

EAST AFR. PROT
30262

81
C.O.
30262
REC'D
REL 19 JUN 0

RITCHARD C.H.

POWELL WOOD PROCESS

1920

18th June

Last previous Paper.

Further comments on financial advantages of, and requests interview with Mr. Batiscombe to discuss

23596

Handwritten notes in left margin:
26 June '20
Copy above Mr Batiscombe
Copy above F. Co. com 29 July '20 36336

Mr. W. Read. *Private letter to Batiscombe*
When Mr. Ritchard called on Friday I had to tell him that I thought there was no chance of his process being taken up beyond a small experimental plant. That, I think, will be the effect of our letter of 12/2226. We spoke of developing the process commercially, & I suggested that he should get into touch with Mr. Batiscombe, the Chief Commissioner of Forests, who is here, to discuss the possibilities of a timber-cutting concession - but he says in his private letter that this would be useless to him & he wants to try to convert Mr. Batiscombe to the idea.

Next subsequent Paper.

B/31884

Mr. Patchard is well pleased with
the result of his 17 month negotiation
& some cannot be surprised. The
delay is due mainly to the references
to Hawthorn & to the C.A.P.

I find it difficult to suggest
any action, because I am convinced
that the Coultley Supervisors have
dealt with the matter in the
light of their antecedents to
recommend any novelty, and that
their assumption of Patchard's life of
72 years is not based on experience
but rather on (a) the fact that it
divides conveniently into 30 + 42)
such perfectly general considerations
as those mentioned in Col. Cominche's
minutes of May 25th.

Further, the C.E.'s assumption
of life of 30 years for a steel
slab contracts with Col.
Cominche's 20 years.

? Tell Mr. Patchard that he may
discuss with Mr. Butterworth generally,
but that the decision as to sleeping
will depend on the reply of the
I.R.P. Govt to the letter which has
been sent to them. - I will
be the advocate of the Govt.
then

you as
sleeping
is
concerned

When the I.R.P. replies, we must
send a final letter to Mr. Patchard
- no doubt to the effect that sleeping
is considered better.

82

I pass this through Mr. Hood
because of the reference to the
Coast in the postscript to the
private letter.

Oct. 22.6.20

we can add that as regards the 9. Cominche
he may wish to see General Butterworth who
is at 113 Ashley Gardens.

at once

A. J. R.

23/11/20

30, Auckland Road,
Upper Newwood, N.S. 19
18th June, 1940.

83

Dear Mr. Bottomley,

I have sent you an official letter and hope that it will be placed before Lord Bute. I have tried not to "put it in", but two things strike me at the present juncture -

- (a) The Colonial Development Committee (I take it) is accepting the judgment of Railway Advisory Engineers as a matter solely concerned with timber, and,
- (b) The Provision has had its savings and the Defence remains unheated.

Yet, another point! I am, I understand, to be invited to operate a demonstration plant, having undertaken, nearly 18 months ago, to do so and to pay for that plant if I failed. That shows me back one or two years and there is no guarantee that, at the end of yet another year, I should be any "forwarder" than I am today.

However, even if there is no hope of a Harpur offer, I would, if the Postwar Government consented to erect a commercial - size plant, produce suitable timber for the P. W. D., including salient - and building, timbers, material for road bridges and so on.

It is useless for me to take a accession of timber land unless I know that I can dispose of the bulk of every tree. I could make charcoal of the left & top, but

It is only necessary to prevent the present day waste, when the
 is used and the by a top wasted. Perhaps Mr.
 Judge Ross would be interested in the Process for
 D. Equipments.

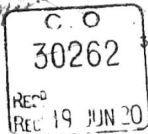
It is quite hopeless to fight against Decisions of
 which the grounds are withheld from me and I am
 now only anxious to look after myself. I can do
 nothing more for the Protestants if the suggestion I
 have made officially to you is not accepted. If
 that proves to be the case, I shall have to see Major
 Paterson and make representations regarding my-
 self for Lord Cairns's consideration. Perhaps, when
 you know how my other letter has been received, you
 will be good enough to send for me and advise
 me on that point.

I am very grateful for all that you have done
 for me especially for the patience and consideration
 which you have always displayed at our numerous
 interviews.

Yours very truly,

C. P. Nichol

I am afraid that this decision will upset my
 plans regarding the Gold Coast, even if the Governor
 wishes to discuss them on his arrival in England.



30, Auckland Road,

Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

18th June 1920.

W. C. BOTTOMLEY Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, SW.1.

Dear Sir,

I gather from our conversation this morning that there is, at the moment, practically no hope that the Government of British East Africa will adopt the Powell Process for the "alesper-ing" of the proposed new railway construction in the Protectorate.

As I am left in ignorance of all that has taken place, I can only surmise how this adverse decision has been arrived at.

Sir Robert Gales, a partner of the Consulting Engineers concerned with the proposed railway, was good enough to grant me an interview on the 1st instant. I came away from this gentleman fully convinced that, if the final decision rested with his firm, that decision would shatter my chances of success. If my proposals were adopted there would follow, within the next five years, a saving to the Protectorate of some £400,000. For this reason alone, I urge that the matter should not be dropped because of the unchallenged advice of any one firm, or individual. In this particular case, there is the additional vital fact that the advisors have no practical experience of the Process which, it appears, they have just condemned.

The only objection to the Powell Process advanced to me

by Sir Robert Gales was that, to adopt it, involved the Protectorate Government in a financial risk, in that the Process had not been tested over a period of years in British East Africa. Against this objection that a risk attaches to the use of Powellized local timbers for sleepers in the Protectorate I submit that Mr. R.S. Pearson, the Indian Forest Economist, and Prof. Boulger, of the Imperial Institute, would convince the Secretary of State that no such risk was, in fact, exist.

Mr. Pearson has tested the Process in relation to sleeper timbers over a period of ten years or more in India and Burma, where climatic and other conditions are much more trying than in British East Africa. Prof. Boulger has vouched for the efficacy of the process in respect of British East African timbers, covering his fifteen years experience of the Process, of which he knows the innermost details.

Further, I respectfully submit that, to reject a proposal which has been before the Colonial Office for nearly seventeen months, without informing me what objections have been raised against it or giving me an opportunity of meeting and answering those objections, is unjust.

I am, however, quite prepared to let aside my own interest and to consider, for the moment, only those of the Protectorate. To this end I beg that Mr. Patterson be requested to grant me an interview at which I propose to ask him to allow me to arrange for the

Page 3.

18th June 1920.

W. C. Bottomley Esq..

meeting Mr. Pearson and Prof. Boulger. If that is done, I am sure that Mr. Battiscombe will be convinced that the opportunity of saving large capital expenditure on metal sleepers and of developing the timber resources of the Protectorate should not be allowed to slip.

I submit that the foregoing suggestion, in the circumstances, is only fair and reasonable and I swear authority to act upon it.

Yours faithfully,

C. St. Pritchard.

Ind

DRAFT.

H. Pritchard Esq

~~Esq~~

26 June 1920

MINUTE.

Mr. Brantley 24 June

Mr. Parkman 25.6.20

Mr. Bolton 25.6.20

Mr. Grindle

Mr. H. Lambert

Mr. H. Read

Mr. G. Fiddes

Mr. Amery

Mr. Milner

Dear Sir,

I am in to read the contents

of your letter of the 18th of

June with regard to the

adoption of the Powell

Wood Process in E.A. &

to inform you that the

Board will discuss the matter

with Mr. Balliscombe generally

as you propose, but that

the decision as to the

railways in the East

keepers for the ~~East~~ will

Mr. Balliscombe 26 June 20

2 off

defence on the reply ^{from} the foot of
the ~~cast~~ ^{Past} to a tel. which has

been sent to them on the subject
Mr. Balliscombe's address is Hinton Court, Hereford.

(2) I am to add that as regard
the float, you may wish to
see the Gov^r, Genl. Inglis, who
is now in this country at
113 Ashley Gardens London.

(Signed) H. J. REARD

P. 30267/2000

Inc
20

DRAFT.

Balliscombe Esq
Hinton Court
Hereford

MINUTE.

Read 26th 36th 36

26 June 1920

- Mr. Barclay 24 June
- Mr. Parkinson 26.6.20
- Mr. Boltwell 25/6/20
- Mr. Brindle
- Mr. H. Lambert
- Mr. H. Read
- Mr. G. Fiddes
- Mr. Amery
- Lord Milner

I am to inform you

that in connection with

the construction of the new
railways in the north, the
question of the best form
of sleeper to be used has
arisen under cover. The
adoption of the Powellins

20/6/20
29/6/20
29/6/20
29/6/20

process for treating wooden sleepers
has been strongly pressed by Mr
Pritchard, but the Consulting
Engineers are not in favour of the
proposal. The matter is at present
under the Engineer's review to the ~~Board~~ ^{Pres.}

Mr Pritchard however, is
valuing the value of the Powell
process for the treatment of wood
for all purposes. It is
has been suggested ~~to~~ that
I should discuss the matter with
you. A copy of a letter wh. has been sent
is enclosed for your info.
If you are prepared to see Mr
Pritchard, you will doubtless make
arrangements with him for an interview.
His address is 30 Auckland Road
Upper Norwood S.E. 19

90

30, Auckland Road,
Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

29th June, 1920.

Stottomley, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

80262/1920.

Dear Sir,

I beg that you will convey my thanks to Sir Herbert Read
for his letter of the 26th inst.

I have written to General Guggisberg and to Mr. Battiscombe.

Yours faithfully,

C. P. Rickard.