78 Hilltop Road
N.W. 6
26. II. 25

The Hon W. G. A. Prusky, G. C. M. P.

Dear Sir

I send you herewith the provided
sample of Maize Waste Carbon made
in my laboratory, & also a sample
which may interest you of Cocoa-Nut
Shell Carbon.

It is stated that after collecting the Ranach
for copra, & the fibre for manufacturing
purposes, the empty shells are collected
& burnt to ashes in great heaps.

If this is correct, it is destroying a large
source of valuable carbon fuel.

I will send similar carbons to the
Laboratory of Major Alfred Sherburne to have
the calorific tested, & will send you the
report.

Yours, dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Alfred Sherburne

gd

27th February, 1925.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Ormsby Gore asks me to thank you for your letter of the 24th instant and for the samples of Carbon that you have sent him. He is looking into the questions raised in your letter and he is obliged to you for your offer to keep him in touch with the progress that may be made in your experiments.

Yours truly,

Private Secretary.

Hart Esq.

letter of transmittal to amount to
as in the such things. If so,
we should be glad to ~~send them~~
~~to you to be sent on to~~

W. C. BOTTOMLEY

Office June 16
Jeffries
C. D.
J. H.
J. H.
J. H.
J. H.
J. H.
J. H.

9421/25 Edifice

657

O. D.
16 JUN
17

DRAFT:

June 1925

copy
of ~~Industrial~~ ~~Research~~
Research Branch

James W. Harsanyi to Prof
~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Dept~~ ~~of~~ ~~Scientific~~
~~Industrial~~ ~~Research~~ ~~Branch~~
of letters from Mr. Ernest Hall
regarding a process for the
production of carbon fuel
from shale sand and other
reputable waste
of a memo. as to the
Scientific and Industrial

26 Feb
26
7 Dec
10
James W. Harsanyi

is also enclosed.

2 The samples submitted by Mr. Hart have not been retained and the only action taken by Mr. Amory has been to ask the Actg. Secy of Regs. if he can procure specimens of a reputable waste to which Mr.

Hart refers. His representatives, Messrs. Bernard, Taylor & Co. 947 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. 2, have now notified that she is

ready to give a demonstration at Coventry in two or three weeks & has invited this Dept. to arrange for an expert to attend, with a view to a trial being made instead of further

further experiments, if the test is satisfactory. 658

3. It would undoubtedly

be of advantage if it were possible for a satisfactory fuel for locomotives steamed to be produced in Colfax by an economical method from the vegetable waste products available locally. Mr. Amory would be glad to learn whether the Dept. consider that Mr. Hart's process is likely to have any practical value, and whether any

Mr. Streeper
Mr. J. Sturtevant
Mr. C. Dineen
Mr. G. Grindle
Mr. J. Macarion Smith
Mr. Ormsby-Gore
Mr. Amory.

DRAFT.

Six.

think it worth while to
send a representative to
the demonstration.

4. Mr. Hart has ex-
pressed the hope that a
decision as to the sending of
a representative may be
communicated to her by
the 11th of June

J. C.

(32) Harold T. Allen

for the Under Secretary of State.

M1. 9421/25 EA.

DRAFT.

23 June 1925

Barnard6

Gentlemen

Taylor

With reference to
 the ^{of Mr Taylor} visit [to this Dept.]
 on the 12 of June, 1925

MINUTE.

Mr. Seel 19.6.25

Mr. Jeffries 20/6

Mr. Bottley 20/6

Mr. Davis Strachey 21/6

Mr. G. Grindle

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Chas. v. ...
 p. 5 Minutes

which you discussed
 this Ernest Hunt's process
 for the production of
 carbon fuel from Nike
 Sudd and other
 vegetable waste was
 discussed, ...
 to inform ...
 he regrets that ...
 will not be possible

(after consulting the Dir^r
of Industrial and Scientific
Research he does not desire)

to arrange for the attendance
of the Colonial officer
of a representative at the
further conference which
this will be possible to carry
out — P.