

EAST AFR. PROT
German E. Africa
25359

C/O
25359
REF: 28 APR 19

DOYLE, S.G.
1919
26th APRIL
Last previous Paper.
2037

CASTOR OIL SEED

Further respecting production in East Africa
Promises further information as to scheme in time to
discuss with Sir H.A. Byatt.

Printed by the Government Printer, London

Mr. Byatt by Mr. ...
The same has also the cause of the failure in B.E.A.
may be right. As regards G.E.A. we can wait for the
further letter proposed, or then I suppose he had better
be granted an interview in order that we may ascertain
what measure of first assistance or guarantee he
desires.

John receipt say we will wait the further letter
Forwarded by him

JH
30.4.19

The answer to be given definite to
letter
As proposed? ... of the
concrete letter before ...
D.S.T. (see ...)
It will be.

Reference your 20137/1919

Dated 25/4/19

99 Park Grove

Hull

26th April 1919

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Sir,



I beg to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 25/4/19 number as above, and to thank you for the trouble the Department has taken with this matter; I assure you your considerate treatment of the matter is very fully appreciated by all interested parties at this end.

Will you please inform Lord Milner, who was not at the Department when this matter was first brought up that I have been for some considerable time fully acquainted with all that has been previously attempted in the matter of Castor-Seed production in British East Africa which you so kindly summarise in your letter of yesterday.

I attach hereto copy of part of a letter addressed to Mr. Secretary Long under date 29/10/18. *Commenting thereon.*

In Hull here we deal with a larger quantity of Castor-Seed than any other city in the whole world, the large quantity of 261,476 Qrs. were dealt with in 1913 the figure for 1917 being 126,399 Qrs. the figures for 1918 are not yet available.

You will readily understand therefore that from the commercial point of view our people are fully competent to form an opinion.

Will you kindly allow me to respectfully point out to all the parties concerned several matters connected with the growing of Castor-Seed which will in a small degree show why the B.E.A. experiments were not the success that the experimenters had hoped for.

First; Imported seed was used largely in the experiments.

A perusal of reports in the commercial press will reveal that there have been failure in various parts of the globe through the attempts to use a seed that was not native to the district concerned.

Second; In the B.E.A. experiments no proper system of pruning, in the first season of growth; or at the commencement of subsequent seasons growth of the same plant, was attempted, although vitaly necessary to the success of the undertaking.

Third; The native system of cultivation although good enough for their domestic purposes, is in every way hopeless when growing on a large scale is attempted.

Fourth; From information given me by Planter who were campaigning with me I gather a good deal of the failure could be attributed to the havoc of insect pests which the system of cultivation followed left the planter

helpless to deal with. Major Symes-Thompson R.A. informed me that he was compelled to let loose his boys to cut down his whole experimental patch, burn the stub and plough it under. After viewing my system of pruning however he said he felt he would have made a success of his experiment had he but known of it at the time.

Finally; The best samples of German East African seed is superior to any known to the trade here and it must be remembered that we are dealing with seed from all the recognized sources of supply. In support of this I enclose copy of a test made in the laboratory of the Premier Oil Extracting Mills Ltd. of this city in January 1918 of 4 samples of German East seed, 1 sample of British East African seed and 2 samples of good commercial seeds that were being used in the Hull mills at the time.

The average Oil-content was found to be; 51.84, 45.03, and 49.41, percent respectively.

I may add that the German East seed was wild seed, neither so fleshy nor clean as seed that I obtained from the same seed by cultivation.

Another point worthy of notice too is that I have an assorted sample of this seed (one bag), it is now two years old and is neither rusty nor weasled *but is still in good milling condition.*

This matter has now had our very closest attention since November, 1916. I was on the ground continuously for two years and we have tapped every known source of information on the subject very fully both in Africa and elsewhere, we have no hesitation whatever in going ahead whenever the Government will allow us, and those concerned are not afraid to stake up their opinions with their money to the last shilling that experience proves necessary for all ~~necessary~~ cultivation and development, moreover they are prepared to fully carry out ~~the~~ to the letter the recommendations of the authorities on the spot on all matters connected with the Native help that they may employ. On the matter of land and proposals relating to native help I will write you fully after consulting other parties concerned in ample time for you to secure the comments of the Governor of G. E. A. before he leaves England.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

David G. Wray

The Under-Secretary

Colonial Office

Downing Street

COPY OF REPORT OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF CASTOR SEED, MADE AT THE
LABORATORY OF THE PREMIER OIL EXTRACTING MILLS LIMITED, HULL JAN. 19

Premier Oil Extracting Mills Limited Hull

Laboratory

Result of analysis of samples of Castor-seed

OIL Content Per cent

1 Star-----	49.87
2 "-----	52.97
3 "-----	51.77
4 "-----	52.76
5 "-----	45.03 average two tests, very small seed
6 "-----	49.20
7 "-----	49.63

Note

1 to 4 Star Wild German East African seed average oil content

51.84 per cent

5 Star Cultivated British East African Seed (Kijabi district)
average oil content 45.05 per cent.

6 and 7 Star commercial seeds at present being crushed in mills

Average oil content 49.41 per cent

January 1916

COPY

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Reference your 45903/1918

Siege School

North Camp

Aldershot 29/10/18

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 3/10/18 number as above.

On receipt of the observations of the various East African Authorities mentioned in your letter, I should esteem it a great favour if you will grant me the favour of an interview.

I had some conversation on this matter with Capt. Stanley Wilson M.P. and he very kindly offered to accompany me to your office at any time that was convenient to yourself. I may say that most of the parties interested in this scheme are known to Capt. Wilson personally, some of them being resident in his constituency.

As most of the interested parties are Oil-millers of repute I should imagine that they are the most competent to judge as to the purely commercial value of the undertaking.

On the question of the suitability of East Africa as a field of production, there can surely be no question as the Gaster plant grows wild in all its varieties almost everywhere throughout the territories.

The Authorities, that is in British East have conducted

experiments in Castor growing (see reports of the Dept. of Ag
but the experimenters do not appear to have had a very full
knowledge either of the best kinds of seed or even of the
habits of the plant; the very humble experiments of the
conducted under the difficulties consequent upon the due
ance of his military duties, gave results eminently satisfact

East African Planters serving with my column,
expressed their surprise at the wonderful results that were
attained.

In view of the foregoing I do admit a little
misgiving as to the nature of the observations of ^{the} authorities
the matters that you have been good enough to lay before the

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Saml. G. Doyle

H. M. Secretary of State

Colonial Office

A sample of C. A seed was taken by a file
from near Nam Doda, March 1918. This was found
to be the same as British East in the Highland at
Lagos & Malindi. I had a report from the
Colonial Office was exceeding all expectation
in the matter of the seed after a period

D. 25 359. SEA.

Ind

2

RAFT.

5th May 1949.

36 Eng.

Sir,

I am etc back the receipt of your letter of the 26th of April & to inform you that he is away but for the letter which you promise.

MINUTE.

Home 15.19
C. L. J. G.

I am

CHAS. G. BRIDLE

- Grindle
- H. Lambert
- H. Bond
- G. Fiddes
- Chery
- Witner

LF

comprehension
not with out to

D. 25 359 SEA.

Ind

RAFT.

2nd May 1919.

6 Sq.

Sir,

I am etc to ack. the receipt of your letter of the 26th of April & to inform you that he will await the further letter which you promise.

I am

W. G. B. B. B.

MINUTE.

Home. 18.19
Calcutta

- Grindle
- L. Lamb
- L. Read
- Fiddes
- W. H. W.
- W. H. W.

4f

not with out to