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STOCK DISEASES AND VETERINARY STAFF

The report on the present position of stock diseases. It will be observed that an addition of four veterinary officers is recommended. Consideration however must be given at an early date should be sufficient for the present. Funds can be found from savings.

Date: 1912 July previous Paper.

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See note (copy of June 1912) 23466

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

July 4th 1913.

Report

With reference to my telegram of 22nd June 1913, I have the honour to forward a report by the Acting Director of Agriculture and Acting Chief Veterinary Officer on the present position of stock diseases in the Protectorate and on the Staff of the Veterinary Department.

2. You will observe that Mr. Brandt considers that there should be a staff of eleven Veterinary Officers, in addition to the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer and the Live Stock Inspector, or an addition of four to the existing staff. This increase, though doubtless very desirable, appears to me to be hardly necessary for the present; but I would suggest that two additional officers should be appointed as early as late as possible, with Mr. Brandt's concurrence. It is essential that a staff of

Two

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

(2)

two Veterinary Officers together with the Chief Stock Inspector should be employed on the Masai Move until its completion, which will probably not be before August or September next year, as the importance of immediately detecting any outbreak of disease amongst the immense herds and flocks crossing the Rift Valley cannot be over-estimated.

4. But, as shown in Mr. Brandt's letter, the effect of sending officers for these duties is to leave several important stock centres without any Veterinary supervision, and I trust therefore that my proposal to increase the staff by the addition of two officers may receive favourable consideration.

5. I would suggest that they be engaged in the first instance for one year and that the question of their retention beyond that period be considered with the 1913-14 Estimates. I anticipate no difficulty in finding the necessary funds during the current year from savings on the sanctioned expenditure.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

ACTING GOVERNOR

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Ref. 2/8/14

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer,

Nairobi.

15th June, 1914.

The Hon'ble ~~The~~ Acting Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to ask you to submit to His Excellency for his consideration the following remarks showing the present position of Stock Disease in the Protectorate and the staff, which I must ask him to look upon as totally inadequate, that exists to cope therewith.

The veterinary staff available for district work in the Protectorate consists of seven Veterinary Officers and one Chief Stock Inspector. Of this two are on leave and four become due within the next six months. One returns at once and will be stationed at Nairobi, and three now on the Masai Move will not be able to leave that until its completion.

The following tables show (a) the present distribution (b) the distribution at the termination of the Masai Move and (c) the distribution of the Veterinary Staff which in my opinion is most desirable if the stock of the Protectorate is to be efficiently safeguarded. Mr. Stowry has already and frequently urged the necessity for this organisation.

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Within the past three months Rinderpest has been reported from different parts of Mandi and on several European farms at Lamba, whilst East Coast Fever has made its appearance in the heart of the Masai Plateau. These far removed centres cannot be attacked simultaneously by one Veterinary Officer and either the native owned cattle or the Masai Gishu must suffer, while there remains the very grave risk that one or more may rapidly spread owing to the enforced delay in dealing with the disease.

The Veterinary Officer, Masai is single-handed in dealing with the country from Lodiani to Kisumu, the greater portion of which is heavily stocked with valuable imported and grade animals.

In this Masai is the native area administered from Lodiani in which East Coast Fever is endemic and liable to spread on to the adjacent farms. Recently this disease has occurred on Lord Phillip's land at Kioko Forests from the endemic area and within ten miles of Nakuru itself. Reports from the settlers in the vicinity create a suspicion that this disease may have a wider distribution than is at present proved. I need hardly emphasize to His Excellency how serious would be the position if this be true.

Rinderpest also exists at Nakuru and requires a constant supervision and repeated vaccinations, whilst a mortality exceeding 90% has occurred among the young sheep on the Naivasha Government Farm and is prevalent also on the neighbouring farms. The movement in this district is very large and to and fro movement is interfered with without imperilling the success of the sheep. In addition there is an extensive trade in sheep at Nakuru alone.

For the purpose of the Masai Ng'ro the routes to be followed through the above district have been selected through the infected parts. The Veterinary Officer, Masai and five assistants, including two inspectors are

necessary to protect both the Masda herds and those on the land adjoining the routes.

A further possible source of danger to the Rift Valley lies in the cattle from the Boran and Taba countries. No Veterinary Officer is available to control their movement and the necessary inoculations and supervision are performed in the hands of a temporary Stock Inspector who is also responsible for the health and dipping of trade sheep passing into the settled areas from the North.

The presence of a Veterinary Officer stationed at Mombasa is essential in order that new diseases be not introduced from over sea. This duty does not allow of his inspecting any outbreaks of disease at a distance of more than a few miles from his headquarters.

The whole country from Mombasa to Malindi is dealt with from Malindi where no Veterinary Officer is at the moment stationed. In the Ukamba Province and the East Coast River testing areas, two of which are in the charge of temporary Stock Inspectors and the third is supervised by a native boy.

In the case of the great plague recently occurred and such inoculations as can be effected have to be left to our Indian Assistant from the Veterinary Laboratory.

The existing staff is inadequate to the normal health of stock in the country and in addition to cope with outbreaks of disease at isolated and different points. The table laid out at the commencement of my letter shows the addition of four Veterinary Officers to be necessary. As however any a consultant to the Laboratory would at the present time be of a temporary nature, and as the Chief Stock Inspector has previously been in charge of the Northern Frontier District an addition of two to the staff will greatly assist our difficulties.

I must point out that the sooner the delay the more

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wide-spread will become disease and I would urge upon  
His Excellency the desirability of these appointments being made  
at once.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. M. M.

Acting Chief Veterinary Officer.

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