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CROMWELL HOUSE AND STREET

Westminster, S.W. 1.

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l. I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to refer to your letters 14238 E.A. dated the 5th October and 3th Meyember regarding the case of Lieutenant R.A. Whittle, late Manchester Regiment (Ministry Reference O.A.137538) and also to your letter 15067 E.A. dated 19th Meyember regarding the case of Lieutenant R.T. Boyd, late Welsh Guards (Ministry Reference O.A.70997). In both cases the question is reised regarding the practice of this Ministry in communicating with officials and pensioners in East Africa, and it is understeed that your Department how desires.

- (a) that correspondence with ex-officer pensioners holding appointments as District Commissioners etc. in East Africa should be conducted through your Department,
- (b) that no communication regarding pensions should be sent to the local authorities in East Africa by this Ministry but that all such communications should be addressed to your Department, which would give the necessary instructions.
- 2. With regard to (a) above, the Minister to complete assent to anyarrangement which precludes any ex-officer in receipt of dissbility retired pay from communicating direct with this Office in regard to his award and cognate questions, or from receiving direct communications from this Office. No similar requests have been received from other Departments employing disabled ex-officers. It must not be overlooked too that

officers

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, Downing Street, 8.W.1. officers have a statutory right to their pensions.
Mr. Macchierson hopes therefore that the Secretary of State
will not press the proposal that decisions in regard to
the pensions or treatment of ex-officers who happen to
hold appointments in the civil administration in East
Africa should be communicated through the Colonial Office,
a course which would have the further disadvantage of
delay and extra correspondence.

- 3. As regards (b) i.e. the method of addressing communications to officials in East Africa. I am to draw your attention to the letter addressed by your Department to this Ministry number 55801/20 dated 1st December, 1920, forwarding copy of a dispatch from the Governor of Kenya suggesting that communications should be addressed direct by the Ministry or the Paymaster General to the Chief Paymaster, East Africa Pay Corps. Moreover in your letter numbered 12027/20 of 17th March, 1920, you were good enough to supply a list of the names and addresses of the officials to whom officers and nurses should make application for treatment. It was therefore anticipated that no objection existed to the Ministry communicating with these officials direct, and it was explained to your Department in the letter numbered M.S/Gen/401/4 from this Ministry dated 6th January, 1921, (your reference 36294/20) that the complete medical history was forwarded direct from this Office in each case with instructions as to the future dates for medical examination.
- 4. While it is of course appreciated that all correspondence of a general character should be addressed to your Department, it is considered that the administration

of pensions would be expedited and facilitated if in individual cases the practice of direct communication between this ministry and mast africa could be continued, a revised list of authorities being furnished by your bepartment for this purpose. It is also considered most desirable that this Department should be able to inform an ex-officer leaving for East Africa to whom he should apply for medical recamination and treatment.

5. It appears to the Minister that these and other questions of procedure in reference to pensioners resident in East Africe could most conveniently be discussed at a conference representing the two Departments and the Paymaster-General, and it is suggested that the conference should be held next week at the Ministry of Pensions, Millbank House, the date and time being arranged semi-officially.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant

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