

DOMESTIC.

EAST AFR. PROT

8 / 36

e.o.

8135

6 MAR 30

Individual

Donaldson  
86/12

1909

12 Feb

at Previous Paper

45930

Medical Officer  
Private Practice

Assets that Govt medical officers in Mombasa & Nairobi do compete against, private medical practitioners. Suggest practice as one way

W. Reed

Re statements in this letter which I have marked as not tally with the account given by Dr. Wills in 45930/68.

Ask Col. to Govt make him for a report upon the extent to which Govt medical officers in Nairobi & Mombasa do in effect compete with private practitioners including a statement of the number of private practitioners in each town & the extent of their practice & the receipts of the Govt medical officers in those towns from private practice, & request him to inform Mr. Donaldson that his letter has

then referred back for a report by the Col  
to explain to him in the sense of  
Col. Regts No 212 & 213 the necessity for  
the transmission of communications from  
persons in the Pte through the Col

SAB

March 2

W. D. Webster.

To proceed

H. S. R

13/3/11

At 10 A.M. 13  
at once

S.R

29

Mombasa, 12th February 1909.

The Right Honourable

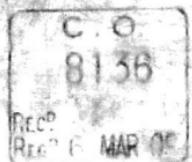
Colonel Seely P.C.M.P.

S.C.

S.C.

S.C.

Sir,



I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a despatch "copy enclosed" dated 3rd February 1909 at His Excellency the Governor's Office Nairobi, in answer to my communication to you of 16th November 1908.

In replying serially to above mentioned despatch I much regret I am unable to accept His Excellency the Governor's statement "that after due inquiry it would appear that there are no grounds for my complaint that Government Medical Officers have entered into active competition with private practitioners". I beg to reiterate that my statement is substantially correct, and maintain that Government Medical Officers have been, and are, at present, in active competition with private practitioners in Mombasa and Nairobi.

It is also stated in the despatch under reply, "The amount of private practice taken by Government Medical Officers is inconsiderable and a large proportion is done gratis, in cases where a patient cannot afford fees". I am in a position to know, that the amount of fees drawn by Government Medical Officers in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi are very considerable; and not only so, but attempts have been made to undercut private practitioners fees. I am aware that numerous people have been unable to pay fees, such a state of things is common all the world over, as I can speak very feelingly from personal experience on that subject, as no doubt the Administration can also. I refer to the large deficit in fees for Medical attendance and board of patients at the Nairobi Hospital.

I regret that in my communication of 16th November 1908 I have apparently failed to convey to your notice, that I only referred to competition in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi: it is however specifically referred to in the first and penultimate parts of my letter. I agree entirely with His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, "that it would be considered a

(2)

" great hardships on European settlers living in out lying districts if they were debarred from what is in the majority of cases, their only Medical assistance". It is most encouraging and reassuring to know that His Lordship the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies takes this kindly view of the position. If however reference is made to my letter of 1st November 1908, it will be noticed that I only referred to Mombasa and Nairobi, and made no reference whatsoever to outlying districts. I should be the very last man to suggest that any person in outlying districts should be debarred from what is in the majority of cases their only medical assistance; such an idea would be inhuman and repulsive to any ordinary Britisher.

*all  
44459*

I have no doubt whatsoever, that the Administration has given standing instructions to their Medical Officers regarding medical assistance to Europeans in cases of urgent necessity in outlying districts, and where private medical assistance is not immediately available.

It is however quite a different matter in the towns of Mombasa, and Nairobi, where there are numerous private practitioners; where as I have already stated in my former letter they are endeavouring to make a living, but find it well nigh impossible owing to salaried and re<sup>n</sup>asonable Government Medical Officers entering into keen competition with them.

I would beg to suggest to you, that the whole matter requires looking into, as a very vital principle is involved; and that you may be pleased to recognise, that I am simply asking that a very serious form of subsidised professional competition may be put a stop to in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi.

In my opinion, allowing Government Medical Officers to compete in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi against private Medical practitioners is quite unfair, and is contrary to the fundamental principles of our Government and constitutes a grievous injustice upon the legitimate interest of the medical profession.

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

*W. H. Bruce*

When communicating on this  
subject please refer to

Copy

H.B. No. 255  
1909

31

Governor's Office, C.O.  
8136

Nairobi.

2nd February 1909

Sir,

With reference to your letter of November 18th addressed to Colonel Reilly, I am directed to inform you that after due enquiry it would appear that there are no grounds for your complaint that Government Medical Officers have entered into active competition with private practitioners.

2. The amount of private practice among Government Medical Officers is inconsiderable and a large proportion is done gratis in cases where a patient cannot afford fees.

3. In the circumstances His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies is of opinion that it would be considered a great hardship on government officers, living in outlying districts, if they were debarred from what is in the majority of cases, their only medical assistance and I am to inform you that His Lordship regrets that he cannot see his way to meeting your wishes in the matter.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

Sgt. T. J. Morrison,

Secretary.

Yours very truly,

H. E. McDonald,

Member of

M  
8/136/04  
2AP.  
Just.

DRAFT.

2AP. Conf

Gov

Sadler

MINUTE 13/3/04

Mr. Noall, 19/11

Mr. Butter 19/11

Mr. Just

Mr. Astrobis.

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Cpl. Seely.

The Bank of Greene

24th Mch 04

Sir

With refer to my Conf  
desgr. of the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 1903

I have the honour to transmit  
to you the accompanying copy  
of a further letter from Dr. W. B.

Macdonald, & to request  
you to furnish me with a report  
as to how far  
~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ to which

Govt Medical Offices in Nairobi  
Mombasa do in effect

Yours D Macdonald 19/11

compete with private  
practitioners.

your report should  
include a statement of  
the number of private  
practitioners in each town,  
& of the extent of their  
practice, & of the receipts  
from private practice of  
the Govt. Medical Officers  
in those towns.

I have to request  
that you will inform Dr.  
Macdonald that Mr. C.  
has been referred back to  
you for a report, & that you  
will explain to him, in  
the sense of Col. Regan  
N.Y. 212 & 213, the necessity

for the transmission of  
communications from  
persons in the Post Office  
to the Govt.