

EAST AFR. PROT.

C. O  
16793

RECEIVED  
19 MAY 13

16793

21

writing  
311  
Governor

TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD FOR NAIROBI

1932

Proc 1458 }  
to C.A. }  
15 June 1933

from which it will be seen  
how to use it being  
informed that they all  
most probably be met  
instructed to proceed.

The cost of the switchboard is now estimated  
is £800, £300 in excess of the sum provided  
on the Estimate. This increase is estimated  
cost is said to be due to fluctuations in  
price which could not be foreseen.

? Copy of the despatch and enclosures to  
Treasury, and ask for approval on the  
understanding that the extra cost is met  
from savings. (mark the letter pressing)  
A.P.D. (1933)

So proceed? - ascertaining from C.A.  
precisely what the capacity of the new  
Switchboard will be. This is an important  
point is omitted, & the Army despatch  
treats the excess as a matter of cost of  
material only.

(68.137). W.P.E. 07-28  
41,000. 11/12. A.B.W.

Next subsequent Paper.

Proc  
18043

W.P.S. 20.573

at once  
H. J. R.  
20/5/13

Mr. Bottomley. I have telephoned to CA.  
The ultimate capacity of the new switchboard  
is 1000; it is required at present for 300  
possible subscribers.

U. 7D 21-5-13

to foresee the extra expenditure now involved,  
which however can in all probability be met from  
savings on other items of the Postal Department  
Vote.

4. I trust therefore that you will be  
able to instruct the Crown Agents to proceed  
with the indent, which is most urgently required.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

GOVERNMENT

Registered No. 124/13  
3

ENCLOSURE 787

In Despatch No. 311  
April 29 1913  
Recd 19 MAY 13

Postmaster General's Office,  
Nairobi.

11th April, 1913.

103

NEW TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD  
FOR NAIROBI.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a communication addressed to me by the Chief Telegraph Engineer together with copy of the specification (in the form of an Indent) to which he refers.

2. We are now approaching the limit of our existing resources in the way of Switchboard accommodation for the Nairobi Telephone Exchange, and if subscribers continue to increase at the present rate we shall be in the unfortunate position of having to refuse to connect them long before the new Telephone Switchboard can be obtained from England and fitted into position.

3. It is therefore desirable to provide, in advance, against any contingency which might tend to delay the execution of the Indent, and in this connection I beg to point out that whilst the estimated cost of the plant proposed to be obtained is £.800 only £.500 is provided for in the sanctioned estimates for the current financial year.

The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary to the Government.

NAIROBI.

4.

4. In view of the rapid fluctuations of prices it is practically impossible with the limited information available in East Africa to say, at any time, what the cost of any electrical installation may be, and this applies particularly to Telephone Plant for which, I understand, there is an abnormal demand at the present time. I shall therefore be much obliged if representations may be made to the Secretary of State in regard to funds in connection with this particular indent. It is absolutely essential that the new Switchboard be obtained, and it will be necessary to arrange that any expenditure in excess of the £,500 provided be met from savings on other items.

5. The Indent is being forwarded to the Crown Agents in the ordinary way & together with a copy of this communication.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd). J. GOSLING,

std. to R.N.

POSTMASTER GENERAL.

4. In view of the rapid fluctuations of prices it is practically impossible with the limited information available in East Africa to say, at any time, what the cost of any electrical installation may be, and this applies particularly to Telephone Plant. ~~As a result, I anticipate that there is an abnormal demand at the present time, and all therefore be made to the funds in connection with the project. It is absolutely essential that the necessary funds should be obtained, and the necessary arrangements should be made by the Government. The Government should also consider the possibility of raising funds from savings.~~

The enclosed report forwarded to the Government in the ordinary way together with a copy of this communication.

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your most obedient Servant,  
 (Sd). J. OUELING.

Letd. to E.M.

POSTMASTER GENERAL,

Copy

General Post Office,  
Nairobi,  
21st March, 1913.

105

Nairobi Telephone Switchboard.

The Postmaster General,

The Telegraph Engineer, the Assistant Telegraph Engineer (Mr. Ellis), and myself, have gone into the question of the new telephone switchboard for Nairobi. We would very much like to adopt the "Central Battery" system and replace our overhead wires by underground cable, but can hardly recommend this on account of the capital cost involved which would amount to some 27,000. This expenditure would hardly be justified at the present moment in view of the uncertainty as to whether subscribers will continue to increase at the same rate as during the current year. On comparing the number of our subscribers with those of some South African Towns of recent growth, we find that Salisbury with a much larger European population than Nairobi had only 219 subscribers in 1911 and Bulawayo 194. It therefore appears improbable that our numbers during the next three or four years will justify our installing

installing a Central Battery System. I accordingly recommend that a multiple Magneto Telephone Switchboard be ordered as per accompanying specification.

We have no means of estimating the cost of such a board as makers do not price them, so it will be necessary to obtain tenders. Mr. Ellis considers that the cost will be somewhere - at £300. My estimate - calculated on the cost of our present 200 line board - was put at £500.

As none of our staff have any practical experience with enamel wiring which, I understand, is not being generally adopted at home, it has been thought advisable to specify ordinary wiring and not enamel.

sd. L. E. Cairns.

Chief Telegraph Engineer.

switched and would accommodate

300 lines in the first instance,  
with an ultimate capacity of  
1000 lines.

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