

But there is any provision
in your lease returning
the job from our agency
to meet the business
and Mr Lythellton also
learns that your Syndicate
do not in fact provide
such an adequate source
of team cars as is
contemplated in the lease
I am

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DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.

C-0
34370

No. 34370

No. 481

(Subject.)

1905

Report on Govt Farms.

Aug 29

at present Paper

24598

Is memo by Director of Agriculture recy.
points raised by Board of Agriculture.

(Minutes.)

Mr. Marlatudra
, Copy to Bd. of Agriculture DE
with 34109

MAR 27/9

W.A. 144.30
at once



34370 170
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
MOMBASA

August 29th 1906

AFRICA PROTECTORATE
No. 121

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 518 of July 21st, forwarding a report by the Board of Agriculture on the Government Farms in this Protectorate, I have the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum by the Director of Agriculture answering some of the points raised in the report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. G. Walker

(In the absence of H. M. Commissioner)

Special Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London.

& Lt. W. G. ...

MEMORANDUM

It is with great interest that I receive the expressions of opinion submitted by the Secretary to the Department of Agriculture. In nearly all cases I agree with the views expressed, and when there is a difference of opinion this is easily attributed to the special circumstances not being fully understood. Some of my actions criticised require explanation:

I. Slaughtering Pleuro affected cows.
This action was undertaken very reluctantly after consultation with the Chief Veterinary Officer and the point was finally decided on the following considerations:-

- (a) The matter being taken in hand at once it was hoped that the Polled Angus might escape infection.
- (b) There was no quarantine station into which to transfer the cattle.
- (c) The farm was surrounded by settlers owning cattle, and to inoculate and retain the cattle on the farm endangered far more cattle than could be risked. Our action saved the surrounding settlers. I do not think, and would not advise, any settler to be so self-sacrificing as to slaughter his cattle for his neighbours sake, and, since observing for myself how prevalent pleuro is, I should not again expect the Government cattle to be destroyed.

II. The Bull six months ⁱⁿ Quarantine.

The considerations which decided this point were:-

- (a) For three months the bull could not justly have been given any work.
- (b) Pleuro was prevalent all over the country and I thought it was a risk encouraging stock owners to bring their stock to the bull. Not because of the danger from

the bull, of the danger from infected cattle which might have been brought.

(c) I did often and seriously consider the transfer of the bull to new premises, but in view of the danger of such a transfer I elected to delay matters. It must be remembered that a change from the farm to a place one mile off might mean infection from tick fever.

III Selling two Shorthorn Bulls.

I should have liked to have retained one bull for experimental purposes but my position was somewhat as follows:

(a) I intended and did sell one bull to Lord Delamere, who, with about 500 cows, could have made splendid use of stud animals; the second bull was sold under stress of circumstances.

(b) With our Guernsey and Hereford cows the imported bull of those breeds had to be retained.

(c) After ordering the stock from England we had serious losses on the farms involving a falling in the revenue of about £ 10 per month. Some animals had to be sold in the endeavour to make the books balance and I thought that the Shorthorn bull was least essential. It must be remembered that our herd of native stock was, owing to deaths and lack of funds, very small, and at Naivasha farm it was soon discovered that very few cows were sent to stud. This lack of cows sent for service has been a serious hindrance to the Naivasha Stud farm.

IV. Cattle and Sheep suitable for importation.

I would point out that there is in East Africa a fair supply of native stock and that neither Persian sheep nor Angora-der cattle would be much advance on the native stock. My own belief is that there is very little if any redwater in

Handwritten signature or mark.

East Africa and that the ordinary tick fever is not under certain conditions very deadly. These certain conditions are that the cattle should not be transferred from one climate to another and that newly all bought cattle receive special care. There is reason to suppose that tick fever is general nearly over all East Africa, that nearly every animal is, at one stage of its life, infected, but that with proper care and treatment death is not to be feared unless complications set in. A treatment similar to that resorted to with malarial patients seems to give satisfactory results.

In stating that "no more stock will be purchased" I certainly only referred to native stock and this decision was arrived at because of the heavy death rate which always followed on the purchase of fresh stock (sheep). As a matter of fact I have been unable to keep my word and the results have been exactly what I expected.

In the farm report the opinion was expressed that the same imported sheep failed to take the rains partly because there had been no flush of green food. This opinion seems to be confirmed by the fact that some of the ewes have taken the rain since the heavy rains and abundance of grass.

The sheep at Naivasha suffered from heartwater at an elevation of 6,300 feet; the Kisumu sheep came from a district of from 3,800 to 4,500 feet.

Sheep scab has entirely disappeared and there has been no death from fluke. The sheep nostril fly is a serious pest but is very seldom the cause of death of a sheep. In Africa the nostril fly is much more difficult to combat than in Europe because here the fly seems to be active at all seasons.

V Zebra domestication

Our experience with Zebra confirms the views set forth by

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The Secretary to the Board of Agriculture.

VI Game Reserves, Movement of Stock, etc.

I think that it is now fully recognised that a district cannot be both a place for Settlers and for game. Unfortunately the Kiang, the most dangerous game animal for carrying disease, cannot be shot without special licence. The relation of game to the Tsetse fly offers a wide field for research.

The movement of stock is fraught with great danger, the more especially when there are no well defined roads and when the country is without fencing.

VII Indigenous trees.

Indigenous trees are now receiving a trial. Some of the native trees have certainly very valuable timber properties. They are however usually slow growing and most of them refuse to grow on the water-logged lands where Eucalyptus give good results.

(Sd.) Andrew Lipton.

1905.