



EAST AFR. PROT  
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C. O.  
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1913

former Conf  
field 162

RAILWAY FROM NAKURU TO ELDORET

1913  
4th November  
last previous Paper.

Consider construction of line would be beneficial to the community and profitable to Govt. Adheres to views that such works should be undertaken and controlled by Govt. If it is not feasible to find money for this project is of opinion that negotiations should be opened with Mr Lloyd on the basis of his fourth alternative. Considers line should be from Nakuru, via Eldoret to Mumias.

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Mr G. Fiddes.

This has caused our dept. of the 7th of Nov. on receipt of that dept. the file will no doubt have the preliminary survey for a road at once. In the meantime Mr Lloyd is sending you further details & as further action appears to be required at present.

What?

H. J. R.

22/11/13

Atone Dec 22 1913

subsequent Paper

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MAILED PER USE OF  
AFRICAN

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AFRICA PROTECTORATE

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
Nairobi, Mombasa,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 162

14th November 1913.

Sir,

With reference to your Confidential  
despatch of the 19th of September, 1913,  
transmitting for my consideration certain  
proposals put forward by Mr George Lloyd, M.P.,  
for the construction of a branch railway from  
Nakuru to Eldoret, I have the honour to offer  
the following observations.

2. In my secret despatch of the 15th  
instant, which should reach you by the same mail  
as this communication, I have summarised the  
reasons which lead me to believe that the  
construction of this line will be most beneficial  
to the community and profitable to the Government,  
and it does not appear necessary to recapitulate  
those reasons here. They have been somewhat more  
fully elaborated in Mr Lloyd's letter and I desire  
to associate myself with his expression of  
opinion as to the advantages which will accrue to  
all parties from the accomplishment of the  
undertaking.

3. I adhere strongly to the view that all  
works

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By *[Signature]*  
4/11/13

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

\* No 30464  
+ No. 41897

19145-20

works of this description should be undertaken and controlled by the Government and any support which I may offer to Mr Lloyd's proposals should be understood to be given on the assumption that it is impracticable to put us in possession of the means of doing the work ourselves. In the event of the necessary funds being forthcoming, I consider it most desirable that the construction of the line should be undertaken by the State.

4. If it is not feasible to find the money for the prosecution of the work as a Government undertaking, then I am of opinion that the needs of the settlers on the Usin Gishu Plateau are so pressing, and the prospects of remunerative earnings are so promising, that we should sanction the construction of the line by outside enterprise and capital rather than leave the scheme in abeyance for an indefinite period.

5. Mr Lloyd has propounded for consideration four alternative bases for agreement. The first two have I think been properly discarded and the third suggestion, which relies on personal guarantees of minimum tonnage, also appears to me to be open to objection, as the guarantors would certainly demand preferential treatment in the matter of truck accommodation and would probably consider themselves entitled to a voice in the fixation of rates.

6. The fourth alternative, which provides for the construction of the line by private enterprise in accordance with Government

specifications

specifications and under Government supervision, and contemplates the leasing of the completed line to the State at a fixed rental with option of purchase at any time, appears to be unobjectionable in principle, and if it is not possible that we undertake the construction ourselves, I am of opinion that negotiations with Mr Lloyd should be opened on that basis. It is not possible at the present moment to advise in more particular terms because, until a preliminary survey has been effected, and an estimate of the cost of construction framed, the promoters will presumably not be in a position to state the amount of rent which will be demanded. I shall therefore await the additional details with which I understand that you hope to furnish me, contenting myself in the meanwhile with saying that while Mr Lloyd's proposal merits the most careful consideration, the most satisfactory solution of the question would be the provision of funds which will enable us to undertake the line as a purely Government concern.

7. For reasons which I have stated elsewhere, I consider that the line should be carried from Nakuru, via Eldoret, to Muanis.

I have the honour to be,

etc Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Beechey

GOVERNOR.

specifications and under Government supervision, and contemplates the leasing of the completed line to the State at a fixed rental with option of purchase at any time, appears to be unobjectionable in principle, and if it is not possible that we undertake the construction ourselves, I am of opinion that negotiations with Mr Lloyd should be opened on that basis. It is not possible at the present moment to advise in more particular terms because, until a preliminary survey has been effected, and an estimate of the cost of construction framed, the promoters will presumably not be in a position to state the amount of rent which will be demanded. I shall therefore await the additional details with which I understand that you hope to furnish me, contenting myself in the meanwhile with saying that while Mr Lloyd's proposal merits the most careful consideration, the most satisfactory solution of the question would be the provision of funds which will enable us to undertake the line as a purely Government concern.

7. For reasons which I have stated elsewhere, I consider that the line should be carried from Nakuru, via Eldoret, to Kisumu.

I have the honour to be,

etc Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Beckett