

1923

KENYA

C O  
49556

FROM  
GOVERNOR  
CORRYDON

CONF  
507

DATE  
13TH SEPTEMBER 1923

REC'D  
PL 10 OCT 23

FOR CIRCULATION:-

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Asst. U.S. of S.

Perm. U.S. of S.  
Partr. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

SUBJECT

THIKA-NYERI RAILWAY EXTENSION

Trs Report & Estimates together with plans & specifications. Encloses memoranda by Acting C.E. & Rlyw G.M.

Previous Paper

£50/ 35064  
£50/ 47590

MINUTES

(1). Send copy of despatch & all  
encl. in trip (there to be replaced)  
to CA. for the early return of the  
C.E. in connection with  
Proj. Rhodes, who has been  
instructed to be in contact with  
communication with them.

Recd. by returned with same  
copy.

(Keep a schedule of them, &  
all work passed to  
existing under a copy of the  
G.M.'s letter of 11 Sept.)

done &

(2). Write office of G.M. & Rlyw G.M.

12 OCT 1923

copy (with all encl. in) to be kept  
copy for return  
to Proj. S. & Rhodes  
To Gov. all cons. & Nov.

802WA

Subsequent Paper

C.A.  
54675

MINUTES

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN  
ON THIS SIDE.

address and tell  
him that we have  
done asking him  
to put himself at  
once in touch with  
Mrs. Lenzel  
Palmer & Tutton.

(Have the bill.)

Read how the  
water stands.)

(over)

19.10.23

am

KENYA.

No. 507.

CONFIDENTIAL



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

C. O  
49556  
REC'D  
RE. 10 OCT 23

13th September, 1923.

288

My Lord Duke,

With reference to Mr. Northcote's despatch, Confidential No. 367 of 20th June 1923, I have the honour to transmit the report and Estimates compiled by the Chief Engineer, Construction and Survey of Railways, on the Thika-Nyeri Extension, together with the plans and specifications.

2. A memorandum by the Acting Chief Engineer, Uganda Railway, and a letter from the General Manager, commenting on the estimates, are also enclosed and I shall be glad if Your Grace will cause all the documents to be forwarded to the Consulting Engineers at an early date in order that Major Rhodes may be able to discuss the plans with the Consulting Engineers prior to his departure from England.

3. An explanatory despatch will be forwarded in due course.

I have the honour to be,  
My Lord Duke,  
Your Grace's most devoted  
and most obedient servant,

*R. T. Comynson*

GOVERNOR.

IS GRACE

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE,  
K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S. W.

R.  
Plans & Specifications under separate cover (Bag No. 47).  
Estimates.

Memorandum from  
Ag. C.E., Ug. Ry.  
From General Manager  
Dated 11-9-1923.

500  
35364

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,  
Colony and Protectorate of Kenya,  
Nairobi.

Thika - Nyeri Railway.  
Ref. your L.C. 1017/AN/S. dated 28th August, 1923.

I return herewith the report, estimates and appendices on the Thika-Nyeri extension, together with the plans and specifications.

2. If a spare copy of the report is available I shall be glad to have it, but I understand that only one copy of the plans and specifications have been sent to the Government. Presumably Colonel Robertson has more copies; if so, it would certainly be advisable for the Government to obtain another complete set.

3. I presume that, in accordance with instructions, the report, plans, and specifications will now be sent to the Colonial Office for transmission to the Consulting Engineers. It would be wise to expedite this transmission in order that Major Rhodes may be able to discuss matters with the Consulting Engineers before he leaves England.

4. In the meantime I have asked the Acting Chief Engineer (Mr. C.M. Bunbury) to recalculate the estimates submitted, and I attach a copy of his report.

5. The recalculation is based partly on what I have agreed to in regard to the issue price of secondhand material released from the main line, railway rates, supervision charges, etc., and partly on a general investigation of Colonel Robertson's figures by Mr. Bunbury.

6. It will be observed that in the matter of supervision Col.

Robertson, in his analysis, took the total cost of 83 miles and on that calculated a percentage proportion for 98 miles. It will be obvious that this method results in a large reduction in expenditure which might not materialize, under Colonel Robertson's basis of calculation, in the actual cost of the first section. This is responsible for the comparatively small reduction in general charges estimated by Mr. Bunbury in his calculations on the first section taken by itself.

289<sup>A</sup>

7. Mr. Bunbury's figures reduce the probable cost of the line to the Tana River from £8,375 per mile to £6,757 per mile, a difference of £1,618 per mile. The major portion of this difference, i.e. £1,645 per mile, lies in the cost of permanent way, as it is proposed to charge out the secondhand material at the rate of £750 per mile. The remaining difference of approximately £1,000 per mile is spread over a number of other items, as shown in the revised estimates.

8. No contractor's profit has been included either by Colonel Robertson or in the revised estimates, the revised figures being based on departmental construction with sub-contracts for heavy earthworks, etc.

9. In regard to the alignment, it will be observed that Mr. Bunbury considers we would be well advised to carry out still further investigations in order to make sure that no cheaper route can be obtained with the same ruling grade.

10. Mr. Birch is apparently of opinion that to save heavy construction more curvature might be permitted, and that we should use "Garratt" locomotives and special rolling stock. It is true that the "Garratt" locomotive is giving excellent results in South Africa, Brazil, Tasmania, and even on some railways in Wales, and there is no question about the extension of the use of "Garratts" in the near future in other countries,

C. O. 533 / 237  
EMISSON OF THE  
FIELD LONDON

Robertson, in his analysis, took the total cost of 83 miles and on that calculated a percentage proportion for 38 miles. It will be obvious that this method results in a large reduction in expenditure which might not materialise, under Colonel Robertson's basis of calculation, in the actual cost of the first section. This is responsible for the comparatively small reduction in general charges estimated by Mr. Bunbury in his calculations on the first section taken by itself.

289<sup>A</sup>

7. Mr. Bunbury's figures reduce the probable cost of the line to the Tana River from £9,376 per mile to £6,757 per mile, a difference of £2,619 per mile. The major portion of this difference, i.e. £1,643 per mile, lies in the cost of permanent way, as it is proposed to charge out the secondhand material at the rate of £750 per mile. The remaining difference of approximately £1,000 per mile is spread over a number of other items, as shown in the revised estimates.

8. No contractor's profit has been included either by Colonel Robertson or in the revised estimates, the revised figures being based on departmental construction with sub-contracts for heavy earthworks, etc.

9. In regard to the alignment, it will be observed that Mr. Bunbury considers we would be well advised to carry out still further investigations in order to make sure that no cheaper route can be obtained with the same ruling grade.

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CO  
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7  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
LONDON

but, while I am strongly in favour of trying the "Garratt" here, I think it would be a mistake to indulge in difficult grades and curves in reliance on the "Garratt" seeing us through the trouble.

11. Subject to this, I would be only too pleased to see further investigations, if arrangements could be made for us to adopt whatever better alignment we are able to locate without first having to report the matter to the Consulting Engineers, because if such further reports should be necessary there would be considerable delay.

12. I understand that there is much propaganda work being undertaken by private contractors in England, with the object of continuing to build lines in this Colony by private enterprise, but if it is at all possible I should very much like to see the construction of the line from Thika to the Tana River left entirely to the Uganda Railway to be carried through as a test of what the Railway can do, partly departmentally and partly by sub-contract. If this could be done I feel sure the results would challenge comparison with any results obtained by private enterprise.

13. If the construction is left to us Mr. Burnbury will probably be asked to take charge of the work under the control of the Chief Engineer.

C. L. N. Felling.

General Manager.  
Uganda Railway.

*If any further investigations are to be made copies of the plans, etc., must be made. The work would occupy two draughtsmen at least a fortnight.*

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9556/23  
TELEGRAM from the Secretary of State for the Colonies  
to the Governor of Kenya.

(Sent 3.20 p.m. 8th November, 1923.)

-----  
8th November.

Last sentence of your telegram of 30th  
October 316 presume despatch referred to contains  
definite estimate of Uasingishu savings after  
allowing for contractor's profit and bonus. When may  
I expect.

DEVONSHIRE.

OFFICE  
LONDON



List of Enclosures to Sir's desk  
No 507 Cont. of 13<sup>th</sup> Sept - sent to C

Letter from Gen. Manager 11<sup>th</sup> Sept ✓ 232

" " Act Chief Engineer 7 "

Enclosing 15 tabulated sheets.

Cover containing Col. Robertson's Report,  
Estimates & Appendices. ✓

15245 SR.3.

T. Staff

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.  
and the following number quoted:—

Downing Street,

Oct 1923

With. Oct 5

mine

Sir, <sup>Shadam</sup>  
<sup>with ref. to</sup> the letter from this Dept of the 26<sup>th</sup> of Sept. I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to call your attention to the recommendation made by the medical officer by whom you were examined prior to your departure from ~~to inform you that it appears~~ that you should consult a dentist, and to inform you that before your return to Africa it will be necessary for you to obtain and forward to this Department not later than two weeks before you are due to embark a certificate from a qualified dentist stating that your mouth is in good order.

2. By a qualified dentist is meant one whose name appears on the Dentists' Register. It is important that you should ascertain, either from the practitioner whom you propose to consult or otherwise, that his name does so appear.

3. You should understand that no part of the expenses of dental treatment can be borne by public funds.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. READ.

POST OFFICE

GRAPHS.

No. of Telegram

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Recd. from *Stam*  
By *Stam*

Charges to pay

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Sent *LM 18*  
To  
By

Office Stamp

Office of Origin, Foreign Number, No. of Words, Date, Time handed in and Service Instructions.

VIA WIRELESS

Received here at  
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*Chapelms order*

293

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POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

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By .....

Office Stamp.

Office of Origin, Foreign Number, No. of Words, Date, Time handed in, and Service Instructions.

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TELEGRAPHS.

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Office Stamp.

Place of Origin, Foreign Number, No. of Words, Date, Time handed in, and Service Instructions.

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<sup>k</sup>  
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49556/23

Kenya

Presing 22

12 Oct 1923

DRAFT.

Ca. amial  
54675 sent

Same to transmit to

MINUTE.

- Mr. Brett Oct 11
- Mr. Bottomley 12/10
- Mr.
- Mr. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Duke of Devonshire.

you a copy of a despatch  
from the Govt of Kenya,  
forwarding a Report and  
Estimates by the Chief  
Engineer, Construction and  
Survey of Railways, on the  
Thika - Nyeri Extension,  
& other relative documents.

Comp 13 Sept 23  
49556  
(Enclos in orig. - for return)  
2/26

2. This page would be

glad to receive the early  
returns of the Consulting  
Engineers on these papers  
in consultation with Major  
<sup>the Chief Engineer,</sup>  
Rhodes, who has been  
instructed to put himself  
in communication with  
them.

3. I am to request that  
the enclosures to the despatch,  
which are sent in triplicate,  
may be returned with your  
reply.

Jr (Signed) H. J. READ.

DRAFT.

Mr. J. D. Rhodes,  
C.B.E. D.S.O.,  
Belisle MINUTE Avenue  
N.W.3.

Mr. Brett Oct 11

Mr. Bottomley 12/10/23

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

We make copy of Gen.  
and his letter of 11 Sept<sup>21</sup>  
(attach to 49556)

WJG

49556/23 Kenya

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to be required on  
both sides



Set Oct 1923.

Sir,

I am to inform you  
that a copy of a despatch  
from the Govt of Kenya,  
with a Report & Estimates  
by the Chief Engineer,  
Construction & Survey of  
Plays, on the Thika-Nyeri  
Extension, & other relative  
documents, have been sent to

The Cd. for the C., with a request for the obdms of the Co., after consultation with you, on these papers.

I am to request you to place yourself at once in touch with Messrs Rendel Kalmer & Tritton & for this connection perforce

H. J. READ

Attchd 6/11/49 556/23 Kenya (Tasche extension) 298

8/11/49  
Codes sheet  
3.20pm  
8th Nov 23  
CJH

DRAFT. Code tel

Last instance of your tel. of Governor Nairobi (52844 - Voi/442) 30 Oct. 316 per annum despatch referred to contains

MINUTE.

Mr. Astonley definite estimate of  
Mr. 8/11/49 f. ~~Kenya~~  
Mr. ~~Kenya~~  
Mr. Davis. ~~Kenya~~ savings of  
Sir G. Grindle. allowing for contraction profits  
Sir H. Read. and bonus when may I expect  
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.  
Mr. Ormsby-Gore.  
Duke of Devonshire.

tel after discussion  
at Nairobi Rhodes 8/11

N.P.