

1929

Kenya

No. 15424

SUBJECT

C O 533/389

Chief Veterinary Officer  
Vacancy.

Proposal to app't the Wm. Power FRENS  
late Chief Veterinary Officer Natal

Previous

15121/28

Subsequent

16245/30

118. copies of recommendations received from Dir. of Agric. and Ch. Vet. Offr., regarding the appointment of Mr. V.H. Power, late Ch. Vet. Offr. Natal to be Ch. Vet. Offr. Kenya, req. authority by telegraph to offer post to Mr. Power who he would, should suffer no abatement of pension from Union Government.

To deal first with one or two points of detail:-

(i) The original suggestion was that Mr. Power should be appointed from the 21st of April when Col. Doherty left. Col. Doherty's leave, however, does not expire until the end of July. Still, if there were an overlap, it would not be serious.

(ii) The Estimates provide £1100 for the post, and £100 as personal to Col. Doherty. The proposal is to pay Mr. Power £1200 on a non-pensionable basis. It should be noted, however, that the salary of £1100 was fixed in connection with the revision of salaries, when the salaries of the similar posts in Uganda and Tanganyika Territory were also fixed at £1100, the man in Tanganyika Territory getting, like Col. Doherty, a personal allowance of £100 in addition. It is, therefore, a question whether £1200 can properly be offered without the consent of the Legislative Council, and whether, in any case, it is desirable to depart from uniformity with Uganda and Tanganyika as regards the basic salary.

The O.A.G. obviously doesn't like the suggestion of appointing an outsider, but after a wrestle with his expert advisers, does not feel able to resist their recommendation. There is, however, a suggestion, see X.9547/29, that Mr. Power should be employed temporarily in S. Leone, but presumably having regard to the better climatic conditions, and the higher emoluments in Kenya, he would probably prefer

*A. S. ...  
23*

*No. copy on Mr. Power  
will be non-...  
rel*

*If we have a  
non-pensionable  
C.V.O. it may  
be well be advised?  
But if a pensionable  
man is the  
essential, we  
will prefer £1100.  
rel*

the <sup>4</sup>matter if he had the choice. There is no suggestion in the despatch, or enclosures, <sup>might be for the moment</sup> that suitable candidates from elsewhere in the Colonial Service <sup>but</sup> can clearly, in a post of this <sup>such</sup> nature, have any claims which will have to be considered. As regards Major Brassey-Edwards, his reports have hitherto been thoroughly satisfactory, and he was considered to be good enough to recommend for C.V.O. in Nigeria and Uganda. It seems a little hard on him that he should "find damnation" only when there is a possibility ~~of~~ considering him for promotion in his own Colony. The argument apparently is that he is not suitable for Kenya having regard to the European element there, but that he is quite suited to undertake the direction of the native live-stock affairs, and Col. Doherty indeed suggests that the S. of S. should be approached and promotion found for him <sup>and</sup> in a Dependency. In order to enable the matter to be fully considered, it would seem necessary to ask the Promotions Dept. to draw up a list of possible candidates in the Colonial Service, and also to get advice on the technical considerations involved, particularly in so far as they relate to the necessity for Mr. Power's special experience, and the alleged unsuitability of Major Brassey-Edwards having regard to the local requirements. Perhaps Mr. Creasy could arrange for an opinion on these matters to be obtained from Dr. Horner Andrews.

All this, however, would take time, and perhaps the best course in the first instance would be to telegraph to the O.A.G. saying that

*Can't do it*

*Col. Doherty's reports available in India at the moment J.P.D.*

*He has gone to Ireland need*

*2. I think [?] - of go on the basis that if we look for a replacement man the salary will be £1100. need*

*Can't do it (No 2) did not say that*

the S. of S. cannot give an immediate decision as it will be necessary to give full consideration not only to the claims of Major Brassey-Edwards, but also to those of any other suitable candidates elsewhere in the Colonial Service. [The telegram might also point out that the salary of the post provided in the Estimates is only £1100, and that the S. of S. doubts whether it is either necessary or desirable to increase the amount, <sup>that</sup> in any case, it would seem necessary to secure the consent of the Legislative Council before this were done, and ask for the O.A.G.'s further observations on this point.]

*J.H. Allen 7/5/25*

There would be no difficulty in consulting Dr. Andrews, as suggested, but I cannot say what personal knowledge he has of the individuals concerned.

It is unfortunate that the Kenya Government have already, to some extent, prejudiced this question by approaching Mr. Power semi-officially. At a time when, following upon the Report of Lord Lovat's Veterinary Committee, we hope that it will be possible to raise the prestige and status of the Colonial Veterinary Services and so to attract better men to them, we should, I think, demand

*I think that his [?] is all right in this respect - he would be a good man and he would be a good man. I think it is better to have a man who is a good man than a man who is a good man.*

demand a very strong case to be made out before letting one of the few senior posts go to an outsider, to the discouragement of officers already in the Services, and it is perhaps relevant to recall, in this connection, the remarks which the Closer Union Commission made in their Report (vide pages 137-140 of Cmd.3234) regarding the need for adequate chances of promotion in the East African Services, even though these remarks were directed chiefly to the Administrative Services <sup>and</sup> of the Secretariat.

We ~~would~~ <sup>could</sup> certainly have put up a list of candidates for the present vacancy from within the Colonial Services, and Major Brassey-Edwards would have taken a high place in such a list in view of his consistently good reports.

We know from Sir Arnold Theiler that Mr. Power is a good man (vide (1) in L.2247/29 Sierra Leone). As Mr. Allen points out, however, the Acting Governor clearly does not like the proposal to bring Mr. Power in over the head of Major Brassey-Edwards, and there is, I submit, very real objection to bringing in outsiders, except when absolutely necessary. In the circumstances, it may be thought desirable that Sir Edward Grigg's views should be sought before further steps are taken. (Both the Acting Governor and the Director of Agriculture appear to think that the Secretary of State would be able to sanction Mr. Power continuing to draw his pension if he were given this appointment, in Kenya. The

Secretary

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Secretary

Secretary of State has, of course, no control over this, which must be decided according to the particular law under which Mr. Power draws his pension, and I gather from Mr. Hunter that this would have to be left to the Union Government.)

G. Gray  
30.5.59.

Col. D. clearly called a baby in two ways, & as Mr. Theiler was wrong, he saw what I had not then read this dispatch. Col. D. explained that he would indeed have to recommend against Mr. Brassey-Edwards' promotion, but he said that he could not recommend him for C.V.O. in such a country as Kenya, as he was absolutely lacking in fact & could not deal with the settlers. He was also difficult nowadays in regard to suggestions made by others, whether senior juniors. Now was there any other man now in Kenya whom Col. D. could recommend for this particular post, but Mr. Theiler (7<sup>th</sup> in the list) with nearly 500 & of so. certainly go far - at present too junior for promotion

As to Mr. Powers, Col. D. explained the reasons for his recommendation as given in No. 1, but he amplified this in 2 respects -  
 (a) Mr. Powers has had to handle difficult white farmers in Natal. Col. D. had himself heard him at a meeting with these men, when they were all out for the C.V.O.'s head on a charge, and he was enormously impressed with Mr. Powers' tactful & skillful handling of the meeting.

(b) Mr. Holen, the Dir. of Agric., under whom the C.V.O. in Kenya works, is a difficult man to get on with. Mr. Powers knows one another well, & would work together.

I told Col. D. (1) that when there was such a vacancy as this, we generally begin by asking Mr. Gov. if he wished to recommend any of his own men, and if he did not recommend such an one, then the Gov. would naturally look for a man elsewhere -

(2) that assuming that in other cases the best man was not to be picked by local promotion, it may be necessary to follow that it wd. go to Mr. Powers - Mr. Gov. would then go round the Colonial Service. Col. D. officiously agreed, but he said that he thought it wd. be difficult to find a man with qualifications equal to those of Mr. Powers for the post under first.

Col. D. then said that if Mr. Powers' promotion could exchange, say, with the D.V.S. of T.S., that would be a possible solution, as Mr. Powers' promotion could mean a very well for natives. I said at once that it might be possible in certain cases if not fitted for promotion in his own Colony, an officer wd. not be promoted outside it.

This is quite head  
 the man - unless  
 we are to give of the  
 idea of having an  
 agent C. D. admit  
 Service at all

KT

I do not altogether  
 agree

KT

(1) Paragraph (b) as proposed  
 by Mr. Holen.

(2) The head copy of this Disfranchisement Bill is to be officially read whether he himself is prepared to endorse the

Important. We  
 do stand a  
 possibility of the  
 head read & study  
 first.  
 Good

Recommendation that the following  
advantages should be placed on  
the report - making it clear  
that the proposed  
should be presented with another  
Colony of Protectorate in order  
to release Kenya, although he  
will be considered as suitable  
vacancies occur elsewhere  
but not this passing over will go against him  
(b) that if in the only advantage is not  
to have the report, I.A.S. will  
wish to consider the claims of  
candidates in the Col. Services  
generally & that he will much  
prefer to select an officer  
who has done well in the  
Col. Services rather than  
adopt the proposal just  
forwarded, but he cannot get  
say how ~~the~~ the qualifications  
of Mr. Parnson will compare  
with those of Veterinary  
Officers in the Col. Services,  
as ~~possible candidates~~ have not yet been  
considered.

I had this through Mr. Parnson,  
as Col. Parnson also says  
that & may have mentioned  
this matter - & in any event  
Mr. Parnson may have views:

Acc. Parnson  
31.5.23

6  
At present, it is not certain that the matter should  
be discussed only in the context of the  
the work of the Parnson Officer.  
The claim of officers in the Colonial Services should  
in my opinion, be simply considered upon an  
introduction is made from outside. The circumstances  
in Kenya require that a man possessed of  
knowledge & skill should be selected and I  
support the proposals made by Mr. Parnson  
above.

P. Parnson

31/5/23  
I cannot agree with (a), unless emphasis is laid  
on the words "in order". I mean that the  
proposed means he can get with the  
Kenya settlers might be a success in some  
Colony not favoured with the presence of the  
rather particular class. M. J. D. D.  
1/6/23

Telegraph 50.2.23 as per

Parnson proposes, & let us  
say that to Sir E. Enry. I agree  
with the decision that Mr. Parnson  
& Parnson should not be found  
due to the presence of his  
household members, but the  
other matter has been from  
provision for him

I should have been for later date

is of importance in that it  
is extraordinarily important  
in Kenya, and if the Ministry  
(Edmond) is not selected the  
A.S. should at all costs be  
a man who will be active on  
this side of the world.

When the letter to Sir E.  
Grigg has gone, the Union  
law as to abolition of  
pension on retirement must  
shored be looked up.

W.S. 16.29

Let to You Kenya 4 June 29

To Sir E. Grigg <sup>1926</sup> conf  
(in copy 'No 1' for return)

8 JUN 1929

W. H. Ambrose Smith

As see above - As at  
end of page 6 of the rep.  
2 A - ~~W.S. 16.29~~  
to the Pension

Will you please go with  
this - Consult Mr. Tait  
and Mr. ... <sup>1926</sup> ~~12.6.28~~

Mr. Tait  
I have consulted Mr. Tait and  
Mr. Jefferys. Both are of the opinion that, though  
it is impossible to give a definite interpretation  
of the law without reference to the Union of S.A.,  
yet it seems most unlikely that Mr. Tait will  
suffer any abatement of pension in view of  
§ 92 (3) of the Union Act No. 27/1923, a copy  
of which is enclosed.

W. H. Ambrose Smith  
13/6/29

Dress

Sir E. Grigg may refer to this  
today.

W.S.  
11.6.29

Sir E. Grigg will send a written  
reply to the letter of 4 June.  
He will probably recommend  
that Mr. Ambrose Smith's pension  
become C.V.O., as it were  
a promotion - If he does  
well, so much the better,  
he might then improve his  
chances of promotion to  
another salary. If not  
well, his 20 years' long  
service will be commensurate  
with 1920 and he will be  
compulsorily retired.  
Wait for letter. W.S.  
11.6.29



4. Sir Edward Figg (50) 17 June 1929  
Submit recommendations as to the proposed  
promotion of Mr. Henry Edwards. Consider  
part of letter should be communicated to him  
when the appointment is made.

On this letter we should be  
justified in preferring  
Mr. Henry Edwards to Mr.  
Paver. I put up a  
vt. as I suppose the necessary  
job. want go to Am. (not)  
but in the event of the  
Ct. wishing to recommend  
some one else in the Col.  
Services other than Mr.  
Henry Edwards, we  
should have to consider the  
position afresh in regard  
to Mr. Paver?

Rec Parkman  
19.6.29

IF taken  
19.6.29

W.C.S. 20.6.29

If a copy. Henry Edwards  
acting then to the  
adv. of C.V.O. to the

Attached  
original  
H.A.

Henry Edwards - del minutes 8  
on Praxton's file, will the  
be transferred to this file?

All Parkman  
17.7.29

Notes

[We can send inf. later with  
copy of (4) to see]  
all

5. To O.A.G. del <sup>Conf</sup> cons. 2 July '29

7/10

6. To Sir Edward Figg (hand)

7. Mr. DeLanty (1/6 and)

22 JUL 1929  
(see 1929 EA)

See at 1/6 when  
reply fact. to 15

8. to a

X. 15724/28 Kenya

- Mr. Deerp 1.7.28.
- Mr. Jermies 2/7
- Mr. Bottomley 27 June
- Sir E. Haldane
- Sir J. Shackleton
- Sir G. Grenville
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Lovat
- Mr. Amery

REC JUL 1928

boxed & sent 4-25 p.m. 2 July '29

2 JUL 1928

XEA

DRAFT. Case file.  
Governor  
Nairobi

fully confidential your conf. slip of 20 April no. 53 I have referred to GREGG who states that to his knowledge Messrs Edwards is a capable conscientious hardworking & experienced officer & he understands that health is now satisfactory & he does not consider want a custom check of fact in relation with European farmers and other in form formation of new grounds he will have opportunity of pressing his fitness for post of Chief Veterinary Officer & I ask to request Govt call upon him to return on completing 2 years service next year & if he find not be successful

Written a long telegram that we have promised to telegraph & in view of Sir D. Riggs's request we cannot send it down

to handle European farmers  
his experience as Chief Veterinary  
officer would improve his chance  
for transfer while if he had the  
other means it had been possible  
to retire him altogether with credit  
he does not seem to completely  
agree.

I agree generally with ARS  
I am satisfied that I had not the  
justified in passing over the  
award for this post. I had a  
glad thought if you wd. offer the  
post to him at £1100 p.a.  
and telegraph whether he accepts.

As he has seen you Sir.  
I wd. wish him also to see  
this telegram

Acce

to handle European finances  
his experience as Chief Veterinary  
officer would improve his chance  
of transfer while it is better  
to retain him at present  
he does not do completely  
service.

I agree generally with ARSAC  
I am satisfied that I saw while  
justified in passing over Brassey  
Edwards for this post. I saw he  
glad though if you wd. offer the  
post to him at £1100 p.a.  
and telegraph whether he accepts.

As he has seen you Sir.  
I saw with him also to see  
this telegram

/ seen

10  
a

*Mr. Parry*  
*Mr. Parry*  
*Mr. Parry*

There is a vacancy in Kenya for a Chief Veterinary Officer in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel Doherty who will be retiring at the end of his leave. The salary of the post is £1,100 per annum.

In his despatch of the 20th April, the Acting Governor, with obvious reluctance, recommends that Mr. W.M. Power, M.R.C.V.S., late Chief Veterinary Officer in Natal, should be offered the appointment in preference to the local candidate who might naturally expect to succeed to the vacancy, namely, Major H.F. Brassey-Edwards, who is now Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer in Kenya.

It seems to have been felt in Kenya that while Major Brassey-Edwards would be admirable for the native Veterinary <sup>work</sup> Services, he would not by temperament be capable of handling the European settlers who are apt to be somewhat difficult and exacting where veterinary matters are concerned. On the other hand, Mr. Power, of Natal is known personally to the retiring Chief Veterinary officer who speaks highly of his ability to handle white farmers in Natal, and there is also the point that Mr. Power is known personally to Mr. Holm, Director of Agriculture in Kenya under whom, as Chief Veterinary Officer, he would have to serve. Mr. Holm is not a very easy man to get on with, and the belief that Mr. Power would work easily with him was rather attractive to the Department when considering the Acting Governor's despatch.

The matter has now been referred to Sir Edward Gigg who says that Major Brassey-Edwards is, to his knowledge, a capable, conscientious, hard-working and experienced

*Dr. Grigg mentions  
two drawbacks: uncertain health, and "a certain  
lack of tact and savoir faire in dealing with  
farmers in the settled areas". He understands,  
however, that Major Brassey-Edwards' health is  
now re-established, and he does not consider that  
the second objection should bar him from promo-  
tion.*

*Not at any later date.*

experienced officers. Sir Edward Grigg mentions two drawbacks: uncertain health, and "a certain lack of tact and savoir faire in dealing with farmers in the settled areas". He understands, however, that Major Brassey-Edwards' health is now re-established, and he does not consider that the second objection should bar him from promotion. Sir Edward Grigg also points out that Major Brassey-Edwards will have completed 20 years' service in 1930, so that if promoted now he will have the opportunity of proving his fitness for the post, while the Colonial Government will have the opportunity of calling upon him to retire next year should the appointment not prove a success.

The following is a summary of Major Brassey-Edwards' record:-

Born May, 1883; married, 2 children; educated at Marlborough Private College, Liverpool, Wick College, Edinburgh; and Royal Veterinary College, London, 1903-7; took a post-graduate course in 1908. Tutor at Royal Veterinary College, 1907-8; was then attached as temporary Veterinary Officer to Egyptian service; appointed Veterinary Officer, Kenya, 1910; Senior - do - 1920; Deputy Chief - do - 1924. (£1,000)

CONFIDENTIAL  
1927

Reports O.A.G. Denham:- "A very good officer who has shown considerable administrative and supervising ability in work in the Native Reserves".

CONFIDENTIAL  
1927  
O.A.

Sir E. Denham: "A capable officer and is strongly recommended for promotion

has

CONFIDENTIAL  
1927

Has shown special capacity in work in the Native Reserves".  
O.A.G. Denham :- "Very competent and zealous and deserves promotion".

It has been ascertained from the Promotions Department that there are no Veterinary Officers in the Colonial Service whom they would wish to put up against Major Brassey-Edwards for the post of Chief Veterinary Officer in Kenya.

The papers are therefore now sent forward with this minute for approval to making an offer to Major Brassey-Edwards

acc Parkinson  
28. 6. 29

I agree - the fact that Mr. Brassey-Edwards is keen on active veterinary work is to the good, & I have no fear that he will neglect the other side.

As to Mr. Holden's personality - I have little to say, with the greater importance now attached to veterinary work the V.O. will get better & better than when just before the war - the two officers then holding the two posts were in better contact. Had Mr. Holden's Veterinary C. been recommended that in all cases the very smallest of things the two should be independent, but in Kenya that would work well Mr. Holden goes.

and I agree  
W.C.S. 27.6.29  
S.G. 28.6.29

1735

17.6.29

4

RECEIVED  
18 JUN 1929  
COL. OFFICE

115, EATON SQUARE,  
S.W.1.

My dear Bottomley,

SC

I have given very careful consideration to the advice of the Director of Agriculture, forwarded by the O.A.C., that Brassey Edwards should be passed over and an officer from somewhere promoted to the vacant post of C.V.O.

Brassey Edwards is to my knowledge a capable, conscientious, hard-working and experienced officer. He has two drawbacks - uncertain health (he was very ill last year) and a certain lack of tact and savoir faire in dealing with farmers in the settled areas. I understand, however, that his health is now established, and I do not consider that he

Copy O.A.C. Conf. 9 JUL 1929 (1735) m 1735/EA

Recd 22 JUL 1929 1735/EA

The second objection should bar him from promotion.

He will, I understand, have completed 20 years' service some time next year. If promoted now, he will have the opportunity of proving his fitness for the post, while the Colony will have the opportunity of making a change a year hence should the appointment not prove successful after that period. If he should prove unfit owing through inability to handle the European element, his experience as a C.V.O. will improve his chances of transfer to another Colony should he ever wish to make a change. On the other hand, if for health or other reasons it should seem

115, EATON SQUARE,  
S.W.1.

better to retire from altogether, that can be done on the completion of his 20 years.

He knows, I understand, the recommendation forwarded by the O.A.C. I think therefore that the gist of this letter should be communicated to him when the appointment is made.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Gigg.

\* Mr E Gigg has not yet  
made up his mind. I should  
like to see the report of the  
Col. considerably as well  
as the papers. All P. 17/1/29



15/7/46 1574/15

Mr. Lee 5/10/46

Mr. Allen 4/16

Mr. P... 5/16

Mr. Bottomley 5/16

Sir E. Harding

Sir J. ...

Sir D. ...

Sir C. ...

Sir J. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Lord Lond.

Mr. Amery

House No 4

RECEIVED  
R 5-JUN

DRAFT.

Edward

Lt. Col. Sir Edward A. Gigg

K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O. (M.C.)

q/o S.M. Eastern African  
Office Trade & Super  
Office

Ref No 53

from O.A.C. 20<sup>th</sup> April 1938

(for return)

1989/EA-22 JUL 1938

Copies to O.A.C. Conf

which has been received  
from the Acting Governor  
Kenya, regarding the  
selection of a successor to  
Lieut. Colonel A. G. Doherty  
on his ~~imminent~~ retirement  
from the post of Chief  
Commissioner of the  
Kenya  
2. It will be seen

DOHERTY

Commissioner of the Kenya

2/1/46

the Sir Jacob ...





15724/1929 Kenya

- Mr. Lee 3/6/29
- Mr. Allen 4/6
- Mr. [unclear]
- X Mr. [unclear] 5.6 f
- Mr. E. Harding
- Sir J. Shuckburgh
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Sore
- Lord Lovat
- Mr. Amery

Douglas Street

June, 1929

Received 11 20 AM  
76 29

5-100  
[Stamp]

Your Confidential. Your despatch of

the 20th April Confidential No. 53, I

~~will consider carefully~~ ~~recommendations~~ in para 4

~~I am unable to give an immediate~~  
~~will be carefully considered but immediate~~  
cannot be given  
decision on the matter, as it will be

necessary to give full consideration

not only to the claims of person

mentioned in ~~second~~ <sup>2</sup> paragraph ~~your~~

despatch, but also to those of any

other suitable candidates elsewhere in the

Colonial Services. Will telegraph

further as soon as possible.

**DRAFT. TELEGRAM**  
**CODE CODE.**

Governor,

Nairobi.

2. Jm/5



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA

KENYA  
No. 53

CONFIDENTIAL.

RECEIVED  
13 MAY 1929  
COL. OFFICE

20 April, 1929.

*And (ad) with Tel. 27 June/29  
Copy 1 in 6/29 - 8 June/29  
See and Tel. 2 July/29*

Fr. D. of C. Conf. of  
19.2.29 and Enc. 2

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No.165 of the 23rd March, and to transmit for your information copies of recommendations which have been received from the Director of Agriculture and Chief Veterinary Officer regarding the appointment of Mr. W.M. Power, F.R.C.V.S., late Chief Veterinary Officer, Natal, to the post of Chief Veterinary Officer in this Colony upon the impending retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel A.G. Doherty, M.C.

2. On receipt of these views a personal interview was arranged with the officers in question in the course of which emphasis was laid upon the undesirability of introducing personnel from outside the Colony - particularly pensioners of other Governments - to fill senior posts, to which officers already in this Service had a prior claim provided they possessed the requisite qualifications. Attention was drawn further to the consistently satisfactory reports which they had furnished to Government at various times upon the capabilities and industry of Major H.H. Brassey-Edwards, the present Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. Reference in this connection was made to the marginally noted correspondence, from which it

- Kenya Conf. desp. No. 6  
of 10. 1. 20.
- Kenya Conf. desp. No. 55  
of 18. 3. 20.
- Secretary of State's  
Conf. desp. of 19. 2. 20.
- Lord Milner's Conf.  
desp. of 14. 5. 20.
- Kenya Conf. desp. No. 3  
of 3. 1. 23.
- Kenya desp. No. 561 of  
29. 5. 26.
- Kenya desp. Conf. No. 44  
of 29. 4. 27.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON S.W.

will

- 2 -

will be observed that Major Brassey-Edwards in fact had been strongly supported in his applications for vacancies in the administrative appointments of Chief Veterinary Officer in Nigeria and the Uganda Protectorate.

3. Both the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Veterinary Officer gave an assurance that these aspects had received their fullest and most sympathetic consideration, but that they had both independently reached the conclusion that the interests of Kenya would be best served by the appointment of Mr. Power to control veterinary activities in this Colony. Stress was laid on Mr. Power's wide experience of East Coast Fever legislation and control under Natal conditions, which were stated to be similar to those in Kenya, and the value to this Government at the present time of such experience involving as it did the administration of considerable public funds. They were still both prepared to recommend Major Brassey-Edwards as eminently suitable for directing a veterinary service in a purely native territory but represented that his work here recently had evinced an unexpected lack of judgment in important matters, which precluded them from suggesting his claims for advancement to control the Veterinary Department in Kenya. Mr. Power on the other hand had proved a most successful administrator under similar conditions in Natal and despite his age was still virile and active. The accompanying memorandum by Colonel Doherty, in which Mr. Helm has expressed concurrence, amplifies their attitude, and in further support of his views the former states:-

(a)

- (a) That on his return from leave after a prolonged absence due to ill-health, the organization of the Department was not on sound lines and required considerable re-adjustments before a proper balance was restored;
- (b) That in the matter of the most important work of rinderpest control and immunization, the introduction of new methods without sufficient consideration of the practical aspect (a grave lack of judgment on the part of Major Brassey-Edwards) had resulted in a serious condition of affairs affecting large numbers of cattle a condition which has only been straightened out with great difficulty.

I need only add that neither of these officers was prepared to subscribe to the suggestion that the defects noted in Major Brassey-Edwards' work, consisting of a growing lack of tact and judgment, could be attributed in their entirety to the failing health he experienced during his last tour.

4. I have informed Major Brassey-Edwards of the opinions held by Colonel Doherty and Mr. Holm and I transmit a copy of a protest I have received from him in this connection. Major Brassey-Edwards joins issue on the <sup>statement</sup> ~~argument~~ that conditions in Natal and here are similar. He states that the native stock problem in Kenya is entirely different in importance and magnitude to such problems in Natal. Major Brassey-Edwards has had considerable <sup>experience</sup> ~~service~~ in eliciting the assistance of natives in dealing with their stock diseases. He points out that Pleuro-Pneumonia and Rinderpest are as important factors

Protest.

in the cattle industry as East Coast Fever. He says that although Mr. Power is an able expert in some directions it does not follow that he would be a good Head of a Department. Major Brassey-Edwards tells me that he has on no occasion been informed that any of his work has been unsatisfactory and that he has had no chance of defending himself. He further emphasizes the discontent which will follow on a block of promotion caused by bringing in an outsider as Chief Veterinary Officer. He instances the fact that he has been acting as Chief Veterinary Officer in the aggregate for a very considerable period during the last ten years without any complaint being made. The campaign against East Coast Fever depends on the enactment of the Compulsory Dipping and Fencing bill and the administration of the provisions of those bills will depend on the institution of a Government Land Bank or some other institution to supply the capital required at a low rate of interest. It would therefore appear that an expert in the administration of legislation aimed at the prevention of East Coast Fever is not immediately necessary. Major Brassey-Edwards naturally feels intensely the prospect of being passed over. I feel myself in some difficulty in the matter. I do not place too much dependence on Colonel Doherty's views. He is a sick man, and it is possible that his judgment is warped. Major Brassey-Edwards has always appeared to me to be an able veterinarian and a capable administrator. His manner possibly militates against him. It is difficult, however, to advise against the opinion of my experts, and therefore in deference to the considered opinion of these two officers, who after all should be in the

best



best position to advise me in a question of this importance. I am prepared to waive my objections to their recommendation and, if you agree, shall be glad to receive your authority by telegraph to offer Mr. Power the post of Chief Veterinary Officer in a non-pensionable capacity on the usual Class A Agreement at £1,200 per annum after the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Doherty. This embodies the substantive salary of the post as at present approved together with the personal allowance of £100 per annum now drawn by the existing holder of the post.

B

I am also of opinion that Mr. Power, if appointed, should suffer no abatement of the pension which he draws from the Union Government.

5. I enclose the usual form of particulars of the vacant office in accordance with standing regulations.

1011.

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your most obedient, humble servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

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ACTING GOVERNOR.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
P.O. BOX NO. 323,  
NAIROBI. 19th February, 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Hon. Ag. Colonial Secretary,

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL BOBERTY - CHIEF  
VETERINARY OFFICER.

Ref. Your Let. 19/224/7A of 4th January, 1929.

With reference to your request for a recommendation as to the post of Chief Veterinary Officer shortly to become vacant, I discussed the matter with His Excellency the Acting Governor and with his approval wrote to Mr. W. M. Power, M.R.C.V.S., a "Private and Confidential" letter as per copy enclosed,

I have now received a telegraphic reply which reads:-

"Yes P terms conditions mentioned your  
"letter Power."

2. Whilst recognising fully the claims which Mr. Brassey Edwards may have for promotion I am of opinion that the opportunity should be taken to secure Mr. Power's services, having regard to his wide experience in veterinary services and particularly his extensive knowledge of measures adopted for the control of East Coast Fever. At this juncture when the administration of the new Cattle Cleansing Ordinance is contemplated, together with its complement, the Fencing Ordinance, I consider that the appointment of Mr. Power is likely to strengthen the Veterinary Department,

3. I have known Mr. Power for more than 20 years during which he has been Senior Veterinary Officer in the Natal Province of the Union of South Africa. He is a man of ability and good personal attributes and he is known to possess remarkable tact in dealing with difficult situations arising from the outbreak and spread of disease.

It is within my knowledge that he has had a good record of service in the Department of Agriculture in South Africa, from which he retired on superannuation a few weeks ago, and although he is now 55 years of age, he is virile and active.

4. I have therefore to recommend that sanction of the Secretary of State be sought by cable for the post to be offered direct by this Government to Mr. Power, at a non-pensionable salary of £1200 per annum with free house and the usual privileges, on Agreement "A". Further, that an endeavour should be made for him to take over the status of the post immediately on Colonel Doherty's departure on or about April 21st, 1924.

*A. S. Doherty*

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

Hon. Ag. Colonial Secretary,  
 thro' Hon. Director of Agriculture.

I know Mr. Power personally and am acquainted with his professional qualifications and ability. This recommendation has my full support.

*A.S.*

*A.S. Doherty*  
 CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.

COPY ONLY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
P.O. BOX NO. 323,  
NAIROBI.  
(Copy of letter sent on 21/1/29)

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

My dear Power,

You will be sorry to hear that Doherty's health is such that he is on medical advice retiring in April. He was operated on at home and I gather that there is a recurrence of the trouble.

The question of his successor has to be considered. Ordinarily either Brassay-Edwards, his deputy, would succeed or the Secretary of State would choose someone. Doherty and I have discussed the matter and both of us - each independently - favour a recommendation being made that the post should be offered to you. In the first place it would be greatly to the advantage of the Colony at this stage, when we are about to administer new legislation dealing with "Cattle Dipping" and Fencing, both related to the control of East Coast Fever, that we should have at least for a few years one with your wide knowledge and experience particularly of E.C.F. Secondly, Brassay-Edwards has been rather a sick man for a considerable time - indeed he is at present at home under medical treatment.

It occurred to us that you might care to come for say, one or more "tours" - each tour of service is at present 2 1/2 years, then leave. At your age the appointment would not be unreasonable, and I should imagine that a salary of about £1200 p.a. plus free house &c. would be offered. The

26

-2-

substantive salary of the post if £1100 - Doherty draws in addition a personal allowance of £100.

A

I imagine that in the special circumstances of your age etc., you would simple be asked to enter into an agreement as per the enclosed copy - which is the one in use throughout the service for appointments until they are made pensionable, and I understand that in the case of officers drawing a pension from another Government the Secretary of State sanctions the drawing of both salary and pension.

You will understand that I am not yet in a position to say that the post would be offered to you if you said that you would be prepared to accept it. The proposal after consideration by this Government would have to go <sup>to</sup> the Secretary of State for sanction. But it would be helpful if to know your views before I put up any recommendation. Would you kindly send me a reply by cable - addressed Hohn, Agricola, Nairobi - the reply "Yes" or "No" might suffice.

With kind regards and in the personal hope that you may view the gesture favourably,

Yours sincerely,

(sd) Alex. Hohn.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Hon'ble Ag. C.S.  
Thro' Hon.D. of A.

Ref. Appointment of my successor in the  
office of C. V. O. Kenya Colony.  
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With reference to the interview with H.E. yesterday morning at which you were present with the Hon. Director of Agriculture, I submit the following reasons for my recommendation.

Mr. Power has been Chief Veterinary Officer of Natal for many years. He is well known to those concerned with live stock affairs in South Africa to be an officer of outstanding administrative ability. Throughout his service Mr. Power has always kept his professional knowledge up to date. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The main difficulties of veterinary administration in Natal are very similar to those in Kenya. The direction of veterinary affairs which enables Government to hold the scales balanced amongst conflicting interests is a task that calls for deep knowledge, sound judgment and experience of a definite kind.

In my opinion Mr. Power possesses in a peculiarly suitable manner all these qualities and I confidently recommend him as my successor in office.

In making this recommendation, I have very actively in my mind the claims for promotion of Mr. H. H. Brassey-Edwards my Deputy. While I would recommend him as Director of veterinary services in a native territory such as Uganda or Nigeria I would hesitate to recommend him to control veterinary activities in this Colony.

During

During the past year or so, I have noticed an increasing ~~loss~~ in his work together with a lack of judgment in important matters. His sense of proportion is lacking and also that balance which is so necessary when weighing up important considerations on which advice to Government should be based in a Colony like Kenya.

I would be glad indeed if the Secretary of State could be approached and promotion found for Mr. Brassey-Edwards in a Dependency requiring direction of native live stock affairs.

sd.A.G.Doherty,

C. V. O.

ELBURGON.

5th March, 1929.

Hon. Ag. C.S.

Forwarded. I am in accordance with Col. Doherty's views.

sd. Alex Holm.

5/3/29



8th April, 1929.

His Excellency the Acting Governor,  
The Hon. Director of Agriculture,  
The Hon. the Chief Veterinary Officer.

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Your Excellency,

I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me to comment upon the despatch to the Secretary of State, in regard to the future appointment of the Chief Veterinary Officer of this Colony.

I understand a recommendation is made to the Secretary of State by the Hon. Director of Agriculture and the Hon. Chief Veterinary Officer, that because, in their opinion I do not possess balanced judgment and sense of proportion to the degree necessary for the direction and administration of Veterinary Services in a Colony like Kenya, the name of Mr. Power, late Chief of the Natal Veterinary Service, is mentioned as a suitable occupier of the post.

Your Excellency did appreciate the terrible shock I received on being informed of these recommendations, after nearly twenty years diligent service in this Colony, in that you gave me the time to prepare a considered reply.

I had hoped to be recommended for promotion to the Head of the Veterinary Services in this Colony and am greatly surprised at the proposals of the Hon. Director of Agriculture and the Hon. Chief Veterinary Officer, because, during the

Whole of my services, I have not been told or informed that my work lacks judgment or sense of proportion when acting in an administrative capacity. I have believed the results of my work had the confidence of Government.

The reasons for feeling I had this confidence are stated in the Despatch to the Secretary of State, which in brief are:-

Two recommendations for promotion on transfer as Chief Veterinary Officer to other Colonies by Their Excellencies the Governors of the Colony, Sir Edward Northey and the late Sir Robert Coryndon, and by the Heads of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments.

Recommended by His Excellency the Acting Governor Sir Charles Hume and the Hon. Director of Agriculture as an honorarium for services rendered to the Agricultural Department. Granted honorarium by the Secretary of State - a rare instance in this Colony.

Acted in the administrative capacity of Director of Agriculture since, Chief Veterinary Officer and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer fourteen times, and sworn member of Legislative Council twice.

All these positions were gazetted.

For war services, a mention in despatches, promoted to Major for original work and organisation in base depots.

I have served in an administrative capacity at Headquarters since 1918 and for several periods during the pre-war and war periods. Gazetted Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer from September, 1924.



In consequence of the views of the Hon. Member of His Excellency the Governor in 1919, under special circumstances for an emergency, I believe the Hon. Director of Agriculture made representations in regard to my judgment and administrative and executive ability which are in complete contradiction to his present opinion.

It can be proved that many of the schemes introduced by the Veterinary Services into the settled and native areas have been organized and administered by me.

To give an instance - when a degree necessary for direction and administrative ability can be stated - was the introduction of the Rinderpest Service into the settled areas, and founded on my experience of a similar service in native territories.

At the time this Rinderpest Service was introduced, the feeling against such a measure was considerable, as unsatisfactory results obtained and losses suffered from inoculations against rinderpest, gave rise to an agitation for an enquiry. The first inoculation under my supervision took place in a district where, at the same time, the Hon. Director of Agriculture and the Hon. Chief Veterinary Officer were holding an enquiry into alleged losses of stock from rinderpest inoculations. If balanced judgment was required, I maintain the situation, as disclosed, demanded it. The Rinderpest Service has proved a great success, as references to the Departmental annual reports will support.

On three other occasions I was able to render the Department similar service during a critical time.

In 1918 I introduced the scheme of the opening of native reserves for the outlet of stock through Veterinary Quarantine Stations, which hitherto have been closed, for the supply of tusk and beef oxen for soldier settlers.

I was the first veterinarian to obtain the confidence of the native peoples and introduce protective measures against stock disease.

In spite of great difficulties, I maintain great advances were made in administration during the last period I acted as Chief Veterinary Officer for almost a year in 1927/1928.

I submit progress was made by the framing of the Cattle Cleansing and Fencing Acts, and the report on the reduction of livestock in native reserves &c., as the result of discussions and disclosures in Select Committee on Estimates.

Resolutions of the Stock Owners' Conference concerning veterinary matters were considered and action taken, which has proved an immense help to the settler community.

A general scheme for introducing a system of stock conservation was submitted and approved by His Excellency and the Hon. Acting Director of Agriculture, and I was detailed by His Excellency for the special duty of organising and carrying the scheme into effect.

Much work was accomplished in this direction at the instigation of the Hon. Colonial Secretary and the Hon. Chief Native Commissioner, who were in constant communication with me, and who would be able to support the new administrative work undertaken by me.

Reference to the office files would reveal many instances where initiative has been taken

under my direction.

I have endeavoured to prove that my duties brought me into close contact with European and non-European races in this Colony, and my personality, with my judgment and sense of proportion, has enabled me to carry the good will of the people when I had to enforce regulations and treatment which conflicted with individual interest and prejudices.

Initiative powers, as well as the knowledge of ~~working~~ <sup>collaborating</sup> with my colleagues and public services, I submit have or can be proved, and, gives me the necessary qualifications for leadership and a sense of public responsibility.

I understand it is suggested that I may be transferred to another Colony. Such a move would be a serious inconvenience to me, because I wish to settle in this Colony on completion of my public service, and in view of my long service in the administrative and executive in the Veterinary Service, such a transfer would cause further inconvenience to this Colony.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency,

Your most humble, obedient servant,

*W. D. Edwards*

DEPUTY CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.

D/A

Recd

(10) A.G. Roberts  
C.K.O.

7/4/29

A. G. the Governor  
Thru the Hon. Ag. C/S.

Forwarded.

(10) Alex. H. Allen

7/4/29

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Your Excellency,

Your most humble, obedient servant,

*H. B. Edwards*

DEPUTY CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.

on D/A

Recd

(10) A.C. Roberts  
C.V.O.

7/4/29

H.E. the Governor  
Thro' the Hon. Sec. C/S.

Forwarded

(10) Alex. Hill  
7/4/29

Particulars of the Office of **CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER** vacant  
in the COLONY OF KENYA

<p>1. Series of Office and qualifications required for their performance.</p>	<p><b>Administration of Veterinary Services and Veterinary Legislation</b></p> <p>High professional qualifications combined with organising ability administrative capacity, tact and judgment.</p>
<p>2. Salary of Office.</p>	<p>£1200 per annum</p>
<p>3. Allowance, quarters, and other circumstances affecting the value of the Office.</p>	<p>Free use of allowances in lieu of quarters</p>
<p>4. Nature, number and amount of securities required.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>5. Whether free passage is provided for person selected and his family.</p>	<p>In conformity with regulations.</p>
<p>6. General particulars regarding accommodation, furniture, &amp;c. for information of candidate.</p>	<p>In conformity with regulations.</p>

14/3/21 21

NAIROBI



Head of Department