

1921

KENYA

23200

REC 22  
MAY 21  
352

FROM  
PHIPPS, P.

DATE  
4TH MAY 1921

FOR CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

KENIA RAILWAY

Encloses copy of letter from Capt G.S. Ba  
criticising proposed route and suggesting  
consideration of alternative route from Gilgi.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle.
- Sr. H. Lambert.
- Sr. H. Road. 11/2/21
- Sr. G. Fiddes.
- Col. Amery.
- Mr. Churchill.

Previous Paper

Hofb  
22024

MINUTES

L. H. Jones

Pl. see you slip with  
I understand that the meeting  
in 22024 is postponed  
being but I do not think we  
can do it. Have drafted

h. J. R.  
11/2/21

Copy for 755 cons 12 May 21

Subsequent Paper

23837

*Not yet checked*



May 4th 1921

*20*

The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P.  
 Secretary of State for the Colonies  
 Colonial Office  
 The Strand, London S.W.1

Sir,

East African Settlement Scheme.  
 Proposed Railway to Mount Kenia.

I have been requested to submit to you the enclosed extract from a letter received by me from Captain Gray S. Baker relative to the proposed new Railway to Mount Kenia.

The letter is written by me as executor of the late Captain Henry Hutchinson, F.R.S. who, together with Captain Baker and Captain R.A. Burdett M.C. took up in partnership farms in British East Africa under the East African Settlement Scheme.

Captain Hutchinson was formerly stationed at Entebbe being superintendent of Marine on Lake Victoria, and you will perhaps recollect that he acted as guide to you on the occasion of your visit to Uganda some time ago, when you may have yourself noted his keen interest in the development of the country. If so,

THE LBS TELEGRAM  
C. O. PAPER, NORTHAMPTON

Not yet checked

C. O.  
23200  
NORTHAMPTON  
REC'D  
11 MAY 21

May 4th 1921

The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P.  
Secretary of State for the Colonies  
Colonial Office  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

20

Sir,

East African Settlement Scheme.  
Proposed Railway to Mount Kenia.

I have been requested to submit to you the enclosed extract from a letter received by me from Captain Guy S. Baker relative to the proposed new Railway to Mount Kenia.

The letter is written by me as executor of the late Captain Henry Hutchinson, M.B.E. who, together with Captain Baker and Captain H.A. Burdett M.C. took up in partnership farms in British East Africa under the East African Settlement Scheme.

Captain Hutchinson was formerly stationed at Entebbe being superintendent of Marine on Lake Victoria, and you will perhaps recollect that he acted as guide to you on the occasion of your visit to Uganda some time ago, when you may have yourself noted his keen interest in the development of the country. If so,

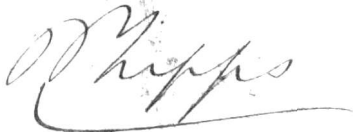
The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P. (Contd)

I venture to hope that you may be all the more disposed to give the matter your sympathetic consideration.

I believe a question is likely to be put to you on the subject in the House of Commons shortly.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Chipp", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

I am venturing to write to you about the subject of the Railway  
It is proposed to build a new railway if possible to a place  
called Nanyuki on Kenia mountain, out of part of a loan of £9,000,000  
of which this country being raised in England and guaranteed by the  
Imperial or rather home Govt.

The Route for this Railway as at present proposed and being  
surveyed runs past a place called Nari and starts from Thika. This  
route has the following great disadvantages

- 1) It is very difficult country to build a railway over, so  
difficult in fact as to be thought unfeasible by many people, and it  
is consequently be very expensive.
- 2) It goes through native reserve for a great portion of its  
length, this reserve although good land is not to be ceded to  
settlement and will consequently not be developed.
- 3) There is no source for a fuel supply till Kenia  
mountain is reached.

My suggestion is that the alternative route from Gilgil be  
considered. The advantages of this route are that

- 1) It is flat easy railway line building and cheaper, in consequence
- 2) It goes through a fertile country given out to settlement under  
Soldier Settlement Scheme.
- 3) There is good forest en route to serve as a fuel supply.

The disadvantages of my route in comparison with the other are  
1) That it goes round two sides of a triangle instead of one side,  
there is further to carry produce. But if it costs less to build

than the geographical maps is liberally wrong.

I am venturing to write to you about the subject of the Railway  
It is proposed to build a new railway if possible to a place  
called Nanyuki on Kenia mountain, out of part of a loan of £9,000,000  
next this country being raised in England and guaranteed by the  
Imperial or rather home Govt.

The Route for this Railway as at present proposed and being  
surveyed runs past a place called Kerri and starts from Thika. This  
route has the following great disadvantages

- 1) It is very difficult country to build a railway over, so  
difficult in fact as to be thought unfeasible by many people, and it  
is consequently be very expensive.
- 2) It goes through native reserve for a great portion of its  
length, this reserve although good land is not to be opened to  
settlement and will consequently not be developed.
- 3) There is no fuel supply till Kenia  
mountain is reached.

My suggestion is that the alternative route from Gilgil be  
considered. The advantages of this route are that

- 1) It is flat easy railway line building and cheaper, in consequence
- 2) It goes through a fertile country given out to settlement under  
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there is further to carry produce. But if it costs less to build

*See the topographical maps in letter to you*

-2- (Contd)

the produce could probably be carried cheaper and there would be less interest to pay on borrowed capital.

If they are going to back this country as a white mans country, they might just as well show their faith in it by building through white settlement instead of native reserve and give it a chance.

P. 11/12  
23200

2d.

12 Aug 1922

RAFT.

... 755

... North...

MINUTE.

... 11/12

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Plots 4.5.22  
(23 400)

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(220 400)

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I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to a suggestion that a line should be drawn in place of the proposed railway from Thika to Ngara. I have shown the line at Ngara to be more or less a straight line. The line is not actually a straight line.

2. From the reference to the Capt. Baker's letter to the flat and easy route, I presume that the line which he has in mind would proceed north from Entebbe and would primarily serve the newly settled area lying to the north of the



Aberdeen Range, as the description  
could hardly be applied to a route  
which would proceed at all directly  
from the Great Lakes Range.

I shall be glad to be furnished  
with a report by Col. Waterman  
on his expedition, with any  
costs and what you may like  
to be as to the desirability  
of extending communication  
with the area indicated

Aberdare Range, as the description  
could hardly be applied to a route  
which would proceed at all directly  
from Gaget to lower range.

3. I shall be glad to be furnished  
with a report by Col. Hammond  
in his suggestion, with any  
comments which you may wish  
to see as to the desirability  
of extending communication  
over the area in question.