

EAST AFR. PROT  
No. 17706

G O  
17706  
Rec  
REL 18 MAR 06

File or Individual  
1906  
Previous Paper

(Subject)

Agricultural Outlook

Submits memo giving his views on

(Mingtee)

Mr. Read

Mr. Brand has been mainly employed in the west districts endeavoring to develop cotton growing etc, and as we have very little about this part of the country is compared with the temperate regions round Nairobi. Suggested Mr. Brand to submit a memorandum.

From my own view inclined to agree with Mr. Brand that the E.A.P. is likely to be at least for many years to come

Copy sent to Bureau on 3/9/06  
Copy sent to E.A.P. on 29/3/06

He is one of the 3 assistants to the Director of Agric. U.S.A.

1/10/06

a planter rather than a settler  
country. It would indeed be diffi-  
cult to suggest any reason why  
a man with some capital should  
go to the U.P. rather than to  
N. Zealand or Canada.

If the U.P. is to be a planter  
country the question of an adequate  
native labour supply becomes of  
paramount importance, as Mr.  
Barnard points out.

He desires the effect of a Commis-  
sioner for native affairs & the adoption  
of a regular native policy will  
assist to settling the native on  
"work"

The main items of the policy  
which he recommends are.

1. Native to be allotted definite &  
bonafide areas for their cultivation  
& squatter on other land to  
be prohibited
2. Vagrant natives to be compulsorily  
sent to work in their gangs
3. Taxes on passes for natives  
to be abolished

Op. on the  
points of  
15/16  
23 of the  
Report of  
Land Com-  
missioner  
1881

(4) Free Natives employed by transpor-  
tation from but to follow  
the movement from but to follow  
the movement from but to follow

562

of these reasons men date as

(1) Can only be effected as &  
when the survey is intended  
to the facts of the country concerned.

(2) It is, I fear, too robust a  
policy in the present state of  
public sentiment: it would be too  
much like slavery.

(3) & (4) seem to deserve serious  
attention are (1) The desirability  
of a dutchery work to control the  
floods of the Tura, of occupying  
by granting a concession for the  
purpose. This can be considered  
when a concession comes forward  
I don't think we can do anything for  
one

(2) The responsibility of the job  
is a casting theorem.  
I have before the fact that

The Yuba is rather a white  
celebrant for the Govt, but if we  
cannot arrange for a subordinated  
private mine to take its  
place, it would mean a good  
thing that it shd. be handed  
over to the Railway, as there is  
a certain amount in having 2  
dpts. of Govt. working adjoining  
streams.

Back of my it has been  
forward with interest, & send  
copy to Comr. for any books.

Mr 11/6

Mr 11/6

Forward as proposed - &  
at 2: Lambert see it can be  
made to read as to 5:10.

For the conf. inf. it comes  
to 2:10

11/6

Thanks. 4/5 2:10 & 7/6

Mr 25/6

Mr 25/6

Mr 25/6

be reminded

17/6

Mr. Mr. 25/6

17/6

diff by the end

Mr. Mr. 25/6 It is in the schedule  
marked to come by next mail

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 elephant for the Govt, but if we  
 cannot arrange for a subordinated  
 private mine to take its  
 place, it would seem a good  
 thing that it shd. be handed  
 over to the Railway as there is  
 a certain amount of business in  
 depth of gold mining, including  
 steamers.

' Look young it has been  
 passed with interest, general  
 reply to Comr. for any hours.

11/6

Proceed as proposed - a  
 lot of Lambert can be  
 made - send it to 9.12  
 for other info. reference  
 to 2nd

Members. 210 1/2 1/2  
 AS 25/6

~~AS 25/6~~  
 Mr. McQueen  
 be reminded  
 17/6  
 Mr. McQueen  
 done by the end

Mr. McQueen is in the schedule  
 marked to come by next mail

563

THE CRAVEN HOTEL,  
CRAVEN STREET,  
STRAND

17<sup>th</sup> May 1906

Sir

I have the honour to  
send you <sup>17706</sup> ~~in reply~~ <sup>in reply</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup>  
a memorandum of my own  
upon East African affairs

I am Sir

Yr Obedt humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Edw Brand



MEMO of Suggestions for the removal  
-of the present deterrents-  
to Agricultural Progress in  
British East Africa.

C O  
17706  
REC  
18 MAY 06

May 14th, 1906.

To W. D. Ellis, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

Sir:-

Acting upon your instructions I have the honour to present to you a short memo. of my views upon the agricultural outlook in East Africa and to make the following suggestions for the removal of some of the difficulties which are at the present time hindering the advance of the country as regards its agricultural development.

I need not remind you of the importance of developing the agricultural value of the country to the European planter and settler; that it constitutes with afforestation the only commercial future of the country unless, which is daily growing more remote, mineral wealth is discovered; that the revenue may for a time be maintained by increasing the taxation of the native population, and duties upon natural products, Ivory etc., but that no lasting development of the sources of revenue is to be looked for elsewhere than from the land value to the European planter.

The native population numbers scarcely a single tribe possessing the industry or desire for wealth and family instincts as for instance the fellahs of Egypt possess. Little can be expected of them except through their white labourers for the European. When the agricultural commission was formed in the latter part of the year 1903 it was found that nothing had been done in the way of experiment

collection of records since the experimental plantation at Mombasa originally instituted by the Imperial B.E.A. Co. had been abandoned nine years before. Even meteorological records had been confined to rainfall and temperature observations at Mombasa and the records of a few badly placed rain-gauges on the coast and railway line.

The records of our observations upon the agriculture and natural features of various parts of the country, upon crops, stock, diseases, experiments at the five experimental farms, meteorology natural products and labour supply with the difficulties encountered by planters and settlers have been the subject of successive reports. From the agricultural department and of these I would particularly refer you for the moment to that by the Director of Agriculture and myself upon the possibilities of cotton growing in continuation of No. 606 "Miscellaneous Series."

The difficulties which invariably meet the planter at the outset are due to his want of support when he first enters the country.

In the first place on arrival at Mombasa there is no enquiry office and he is left to make perhaps expensive provision for his accommodation through the long days in which he will be seeking information in one office after another to which he is referred backwards and forwards while he is looking up land upon which to settle the which he knows very little about.

Given the land he is immediately called upon to pay survey fees for it and while bound to certain stipulations as to cultivating with a proportion during the first year or in the case of a homestead to stipulations with regard to erecting a permanent house upon it, receives no assistance in getting the necessary labour for which if he obtain he is called upon to pay registering fees or he will have no redress if the whole of

C. O. 533 24  
 PASTED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE  
 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

his men walk off to join a passing caravan the following day.

He finds the country all provided with roads or bridges, when he harvests his produce transport facilities are none, no regular market exists except in the case of a small local demand for perhaps dairy produce and potatoes, while freight dues including the costly charges for handling at the port wipe up the remainder of his profits.

Is it to be wondered at, and I have not attempted in this brief note to detail a tithe of the difficulties to be found enumerated in the report referred to, that those who have recently visited the country again after an absence extending from the time it was handed over by the Imperial S. E. A. Company say that little or no advance has been made except perhaps in the immediate neighbourhoods of Mombasa and Nairobi.

The persistent complaints of settlers through the Planters Association and other mouthpieces led to the appointment of the Land Commission in 1904 whose report contains a valuable collection of evidence and an honest attempt at a solution of the difficulties of land and questions relating thereto.

Without going into a detailed consideration of the many questions embraced in the evidence collected in this report which you no doubt have before you, I may remind you that the Committee, while offering some few of the most urgent suggestions for revision of the existing rules as to land grants propose the appointment of a land board consisting of three officers to generally supervise all matters concerning the development and settlement of the land.

The proposed formation of a Land Board is a most valuable suggestion and will form a good foundation for the machinery required for the development of the agricultural wealth of the country. Its efficiency will depend not only as the Committee suggest upon the efficiency of the three officers constituting the board but upon the powers and scope given them in which



to act as well as the machinery for carrying it out.

Thus the vital question of labour supply devolves upon the Commissioner of Native affairs. This is an important matter and it is difficult to see how the control of native labour over the whole country is to be successfully performed by a new officer unless given the whole of the local administrative machinery with the police at his back.

In any case an entire revision of the existing means of control and organisation of native labour is urgently needed. It rests at the present time with :

- 1st The Director of Government Transport in Mombasa who is chief registry officer, and
- 2nd In the local or district officers or collectors.

Now a district officer can scarcely be expected to interest himself in sending labourers to supply the demands of a settler outside the bounds of his regime, neither has he power to draw upon or facilitate the entry from another district of labour which may be available there. Then again the office of government transport is not necessarily so much in sympathy with the settler demanding labour, as with the movement of government supplies or even the organization of a large caravan of porters.

The necessity of immediate action with regard to native labour supply is the more pressing on account of the danger surrounding any question of imported labour. During the last two years great difficulty has been experienced by planters in obtaining sufficient labour particularly during the months October to April when it is most required for clearing and breaking up land which it is desired to plant during the rains of April. This difficulty was accentuated in Mombasa by large numbers being sent overseas to Pemba Island for the picking of extra large crops of cloves there during the last two seasons.

It is not to be expected however, even with the organization of an office specially dealing with natives and labour that the supply will suffice more than two or three years to come if development takes place as rapidly as hoped. Barring entirely the question of imported labour let it be fully understood that urgent and definite measures must be adopted to stimulate the native to work.

In the report of the South African Native Affairs Commission 1905-1906 the recommendations of the commission include some which would be well studied by those interested in the labour question in East Africa.

Those to which I particularly refer are:-

- (1) The checking of the practice of squatting by refusal to license all but necessary or desirable private locations as may be authorized based on the number of able bodied natives thereon.
- (2) The imposition of a rent on natives living on Crown lands as distinct from recognized reserves or locations, such rent to be based upon the value of such land and to be regularly and punctually collected.
- (3) The enforcement of laws against vagrancy in municipal areas and native labour locations where by idle persons should be expelled.
- (4) The abolition of all taxes or charges upon passes when travelling.
- (5) That farm servants in bona fide and continuous employment be exempt from payment of hut tax or poll tax.

Referring to recommendation No. 1, it should be clearly understood that the policy of restricting squatting is quite distinct from that of restricting good cultivation. The term applies only to the person who does not permanently occupy one piece of land but moves on after taking out a crop or two to fresh or virgin soil.

To check the latter practice strikes at the root of exhaustive and bad cultivation which is unfortunately too often the practice of the uncontrolled native particularly of those who grow very little but corn.

I am not in favour of restricting the rights of natives to have sufficient land for regular and permanent cultivation as per contra there are greater results to be looked for by inducing the natives to grow suitable crops for our own markets with the aid of their wives and children all having the success of the crop as their own interests, than by inducing them to work for a wage. I consider that a native has a distinct right to land which he is regularly and permanently cultivating, on the other hand the practice of squatting, of moving on year after year to fresh land, should certainly be put a stop to. The land is left in an exhausted state and being only partially cleared soon becomes covered with low dense bush springing from the unremoved roots of the former trees. Neither should such constitute any claim to the land. A great deal has been said on behalf of the Arab claims to land in the Sultan's Coast Strip as to the land having once been cultivated. Such claims are put forward to land of the densest bush and are obviously absurd. Every native should be allowed to occupy permanently the land in actual cultivation with a margin for extension and claims should be registered as the survey progresses.

No. 3. the enforcement of laws to expel vagrants should be extended to villages of a certain size not necessarily municipal areas, and instead of expelling vagrants the latter should be forced to sign on for continuous employment or be placed in a chain gang and employed upon works of public utility.

No 4. the abolition of all taxes or charges upon passengers when travelling should be extended to public ferries etc. This may appear but a small item, perhaps a few farthings but

is nevertheless to the eye of the native proceeding to a distance for employment and not having received any advance, a serious consideration.

No 5. The policy of giving the greater credit to the officer who collects the largest hut tax in a district from which he will probably be transferred the following year results in all sorts of evils. I have known farm servants brought in from another district compelled to build a temporary hut for which they are called upon to pay hut tax. Surely the object should be to encourage every means of comfortable settlement to the native willing to work on his employer's farm.

The recommendations of the Native Affairs Commission also include a reference to the desirability of adopting measures to encourage the employment of native women; the formation of labour locations; provision for accommodation and transport of the native travelling to work and many other items of practical value - suggestions no doubt requiring alteration but easily adaptable to East Africa.

All this will no doubt entail a vast amount of work on the part of a Commissioner for Native Affairs and will necessitate an efficient system of registration with well equipped officers to deal with the work.

The next most pressing question after that of labour is that of transport. To transport by the Uganda railway I need not refer as that is undoubtedly in capable hands. When we come however to dealing with produce at the ports and on the coast a different tale must be told. Allow me to refer to a particular case as an example of the incompetence of present arrangements:- to send raw cotton from Mwalindi to Kilindini by Arab dhows costs 12-annas (1-shilling) per bag equal to the Egyptian Kantar including shipping and landing. Dhows however are not only risky but are often not available on account of adverse winds etc. To send the same bag of cotton by steamer

cost a settler as follows:-

for shipping to the steamer at Malindi	4-anna
steamer freight to Mombasa	12 "
landing at Mombasa	6 "
trolley hire to Malindi	4 "
Total	26 or 2-2

I mention this case only because it is the clearest to my knowledge without facts and figures to draw upon in order to enumerate others. I could refer you to other cases where a direct refusal was given to transport agricultural materials or others where an enormous subsidy had to be paid to save produce, native shipping not being available.

The lack of landing quays, lighters or any attempt at improved harbourage constitutes together with the obvious unsuitability of the present coasting steamer, though I hesitate to mention it, a gross neglect of this splendid coast line.

Granted however the removal of these difficulties and the efficient equipment, staff, and means at the disposal of the proposed Land Board which we will presume is to make smooth the way of the settler in obtaining land, labour and transport, there are certain main obstacles to the development of the richer parts of the country which will hardly be removed unless direct expenditure upon public works is incurred or concessions of sufficient liberality to attract private capital in order to carry out the same be made.

I refer particularly to the coast and lake borders with the valleys of the more important rivers.

Hitherto the value of the more tropical half of the country has been considerably overlooked by the locally proclaimed wonders of the higher altitudes constituting the white settler's country. The lower altitudes, at present as unhealthy perhaps

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perhaps as lower India and Egypt were before drainage and reclamation works were adopted, will certainly never attain the same value for permanent healthy settlement of Europeans. They are however in a way of such greater value for certain crops that they may well be arrayed against the 'settlers' country as the 'planters' paradise' let us say.

The desire to populate the country with the class of small settlers who, in the words of the Land Committee "may be looked to in future to supply the country with a class of sturdy yeoman farmers", while a commendable object, shows a want of knowledge and grasp of the main features of the country's economic value.

The first three hundred and the last fifty miles of the whole six hundred miles roughly of the country's width are not what may be called a settlers' country. On the other hand this greater portion contains a valuable field for the 'planter' and the exploiter of commercial products such for instance as fibres, rubber, gum, etc. etc.

We hear much as to keeping out the capitalist and company man but at the present time the small settler is doing very little towards the development of the country which is not surprising as he has no markets nor the capital to make them.

A review of the more successful systems of tropical and sub-tropical countries shows that the main lines of development commence with the encouragement in the first place of the men of capital who can open up wide areas and obtain produce in bulk sufficient to make the market. The smaller man or in tropical parts the native sub-lessee soon follows on.

In a report to H. M. Commissioner in 1904 (see attached to continuation No 603 miscellaneous series) I draw his attention to the failure of certain plantations on the Tana river due to the flooding of the uncontrolled river, and certain works were pointed out which alone will be fully effective,

but which embrace so wide an area that while being outside the bounds of an ordinary plantation might well be undertaken by Government and charged as a tax or rental upon the land.

If the Government are not prepared to undertake public works of this nature then why not offer a concession of the thirty or forty thousand acres which such works would cover when the benefits of the same would extend to several hundred thousand which are at present entirely locked up and likely to remain so.

This is however only one of many similar instances and I would refer you to a somewhat different case as instancing what is implied by making concessions in order to develop an industry.

At the present time there are a number <sup>of</sup> commercial exploiters who are seeking concessions of forest areas for rubber, fibres etc.

Some of these are commercial men others mere company flouters, some planters others not. I am aware that the subject is surrounded by many difficulties, which however can easily be guarded against by the effectual enforcement of laws and rules as to 'beneficial occupation' planting etc.

At the present moment some of these men are desirous of planting para rubber, sisal hemp, and other products which bear immense possibilities for the building up of huge industries; but they want during the long years it takes to build up such industries as cultivated rubber plantations some return meantime to render their shareholders. They wish to purchase from the natives the natural products for these returns which are at present being purchased by Indian traders who do not plant and who furthermore have little regard to the way trees and rubber vines are destroyed.

Why should the mere trader who does not plant and does not care how he gets his product or swindles in the getting so

long as he gets it, be favoured against the planter who is willing to spend money in building up and renovating the forests rather than sapping and destroying?

I again record that I am aware the subject is surrounded with pitfalls but I contend that the commercial development of the country is only being hindered by the lack of encouragement shown to the investment of capital.

The views above submitted in all humility are not intended to convey even an attempt at any cure-all for the existing stagnation as regards progress too often not apparent in annual reports. They simply and again in all humility express a few of the more obvious openings from some of the many difficulties practically encountered.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Edwin Brand

B  
17706

C. A. P  
575

(In)

DRAFT.

E. Brand for

15 June 08

MINUTE.

Miss 12/8/08

- Mr. ~~Antobus.~~
- Mr. ~~Cox.~~
- Mr. ~~Lucas.~~
- Mr. ~~Graham.~~
- Sir ~~M. Ommanney.~~
- Mr. ~~Churchill.~~
- The Earl of ~~Elgin.~~

20/6

Mr Lambert to see.

Sir  
I am directed by  
by the Com of Agri  
to acknowledge the receipt of  
your memorandum  
of the 14<sup>th</sup> ult  
on the subject of  
Agricultural develop-  
ment in the C. A. P.  
which H. L. has favoured  
with interest.

Copy of it will  
be transmitted to  
H. M.'s Commissioner

I am  
Yours  
C. A. P.

L.C.P. No 339

576

Comr

(2)

15 June 06

Col. Patten

Sir

~~Very respectfully~~

I have the honor  
to transmit to you  
for my deors. you  
may wish to make  
the accompanying copy  
of a memorandum on  
the agricultural development  
of the L.C.P. which  
Mr. Edmund Brand  
has furnished at  
my request.

W.C. 12/6/06

2/1/06

(enc. of 14 May)

JH