

EAST POT

20253

20253

354

C.A.G. BOWRING 293

1920

3rd March

DEVELOPMENT OF FLAX INDUSTRY.

This copy Dir of Agriculture's observations on Interim Report of Empire Flax Growing Cttee.

Last previous Paper. 28592/19

Mr. C. B. Battersby
Mr. C. B. Battersby

The Honors obtained in the
grading because the report is later
than the season is to bring the
paper back to 12.40.

W.C.A. 24.4.20

Some things got overlooked in what is
satisfactory, but a good deal more from the
viewpoint of the flax industry before the
Flax Committee of the 4th. The amount
difference of opinion is to be that the
grading should be done in E. Africa in the
country. To be done in the country.

W.C.A. 7.6.20 am

2 July 20
26.10.20

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REC 22 APR 26

23rd March, 1920

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch Miscellaneous of 13th September 1919 enclosing a copy of an Interim Report by the Empire Flax Growing Committee, and to enclose a copy of the Director of Agriculture's observations thereon.

G.T.
4/3/55/19

you

Mr. A. Holm
S. 3. 20.

I have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's
humble, obedient servant,

ACTING GOVERNOR.

HIGHT HONOURABLE
HUBERT WILSON, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c. &c.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWLING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

27/60

10th March 1920

The Hon. Secy of State

The development of Flax Industry in East Africa.

I regret that my attention was only drawn a few days ago to your Minute 10324/104 of the 6th November, last containing copy of despatch from the Secretary of State on an interim Report of the Empire Flax Growing Committee. I would make the following observations upon those sections of the Report dealing with this Protectorate.

2. There is reason to believe that Flax has become a permanent and staple crop in British East Africa, and, that even if there should be a substantial reduction in the market price of flax fibre and low, this territory, with its advantages in respect of cheaper cost of production will successfully compete against other producing countries.

3. The industry is making marked progress, and for the forthcoming sowing season arrangements are being made for a large increase in the acreage to be sown to flax. A number of new mills are being erected and equipped for handling the crop, and it is gratifying to note that the flax growers and owners of the mills are employing the services of men skilled and experienced in flax growing.

4. I am giving attention to the subject of grading and the necessary enquiries are being made as to the advisability

or

or otherwise of laying down "official grades" under a system of inspection or grading by Government officials, but it is not yet clear what is the best system to adopt.

5. I have already seen the need for a Flax Growers Association and have taken the preliminary steps. It is hoped that a representative meeting of growers and others interested in the Flax Industry will be held shortly, and that, as a result, it may be decided to form the Association.

6. The demands of the industry for Departmental services have already far outgrown the staff provision. I shall have proposals to make regarding the organization of the Department of Agriculture generally and I propose then to deal with the requirements of the Flax Industry. Experimental work is being carried out and extension and advisory services are being rendered as far as circumstances allow, but cultural problems will surely arise, and insect pests and plant diseases will attack the crops. Investigation and research work are necessary in order that reliable information and data may be obtained. The Department should also be in a position to give more advice and assistance particularly to the inexperienced grower than is possible with the present limited staff.

7. I believe that the Flax Industry is about to play an important part in the agricultural development of this territory, and in my opinion it behoves the Government to foster and to protect it.

A. H.

Director of Agriculture.

See 20257/10000

DRAFT.

and
the Finance Committee

MINUTE.

- Wentley, 9 June
- Welder, 9.6
- Purkisson, 9/8
- H. Middle.
- H. Lamberts.
- Road.
- G. Fiddler.
- Amery.
- Miles.

(43/155/19
General)

3-23 heard 20

see for 16/10/19

with ref to the Board of
Trade's letter I.M. 3400 of
the 22nd of July 1919 forwarded
a copy of an letter dated
dated 8th April 1919 by the
Surprise Area Finance Committee
See in letter to the
Committee in the
...

a copy from the copies of the
enclosing the observations
submitted
on the report of the first

Director of the

Y.

EMPIRE FLAX GROWING COMMITTEE,

BOARD OF TRADE,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

WESTMINSTER,

LONDON, S W 1.

No. 3840.

RECEIVED	12th June, 1920.	359
14 JUN 19		
COL OFF		

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th June, No. 20253/20, and to thank you for forwarding copy of a despatch from East Africa respecting the cultivation of Flax in that Protectorate.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. Hardy
Secretary.

Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
S.W. 1.