

1923

E. AFRICA  
W. AFRICA

C 285  
32057  
REC'D  
REL 26 JUN 23

FROM  
M. J. C. Davidson, N.P.

DATE  
14<sup>th</sup> June 1923

FOR CIRCULATION -  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Asst. U.S. of S.  
.....  
Perm<sup>t</sup> U.S. of S.  
Part<sup>r</sup> U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

SUBJECT

Private Enterprise Committee -  
Suggests early appointment of

Previous Paper

MINUTES

CO 32056/23 EA.  
W.A.

Minutes as to personnel and  
terms of reference written

Received June 22 1923  
To Lord Selborne June 25<sup>th</sup> 1923  
M. J. C. Davidson  
Sir W. Chomley  
Sir J. G. G. G. G.  
Sir J. P. P. P. P.  
Sir J. S. S. S. S.  
Sir J. F. F. F. F.  
Sir J. W. W. W. W.

John B. Selborne h.p. 19 July 23  
To Mr. Peacock 27 July 23.

Sir H. Read -

Lord Selborne and Lord Buxton  
have both declined the Chairmanship.  
Lord Emmott was approached  
and I understand from the  
Private Secretary that he has  
spoken to the Sops declining.

M. 12.7.23.

I understand  
that Lord Ronaldsley is  
now being approached  
at once.

12/7/23

Subsequent Paper

32325

~~Ad~~  
Private Contractors Diff Costs  
Govt may have it

- Price Control
- 1) Supply available - not always
  - 2) Demand - not always
  - 3) Bonus for good men  
Sacking - bad
  - Whipped horse ~~was~~ needs lash
  - 4) Experience of contractor - may be less than Govt of that country

ing out slows  
lead - not  
ing up  
Res

- Govt ~~costs~~
- 1) Team work  
labour remaining  
Knowledge of nature
  - 2) ~~General~~ ~~costs~~ ~~modify~~

causes for variations  
& schedule rates difficult  
to draft lead to disputes

clusions  
- better than  
good contractor - or bad  
contractor better  
than bad Govt.  
ump sum contracts  
almost impossible  
schedule rates contracts  
difficult

- 3) Early start in contract
- 4) No profits
- 5) No risk allowance
- 6) No incentive to jerry build
- 7) No heavy cost of inspection

Private Running

Govt Running

In the Africa the Railway is essential part, etc.

Govt guarantee request by Co

Result of Govt Ry Co going bankrupt

Paralysis proceeds because Govt doesn't go bankrupt because Govt Ry does

1. 9. Nigerian Ry (private Co) miles to ports principal

72 a ton mile  
Expenses about 50 a ton mile

Nyas Ry runs at a loss

agree

Major Gen Smay

wanted keeping everything in their own hands

hands

1. Savings of 30-50% of private contract the reasons
2. Not in Nigeria at all because that Lagos Ry was not surveyed. If properly surveyed

Private Running

Govt Running.

For Afr the Railway is  
essential part of Ind.

Govt guarantee required -  
by Govt

to country  
Result of Ry Co going  
into Govt.

Paralysis introduced by  
Govt doesn't go bankrupt  
because Govt Ry doc.

1919. Nyasland Ry (for sale)

under 100000000

700000000

500000000

Nyas Ry ...

Major Gen Sm

when keeping everything  
Govt kept ...

1.

hands

2.

Saving of 30-50% of private  
contract the ...  
Net in Nyasland ...

but true that Lagos Ry was  
not surveyed. ...

value - a number of colleges  
created

Value of Topo Survey  
but more than, so  
are the survey lines that  
will be done

perhaps a discussion year  
after year 2 Lat  
By Dates

By Ry  
p. 3. Experience at back  
of Govt -

p. 4-5. accountability handing work  
Ryo to Co  
admits hasn't thought  
out

pages 6-7 Kumasi tablets 288

Do Ry Co give reinstatement  
free tablets in England?

Difficulty of jurisdiction  
a 2nd time

9. WAPP in the  
capital at the  
area

work done by Government which  
might be done by the  
govt if making the  
work Policy accepted but  
difficult to do

p. 9. the republic's work

10 The Councils of T.C.  
asked for important  
works to be given to him  
what works & when  
Don't know of it

10-11 Departmental - const  
invariable double  
estimates  
give examples - he?

12. Udi coal fields

Concain

289

p15. No instances - <sup>case of Colony</sup>  
Reps in at a loss - 7 Nov  
G.C. & they less business  
had to pay small  
profit - <sup>as</sup> ~~the~~ Concain

p17 - says

- Ry Manager says in control  
over business in colonies  
He is ~~idea~~ <sup>thinks</sup> Ry the  
most dangerous for business.

18. Ref<sup>a</sup> is to G.C.

Some Reps might have been  
built over in it. "Whit"

19. Mistake - over shd be  
under  
Patented prices ~~prices~~ <sup>prices</sup> ~~now~~

10 The Coments of G.C.  
asked for important  
works to be given to him  
about works & when  
Don't know of it.

10-11 Departmental - const<sup>n</sup>  
invariable double  
estimate  
give examples - he?

12. Indi coal field

Cowan

289

15. No witnesses - case of Cowan  
Rys in at a loss - Not  
G.C. & they less temporary  
- used to pay small  
profit - is Cowan

17 says

- Ry Manager says in control  
over revenues in salaries  
He is also Risks  
not dangerous in revenue

18. Ref<sup>n</sup> is to G.C.

some Rys might have  
built more quickly which

19. M. S. Lake - over the to  
under  
Potential prices from now

200 miles from Lagos is  
 a ~~number of~~  
~~area~~ ~~area~~

My notes: increased in  
 areas very little - up  
 in about with  
 - new work (land)

Reimbursement (log)

20. Grants to the Co. in  
 use of freight

Difficulty of getting a  
 sufficient approval -  
 sets of FM + heads  
 Branches

holland

23. - best fine entertainment  
 YAT ~~mailing~~  
 - ~~mailing~~  
 Pipe integrated part of  
 admit

June 25 - 1st Meeting with

a Railway Board of  
 highly paid men

Gen Managers & Managers  
 Cooper best was in Acc't  
 depend on person available  
 + class - ie of - covants  
 important



~~200 miles from Lagos~~

~~4 - 5000 bundles of  
cocoa beans there~~

By sales, increased  
income very little - 20%  
based on volume  
of sales -  
Retention back up

20 amounts that Pine Co can  
use advice freight

Difficultly of getting  
different officials -  
Subs of PM + Head  
Branches

holland

23. Best time alternative  
using <sup>YAF</sup> railway  
- Ryo integral part of  
advice

part 25  
a Railway Record of  
highly paid

Gen Manager  
Comptroller  
Inspector  
+ staff - in of countries  
important

p 34 - Why does South America  
accept the allegation  
that gets extra taxes  
estimate

32. Public for rail etc  
open for railways - not  
in fact

No system of land  
rights. concrete needs  
more with emphasis of  
country relations for  
similar work

36. Development of private  
nature. Agree with  
traders

Mr. Gifford

S America colonized for  
centuries by Europeans

But not like S

America - not eager to give  
away state property for lands  
to individuals

49. Transfer railways into  
hands of public since  
trade it is  
railways. Also not this

p 34

Why does Sir...  
accept the allegation  
that jobs cost twice  
as much

22. Part of staff etc  
when on railways work  
is not

My system of train  
work consists posts  
with experience of  
country masters for  
similar work

36. Development of  
nature. Agree with  
trades

Mr. F. Holt

3 America colonized for  
centuries by Europeans

But Col Gov - matches 5

American - not large transfer  
away state property  
to individuals

49. Transfer railway  
lands to...  
Trade...  
railways... when...  
...

p 34

Why does Smith never  
accept the allegation  
that jobs cost twice  
as much.

32. PWD job held etc  
when on railways work  
in 1924

My system of hair  
bush. concrete roads  
with emphasis of  
country analysis for  
similar work

36. Development of garage  
master. Agree with  
traders

The Felt Holt

291

America colonized for  
centuries by Europeans

Procol Govt - watched  
American - not eager to give  
away state property for loans  
to individuals

49. Transfer railways - it  
brants to be able to  
trade it as to new  
railways. The old these

p 34. Why does Smith never  
accept the allegation  
that jobs exist twice  
estimate

22. PWD staff will  
appear on railways work  
in fact

The system of having  
h. h. construction posts  
with experience of  
country matters & former  
similar work

36. Development of group  
nature. Agree with  
Harris

Mr. Feltolt

291

S America colonized for  
centuries by Europeans

Per Col. Galt - matches 5  
American - not eager to  
away state property for  
to individuals

49. Transfer railway -  
hundreds of barrels  
Trade it is  
railways. Who are these

Sir J. Norton Suffitts

p 13 Arguments for private  
contract - bonuses  
same subcontractors  
imported labour  
? Dakar

The ordinary sections  
like Banguella Ry worked  
at "under £4000 or thereabouts  
a mile"

Refer to Shelford report  
p 15. Palm kernel factory W.C.  
Lagos. Palm kernel factories  
Lagos & Opobo  
What is he doing at

p 17. My Ry rates - refer to 292  
memo

— Memo not done

p 18. Labour recruiting at  
Whia E1 a head

Senegal - unintelligible  
to Consul handed over the border  
& got E1 a head ~~How did~~

—  
page 20. tariff ~~protection~~  
offer up duty forbidden by treaty in Nigeria  
ordinary tariff protects agst for manufacturers

29) The Cape (East) lines are as  
well managed as any in  
Africa

Sir J. Norton Griffiths

p 13. Arguments for private  
contract. bonuses  
Tame subcontractors  
imported labour  
? Dakar

The ordinary sections  
(see Beysulla Ry worked  
at "under £4000 or thereabouts  
a mile"

Refer to Shelford report

p 15. Palukemel factory W.C.  
Leaves Palukemel factory  
Lagos & Opobo

What is he doing at

p 17. My Ry rates - refer to 292  
memo

memo - not here

p 18. Labour recruiting at  
Ukine - £1 a head

Sengal - un-intelligent  
to Counsel - hauled over the border  
4,800 £1 a head ~~How set~~

page 20. tariff ~~protection~~  
offer up duty forbidden by treaty in Nigeria  
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Leirs Palm kernel factories  
Lagos & Opobo  
What is he doing at

p 17. My Reports - refer to 292  
memo

Memo - not here  
p 18. Labour recruiting at  
Uria £1 a head.  
Senegal - mounted by the  
to coast. Shantled over the border  
& so. £1 a head ~~How it~~

page 20. tariff ~~protection~~  
offer up into provision by treaty in Nigeria  
ordinary tariff protects against for manufacturers

29) The Cape (East) lines are as  
well managed as any in  
Africa



31 Acknowledged fact  
but man will not put  
same real & sincerity of  
interest in work if  
he is not interested in the  
work.

Depends on man who

Grogan

2. Lapping 50% of profit  
all out not to
4. Measurement of man  
his being private & man to

5. Got questions always said  
the necessary  
heads company  
Dats got lines

11. Effect of ~~the~~ Dr. A. J.  
efficiency of private  
enterprise

12. 80% of reports by Grogan  
not true as that got never reports  
& cannot get rid of  
inefficient men.

Got has to see it  
is right to connect  
Prudential has no hope question  
or MP's working

13. Dandson. Why did Co. carry  
over the ground with man  
only than Got. P. J.

31 Acknowledged fact

but man will not put

some real money or

interest in work of

nothing for the

with

Managerial & Ter

work - donkey born

Depends on man who

Treagan

2. Lopping 30% prob

all work not to

4. Inconvenience of bar.

has being private & man to

5. Govt quarters always said

are necessary in

Heads Company was

Tails Govt lose

11 Effect of ~~the~~ Fr. Hgr

influence of private

category

12 80% of reports by Congress

Not true as that Govt never rejects  
& cannot get rid of

inefficient

Govt has to see it

is right in minutes

Pres but has no staff question  
or MP's coming

13. Dandson. Why did Co carry  
over the ground with more  
surely than Govt Reg

16. Railway Co. bursts  
but happens to pay  
Paralyzes producers  
burst.  
Co. to not go bankrupt  
a country because Ry.  
doesn't pay  
state socialism - took

Bland

20. Then shd be royal  
for coal of at least  
5/11 - a ton

22. Traders say. ha  
when? of cheap  
freight from Port Ha

could be got. coal would  
not be expensive - 25/-<sup>294</sup>  
at 151 miles from mine  
How compare with English  
prices.

31

Result of looking up  
Railways

150 miles handcart  
for export  
150 miles advantage  
for interior

p23. 24. Sacking sufficient  
p32 fault of M or Head  
of Dept

16. Railway co trusts  
 but happens to pay  
 Paralyzes proceeds  
 trust.  
 Got to want go bankrupt  
 a country because they  
 doesn't pay  
 Note socialism - trust

Bland

20. There shd be royal  
 for coal of at least  
 $\frac{5}{11}$  - a ton  
 22. Traders say. has  
 when? & cheap  
 freight from Port Ha

could be got coal would  
 not be expensive - 25/-<sup>294</sup>  
 at 151<sup>net</sup> miles from mine  
 How compare with English  
 prices.

21

Result of linking up  
 Railways

150 miles transport  
 for export  
 150 miles advantage  
 for interior

p 23. 24. Sacking - inefficient  
 fault of M or Head  
 p 32 of Dept

GM can dismiss agreement  
below Hqs of Dep  
24 - Suspension ~~over~~ the

Interdiction  
He admits (32) that he got  
his way in the end  
Don't say by have  
appeal (to Adm) Don't

GM's always asking for  
independence - of Govt  
- impossible

Raising of salaries  
strikes. <sup>GM's</sup> By the worst  
at demanding increase  
- enormous loss of rail  
stuff during boom - bla  
demands for numerous

Difficulty of contracts  
altering of contracts  
295

29 Don't agree that various  
shd be visited - Dept  
asked to tender

30 - Enforcing penalty  
on contractors - always fair  
to find excuse

Pl officers are not  
going to want to increase  
contractors profits  
- high Hadan line was  
surveyed but no tops  
maps till after

GM can discuss agreement  
below that of Dept  
24 - Suspension more than

Instruction  
He admits (32) that he gets  
his way in the end  
Don't say they have  
appeal to Ad of Dir to

GM's always asking to  
dependence of Govt  
impossible

Raises of salaries  
strikes <sup>GM's</sup> by the worst  
at demanding increase  
- enormous loss of railway  
staff during boom - bla  
demands for numerous

28 - Difficulty of contracts  
allowing of variation 295

29 - Don't agree that tenders  
shd be invited - Dept  
ask to tender

30 - Enforcing penalty  
on contractors - always run  
to good excuse

Pl officers are not  
going to sweat to maximize  
contractors profits  
- kept Madan line was  
surveyed but no letters  
maps till after

33. Freight rates on the

34. Freight on the way

see Humphreys &  
Honey

p3. agree with state  
of disadvantages of  
Contract

8-9. Pension System v  
Provident Fund

NIG Recent proposal  
abolish Prov Fund

11 Harbour works  
Both systems  
Advantages of Dept  
works for Lagos Harb. Works

15. Local Loans Acts  
Both  
Both can raise loans  
Objection, Indian Prob  
States

Colt Hammond

25. } FC + Nigeria  
26. } East by still very  
wild country.

28. It says now write  
letters - it depends

33. Freight rates on the  
34. Freight on the sea

see Ambergall  
Amberg

13. Agree with stat  
of disadvantages of  
Contract

8-9. Pension System v  
Pension Fund

1. Mig Recent proposal  
abolish Prop Fun

11. Harbour works

Both systems  
Advantages of Depth  
constr for Lagos Harb. Mole

15. Col Louis Als

Notes -  
Rts can raise lo any  
Application Indian Nat.  
States

Col Hammond

25. } FC + Nigeria  
26. } East by still very  
wild country

28. It says now in  
india - it depends



on the line as to possible  
but disadvantages of contra  
for an

30 - trade management

32 -  
On what exp does he b  
assertion

34. Disposal of Ry off  
under new manager

36. Harminid - farmer  
37. handing Gov. Ry's over  
38. to Co. Company

CS  
that has advantage  
p 39  
over Co in hand of my me  
from a Ry to another

B. Atty

543 - Only instance ~~not~~ in  
support of theory that Price Control  
not less than Dep't costs  
Murphy Co certainly not  
in favor - - & only one case

44-45. My policy is & always  
has been not to make Ry's  
an important source of net  
income - depreciation.

... really thinks cash  
the only way out. Directed  
after conducting interests

... of anything left  
... about

After ... (of ...)  
... really ... has picked  
out the thing that pay  
... Gov<sup>v</sup> has done  
... anyone agrees  
... left to Gov<sup>v</sup>. Army-Bo  
... case map  
... which is an  
... country best

Gov<sup>v</sup> - 6 00  
49. Town sites - but  
who else?  
coal Gov<sup>v</sup> have  
... well

46. In reality, think cash  
the only interest. Director  
of collecting interests

... of nothing left  
... what about  
... East Corp -  
... Govt has just  
... the thing that pay  
... Govt has done  
... what anyone expects  
... to left to Govt - Army -  
... Govt has done some  
... things which is an  
... undeveloped country but  
... Govt

49. Town sites - but  
who else?  
... Govt have  
... well

Sir Herbert Read.

300

I have just seen Col Stamer  
In the course of our conversation he asked  
if we had any idea of appointing  
a permanent or semi-permanent  
officer to assist the office on railway  
questions, & to keep watch on railway  
estimates etc. He explained that  
he personally was not necessary after  
the job, but if we thought it necessary  
he would consider it. I told him  
that I thought we should leave  
a difficult task with the Treasury even  
if the idea was favorably considered.  
I further told him that we must  
in any case await the report of  
the private enterprise committee, but  
that meanwhile I would have  
the proposals of such an appointment  
gone into.

20.9.23

Woly

visiting Ote & Cotton at the D. of T., 4, as

the cotton industry  
to develop - is dependent on improved  
equipment, I think that he will prove a most  
valuable member of the Cte

H. J. R.

17/11/23

Secretary of the  
Cte

In your review I have discussed the  
issue of a fee & the removal of the site with Mr. Dundas  
is quite open to the new terms of offer which you have  
accepted (see below)  
In regards personnel I have strongly for the  
inclusion of Mr. C. J. Guntter, who is originally a man of  
the highest standing in the City, his wide experience,  
is very keen to do something for industrial develop-  
ment & suggests that he might be substituted for  
Mr. Frame & Mr. J. Eaglesome, so as to give a somewhat  
smaller Cte

(I am sorry you agree that Mr. C. J. Guntter  
should be substituted for Mr. J. Eaglesome & Mr. Frame)  
H. J. R.

21/11/23

I agree to the terms of reference  
& the personnel.

D. 21. 6.

Advisory Ctee on Cotton at the D. of T., 4, as  
industry

the cotton, bulks so big as S. Africa  
to develop<sup>t</sup> - is dependent on improved  
methods. I think that he will prove a most  
valuable member of the Ctee

H. J. R.  
17/12/23

I Director General  
Secretary of State

In your name I have reviewed the  
names of those who are named of the Ctee with his sanction  
is quite agree to the real time of report which you have  
accepted (see also the)  
in regard personnel - he has been strongly in the  
inclusion of Mr. C. S. Funtler, who is doing a man of  
the highest standing in the City, has wide experience,  
it is very keen to do something for industrial develop<sup>t</sup>  
we suggest that he might be substituted for  
Mr. Frame & Mr. J. Eaglesome, so as to give a somewhat  
smaller Ctee

(Mr. Funtler - first name that Mr. C. S. & J. R.  
Funtler should be substituted for  
Mr. Eaglesome & Mr. Frame) 21/12/23

I agree to the terms of reference  
& the personnel.

D. 21. 6.

Suggested Terms of Reference for the  
"Private Enterprise" Committee  
to be appointed by the Secretary of State  
for the Colonies:-

To consider whether, and if so what, measures could be taken to encourage private enterprise in the development of the British Dependencies in East and West Tropical Africa with special reference to existing and projected schemes of transportation; and to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Duchy of Lancaster Office,  
Lancaster Place,  
Strand, W.C.2.  
10, Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

14th June 1923.

My dear Secretary of State,

You will recollect that some time ago the late Prime Minister - and, I think, also the present Prime Minister as Chancellor of the Exchequer - wrote to you suggesting that it would be useful to set up a Committee to inquire into the possible means by which transportation in Africa might be improved and developed. The Treasury put forward tentatively the names of gentlemen who, they thought, might possibly commend themselves to the Colonial Office as suitable Members of that Committee.

The Prime Minister has asked me to take up the matter again with you on his behalf, as he regards the holding of a preliminary investigation, of the nature indicated, as a matter of some importance, in view of the approaching Imperial Economic Conference.

You,

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.



Duchy of Lancaster Office,  
Lancaster Place,  
Strand, W.C.2.  
10, Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

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You

Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

You will remember that the President of the Board of Trade took a very active part in pressing the desirability of the immediate examination of the possibility of developing and extending Transportation in Africa.

~~Yours sincerely,~~

Yours sincerely  
J. Sedgwick

You will remember that the President of the Board of Trade took a very active part in pressing the desirability of the immediate examination of the possibility of developing and extending Transportation in Africa.

~~Yours truly,~~

Yours sincerely  
J. Davidson

23rd June 1923.

Dear Read,

Very many thanks for yours of yesterday, with its inclosures. I will be an early of informing the Prime Minister.

As regards the composition of the Committee, I am disposed to agree with you that it is desirable to include a railwayman, but think with you that this might stand over until a Chairman has been found and can be consulted.

Yours sincerely,

H. J. Read,

K.C.M.G., C.B.  
Assistant Under Secretary,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

23rd June 1923.

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Yours sincerely,

H. J. Read,

K.C.M.G., C.B.,  
Assistant Under Secretary,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

DOWNING STREET,

22 June, 1923.

My dear Davidson

With reference to our conversation yesterday, the Secretary of State has now approved the personnel of the Committee and the terms of reference. We are taking steps to approach Lord Selborne and I will keep you informed of developments.

I enclose a copy of the terms of reference and a list of those whom it is proposed to ask to serve on the Committee. I am not sure that it will not be necessary to include a railway man (e.g. Mr. W. M. Acworth) now that we have struck out Sir J. Eaglesome, but this might perhaps stand over for the present. Lord Selborne, if he accepts the Chairmanship, may have views as to the composition of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Herbert H. J. Reed

22 June 1923

My dear Davidson,

**DRAFT.**C. Davidson Esq.  
C.H., C.B., M.P.**MINUTE.**

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr. Davis.  
Sir G. Grindle.  
Sir H. Read. 22/12  
Sir J. Masterton Smith.  
Mr. Wood.  
Mr. Churchill.

at once.  
H. J. A.

With reference to our conversation yesterday, the Secretary of State has now approved the proposed of the C<sub>2</sub> and the terms of reference. We are ~~now~~ taking steps to approach Lord Selborne. I will keep you informed of developments. I enclose a copy of the terms of reference & a list of those whom it is proposed to ask to serve on the C<sub>2</sub>. I am not sure that it will not be necessary to include a railway man (e.g. Mr. D. M. Seymour) now that we have struck out

Yrs

Dr. J. Espley, at this night  
perhaps stand over for the  
moment. Lord Selborne, if he  
accepts the Chairmanship, may  
have views as to the  
composition of the etc.

I assure that it will  
be sufficient if I communicate  
with you as to develop  
+ that it is not necessary to  
bring in our respective Chiefs,  
unless some important question  
of principle arises.

Yours sincerely

H. J. Rend.



DRAFT.

Right Honourable  
 Earl of Selborne  
 G.C.M.G.

MINUTE.

Mr. Lushington 22-6-23

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

+ Sir H. Read. 23/VI

Sir J. Masterjon Smith

asked me to deal with this.

x Mr. Ormsby-Gore. 23-6-23

x Duke of Devonshire.

The Prime Minister has had  
 in mind for some time the  
 appointment of a Committee to  
 examine the development of  
 transport facilities in Tropical  
 Africa, with especial regard to  
 the encouragement of private  
 enterprise in that direction  
 of Empire Development, and  
 I am proceeding to the  
 formation at an early date  
 of a Committee to conduct  
 an authoritative examination  
 of this problem. ~~was possible~~  
 Your name at once  
 occurred to me as

was possible

as one whose <sup>wide</sup> ~~own~~ ~~wide~~ experience  
of Imperial affairs and special  
knowledge of conditions in Africa  
make you peculiarly fitted to  
be the Chairman of the Committee  
now to be formed, and I greatly  
hope that you may ~~some way~~  
be able by accepting this  
position to ~~give~~ bring your  
valuable experience to the  
examination of the question.

The terms of reference for  
the Committee are as follows:—  
To consider whether, and if so what,  
measures could be taken to encourage  
private enterprise in the development  
of the British Dependencies in East  
and West Tropical Africa with

special reference to ~~the~~ and  
proposed schemes of transportation;  
and to report to the S. of S.  
for the Colonies.

It is proposed to appoint  
the following members to  
the Committee, but I  
should, of course welcome

any suggestions you may  
wish to make.

Sir James Stevenson, my  
personal adviser in

commercial matters; Sir  
<sup>the late Sir James of Mysore</sup>  
~~James Stevenson~~  
Frederick Lugard, M.  
~~Colonial Secretary of Lancaster~~  
~~the Duke's Secretary~~  
J. C. Davidson, M. P.;

M. E. R. Peacock, the  
Banker, who is also a  
Director of Transport  
undertakings in Spain.

DRAFT.

2

MINUTE.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Road.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

and South America; Sir E. Stockton, M.P.,

his President of the Manchester Chamber of

Commerce and Director of the London

Scottish and Midland Railway; and

his William Mercer, until lately one

of the C.A. for the Colon; with Mr.

P. Lushington of the Colonial Office as

Secretary.

~~The secretary of the committee~~

I am anxious that the Ctee should begin its work at the earliest

possible date, as its Report, in dealing with so important a <sup>part</sup> ~~part~~

of Empire development, will be of

value in connexion with the Imperial Economic Conference in November.

~~So far as~~ It is, too, a favourable time, should the Ctee wish to obtain the views of Governors of the Tropical

+ will be able to represent the cotton industry

M<sup>r</sup> C. E. Guntter who has a long experience of industrial and agricultural railway undertakings in South

African Dependencies. With the exception of the few of the families who are to remain in this country the Government of all the West

through the end of July, with the

African Dependencies are at present in this country, as

are also Sir Robert Coryndon, formerly Governor of Uganda, now Governor of Kenya,

the Governor of Nyasaland, and

the Chief Secretary to the Administration of the

Tanganyika Territory.

I need hardly say how pleased I should be if you can see your way to undertake the Chairmanship of this Ctee.

DRAFT.

3

MINUTE.

- Mr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Duke of Devonshire.

June 26. 23

43 Mount Street  
W 1

My dear Bernardine

I am sorry to see, no, to  
 any suggestion coming from you, but,  
 nevertheless, I cannot undertake  
 to be Chairman of your African Trans-  
 portation Committee.

Yours sincerely

Belmont

June 26. 23

49 Mount Street  
W. I.

My dear Gertrude

I am sorry to see, no to  
 any suggestion coming from you, but  
 nevertheless, I cannot undertake  
 to be Chairman of your African Trans-  
 portation Committee

Yours sincerely

P. H. R.

Secretary of State

As directed by you,  
I have ascertained from  
Gardner that the  
concern in the proposal  
as to Lord Buxton (instead  
and Ronaldsley) to  
Chairman. W. Davidson  
that it might be well to  
railway report to J. R.  
referred to

4 [VII] 23

Secretary of State

As directed by you,  
I have ascertained from  
Gardner that the  
he concurs in the proposal  
as to Lord Buxton (instead  
and Ronalds Key) to  
be as Chairman. W. Davidson  
views that it might be well to  
have a railway report  
sent to the  
to

4 [vii] 23

July,  
20th June, 1923

Honourable  
Earl of Buxton, G.C.M.G.

4-7-23  
The Prime Minister has had in mind for some time the appointment of a Committee to examine the development of transport facilities in Tropical Africa, with especial regard to the encouragement of private enterprise in that direction, and I am proceeding to the formation at an early date of a Committee to conduct an authoritative examination of this problem.

Your name ~~at first~~ occurred to me as one whose wide experience of Imperial affairs and special knowledge of conditions in Africa make you peculiarly fitted to be the Chairman of the Committee now to be formed, and I greatly hope that you may be able by accepting this position to bring your valuable experience to the examination of the question.

The terms of reference for the Committee are as follows:-

To consider whether, and if so what, measures could be taken to encourage private enterprise in the development



*P. H. Reed* 12/7/23 315

30, ENNISMORE GARDENS,  
S.W.7.

July 12th, 1923

TELEPHONE  
1542 WASHINGTON.

of the British Dependencies in East and West Tropical Africa with special reference to existing and projected schemes of transportation; and to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

It is proposed to appoint the following members to the Committee, but I should, of course, welcome any suggestion you may wish to make.

Sir James Stevenson, my personal adviser in colonial matters; Sir Frederick Lugard, the late Governor of Nigeria; Mr. J. M. C. Davidson, M.P., Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Mr. E. R. Peacock, the Banker, who is also a Director of transport undertakings in Spain and South America; Sir Stockton, M.P., who is President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Director of the London Scottish and Midland Railway and will also represent the cotton industry; Mr. C. C. Gunther, who has a large experience of industrial, agricultural and railway undertakings in South America; and Sir William Mercer, until lately one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies with Mr. P. Liesching of the Colonial Office as Secretary.

*that it may not be possible to send to the Committee*  
I am anxious that the Committee should begin its

work at the earliest possible date, as its Report, dealing

with

*a number with secret members of railways, such as Sir W. Mercer, etc. who are on the Indian Railways.*

My dear Duke,

I appreciate the honour you have done me in asking me to be Chairman to the Committee to examine into the development of Transport Facilities in Tropical Africa. It is a work that would have appealed to me had I had time to give to it. But unfortunately I am too busy at present, not only with my own private affairs, but also with reference to the Report of a Committee on the Superannuation of Teachers which will require some weeks of close attention and hard work on my part.

After that is finished I am going abroad and have many engagements in the North of England which would prevent my taking on any other work during the next few months.

I must therefore ask you kindly to excuse me.

Yours sincerely,

*Emmott*

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., etc., etc.

with so important a part of Empire development, will be of value in connexion with the Imperial Economic Conference in November. It is, too, a favourable time, should the Committee wish to obtain the views of Governors of the Tropical African Dependencies. With the exception of the Governor of the Gambia who is due to arrive in this country towards the end of July, the Governors of all the West African Dependencies are at present in this country, as are also Sir Robert Coryndon, formerly Governor of Uganda, now Governor of Kenya, the Governor of Nyasaland, and the Chief Secretary to the Administration of the Tanganyika Territory.

I need hardly say how pleased I should be if you can see your way to undertake the Chairmanship of this Committee.

9<sup>mo</sup>

D  
32054

16<sup>th</sup> July 1923

~~88/2~~  
li



DRAFT.

I am to inform you  
that he is appointing a

addresses

See end of  
draft.

MINUTE.

Committee, under the  
Chairmanship of the Earl of

Mr. Lushington 16.7.23

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

+ Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

Ronaldshay, of which the  
terms of reference are as

follows: -

To consider whether, and if  
so what, measures could be

taken to encourage

private enterprise in the

development of the British

Dependencies in East and

West Tropical Africa,

one return pp. to  
him after dispatch early

16.7

with special reference to existing and projected schemes of transportation; and to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

His Grace would welcome the valuable experience which you could bring to bear on the examination of this subject, and desires me to ask whether you would be prepared to serve as a member of this Committee.

The first meeting will be held at the Colonial Office

on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m.

The Duke of Devonshire will be glad to learn whether you can see your way to serve as a member of the Committee and to attend the meeting on

Tuesday next.

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.

Mr. Davis  
Sir G. Orindle.  
Sir H. Read.  
Sir J. Masterton Smith  
Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

I am etc.  
(Signed) H. J. Read

Letter to be sent to the following:-

- ✓ 1. Sir William Gowers, K.C.S.I.  
(The Albany, Piccadilly, W.1.)
- ✓ 2. The Right Hon. Sir F. Lugard G.C.M.G.  
(Little Parkhurst, Chingford Common, Haringey)
- ✓ 3. Sir E. Sturton, M.P.  
(House of Commons)
- ✓ 4. E. R. Peacock Esq.  
(6 Park Row, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.)
- ✓ 5. C. E. Gunther Esq.  
59 Prince's Gate, S.W.7
- ✓ 6. Sir W. Mercer, K.C.M.G.  
(6 Grosvenor, 4 Marlborough, S.W.1.)

7. C. C. Davidson Esq C. H., C. B., M. P.

(10 Downing Street)

July 17th.1923.

Dear Sir,

I shall be pleased to serve on the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Ronaldshay, but as regards the meeting on Tuesday, I am a little uncertain as to whether I can be present, owing to previous engagements, but I will do my best to get away in order to appear on this occasion.

I take it that it is very clearly understood that this Committee will not sit during the Recess, or at all events the early part of it? I should greatly appreciate a specific statement on this point. While I do not wish to appear grudging, I do feel that after the present Session some brief holiday is essential for us all.

Yours very faithfully,

*Edwin Stockett*

SIR HERBERT J. READ K.C.M.G., C.B.,  
The Colonial Office, S.W.1.

---

July 17th.1923.

Dear Sir,

I shall be pleased to serve on the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Ronaldshay, but as regards the meeting on Tuesday, I am a little uncertain as to whether I can be present, owing to previous engagements, but I will do my best to get away in order to appear on this occasion.

I take it that it is very clearly understood that this Committee will not sit during the Recess, or at all events the early part of it? I should greatly appreciate a specific statement on this point. While I do not wish to appear grudging, I do feel that after the present Session some brief holiday is essential for us all.

Yours very faithfully,

*Edwin Stockton*

SIR HERBERT J. READ K.C.M.G., C.B.,  
The Colonial Office, S.W.1.

---

9 1  
4 MILLBANK  
WESTMINSTER  
LONDON S W 1

VICTORIA 1750

17 7 23

Sir

In reply to your  
letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> (32057/23).  
I shall have much pleasure  
in serving as a member  
of the Committee referred to,  
and will attend the  
meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> with

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. Mercer



322  
July 17/23

12, NORFOLK CRESCENT,  
HYDE PARK, W.

Re 32057/1923

Dear Sir

Sir William Aworth is  
present in Vienna, staying  
at the Imperial Hotel. He  
has been there since the  
beginning of May and I  
fear he will not be back  
before the beginning of  
August.

He has gone out on  
behalf of the League of  
Nations in connection with  
the ~~negotiations~~ of  
Railways of Austria.

I have sent the letter  
straight out, to him  
today. He asked me  
to see to his corresponded  
during his absence

Yours truly  
Cicely / Gosson

---

To

Sir H. J. Read.

~~Se~~ 19 July 1933.

DRAFT.

hi,

thank you for

1 can be to acknowledge

E. Stankin, M.P.  
(House of Commons)

~~The receipt of your letter of~~

the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, expressing

MINUTE.

Mr. Laming 12.7.33.

your willingness to serve

Mr.

on the Committee under

Mr.

Mr. Dain

the Chairmanship of the

Mr. G. Smith

Mr. H. Cook 10/8

Mr. G. Smith

Mr. G. Smith

Mr. G. Smith

East of Ronaldsham, to  
attend if you are able to  
attend at the meeting on Tuesday,  
you will doubtless

take an opportunity of

visiting ~~London~~ T.O.

I have sent the letter  
straight out, to him  
today. He asked me  
to see to his correspondence  
during his absence

Yours truly  
Cicely Jones

---

To

Sir H. J. Read

19 July 1923.

DRAFT.

Hi, thank you for  
I am glad to acknowledge

Stockton, N.P.  
(Town of Commons)

MINUTE.

~~the receipt~~ of your letter of  
the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, expressing

Mr. Leachman 18.7.23.

your willingness to serve

Mr.

on the Committee under

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

the Chairmanship of the

Sir G. Grindle.

+ Sir H. Read. 18

Sir J. Masterton Smith

Mr. Ormaby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire

Earl of Ronaldshay, to  
attend if you are able to  
attend the meeting on Tuesday,  
you will doubtless

take an opportunity of

raising at Tuesday's T.O.

to say that  
he fully appoints  
the joint record  
of the latter part  
of the letter

~~meeting~~ the question of the  
Committee's meetings during  
the Recess. If you should unfortunately  
be prevented from attending them,  
& the view which you have  
expressed will be brought be  
put forward for discussion.

I am,

(Signed) H. J. READ

~~meeting~~ the question of the  
Committee's meetings during  
the Recess. If you should unfortunately  
be prevented from attending them,  
& the view which you have  
expressed will be brought be  
put forward for discussion.

I am, Sir,  
Yours truly,

(Signed) H. J. READ

Treasury Chambers,

Whitehall. S.W.1

~~Duchy of Lancaster Office,~~

~~Lancaster Place,~~

~~Strand W.C.2.~~



18th July 1923

Sir Herbert J. Read, K.C.M.G., C.B.,

Assist. Under Secretary of State,

Colonial Office,

S.W.1

Mr. J. C. C. Davidson has the honour to acknowledge a Colonial Office letter, No. 32067/1923 dated, Downing Street, 16th July 1923 informing him that a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Ronaldshay is about to be appointed to consider various questions concerned with existing and projected schemes of transportation in the British Dependencies in East and West Tropical Africa, and asking, on behalf of the Duke of Devonshire, whether Mr. Davidson is prepared to serve as a Member of the Committee.

Mr. Davidson has much pleasure in accepting



His Grace's kind invitation to serve on the  
Committee and notes that the first meeting  
will be held at the Colonial Office on Tuesday,  
July 24th at 3.p.m.

hs.

RECEIVED

19 JUL 1870

COL. OFF.

To the ~~Under Secretary~~ Secretary  
 of State  
 Colonial Office.  
 S. W. 1

Sir

I am in receipt  
 of your letter of  
 July 16<sup>th</sup> & much  
 appreciate the sake  
 of Devonshire's

in connection with  
the developement of the  
British dependencies,  
in East, & West, & Equatorial  
Africa.

I have the honour to  
accept this invitation  
to serve thereon, & I will  
attend the meeting at  
the Colonial Office, on  
July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.  
I am Sir, yours faithfully  
C. E. G. [unclear]

in connection with  
the developement of the  
British Dependencies,  
in East, & West, Tropical  
Africa.

I have the honour to  
accept this invitation  
to serve thereon, & I will  
attend the meeting at  
the Colonial Office, on  
July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.  
I am Sir, yours faithfully,  
C. E. G. Walker

(Please return after terms of the letter has been received)

326

C. D.  
R 26 JUL  
D 40

22057/23

E Africa  
W Africa

July 1973

DRAFT.

R. Penrose Esq.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Laming 25
- Mr. T
- Mr. Davis
- Mr. G. Grindle
- Mr. H. Road
- Mr. J. Masterton Smith
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Duke of Devonshire

26  
Done  
2.1.73

Dear Sir,

I am glad to enquire whether you are now in a position to reply to the letter sent to you from this Dept on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, asking whether you would be prepared to serve as a member of a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Roseland, which has been appointed by the Dept to examine questions of development

in connection with  
the developement of the  
British Dependencies,  
in East, & West, Africa  
Africa.

I have the honour to  
accept this invitation  
to serve there on, & I will  
attend the meeting at  
the Colonial Office, on  
July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.  
I am Sir, yours faithfully,  
C. E. G. G. G.

(Please return after to use after letter has gone)

326

2205 T/23  
C. D.  
R 26 JUL  
D 40

E Africa  
W Africa

27 July 1923.

J C

li.

DRAFT.

R. Peacock Esq.

I am glad to enquire whether you are now in a position to reply to the letter sent to you from this Dept. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, asking whether you would be prepared to serve as a member of a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Ronaldshay, which has been appointed by the Sops to examine question of development

MINUTE.

- Mr. Linsley 25
- Mr. K
- Mr.
- Mr. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- + Sir H. Road.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Duke of Devonshire.

26  
J.C.  
at once  
H. J. R.

in

and transportation in the British  
Dependencies in Tropical Africa.

If the letter of July 16<sup>th</sup>, which  
enclosed the terms of reference,  
should not have reached you,  
a copy will be sent.

The next meetings of the Committee  
are to be held ~~on~~ at the Colonial  
Office on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and  
Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2.30  
p.m. on each day.

Yours  
H. J. READ

(Signed) H. J. READ



and Transportation in the British

Dependencies in Tropical Africa.

If the letter of July 16<sup>th</sup>, which  
inclosed the terms of reference,  
should not have reached you,  
a copy will be sent.

The next meetings of the Committee

are to be held ~~on~~ at the Colonial

Office on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and

Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2.30

p.m. on each day.

*H. J. Read*

(Signed) H. J. READ

British Indian Postage.

327

21. 7. 23

LETTER PLACED IN THE  
MAILS  
BY OFFICER  
IN CHARGE

RECEIVED  
24 JUL 1923  
COL. OFFICE

STATION OVERSEAS  
S. E.

Sir -

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter  
no 32057/1923. of July 16<sup>th</sup> & to request you to  
inform His Grace the Duke of Devonshire that I shall  
esteem it a privilege to have on the Committee of  
which Lord Ronald Dunsley is Chairman.

I much regret that my presence here as British member  
of the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations will prevent  
my attending the first meeting on July 24. & I should  
be greatly obliged if you would be so good as to inform  
the Chairman of the reason of my enforced absence.

I am Sir, Your obedient servant

H. J. Read. R.C.B.

J. Mangru

Home News Office.

327

21. 7. 23

LITTLE PALMISTY.  
ARRIVED LONDON.  
BY AIRMAIL.  
AGENCY.

~~General~~  
RECEIVED  
24 JUL 1923  
COL OFFICE

POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
U.S.A.

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter  
 No 32057/1923. of July 16<sup>th</sup> & to request you to  
 inform His Grace the Duke of Devonshire that I should  
 esteem it a privilege to have on the Committee of  
 United Lord Rosalind they is Chairman,  
 I much regret that my presence here as British member  
 of the Mandates Com<sup>tee</sup> of the League of Nations will prevent  
 my attending the first meeting on July 24. & I should  
 be greatly obliged if you would be so good as to inform  
 the Chairman of the reason of my enforced absence.

I am Sir, Your Obedient Servant

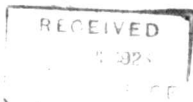
H. J. Read. R.C.B.

J. B. Mungro

Hotel Imperial,  
Vienna.

July 23rd, 1923.

32057/1923



Sir,

Your letter of the 16th of July has been forwarded to me here where I am at present investigating the railway situation on behalf of the League of Nations. I do not expect to be back in England until the middle of next month, and I shall not be much in London till October.

I assume that the Meeting on July 24th will only be of a preliminary nature, and that the real work of the Committee will not be begun till the Autumn. If these assumptions are correct, I shall be happy to accept the invitation of His Grace to serve on the Committee in reference to Tropical African Development.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W. M. Acworth*

To  
The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

25 July, 1923.

Sir,

On the instructions of Lord Ronaldsday, Chairman of the Private Enterprise Committee, I have the honour to inform you that your views on the suspension of the activities of the Committee during the Recess were brought forward at today's Meeting.

The Committee feel that it is impossible to dispense with meetings during August, owing to the desire of the Secretary of State that its Report should, if possible, be available for the Imperial Economic Conference in October, and also because Governors of certain of the Tropical African Dependencies, whose evidence will be valuable, are shortly returning to Africa. The Committee proposes to sit during August and to suspend its meetings, if possible, during part of September. The attendance of all members at every meeting is not considered essential,

EDWIN STOCKTON, M.P.

Initial, as Minutes will be circulated.

I take this opportunity of notifying you  
of the next two meetings of the Committee:-

Friday July 31st at 2.30 P.M., when the following  
are being invited to give evidence before the  
Committee:- Sir Hugh Clifford (Governor of Nigeria)  
Robert C'ryndon (Governor of Kenya, formerly  
Governor of Uganda), Mr. A.R. Slater (Governor of  
Sierra Leone) Sir George Smith (Governor of  
Tanganyika), Mr. A.C. Hollis (Chief Secretary of the  
Tanganyika Territory).

Monday August 2nd at 2.30 P.M. when evidence will  
be given from representatives of commercial interests  
in East Africa. Both these meetings will be held  
in the Conference Room at the Colonial Office.

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

sd. P. LIESCHING.

Secretary.

Initial, as Minutes will be circulated.

I take this opportunity of notifying you  
the next two meetings of the Committee:-

FRIDAY JULY 31st at 2.30 P.M. when the following

are being invited to give evidence before the

Committee:- Sir Hugh Clifford (Governor of Nigeria)

Robert C. Ryndon (Governor of Kenya, formerly

Governor of Uganda), Mr. A. R. Slater (Governor of

Sierra Leone), Sir George Smith (Governor of

Malawi), Mr. A. C. Hollis (Chief Secretary of the

Nyasaland Territory).

FRIDAY AUGUST 2nd at 2.30 P.M. when evidence will

be given from representatives of commercial interests

in East Africa. Both these meetings will be held

in the Conference Room at the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

<sup>Sir,</sup>  
Your obedient servant,

sd. P. LIESCHING.

Secretary.

July 25th. 1923.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter informing me that sittings of the Committee will be held during August, and I regret the decision, in view of the severe tax which has been made upon the physical endurance of Members of Parliament. I can appreciate the need for hearing the evidence in some cases at an early date, since the witnesses will have to return to their various Colonies, but I certainly do not see that it is essential to hear evidence from those whose permanent residence is here. I note, however, that Minutes will be circulated and while I shall hope to attend some of the meetings I shall be absent abroad part of August.

Yours faithfully,



---

P. LEISCHING ESQ.,  
Secretary,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.1.