

EAST AFR. PROT  
39496

1910  
JUN 10

Field N  
M.P.

Mr J H Macgregor Sisal expert.

1910  
June

previous Paper.

His letter giving qualifications and asking for Govt. appt. in E.A.P. with view to improving condition of sisal exported.

See my pencil minute.

Copy of Dr Macgregor's name to Govt.   
I have been told that he has been   
to the States Dept for the sake of a world   
expert, a conference with which he   
his name would be considered with other   
young other candidates. I say that   
he is suggested that the salary might   
be in the neighborhood of £5000 and   
for some 2 years hence.

Prof. Macgregor that we are   
in communication with the Govt.

The Govt. is in favour for letter to

See H. M. ...  
I think ...  
1910

sequent Paper.

30 June 1919

Dear Sir,

Thank you very kindly

for the favour of your

W. J. Macgregor

of ... Avenue

Edinburgh

in connection with

our proposed Government

of East African Sisal

and related trade

and to develop

W. Macgregor

Rec<sup>d</sup>  
JUL 4 1913

## WEST AFRICAN SISAL.

I understand the Government have the intention of grading this product on a par with the system prevailing in the Dominion of New Zealand.

Sisal or Agave fibre in all its branches has interested me more than any other fibre that I have come in contact with during all my 25 years experience in the trade.

I joined Hindley & Co., Billiter Street, E.C. in 1901 when the Indian Aloe in its practically crude state began to attract the attention of manufacturers here, and I have taken the keenest interest in the development of it and its contemporaries since the ropemakers adopted them for commercial use.

With the above firm and the principal brokers we have handled the bulk of this produce until the advent of Spanish and German African Sisal into the market, which by its decortication and preparation took a prominent position in the trade principally in

America and the Continent but in no little degree, latterly, in this country.

For my firm I was instrumental in introducing them to the States. Even with the Germans superiority over the British productions from India and British East Africa, it, like them, had its failings, viz:- that no reliability could be placed upon the output from the established and known districts.

They had the best decorticating machine in the market but did not pay sufficient attention to the selection of the leaves and classification of the fibre, hence a district which had built up a reputation sooner or later fell into disrepute.

We tried a method of grading after arrival and inspection of the goods in Hamburg, remarking them according to our standard.

This however was very unsatisfactory as we had to purchase for arrival without guarantee, accepting an allowance if inferior and not to implementing our contracts of a guaranteed quality from whatever available source, in order to be within the period of shipment or penalised for default.

I have always advocated a system of grading at the producing place and as I am conversant with the requirements of the manufacturers trade in general I could institute a method of selection in the

plantations to be supervised at the port of shipment which would prove highly remunerative to the plantations and give satisfaction and confidence to the consumers and merchants in the manufacturing centres.

I have just left the Army after serving with the Royal Field Artillery since 11th December 1915, and although I have had 25 years experience in the fibre trade at home I would now rather continue at the producing end and take an active part in the betterment of the fibre of which I can foresee a very bright future if properly handled, and dealing with shipments from this side which cannot be relied upon.

My business experience is as follows:-

1892 - 1897. Berg Sons & Co, Ltd.  
Jute & Flax Merchants, Dundee. -  
Apprentice & Junior Cashier.

1897 - 1901. D. Small Junr. Dundee. -  
Flax & Hemp Salesman & Agente  
Commercial for Brazil.

1901 - 1914. Hindley & Co. London. -  
Manager Indian Hemp & Sisal  
Department.

1914 - 1915. Member London Commercial Sale Rooms.

Have also been Associate Member London Hemp Association and  
acted as fibre expert to them on numerous occasions.

I can give also as reference H.W.F. Ide, Messrs. Ide & Christie.,

Messrs. Hanson & Smith, two of the principal fibre firms  
the City.

*See Hanson & Smith by 2/27/1913*

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39496799 hdp

DRAFT

Mr. M. Thry  
 no. 628

Ans'd 53422  
 9 June 1919

MINUTE

- Mr. B. C. M. 7 July
- Mr. L. L. 77 f
- Mr. G. R. F.
- Mr. H. C. L.
- Mr. H. F.
- Mr. G. F.
- Mr. M.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to  
 acknowledge the receipt of  
 your letter of the 27th inst.  
 in connection with the  
 employment of a  
 local expert in the  
 ...

I shall be glad if you  
 will inform me if the  
 above named person can  
 take up the work at  
 the above mentioned place.





*N. 34 1/2 19 lead*

566

*9*

*to*

**DRAFT.**

*W. Mac ...*

**MINUTE.**

- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*
- Mr. ...*

*Call ...*  
*to ...*  
*... with ...*  
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*... of a ...*  
*... in the ...*  
*... in ...*  
*... you would ...*  
*... and ...*  
*... will ...*

C.O.

227

*Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom left corner, including a large 'P' and 'Field'.*

C.O.

809 227