

APPENDIX 2.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE.

No. 3.

NORTH & WEST KENYA (Area 3).

North & West Kenya (Amboni District) Area No. 3.

Witness: Mr. J. W. Young for Capt. G. H. Barry, R.S., D.S.O., Governor of Amboni Committee.

I. Kinds of Soil and Fertility.

This area, bounded on the West by the E. Gash Nyiro, on the North by the Naramora, the Amboni River on the South and the slopes of Kenya on the East, contains approximately 275,000 acres.

This area may be divided into -

- I. Grass plains about 92,000 acres.
- II. bush and agricultural soil with patches of plains about 62,000 acres.
- III. Forest and agricultural soil with patches of plains about 130,000 acres.
- IV. The forest clad slopes of Mount Kenya.

I. Grass Plains.

These are mostly of black cotton soil with a considerable proportion of red, more easily cultivated soils. The red and black contain a large percentage of iron ore, both broken in places by denses and nodules. They usually contain large patches of very rich agricultural soil though often composed of broken rock ground and some bush.

These plains were very favourite grazing grounds of the Masai in the wet / or drier days, and are their highly valued them.

About 2/3rd head of stock per acre may be safely be estimated as able to be supported all the year round in this area.

It is very suitable for stock of any description - cattle, horses, sheep and pigs doing extremely well.

II. Rich and fertile areas.

This consists of a variety of soils, rich red loam, decomposed basalt, friable black soil, etc.

There there is much the soil is usually good and suitable for cultivation. As the country develops there is little doubt large areas, probably 100,000 - 200,000 will be cleared and cultivated.

III. Forest and agricultural areas.

This is an agricultural area. It is well watered and offers great possibilities both from a forest and agricultural point of view, when transport difficulties are overcome.

At present it is only used for timber cutting for which the ground forest is being cleared. The forest is being cleared for a great field of agricultural crops.

IV. Forest areas.

These are mostly in the form of ravines. They are most difficult to clear with forest. They are the best East Indian timber.

At present their inaccessibility

is a serious obstacle to their development. The water in the district

The water in the district is very poor. The water is very hard and contains a large amount of iron and manganese.

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Generally, there is no question as to the extraordinary richness of the soil over large areas.

2. Proportion of present population

There is no question as to the situation at present, owing to the fact that the soil is rich and the fact that the present population have been economically advanced and have a high priority to the native population.

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The foregoing results may be equally applied here, considering the attraction as both from a residential and economic standpoint there is no doubt that the influx of settlers will be very considerable.

6. Kinds of crops grown.

For reasons already stated crops have only been grown in a small way hitherto. Sufficient, however, to prove conclusively its suitability for Coffee, Flax, Wheat, Barley, oats, Maize, Lucerne, Sugar Cane, Tobacco, Brial and Garden Produce of all kinds.

7. Probable Main Crops.

Accepting the basis of 1,000 acre farms (with 500 acres under plough for market purposes) as a Dairy and General Farm, carrying 300 - 400 head of stock (cattle), the proportion under cultivation of 500 acres could be taken as follows:-

Flax	25%	100 acres.
Cereals.	33%	100 acres.
Lucerne.	33%	100 acres.

8. Yields per acre.

No definite statement can be made under the present circumstances.

(Committee estimated as follows);

Coffee.	7 cwts.	per annum.	
Flax.	4 do.	do.	Fibre.
Wheat.	3 Bags.		
Barley.	4 Bags.		
oats.	6 Bags.		
Maize.	9 Bags.		
Lucerne.	2 - 3 Tons	hay.	
Sugar Cane.	20 Tons	cane.	
Tobacco.	300 lbs.		
Brial.	1 Ton	per acre	cutting over/period.

Suitability for Livestock.

The area is most eminently suited for livestock of every description, and indications point to less susceptibility to disease than most parts.

About half the district is proclaimed a dirty area, but systematic dipping will rob East Coast Fever and other cattle ills of their terrors.

Horses thrive exceedingly well, producing good bone etc., and horse sickness is not feared.

The open plains are exceptionally suited for sheep.

Pigs do extraordinarily well, and when the markets are opened will undoubtedly increase and become a staple industry.

At present efforts are being made to start a Bacon Factory and only the difficulty of synchronising the necessary outlay of capital in pigs and buildings etc. stands in the way.

The area will probably develop on dairy lines - 1,500 acres - carrying -

50 breeding cows and

10 breeding sows, equivalent to 700 pigs for disposal per annum.

#### 10. Traffic in Stock for Breeding & Slaughter Purposes and in Dairy Produce.

Owing to the steek route passing through Rumuruti, the traffic in stock has practically ceased.

Dairy produce is at present shut off as an economic proposition due to inaccessibility and only that which is necessary for local needs is produced. The possibilities, however, in this direction are very great.

#### 11. Estimates of Traffic etc.

Such estimates must be left to the Committee.

The opinion that 50 boys per month are sufficient for the needs of a 1,500 acre farm is divided.

Proximity to the native is a great asset and gives a reason for estimating a very rapid development.

on the advent of the railway.

12. Factors affecting production: Climate, Soil, Fertility, Capital, Labour, Market Prices, etc.

These factors are generally dealt with in previous remarks.

The climate is ideal in every respect, extremely healthy for man and beast and, pleasant in offering enough variation without trying extremes.

The condition of some settlers who have been in the district for many years would appear to belie the popular belief that change is an essential for health in this country.

The district is favoured with a regular and liberal rainfall.

Capital for contemplated development should be forthcoming.





With the advent of a railway, a field of profitable industry will be opened, with resultant increased development.

There is marked keenness on agriculture, and no doubt that crops will be grown on a large scale as soon as transport is available at a rate that permits of a profit in marketing.

6. Probable cause of influx of new settlers on the area.

East of the Lake Eyre and south of the Loxton dairies a large proportion is already in occupation. The balance will not lack for occupation as soon as it can be got off from markets.

7. Kind of Crops grown.

The following crops could probably be cultivated Wheat, Barley, Potatoes, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beans, Peas, Sugar beets and Lucerne. Citrus fruits promise well and coffee could be probably grown in some areas.

The opinion is expressed that the richest country is represented by this area.

7. Probable main crops.

Wheat and Oats.

8. Yields of crops per acre.

Wheat	...	4	bags
Oats	...	4	bags
Barley	...	4	bags

A large portion of this area can be irrigated at a comparatively low cost.

9. Suitability for live stock.

The whole area is well suited for cattle and about half for sheep. Pigs do extraordinarily well and poultry thrive.

Farms would probably be developed on the lines indicated in Summary of evidence (Ambon district) i.e. that of a 1,500 acre block as a "mixed" proposition.

10. Traffic in Stock for Breeding and Slaughtering Purposes and in Dairy Produce.

Butter, Cheese and Ghee are made but owing to lack of cheap transport only Ghee is made in large quantities. A certain amount of Stock is sent to local markets and this will increase rapidly as soon as the Country is settled and stocked up.

II. Estimates of traffic are not available but considerable traffic will occur in the course of contemplated rapid development on advent of railway.

12. Factors affecting production:-

Climate Soil fertility, Capital, Labour, Market Prices etc.,

...beans  
...received.

...available for  
...atively profitable  
...production.

Summary of Evidence taken at Nyeri, in conjunction with evidence received in respect of Nyeri and North & West Kenya.

The further extension of the Thika Railway to Rumuruti via the Nanyoke River or to Wajir was discussed.

The former with a view to assisting development of an extensive area east, and in the vicinity of Rumuruti, which area is at present, or with the rail head at Nyeri, an isolated area. An extension to Wajir apart from strategic value, would offer facilities for opening up the valuable timber resources of the Southern approaches to Kenya.

Reference was made to the rich Rogati and Tana Valleys and it was urged that the native factor in respect of this area should be considered.

A further proposal that a defined portion of the area through which the railway would pass should be granted to the Railway Contractor as part payment for work executed.

The Rogati and Tana Valleys represent Native Reserves under considerable agricultural activities and while it is doubtful if the question of Tonnage will be affected by the Railroad passing through, it is believed possible, that an increase of production will accrue.

It was noted that an area of from 15,000 - 20,000 acres adjoining the Emboni River was omitted in the evidence previously quoted.

It was agreed that this area should be treated similarly to these districts.

It was stated that labour for farms ~~and~~ railway construction was not sufficient but that transport was available for both.

Referring to the question of supply of sleepers the opinion was expressed that, if the owners of Saw Mills knew what was required of them, they would act with a view to supply as timber was available.

It was agreed that the Committee should base their estimates for timber from official information available.

Karu was quoted as an available source of labour.

The general question of outspana was raised and the fact pointed out that without such the transport required by the Railway under a strict local

Chemical Research Dept.,  
P.O. Box 141,  
Nairobi.  
23/11/20.

Report No. 8/5/20.

Lab. Samples Nos. 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46/8/20.

Date received. 7/7/20.

From. The Hon. the Director of Agriculture.

Description of Sample.  
Five samples received in unsealed canvas bags.

- Location of Sample 1. Makuyu. Fort Hall District. One mile from main road.  
do. 2. Messrs. Swift & Rutherford, Punda Malia, Chania Bridge.  
do. 3. Raati Valley, Fort Hall - Nyeri.  
do. 4. Hon. R. B. Gale, Narro Njoro.  
do. 5. Wanyokye (nr Township) on Meru Road.

Results of Analysis.

Fine Soil contains.

SAMPLES

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Water	5.25	5.00	7.71	5.55	5.50
Organic matter	12.65	13.87	15.61	13.12	12.87
Insoluble matt	41.44	47.70	44.20	48.18	72.94
Iron oxide & Mn <sup>2+</sup>	38.52	30.66	32.37	4.47	6.72
Lime	0.16	0.25	0.52	0.64	0.20
Magnesia	0.24	0.25	0.29	0.30	0.29
Potash	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.19	0.14
Phosphate	0.33	0.16	0.34	0.21	0.18
Not determined (Soda, chl, etc.)	0.87	0.96	0.89	0.28	1.16
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	%	%	%	%	%
Containing N	0.10	.11	.11	.07	.08
Available P	.11	.14	.16	.19	.14
Ph	.05	.05	.04	.03	.04

Remarks and Conclusions.

The Nitrogen content is comparatively constant in all five samples. The Lime present is seen to vary 0.15% in Sample No. 2 to 0.64% in Sample No. 4. Potash is present in small quantities varying from 0.1 to 0.2%. The total Phosphate is present in comparatively large quantities.

(Signed) G. A. Clark.  
Chemical officer.