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E. AFRICA
TANGANYIKA

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IRON

27

12th January 1926

MAINTENANCE OF CENTRAL LABORATORIES.

Submits obsons on the recommendations of the E.A. Commission and encloses copies of memoranda by the Dir. of Med. and Sanitary Services, and the Dir. of Agriculture. Would support the proposal for a med. research institute for the E.A. Territories if the money should be eventually forthcoming.

MINUTES

This date and 1634/26 (Nat. Research) should be summarized in the memo att'd to 49309.

(The memo should then be copied and reg'd and circulated. (All replies on same).)

WDD

Done CCh 3/26

22.2.26

at once

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

'5 FEB 1926 DAR ES SALAAM.

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

/2 January, 1926.

No 27

Sir,

397/25
ca

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 471 of the 18th of August asking for my observations on the views expressed in the Report of the East African Commission as to the maintenance of central laboratories. I propose to confine myself in this despatch to the medical and agricultural side of the question as the veterinary aspect of it is being dealt with in a separate despatch.

2. I enclose copies of memoranda submitted by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services and the Director of Agriculture, the latter of whom states the position very clearly and correctly, as it seems to me, although I do not agree with all that he writes in paragraph 4 of his memorandum. The departmental laboratories will be necessary even if central research laboratories, which the former would feed, are established, and the analytical chemist for whose appointment I am asking in the draft Estimates for 1926-1927 will enable a beginning to be made with the routine laboratory for general purposes of which Mr. Kirby writes. It

would

HONOURABLE

... AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

... &c., &c., &c.,

DOWNING STREET,

S. W.

- 2 -

would not be possible for the kind of work with which such a laboratory would deal to be performed at a laboratory in Kenya under existing transport conditions.

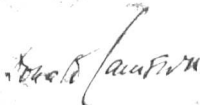
3. As regards the comments of the Commission on the Chemical Research Department in Kenya, I would say that the difficulties pointed out by the Commission appear to have been due to the fact that the persons who were responsible for the laboratory do not appear to have had any correct appreciation of the functions of the different types of laboratory, and have no direct bearing on the problem of central laboratories for the three territories.

4. If the money is eventually forthcoming, I should be prepared to support a proposal for a medical research institute for the East African Territories, provided that pure research work only were done in it, and for a veterinary research institute on the same lines. The agricultural research institute will, of course, be at Amani.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,



G O V E R N O R.

of 12 January, 1926

311

The Honourable
The Chief Secretary.

Whilst the Amani Institute is admirably situated for Agricultural research, and perhaps also for systematic scientific work of all descriptions including entomological, geological, chemical, and, even certain aspects of, medical research, in my opinion it is not central and accessible enough to make it valuable for purposes of prompt co-ordination and co-operation with the routine and practice that investigation demands, and for which departmental laboratories appear to be essential - and from which material which required more expert and prolonged experimentation could be forwarded to the central laboratory at Amani. If the experts were more or less under one roof research would naturally be expedited with greater facility, but there can be no question of doing away with the smaller departmental laboratories, but rather on the other hand, as I consider, and wish to establish later, an expansion in this direction. So far as the Medical Department is concerned I should like to see small routine laboratories situated suitably to serve the more populated areas, from which trained investigators might proceed, to the scene of epidemic and endemic action, and collect first hand the materials for research, which could be dealt with by them, or, if found necessary forwarded for more elaborate research to Amani. There should be small bacteriological laboratories with a skilled laboratory worker in each,

for

for routine and research work, at points such as Lindi, Tanga, Arusha, Dodoma, Tabora, Mwanza, Tukuyu - and two or three travelling units provided with a properly fitted laboratory coach on the Railway and motor laboratories for district work.

(Sgd) J.O. Shireore

14/10/25.

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND
SANITARY SERVICES.

№ 2
Enclosure to despatch No. 27
12 January, 1928

The Honourable
The Chief Secretary.

All kinds of laboratories can do two sorts of work: routine and research. The routine work answers questions (analyses commercial, agricultural, domestic, toxicological and other samples, or collects information, for instance); whilst the research work solves problems. A routine laboratory may carry out additionally a certain amount of research work, to pass it on to the research laboratory in its more recondite stages (and thus to help to keep the latter laboratory alive); but in a research laboratory there should be a minimum of routine work, if an

2. It is confusion of these two kinds of work that makes researchers dissatisfied. These should be distracted as little as possible by routine work (especially as they are usually temperamental persons) whereas the keen worker in a routine laboratory will be led to take up lines of research work (as far as his routine activities permit) that will enliven the round of his duties and probably make him useful for transfer to a research laboratory. If the purposes of laboratories are recognized, defined and upheld, neither kind of worker in them can claim with justification that he is dissatisfied with his duties.

3. For general service a public laboratory, which will be a routine laboratory, will come to be necessary, and will serve the public and Government Departments by examination

examination of material submitted in miscellaneous connexions. This is the one kind of large laboratory with a general (routine) activity. The second kind of large laboratory (actually several laboratories working together) is for research service: the kind that, it is hoped, Amani will be; but this, even, can usefully house only those investigators for team work whose divisions of science are united in practice. The third kind is the smaller laboratory of the Government Department (nowadays abused by the researcher almost as a matter of routine), with its field extensions, the ordinary work in which, consisting simply of identification, observation, counting, computation and recording, for the collection of information, is often mistakenly called research.

4. It is difficult to see how the work of departmental laboratories can be done in central laboratories. The veterinary pathologist, entomologist, mycologist, and even the agricultural and medical entomologists (for example), have little in common; and housing them under one roof would merely save capital (but not recurrent) expenditure, probably in a place where the work of more than one of them would suffer handicap through unsuitability of situation. The case of the public or the research central laboratory is different. The first is manned by workers with analytical and toxicological knowledge that enables them to serve daily and immediate miscellaneous needs of the community. The second

supplies

supplies provision for the connected work of investigators animated to the same ends by the spirit of co-operative research.

5. The conclusion is that three kinds of laboratory are needed: the public laboratory, the research laboratory (or institute) and departmental laboratories.

(Sgd) A.H. Kirby

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,

27/10/25.