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TSETSE FLY.

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(1) Experiments:

During the year two experiments have been commenced with a view to discovering a practicable method of fighting this terrible scourge. The one consists in the systematic shooting of game in a selected fly area and the other in destroying the evergreen trees, etc. around the winter haunts of the fly. It is obviously unnecessary for me to deal with the first experiment in the present report as it has been carried out under your direction and separate reports have been submitted.

With regard to the second the evergreen trees around Sipane Vlei in the Sebungwe district were felled under my supervision in August and it is proposed to visit this vlei again during the coming winter in order to note results.

(2) General position, etc.

The Sebungwe fly area has according to reliable reports spread in the region of the Zambezi since 1918. It has also spread in a southerly direction to a point some 12 miles further up the Shangani, than it was in 1918. Advance is also reported on the Kena river. On the other hand fly was very much scarcer at Sipane Vlei than during my previous visits and the limits of the infested area have apparently receded slightly in this region. Mr. Zunkel, late of the Native Department, Gokwe, also informed me verbally that the fly was scarce all the way through the infested area on the path from Gokwe to Kanriyangwe during his last trip before his resignation.

Dr. Alex. Mackenzie of Gatooma, reports a great decrease in numbers of fly in the neighbourhood of the Umiati river on the road from Gatooma to the Emerald Mine, in fact he did not encounter any fly at all except on the upper portion of the Urungwe and Mvuvudzi rivers, which he visited for this purpose.

Advance is recorded by Mr. D. Boucher, late Land Inspector, in connection with the Jetjenini fly belt, specimens of fly being submitted which were stated to have been taken close to the junction of the Mvume and Hunyani rivers, and he reports seeing a fly which

he thinks was tsetse further up the Mvuma river, not far from the occupied farm Mcheringe. If this is the case the movement is serious.

Losses from trypanosomiasis amongst cattle occurred again early in the year near the eastern border of Southern Malssetter, and two unexplained outbreaks occurred on farms well away from the border.

The situation in regard to tsetse fly is therefore increasing in gravity year by year and the need for greater effort in seeking a solution of the problem becomes more and more apparent. For the present this effort can only take the form of a continuation of the experiments already started and further assistance, in the shape of personnel, in regard to research. The fly areas need careful watching with a view to the possible explanation of the decrease in various parts. Efforts should be made to find out if the fly has decreased in other localities besides those recorded. The new limit of the Jetjenini belt needs to be ascertained with some degree of accuracy. The Malssetter problem calls for special investigation. The limits of the Sebungwe fly area are not known as accurately as could be wished and the great Northern Belt in the Lomagundi and Darwin districts has not been visited since 1912.

The foregoing remarks are not inserted with the object of asking for further assistance which would be out of place in an annual report. The object is to convey some idea of the magnitude of the fly problem in the territory at the end of the year under consideration, and its relation to the work and staff of my particular branch.