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Recd  
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Governor  
Conf  
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Field

1914  
July

NAIROBI-THIKA RAILWAY  
EXTENSION TO MOUNT KENIA

last previous Paper.  
6  
17699

States that although it may be advisable to construct at some future date it is not urgent at present time. Reports as to opening of agencies at Fort Hall and Nyeri and bullock wagon transport to Thika. Agrees with Railway Manager that this will meet needs of district for some years and that it is advisable to defer consideration of railway extension until Uasin Gishu line has been completed.

*Sft. for mem. to Lord Cromwell  
from the substance of para. 2 + 3  
of the despatch.*

*at once.*

*H. J. R.*

*25/VII/14*

*copy above for Conf 4 Aug 14*

subsequent Paper.

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JUL 14

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 121.

PRINTED FOR US  
AFRICAN  
101

July 1st, 1914.

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SIR,

6  
17699

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 25th of May on the subject of Lord Cranworth's proposals for the extension of the Nairobi-Thika Railway to Mount Kenia.

2. Although it will no doubt be advisable to embark on this enterprise at some future date, I am of opinion that it is not a matter of urgency at the present time. The points raised in paragraph 3 of your despatch under reply constitute serious objections to the immediate inception of such a project, and I consider it would be a mistake to encourage a proposal which would have

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

\* No 17699

missions

have the effect of imposing a heavy additional tax on the local labour supply and on the capacity of our wharf and railway, both of which will have to be strained to the utmost in order to meet the requirements of our present programme.

3. The General Manager has already made arrangements for the establishment of agencies at Fort Hall and Nyeri to be worked in connection with the Uganda Railway. At these stations warehousemen and goods clerks are to be posted who will take delivery of goods, and the transport to the Thika will be effected by means of bullock wagons under the supervision of a firm of contractors. This experiment is to be inaugurated at an early date and we shall then be in a position to gauge the possibilities of the traffic. The General Manager is of opinion that such a service will meet the needs of the district for some years to come and, as far as I am able to judge, his calculations are correct. It is therefore desirable to defer consideration of railway extension in the Kenia Province at least until the construction of the Uasin Gishu line has been completed.

4. I should in any event be averse from any arrangement which would take the management of any section of railway out of Government control, and it is possible that one reason for Lord Cranworth's anxiety to expedite the construction of this line may be found in the fact that it is of the utmost importance to the development of his timber concession on Mount Kenia.

*etc*  
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*Alonzo Bayard*

GOVERNOR.

Gov 26944/914  
East

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~~Copy to [unclear] [unclear] D7]~~



29<sup>th</sup> July 1914

My Lord

DRAFT

[17699/14]

With reference to your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> of

Lord Cranworth

May, ~~on the subject of railway extension in~~

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 27/7/14

~~East Africa~~, I am directed by Mr. Sec. Harcourt to inform you that a

Mr. Reed 27

Sir G. Fiddes

despatch has been received from the Govt. of the Rep.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson 20/7

stating that although it will no doubt be

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

advisable to embark upon the extension of the Nairobi - Thika Railway to Mount

for conon

\* No 17699

Kenia at some future date he is of opinion that it is not a matter of urgency at the present time, and that the project

copy for Lord of Aug 14

the extension of the Thika line to Mount Kenya