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FOR CIRCULATION —

Mr.
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The following research



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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ZOMBA,
NYASALAND.RECEIVED-
8 DEC 1925
COL OFFICE

11th November, 1925.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 216 of the 7th August, I have the honour to enclose copy of a memorandum by the Chief Veterinary Officer regarding the recommendations of the East African Commission as to veterinary research.

2. In my despatch Confidential (3) of the 9th September I addressed you on the subject of research work generally including veterinary research, and in my despatch No. 333 of the 30th September on the necessity for investigation into the tsetse fly menace in the Dowa and Lilongwe districts. It is a great regret to me that the financial position of the Protectorate precludes this Government from providing for such essential services as these, the necessity for which is so strongly urged in the report of the East African Commission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

G O V E R N O R.

The Right Honourable

Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. S. Amery, F. C. S., M. P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF EAST AFRICAN COMMISSION
OF VETERINARY RESEARCH.

444

I agree that it is very desirable that experiments in animal breeding both with regard to breeding immune types and the general improvement of native livestock by selection are feasible and likely to yield results of great benefit in increasing the value of our livestock, even if only for local consumption, until the numbers have naturally increased beyond the demand for this purpose. A Veterinary Pathology Laboratory is a necessity in carrying out effectively the control of disease and there are several local problems which require elucidation and the control of as described in the country, but this as well as research in breeding immune types of animals can only be carried out effectively when sufficient funds can be made available.

Proposals have already been submitted for an Association of the various scientific departments of the technical departments, including the Veterinary and Medical Pathologists, in one building.

It is with some interest I read that the disease known as "Velot holopain" in Northern Rhodesia exists in Nyasaland as I was not aware that it occurred even in the adjacent district of North East Rhodesia. I presume that the Commission obtained their information regarding this disease from some outside source, since they did not consult any Officer of the Veterinary Service in Nyasaland, and I can only imagine that the disease is in connection with the "Seasonal outbreaks of disease" (Grass sickness) which has been reported in Nyasaland and a reliable source of information preventing further discovery. I have been investigating this disease and have published in the Journal of Comparative Pathology and Veterinary Science (Pages 114-117) 1934 - Grass sickness in Nyasaland.

gastro enteritis of cattle in the Shire Highlands of Nyasaland", as well as in the Nyasaland Times. 445

In so far as Veterinary Research is concerned in Nyasaland we have been and are still handicapped by shortage of executive staff, and the necessity therefore of every officer capable of carrying out research being employed in carrying out the routine work of dealing with outbreaks of disease and the essential quarantine measures

to prevent disease spreading, to that extent we have only one Veterinary Officer.

It is only in the case of the one Veterinary Officer that it is possible to carry out research, even when funds are available for extending the scope of his research.

The best possible use is being made of the few officers who have been sent to Nyasaland and all the means are being used to maintain the health of the stock, and to prevent disease spreading.

The main problem at the moment is the shortage of funds for the purchase of "parts" for the transport of the Veterinary Officer to the various parts of the country.

It is also necessary to purchase a number of "parts" for the transport of the Veterinary Officer to the various parts of the country.

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One of the Members of the East African Commission in writing an article for the press states that the Yeas are a pastoral race and again in the report of this Commission they state that there are a few cattle in Horroba, suggesting these are the only cattle we have in the area where the information originates as one realises that it is not obtained by personal observation. One can hardly describe the Yeas as a pastoral race, since they keep cattle when they live in country where it is possible but the greater part of the country occupied by the Yeas is quite unsuited for cattle, owing to the presence of tsetse fly, and one could not in any case imagine that the Yeas were ever a pastoral race. In so far as Horroba having a few cattle is concerned, this is true, but they only have 20% of the total number in Abyssinia, very few more than those owned by the Amhara in the Protectorate, and as for the cattle trade from Horroba being carried by Tse-tse fly, they never had any external trade in cattle when the road was open. The Yeas move that way south 20 years and more ago mainly from German East Africa and here they passed down through Hyalala and were brought down to the Yeas by buyers from the East.

If money is to be spent on development, and this means first the provision of railway communication with low enough freight rates to allow of our lower grade products being exported, we can develop our livestock, but for many years local demands will absorb the surplus livestock, owing to our proportionately large population, whose demands for livestock products, mainly for food, will increase with any rise in native prosperity as a result of being able to market their products. At the present time we are at a stage when a great deal more attention is required to the fostering of the production of a sufficient food supply to avoid our perennial famine rather than an increase in the production of so called economic crops. It is our livestock

that.....

