

C.O.  
33383  
22 OCT 12

EAST AFR. PROT.  
33383

No. 78

Date.  
1912

11 Oct

previous Page

Losses through Cattle Disease

Submit claim to compensation for losses which he contends were due to official ignorance & delay: asks for Rs. 2250. & grant of 4000 acres of land on Kibigori River

Mr. Reed

I understand that at the present time  
the matter is being handled so that he has  
a day or two to make a final

order to put the matter to rest

and from his letter of the 25th

25/10

at once

H. J. G.

25/10

For remittance to Rs. 3000 on 13/10  
To be made by Branch B of the

Subsequent Paper

C.O.  
R. 28 OCT  
B. 12

Correspondence with Major  
Henderson M.P. attached.  
J.G.B. Nov 29

ie W. Wats's letter to C.O. of 21 Oct 1912  
Reply of 30 Oct 1912 3383  
600

This was given to me by Maj.  
H. J. Henderson (in)

(one of the Unionist Whips)

He wants to know whether  
his friends' claims can be  
settled up before he  
returns to E. A. V. which  
he is ~~about~~ to do.  
What answer?

770

H. J. Henderson

W. Watson

submit a letter for your  
signature or if you prefer to speak  
to Major Henderson, the letter will  
give you the material for an  
answer.

W. W.

no 26

ie. W. Wats's letter to C.O. of 20.11.12  
C.O. reply of 30 Oct. 1912

This was given to me by Maj.  
H. S. Henderson in [unclear]  
(one of the Unionist Whips)  
He wants to know whether  
his friends claims can be  
collected up before he  
returns to E. A. P. which  
he is doing shortly.  
What answer? 770

off. 27.11.12

at Harcourt.

I submit a letter for your  
signature. or, if you prefer to speak  
to Major Henderson, the letter will  
give you the material for an  
answer.

ZAB  
NN.28

771

Colonial Office,

Whitehall Street, S.W.

November 28. 1912

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Dear Henderson.

I find that the letter which  
Mr. H. E. Watts wrote on the  
subject of his claim against  
the Government of the  
East Africa Protectorate  
reached the Colonial Office on

18th of October. It was  
referred to the Governor  
of the Protectorate for his  
observations in a despatch  
dated the 20th of October,  
reply to which can hardly  
be sent as in the ordinary  
time towards the end of Jan-  
uary. I am sure that you will

understand that it is 772  
impossible for me to attempt to  
form an opinion on a large  
and detailed claim such as  
Mr. Watts has prepared until  
I have heard all that the  
Protectorate Government have  
to say about it.

If Mr. Watts is returning  
East Africa shortly, it is  
desirable that he should

inform the Colonial Office of  
date of his departure, in order  
time may not be lost by  
a letter to an address which  
has left. when he returns  
the Protectorate, it will be seen  
in accordance with the regulation  
for all correspondence between  
him and the Colonial Office to  
be conducted through the medium  
of the Governor of the Protectorate.  
I return the letters which you  
sent to me.

Yours sincerely  
(S) J. H. Harrison

29. 11. 12

Dear Harcourt

I thank you for  
your letter & can  
quite see that Mr.  
Watts cannot expect  
to get a settlement of  
his claims before his  
return. I am sure  
when I show him  
your letter he will  
quite realize his position.

I will ask him to  
keep me informed  
of his future dealings  
with your Office &  
trust he may not  
consider himself  
unjustly treated when  
the whole circumstances  
have been reviewed

Yours sincerely,  
Arthur Henderson



West Hundred,  
Stevenson,  
Berks.

Kipkalia Farm  
Lumbwa,  
British East Africa.

771

27th September, 1912.

Sir,

Referring to my interview with Mr Butler I beg to enumerate the following facts, as requested, for the consideration of your department in the earnest hope that you may be able to take the necessary steps towards securing me adequate compensation for my serious losses.

Enclosed I send you a tabulated statement showing the damage I am able to estimate. You will understand that there are many substantial items of loss which I am totally unable to estimate, but which are none the less serious on that account. For example, I have been doing a considerable stock dealing business, which I had entirely to abandon during the long period in which my land was infected, viz. October 5th 1909 until October 1911. Another instance is the loss I have sustained by being unable to continue my arable work, and the transport business which I had built up. These very important sources of income were closed to me because my oxen were in quarantine, and I had to sit idly by and watch others make profits, grow crops and carry out transport work in which I should have shared, and I not been rendered helpless.

I have endeavoured to divide my losses into two main heads, those arising from (a) East Coast Fever and (b) Rinderpest.

These losses were I venture to contend, avoidable and arose in consequence of official lack of knowledge. Since I incurred them by following official orders and advice I respectfully submit that I am fully entitled to compensation. One great cause for complaint is that my losses were entirely the result of following official advice.

In the case of East Coast Fever later enquiry has proved this district to be an endemic area. The Veterinary Department had ample time for such enquiry, because Mr Clift took the first blood slide to Nairobi on October 5th 1909 and his cattle were not ordered to pass through the temperature box until June 1910.

With regard to Rinderpest, my excessive losses from inoculation as compared with those experienced elsewhere from the same cause, and those confidently predicted by the Veterinary Department speak for themselves, and clearly point to an official mistake of a most serious nature.

The above misfortunes have brought others in their train viz. :- In the autumn of 1909 and the spring of 1910 I raised from relatives the capital sum of £2000 stg. for the purposes of developing, together with my own resources, a 5,000 acre farm near Mabarouli. In June 1910 I made application to the land office for such a farm, but my application was refused on the ground that the area was unsurveyed. Since I did not wish the capital to be idle, and since I believed my farm to be free from East Coast fever in an endemic form, I invested during the autumn of 1910, the greater part of it in cattle.

This investment proved disastrous, as my losses from

West Hendred,  
Steventon,  
Berks.

Kikkelia Farm  
Lumbwa  
British East Africa

27th September 1917

Referring to my interview with Mr Butler I beg to  
enumerate the following facts as requested for the  
consideration of your department in the earnest hope that you  
may be able to take the necessary steps towards securing me  
adequate compensation for my serious losses.

I enclosed I send you a detailed statement showing the  
amount I am able to estimate for which I understand that you  
are many substantial items of loss which I am totally unable  
to estimate but which are none the less serious on that  
account. For example I have been doing a considerable stock  
dealing business which I had entirely to abandon during the  
long period in which my land was infected viz. October 5th,  
1909 until October 1911. Another instance is the loss I have  
sustained by being unable to continue my arable work and the  
transport business which I had built up. These very  
important sources of income were closed to me because my oxen  
were in quarantine and I had to sit idly by and watch others  
take profits, grow crops and carry out transport work in  
which I should have engaged had it not been rendered hopeless.

I have endeavoured to advise by losses I have incurred  
which those arising from East Coast fever and  
Rinderpest.

These losses were incurred before I had any knowledge of the  
disease and I incurred them in full confidence in the orders and advice  
respectfully submitted to me by the Veterinary Department.  
One great cause for complaint is that the losses were not the  
result of following the instructions of the Veterinary Department.

In the case of Rinderpest the Veterinary Department  
advised this district to be closed to all cattle. The Veterinary  
Department had ample time to give the necessary orders and I  
took the first stock aside to wait for the order. My  
cattle were not ordered to pass through the temperature  
booms until June, 1910.

With regard to Rinderpest the losses from  
immolation as compared with those experienced elsewhere from  
the same cause and those confidently predicted by the  
Veterinary Department speak for themselves and clearly point  
to an official mistake of a most serious nature.

The above misfortunes have brought others to my aid and  
I have in the autumn of 1909 and the spring of 1910 raised  
£1000 from relatives and the capital was invested for the purpose  
of developing, together with my own resources, a 5000 acre  
farm near Muhoreui. In June 1911 I made application to the  
land office for such a farm, but my application was refused on  
the ground that the area was unarveyed. Since I did not  
wish the capital to be idle and since I believed the farm to  
be free from East Coast fever in any endemic form I invested  
during the autumn of 1909 the greater part of the capital.

This investment proved disastrous as my losses from

Rinderpest in the spring of 1911 swallowed up a large part of my relatives' money. These losses occurred at a particularly unfortunate time, because my farm was more heavily stocked than usual. Having on it not only my own stock, but also those in which I had invested my relatives' money, and my losses were proportionately heavier.

Further, when the losses from rinderpest happened, I was running on my farm, under agreement, a number of Mr Clift's cattle. They too were inoculated, and a number died, so that I have to pay Mr Clift £200 as compensation.

My petition is that I may be granted for my severe losses the sum of 2,250 rupees offered by the Agricultural Department, and a grant of land of 4,000 acres on the Kibigori River. The compensation offered by the Director of Agriculture, 2,250 rupees is, by itself, manifestly inadequate to recoup me in any way.

I hope to attain a quick return from an agricultural point of view, and I think that my past record of work in British East Africa will satisfy anyone as to the energetic development of my land.

If there are further details you require, I shall be pleased to furnish them.

I possess a certificate from the Veterinary Office at Nairobi which will prove that I have considerable knowledge of veterinary matters. My losses were not incurred by my own neglect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

*J. S. G. 1911*

The Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Whitehall,  
S. W.

P.S. I have not enumerated in this letter my actual losses, as details of these are given in the accompanying statement.

STATEMENT OF LOSSES

Cattle went into temperature boma for one month, and I obtained no milk. Previously I had been selling 420 B. worth of Butter per month, therefore my loss of butter 420

After cattle released from temperature boma, did not take any milk until August 25th. The supply was very little 420

In December, 1910 it only amounted to R.215, therefore during 5 months I sustained a further loss on Butter of 1 025

My farm was distocked for eighteen months. Just previous to this order, I had erected six miles of fencing at a cost of 260, and I had used wire to the value of 2112. This fencing was useless to me for 18 months, because the fenced part of my farm was distocked. Interest on 260 at 5% and 2112 at 3% for eighteen months, 183 50

Cost of building new bomas for the cattle on clean land after they had passed through temperature boma 500

Cost of extra white supervision because cattle were now 2 1/2 miles away from my homestead for 18 months, at R.60 per month 1,080

Outlay on donkeys' harness, eighteen implements suitable for donkeys to replace bullocks in infected area 1 000

From 5th, 1909, to January 7, 1911. During this period my farm was declared by the Veterinary Officer to be infected area. I lost by death 45 head of cattle, which I estimate at R.75 each 3 375

and one pure-bred Guernsey bull 500

From 28th to April 25th, 1911. RINDERPEST. Prior to East Coast Fever I was selling R.420 worth prior to inoculation for rinderpest, I was selling R.215 worth of butter per month for three months. After inoculation I could not make any butter at all therefore in those months I sustained a loss of 1 260

From 25th to December 31st, 1911. During this period my butter output slowly increased and in December my sales amounted to R.100; therefore during 9 months I sustained a loss of R.320 per month 2 880

After inoculation I moved my cattle towards the forest where the grass was green hoping thereby to hasten their recovery from the emaciated condition to which they had been reduced. This entailed building again temporary houses and bomas and the employment of extra boys. I estimate the loss thus sustained together with the cost of linseed stimulants and other extra rations for the sick cattle. 800

All my arable work was stopped because my oxen were sick. Consequently I could only get in a very small quantity of crops, and in addition I lost a large amount of transport work which was to be had. I estimate these losses at 900

The value of stock which died from the results of inoculation I place at £.7,790; I lost 85 head and it must be borne in mind they were selected stock, the remains after repeated weeding-out. The calves were graded. A full list of deaths has been sent to the Director of Agriculture

TOTAL LOSSES R. 21,813 50