



WEST AFRICA

56221
15 DEC 25

DATE

15th December 1925.

OFFICE.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NATIVE EDUCATION

Minutes of 45th Meeting, held on 17th Dec 1925

MINUTES

Major Funn

Will you please be invited
draft minutes and put in any alterations
and corrections for our records

Harmon Vitch

8-1-26

Authy. to put by *ca 4545/26 Ed*

Put by

either in West Africa, where the collision between native and white interests has not arisen in the same form, or in South Africa, where conditions are very complex. In East Africa the problems are still at an early stage and relatively simple, while the differing conditions in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika offer a particularly interesting field of study.

The appointment of a special commission of inquiry, which would be expected to present its conclusions in a comprehensive report, does not seem to me to be the best and most fruitful method of attacking the problem. The announcement of such a commission would at once lead both advocates of native rights and the representatives of European industrial and commercial interests to press their particular points of view with a view to securing that justice should be done to them in the Report. An atmosphere of controversy would thus be created, unfavourable to the scientific, disinterested ascertainment of facts. The

The recent Report of the Parliamentary Commission to East Africa strongly advocated increased provision for scientific research and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has just announced that a small percentage of the proposed imperial loan for the development of transport in East Africa will be earmarked for scientific research. But the sums that can be set aside for this purpose must at the best be very limited. The ravages of plant, animal and human disease in East Africa are so serious that there is a strong probability that the available resources for scientific research will be exhausted in meeting these pressing needs, and that funds will be insufficient for the organized study on an adequate scale of questions relating to the life and welfare of the native inhabitants, notwithstanding the growing recognition of the importance of such study. The carrying out of the experiment advocated in paragraph (3) above may therefore depend on whether assistance is forthcoming from some source outside the restricted resources of the East African territories.

11/

591

7) If an experiment of the kind described is judged to be desirable it might be made possible through the willingness of some outside organization or organizations to place at the disposal of the Conference of Governors in East Africa (including Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyassaland and Northern Rhodesia) the funds which would enable them to extend the research for which provision has been made, so as to include the study of questions relating to the native peoples, e.g. such as their habits, conditions of life and methods of native production and the effect of the European investment in mining and tribal organization. Much of the knowledge on these subjects has already been accumulated by officers, missionaries and others, and the study would include the bringing together and co-ordination of this knowledge as well as the initiation of fresh enquiries to obtain information at present lacking. What seems to be needed is not to set up plans all at once for an ambitious and comprehensive survey, but to take up in succession, largely through the existing machinery, the study of particular questions. While the investigation undertaken might often be limited in scope, and in some instances even be restricted to a comparatively small area, they would at the same time contribute to the building up of a body of knowledge which would include the larger issues involved in the study of the relation of the native with African life.

LONDON

Account of the wide bearings of the experiment, and the hope that it might contribute to a better understanding of African problems in general, and be the means of encouraging similar undertakings and the adoption of similar methods in other parts of the continent. I am aware that the success of the experiment would depend, among other things, on the extent to which any plan that might be submitted gave a real contribution to the realization of these wide aims.

I have made the inquiry whether a person would be willing to co-operate in the encouragement of research in East Africa, entirely on my own responsibility, and that the general question of research is being the attention of some of those who are concerned with the administration of East Africa, but I have been given no authority to make any approach to the United States for co-operation. For this reason, on account of the present indefiniteness of the plan, it is impossible to indicate the possible extent of such co-operation, if eventually it should be desirable. Since the question was asked, however, my personal view is that the first step would be to find a man possessing the necessary qualifications to investigate, in consultation with the government, a plan that can usefully be attempted. I have estimated to think that a contribution of \$50,000 per year might make it possible to carry out the experiment on a scale that would yield the kind of results desired. To have more than a local value the experiment would need to be made with adequate resources. It is not desirable that the plan might develop in such a way that the benefits to be gained from its success would seem so great as to justify a still larger amount of funds were available; but I think that the amount here named would give the experiment a fair start, and that it would be possible after a few years to determine whether the experiment is of sufficient value to justify its continuance. After a period of such a nature has been made and a preliminary report prepared, the governments should be asked to assume increasing financial responsibility for carrying out the experiment.

- 6 -

forward the investigation and the contribution from outside sources might gradually be reduced.

I leave this memorandum as a record of what I said in conversation, so that it may be available for reference. I understand clearly, however, that the Memorial is entirely uncommitted, and that you cannot say more at present than that a proposal of the kind I have put forward is not so entirely outside the range of your interests as to prevent its being considered among other proposals, if and when the time comes to submit a definite scheme. If any further developments take place, I shall keep you informed, as you kindly said I might. If you have anything to say with reference to the contents of this memorandum or of any subsequent communication that I may send, I shall greatly value an expression of your views. I shall clearly understand, however, that nothing that you may say or refrain from saying in any way limits or prejudices the freedom of your Board to consider on its merits any plan that may eventually be submitted, and to give or withhold its co-operation in its unfettered discretion.

I do, with your consent, leaving a copy of this memorandum with Dr. Keppel, the President of the Carnegie Corporation, and am also sending a copy for information to Dr. Wycliffe Ruess, and to Dr. Raymond Redick who presided over the luncheon at which I first presented the subject.

J. E. Olden.

Cliff 23. 11/25
Allen 23

and

503 27

Ans (1) 2709/21
(1) 3700
2709/21

Strachey
J. Shackleton
D. Dora

BT
2
402
2

December 1925

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the above subject.
Yours faithfully,
D. Dora

to transmit
for your information a
copy of Memorandum
by Mr. H. Oldham
subject of ~~the~~ ~~Administration~~
~~problems~~ and
to request you to provide
me with the necessary
you
the matters with which it

H. Oldham

also

A similar copy has
been sent to the Governor & the
the Director concerned

(Signed) L. S. AMERY I have not