

EAST AFR. PROT
32465

C. O.
32465
REC'D
REG'D 27 APR 14



Nairobi Electric
Power & Lighting Co. Ltd.

Concession

1914

26 Aug.

Last previous Paper.

No 24441

Sends letter from Prot. for. Complaining that Co. are repeatedly in default in execution of obligations under existing Concession. Submits explanation, & states steps taken for remedying matters.

Act. ret. + say that their explanations will be communicated to the S.A.P. for ^{the} - + copy of correspⁿ to for D.F.

at once.
H. J. R

29/8/14

Copy sent for Conf. of 1 Sept 14

Next subsequent Paper.

all 9

1914

Letter of 6 Co for addition of asset

Cont 27/8/14 30

THE NAIROBI ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHTING COMPANY, LTD.

50 Mark Lane,
London, E.C.

C. O.
32465
REC^d
Reg^d 27 AUG 14
450



26th August 1914

Sir,

We have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter received from Nairobi and in view of the fact that the undoubted inconvenience caused to consumers is no fault of ours and that we have done and are doing all in our power to mitigate it, we cannot but regret that it should have been addressed to us.

We would beg to inform you of the steps which we have taken and are taking in respect to power supply.

As you will, no doubt, remember, the negotiations for use of the Thika River recently completed had been in progress between this Company and Government for years with the objects of

(1) Releasing for the benefit of the public the many small falls and their supplying rivers, held up by the terms of the original concession, and

(2) Securing a supply of Electric energy to Nairobi adequate to its future needs.

In the early months of 1912 a satisfactory settlement appeared to be hopeless and the Company had to determine, in view of the increasing demands on it, to stop negotiations, and to proceed with the use of the small falls reserved for it under its Concession; and steps were therefore taken for the immediate use of the Ruero No. 1 fall (the one in present use being Ruero No. 2 fall).

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,

Colonial Office,
S.W.

The scheme was designed, the necessary plant and material actually imported, and at the same time, in view of the still more rapid developments of Nairobi, Government was asked (in accordance with the obligation of the Company under the Concession) which falls the Company should next use. As a result of this application it became apparent to Government that, as we had previously said, the falls reserved were quite inadequate to supply the needs of Nairobi, and negotiations for the use of the Thika falls were resumed. At the outset of this resumption of negotiations it was pointed out to Government by the Company that the use of the Ruero No. 1 fall was impracticable if a use of the Thika was decided on, and that the work on No. 1 Ruero fall would therefore not be proceeded with pending the result of the new negotiations and that if they were protracted a shortage of supply would ensue.

The negotiations were carried on during 1912 and 1913 and an agreement was reached between the Colonial Office and the Company (with the exception of two points queried by the East African Protectorate Government) in November of last year; so the Managing Director of the Company then, as you know, went to Nairobi, to endeavour to effect a settlement of these two outstanding points on the spot, and negotiations were successfully concluded in the month of January 1914, and the terms agreed between the East African Government and the Company received the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies which were communicated to the Company on the 17th January 1914.

Plans, surveys, etc. were immediately proceeded with on the new falls and these were sufficiently advanced by the middle of April to allow of the Managing Director returning to England with them, in order that a start might be made in

the designing of a scheme for the utilization of the falls.

In view however of the great local inconvenience already being felt, caused by the shortage of water supply, the Managing Director of the Company in a letter dated 4th March 1914 to the Protectorate Government, suggested that as the Company still had all the machinery necessary for harnessing the Ruero fall No. 1, though the fall had now reverted to Government under the new arrangement, it might yet be advisable in the general interest of everyone, for the Company to make use of that fall as the quickest method possible of augmenting the power supply and he suggested a method and terms under which the Company would undertake to do so.

In a letter dated 16th March 1914 the Protectorate Government were unable to accept the suggestion.

To this letter a reply was sent on the 17th April stating our position in the matter and at the same time (paragraph 4) informing the Government of what we were going to endeavour to do to alleviate the inconvenience caused to our customers.

After technical investigation it was reported to the Company by the Consulting Engineers that a suggestion therein made was practicable and was the quickest method of dealing with the situation and instructions were given by the Company to them to carry it out.

What has happened since is best seen by perusal of their two reports to the Company on the subject, dated 24th August 1914, copies of which are enclosed.

The Company ^{has taken steps} ~~will at once take steps~~ to endeavour to get another engine etc., and when shipping facilities are again restored to send same out and so to arrange, as far as is in their power, for a temporary augmentation of the supply, but they cannot but know that a very serious inconvenience will be felt owing to the dislocation of all arrangements by the

War and in view of the letter of the Director of Public Works must place on record the fact that they cannot accept responsibility for any shortage of supply which may ensue, the same being caused by Acts of State and causes not under their control.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

FOR THE NAIROBI ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHTING CO. LTD.,



Secretary

Not this

THE NAIROBI ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHTING COMPANY, LTD.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES:
"NAIRELPO, FEN, LONDON."
"ELECTRIC, NAIROBI."
PHONE NO.
4853 AVENUE.

50, MARK LANE.

452

LONDON, 27th. August 1914. 191
E.C.

Sir,

We regret to find that we omitted from our letter of yesterday the enclosed copy of letter from the Director of Public Works at Nairobi dated 6th. July 1914.

Our letter was drafted and then detained until we had received the reports of our Consulting Engineers, and the commencement of the last clause should have read "The Company has taken steps to get another engine" instead of "The Company will at once take steps to endeavour to get another engine".

We apologise for these two mistakes.

Your obedient servants,

For The Nairobi Electric Power & Lighting Company Ltd.

J. L. Knight
Secretary.

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

Copy

Public Works Department
Nairobi,

453

6th July 1914.

No. 30/111.

The Chief Engineer & Manager,
Nairobi Electric Power & Lighting Company, Ltd.
Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I am instructed to draw your attention to the fact that you are repeatedly in default in the execution of your obligations under your existing concession inasmuch as power is at times not available to users in Nairobi.

I have received a complaint from Messrs Lamberts Ltd. to the effect that during the past nine months numerous instances have occurred of stoppage in the supply of power to their works, thereby occasioning them very considerable loss.

I shall be obliged if you will inform me what probability exists of your being able to avoid any such interruptions from now onwards.

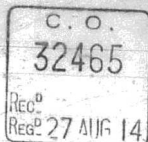
I must call upon you to take adequate steps to ensure non-recurrence of such cessation of supply.

I have the honour &c.

(Sgd) W. MCGREGOR ROSS

Director of Public Works.

14 Old Queen Street
Westminster S.W.



24th August 1914

The Secretary

45

The Nairobi Electric Power & Lighting Co Ltd.

50 Mark Lane E.C.

Dear Sir,

Temporary Plant

In accordance with your request, we give you below a short report on the steps taken to instal a temporary plant, the fate of the engine, and the steps which have since been taken to get other plant.

1. In May of this year, Mr Bayldon returned from Nairobi, and consulted with us as to what could be done in the way of providing a temporary plant to overcome the difficulty of "shortage of power" until such time as the Thika Scheme should be ready for operation.

2. Many suggestions were considered, and enquiries were made of various manufacturers to find out what plant was available for quick shipment.

3. As a result of the enquiries, it was found that Messrs R. Wolf, of Magdeburg, had an engine which could be got ready earlier than anything else, and which was suitable for installation at Rueru. It was therefore decided to order this, and to adopt the scheme of installing an engine at the Rueru Power House, to act as a stand-by to drive one unit of the plant in case of shortage of water.

4. On the 16th June the engine was ordered, a condition of the order being that it should be delivered from the Works in five weeks from the 17th June.

5. On the 15th July Mr Monkhouse tested the engine at Magdeburg, and passed it for shipment.

6. Towards the end of July, frequent enquiries were made of Messrs Wolf's London Agent to find out whether the engine had been sent forward or not. On the 6th August a copy of the packing specification was received from them, and a note saying that the engine had been put on board the S/S "Adolph Woermann".

7. On account of the outbreak of War, the S/S "Adolph Woermann" has not sailed; the engine, therefore, did not get away.

8. In addition to ordering the engine, other things, such as:-

A new pulley coupling for the alternator to be driven;

A belt for transmitting the power from the engine to the alternator; and

A windlass, with wire rope tackle, for lowering the engine into position -

were ordered, and have actually been shipped.

9. Having found out that the "Wolf" engine had not got away, and seeing it was not likely to get away for some time, the Board instructed us to see what could be done in the way of getting other plant to overcome the power shortage.

10. After making enquiries, we found that we could get an engine from Messrs R. Garrett & Sons, which could be got away quickly. This engine has been ordered, and is to be delivered from the Makers' Works on about the 7th September.

11. The "Garrett" engine is too large to put down at Rueru, and we have consequently been obliged to order a special Alternator for it, special Switch Gear, special Condensing Apparatus, and an extension to a house (which we sent out to you for another purpose) for housing it.

12. A tender for the alternator has been accepted, and the machine is to be delivered about the 9th November. This was the best delivery we could get. We tried by advertising

to get a second-hand machine which could be sent sooner, but without success. 456

13. Offers have been invited for the switch gear, and we anticipate that this gear will be ready in time to send out before the alternator.

14. The condensing plant has been ordered, and will go out with the engine.

15. This new plant will be erected in Nairobi, on a spare portion of the plot of land on which the sub-station now stands.

16. Drawings showing the arrangement of this plant, foundation drawings, and instructions for preparing for its reception, were sent out by the mail which left on Friday last 21st August.

We trust this report gives you the information you require; if not, and you will kindly write us thereon, we shall be pleased to supplement it in any way within our power.

Faithfully yours

(Signed) BURSTALL & MONKHOUSE

30
14 Old Queen Street

Westminster S.W.

24th August 1914



457

The Secretary

The Nairobi Electric Power & Lighting Co. Ltd.

50 Mark Lane, E.C.

Dear Sir;

Thika Power Scheme.

We beg to give you below a short report on the position of affairs with regard to the above.

1. In May of this year, Mr Bayldon arrived in England, and shortly after his arrival the surveys of the land around the falls were handed to us.

2. Having examined these surveys, and having discussed the whole question at great length with Mr Bayldon, we formulated a scheme, and were instructed to go ahead and obtain tenders for the necessary Plant and Materials.

3. Offers were invited for the poles, wires and insulators for the Main Line, and tenders were received for these the week-end before the War broke out.

4. On the outbreak of War, the tenderers for the poles and wire wrote withdrawing their tenders, and in some cases quoting other prices which were very high.

5. The specification for the turbines and alternators have been prepared but have not been issued.

6. Owing to the financial stringency caused by the War, and after consultation with your Board, it has been decided that it is not commercially possible to proceed with the scheme at the present moment.

7. As soon as it becomes possible to proceed with the scheme, and we have instructions to do so, we are prepared at once to invite fresh tenders for the Main line material, and to issue specifications for the Generating Plant, &c.

Faithfully yours

(Signed) BURSTALL & MONKHOUSE