

EAST AFR. PROT

15286

for Country	Del. No
1914	
25 April	
Last previous Paper. 2494 2/3	

Charlesworths Land

You Prop. Conf. see June - judges award  
18800. As Zannabills award exceeded  
this bid cannot be reduced, his  
decision as to value thus upheld

~~to~~ Sir G. Ziddler

As Zannabills award was  
£26,000/2<sup>s</sup> at one time  
we feared that it might cost  
£20,000 to get this land

Put by ✓

? Put by Accl  
28/6/14

H. J. R.

Chance - Pr 28/10/14  
29/11/14

Subsequent Paper  
22634

extension of six months service was to be without pay, it is unfortunate that there is no letter or memorandum left by H.E. Sir Percy Girouard to confirm this statement. There is also the fact that, as stated in paragraph 9, Mr Wright is told that if he completed 30 months service he would be entitled to leave, and this was again confirmed when the retention of his services, as also shewn in paragraph 9, was further confirmed.

The P.W.D. has the opportunity of dispensing with Mr Gordon Wright's services at the completion of the first twelve months of his service in accordance with the terms of his Agreement. They did not take advantage of this Clause, but extended his Agreement for six months in order that he might find employment elsewhere. Later, for their own convenience, they extended it to the full original period of 30 months, and this being the case, and recognising that they did so knowing that Mr Wright was incapable, we consider that any liability in this matter rests upon the Government, and that Mr Wright should be given any leave due to him in accordance with the usual conditions.

Sd. A.F. CHURCH.

Chief Engineer,  
Uganda Railway.

Sd. B. EASTWOOD

Chief Accountant,  
Uganda Railway.

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should have been the outside figure that six part of the work cost, instead of over 70 cents.

With regard to the rest of the building it is difficult to say what overexpenditure was incurred because there is no comparison to go upon, but many economies were effected in the internal construction, and there is no doubt but that the building cost far more money than it should have done.

Against this excessive cost is to be set the fact that Mr Gordon Wright was considered incompetent. It had been reported to the Administration that he was incompetent, his engagement was extended for the convenience of the Government, and although he was considered incompetent as a Temporary Assistant Engineer, he was actually put in charge of the work of a Division.

In the explanation given by the Director of Public Works, in his letter 301/241 (para.12), regarding over expenditure at Nairobi he states:-

The excess on labour is due to lack of supervision. An Assistant Engineer was available for a portion of the year only, and for the remaining portion the Division had to be carried on by one Engineer, which makes proper supervision impossible.

If the weight of the work of a Division being thrown upon one Executive Engineer who is a known competent man renders proper supervision impossible, it is hardly reasonable to expect that an incompetent man working under the same circumstances could render any satisfaction.

With regard to the condition mentioned in paragraph 7 that the leave for the first extension

by the Government Architect.

21. From the system of accounts kept by the P.W.D. there is no reason why the expense up to any one day should not be known within two days of that date. As nearly as can be arrived at, the amount of masonry built at the time that Mr Gordon Wright took over charge was 3,070 cubic feet, which had cost 16.67 cents per cubic foot, and on which 246 days of masons' labour had been expended. Mr Wright completed the building with 3,414 feet of masonry, and 6,635 (cubic) feet of plastering, with 1,353 days of masons' labour.

If a third of a square per mason per day be allowed for the plastering work, and this is a very moderate estimate of a day's work, it leaves 1,153 days of masons' labour for 3,414 cubic feet of masonry, costing 70.27 cents per cubic foot against 16.67 cents the work had previously cost.

There is the fact that the work before Mr Wright took over included the plinth and all the inside walls, which would not require to be so highly finished as the remainder of the building, and also that a great deal of the completed work could be reached without scaffolding, but Mr Gordon Wright's work also included 750 cubic feet of masonry in the servants' quarters which would come under very nearly the same conditions as the work done by his predecessor. There is no reason, therefore, why his work should have cost, giving him the most favourable circumstances, as much more than 50% higher than the 16.67 cents already mentioned, and therefore 25 cents a cubic foot should

Mr Gordon Wright is to blame. He left Nairobi when one house was only plinth high, the other house not quite so high. It may have shown an unintelligent interpretation of the plans, but he was under the direct orders of an Executive Engineer, and any action on his part arising from want of intelligence should, and could, have been rectified at the time.

The explanation of the Executive Engineer on this over expenditure does not mention Mr Wright in any way. The explanation given to the Secretary of State (para 12) and which he has accepted, as satisfactory, does not include any causes that Mr Wright could have influenced. It is, therefore, we consider, not right to connect Mr Gordon Wright with the over expenditure on the two houses at Nairobi.

20. With reference to issues No's 2 and 3, the cost of the Treasury House at Mombasa, and the question of leave, these two are so closely connected that they had better be taken together.

There is no doubt but that the cost of the work at Mombasa as carried out by Mr Gordon Wright is excessively high. In his petition dated 13th January, 1914, Mr Gordon Wright states that the building was only plinth high when he took charge. This statement as he admits, is incorrect, as the building was over the arches and nearly up to the first floor level. He also states that he was not responsible for the over expenditure, but as stated in paragraph 13, the over expense was first noticed and reported upon

conducted under his charge, it is possible that His Excellency may decide to withhold privileges of leave pay subsequent to the termination of his work. Mr Gordon Wright objected to the terms of the above quoted letter, and in a petition to His Excellency dated 13th January 1914 asked that a Board of Enquiry might be granted to go into the correctness or otherwise of the charges brought against him as they are detrimental to his professional career. The Director of Public Works in forwarding this petition to the Chief Secretary under his No. 47/18 dated 29th January 1914 states:-

I have, of course, no objection to my strictures upon Mr Gordon Wright being enquired into in any degree of detail. I consider the present complaint however to be a singularly ill supported one. The question as to whether my intimation to him is detrimental to his professional career or not rests entirely with himself as my communication was forwarded to him as a confidential one.

18. The case resolves itself into three issues, viz:-

- (1) The cost of two houses at Nairobi.
- (2) The cost of the Treasury house at Mombasa.
- (3) The question of Leave.

We have seen Mr McGregor Ross, Mr Tanner, Mr Rand Overy, Mr Stedman and Mr Gordon Wright, and have examined all the Secretariat and P.W.D. files bearing on the case, and also the wages and stores vouchers of the Mombasa District for the time the Treasury house was under construction, and have arrived at the following conclusions.

On the two houses at Nairobi, we do not consider

Director of Public Works, dated December 10th 1913, on the foregoing question he states that the inefficiency of Mr Gordon Wright was very palpable to anyone supervising his work out that it is very difficult to state the monetary liability. Also, that it was the shorthandedness of his department that compelled him to retain Mr Wright's service although his comparative incapacity was clearly recognised. He recommends that no refund should be applied for, but in view of the fact that for a period of six months subsequent to August 31st 1912 His Excellency's deliberate ruling was that Mr Wright should not have leave accrue in respect of that period, and as Mr Wright holds no promise from Government as to the consideration for leave on full pay at the termination of his services in this country that no leave on full pay shall be granted. These proposals were agreed to, and were contained in despatch No. 4 dated 9th January 1914 from His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State.

17. In a Confidential letter to Mr Gordon Wright, No. 348/18 dated 27th December 1913 the Director of Public Works draws Mr Wright's attention to the fact that the two bungalows on Hospital Hill, Nairobi, were overexpended by £345, and the Treasury House at Mombasa by £140, and that he is convinced that so heavy an overexpenditure can only be due to laxity of control on the part of Mr Wright, and that in view of the heavy expenditure incurred by the Government, the same should not be repeated in on works conducted



	Rs.
Carried forward	1186
(6) Boys' Quarters. Same remark as item 5. Coral stone building concrete floor. Corf. Iron roof 572 sup. feet @ Rs. 2.50 per s. foot	1721
(7) Difference in cost of tile roof over corr. iron roof - say	750
(8) Pipe line	168
Total Rs.	3825

NOTE. In item 6 there is an error in calculation of Rs. 298 so that the total estimated excess through apparent alterations and additions to the original drawings should be Rs. 3537 and not Rs. 3825. This error does not appear to have been previously noticed.

14. The Acting Director of Public Works in his letter 301/41 (referred to in para 12) does not consider items (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7) and (8) as any cause for extra expenditure.

15. The excess expenditure was reported to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in despatch No. 705 dated September 10th 1913, the reasons given being the same as those contained in the Acting Director of Public Works' letter No. 301/41 of June 14th 1913, (para 12) and permission was asked that it might be met out of savings.

In his reply No. 871 dated 16th October 1913 the Secretary of State writes

I note that the Acting Director of Public Works considers that the excess is in some measure due to the inefficiency of the Engineer in Charge, Mr G. Wright. I have to request that you will inform me to what extent the responsibility can be laid upon this Officer, and whether you consider that some portion of the excess expenditure incurred should be recovered from him, or respectively whether disciplinary action of any kind should be taken in the matter.

16. In a confidential despatch from the

Director.

follows:-

- (a) To lack of intelligent supervision on the part of the Acting Executive Engineer, Mr Wright.
- (b) To the squaring of the stone to an unnecessary extent. This is not a large item and would represent some Rs.200.
- (c) Supply of tanks for temporary use till water supply is available.

The excess were ultimately determined at £2345 for the two houses at Nairobi and £140 for the house at Mombasa.

13. The Government Architect inspected the work at Mombasa from March 3rd to March 6th 1913 and reported on excessive labour. On March 13th Mr Gordon Wright reported that there would be an excess on the Treasury house at Mombasa, and on April 14th 1913 went fully into the probable excess expenditure and put it down to the following causes.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| (1) Height of plinth 3'6" this involved extra masonry in walls. 1000 c. feet stone at Rs.30 per 100  | Rs.<br>300 |
| (2) The substitution of concrete floors on ground floor in place of joists and flooring. This was advisable owing to the prevalence of white ants and involved heavy filling 3300 c. feet stone @ 4.50 = 148.50<br>Labour <u>150.00</u>        | 298        |
| (3) Extra work on front steps owing to height of plinth  | 45         |
| (4) Cement work on face of building in lieu of the usual lime plaster  | 48         |
| (5) Cost of tanks and erection. I can only conclude that a tank was inadvertently omitted from the original estimates and as no plans were sent for the usual underground tank, and no mention was made re same until I raised a query on 22nd |            |

Wright's work, the amount provided for three buildings have been seriously over expended due to lack of proper supervision of work. Mr Wright has not the gift of getting work out of men, nor of pushing work in any way.

The Provincial Commissioner of Mombasa, in forwarding Mr Wright's petition, speaks favorably of the way the work in his province is being supervised by that gentleman, although not in agreement with the way subordinate supervision is being supplied by the Public Works Department.

11. On the 29th May 1913, the Acting Director of Public Works was informed that His Excellency approved of the payment of duty allowance to Mr Gordon Wright with effect from the 1st April 1913 during the period that he is doing the work of an Executive Engineer.

12. On the 14th June 1913 the Acting Director of Public Works in his letter 301/41 reported the excess expenditure on certain buildings at Nairobi and Mombasa and for the Nairobi houses gave the following explanation.

- (a) That the charges for labour are excessive due to lack of effective supervision.
- (b) That a portion of the excess is due to increased cost of transport last year and delay in delivery of materials. The local transport riders were unable to cope with the sudden boom in the building trade.
- (c) The steady rise in the cost of materials both local and imported which still continues.
- (d) Shortage of labour and extra expense incurred by inability to keep artizans supplied with materials and assistance.
- (e) The excess on labour is due to lack of supervision. An Assistant Engineer was available for a portion of the year only, and for the remaining portion the division had to be carried on by one ~~unqualified person who was unable to give proper supervision~~ ~~and assistance.~~

For the house at Mombasa the reasons given were as follows.

that he should make application <sup>to</sup> the Director of Public Works, Uganda, for employment in that Protectorate.

9. On November 14th 1912 Mr Wright applied for the extension of his services to the full period his agreement allowed and in connection with this application the Director of Public Works applied to the Chief Secretary, in his No. 541/18 dated 27th November 1912, for permission to extend Mr Wright's services and to place him in charge of the Mombasa district, AN INDEPENDENT CHARGE, until the 21st February 1914, when he would be given a return passage to England and three months leave. This was approved of, but the proviso was added that the extension did not necessarily guarantee the retention of Mr Wright's services for the whole of the 2½ years. On December 4th 1912 Mr Wright was transferred to Mombasa, and on the 14th January 1913 the Acting Director of Public Works informed him that if he completed 30 months service he would be entitled to 3 months leave on the usual terms.

10. On the 13th May 1913 Mr Gordon Wright petitioned H.E. the Governor that he might be granted an acting allowance for the time he should be in charge of the Mombasa district, and also that he might be given an increment. The Acting Director of Public Works in forwarding this petition commented adversely on Mr Wright's work. He refers to the Confidential report of 23rd September 1912 (para 4) and adds

Since that letter was written I have had further cause to be dissatisfied with Mr Wright's

before the letter in question was written, as Sir Percy Girouard left East Africa on 26th February 1912 and the service of the Government in July 1912. There does not appear to be any written instructions from Sir Percy Girouard as to the alteration proposed to be made in Mr Wright's agreement, and it would appear necessary that such instructions should emanate from H.E. the Governor, as being the sole person in this country who had the power to make any alteration in an agreement made by and on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

6. This alteration is again emphasized by the Director of Public Works in his Confidential No. 9/18 dated January 7th 1914.

I shall be glad to know whether his leave pay is to be withheld or not, I recommend that at any rate it should not be paid in full on the grounds that it was Sir Percy Girouard's ruling that a certain 6 months of his service was distinctly to be without leave.

7. The terms in the Director of Public Works' Confidential letter of September 2nd 1912 were:-

- (a) That His Excellency is not disposed to formally extend his term of service for the further period of eighteen months that his agreement allows of.
- (b) That in view of the probability of other professional employment being open to him in the near future, His Excellency is willing for him to remain on duty, without leave accruing in respect of his service, for a further period up to a total of six months in order that proposals now under consideration have time to mature.

8. On September 14th 1912, the Director of Public Works, in a letter to Sir Percy Girouard laid down the conditions given above as the terms on which his employment would be continued, and suggests

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Macnaghten, Executive Engineer, on August 27th 1912. Beyond the statement that Mr Gordon Wright

is seldom to be found in the Office or on the works after 4 p.m.

the report is a favourable one, and recommends the retention of Mr Wright's service as

with a little more office experience he is sure to prove himself a useful asset to the Government.

3. On the 22nd June 1912 Mr Gordon Wright, in compliance with the terms of his agreement expressed his willingness to continue in the employ of the Government, but there does not appear to have been any written reply to this letter.

4. On September 2nd 1912 the Director of Public Works in a confidential report to the Chief Secretary upon Mr Wright states that he had two interviews with H.E. the Governor on the subject of the continuation of Mr Wright's agreement, and while he cannot recommend that an extension for the FULL period of eighteen months, he recommends that an extension of six months shall be made. This was agreed to in the Secretariat despatch No. 3790 dated September 10th 1912, and Mr Gordon Wright was informed of this decision in the Director of Public Works' letter to him on September 14th 1912.

*See covering  
dish for  
explanation*

5. The Director of Public Works recommends this extension of six months employment ON THE ABOVE-ALLIED WORKS, and in that case they must have been made six months before

REPORT ON EXCESS EXPENDITURE

ON

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

1. This is a case in which the Public Works Department lay the responsibility of excess expenditure on certain Government buildings in Nairobi and Mombasa upon a temporary Assistant Engineer, Mr Gordon Wright, and as an alternative to recovering the excess expenditure, or part of it, from Mr Wright recommend that he shall not be given any privilege leave, or leave pay, that he might have been entitled to under the terms of his agreement.

2. Mr Wright was engaged as a temporary Assistant Engineer with effect from the 21st September 1911 for a period of 12 months at a salary of £300 per annum, with the prospect of extending the period of his engagement to 2½ years, in which case he would become entitled to leave under the rules in force in the Protectorate if he completed the full term of 2½ years' service. He first worked under Mr Creswell (Executive Engineer) on the Uasin Gishu Road, and that officer reported very adversely upon him on January 18th 1912. A proposal made by the Acting Chief Secretary that Mr Wright should have a chance of replying to Mr Creswell's charges was not approved of. He was, after that report, transferred to Nairobi, and was again reported upon by Mr Macnaghten.



entitled to the usual leave in accordance with the Regulations. This was confirmed later in a letter d.2/18 dated January 14th 1913. Under no other arrangement could I have seen my way to extend my services after 31st January 1913.

As Mr. McCree or Ross in his communications to the Secretary of State has seen fit to hold me personally responsible for overexpenditure, such a statement being detrimental to my Professional career, I have the honour to request, that I may be granted a Board of Enquiry prior to 21st March prox. on which date my agreement with the Secretary of State for service in this Country expires.

I also have the honour to request that the files in connection with these works may be called for to substantiate the points put forward in this letter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd/- C.G. Wright.

Re the Treasury House at Mombasa.

That I was in charge of this bungalow from just above plinth level.

That two months prior to the completion of same I reported a probable overexpenditure of £100, and can therefore hardly be accused of "laxity of control."

3. That the Chief Accountant was sent to Mombasa to go into the matter and a full report was sent in by me at the time explaining this overexpenditure.

4. That to the best of my knowledge no quantities were taken out, and no estimate ever prepared for this work and if taken out, were not submitted to myself as Officer in charge of the work.

That important items such as Tanks, and outhouses were an afterthought and not on the original plans, and the necessity for same were pointed out by me and sanctioned applied for to the Acting Director of Public Works to erect same.

I might point out that in the only case when I did receive quantities for a work in which I was in charge, was the work of the Treasury Extension Mombasa, wherein I found an error involving the sum of five hundred rupees, and on enquiring to what this deficit was to be charged, was informed that it was a charge against Contingencies, this depriving the officer in charge of this item and inviting overexpenditure.

I think this explains the unavoidable overexpenditure in Mombasa.

Re para.4 of the Director of Public Works' letter.

I have the honor to point out that on the 11th December 1918 I was given execution charge of the Mombasa Extension by Mr. McGregor Ross and accepted same on a verbal understanding that should I complete 30 months, I should be

87-48

363

From C.G. Wright. A.V.I.C.E.

Assistant Engineer-in-Charge, Mismayu,

His Excellency Sir Henry Conway Belfield, C.M.

Governor, East Africa Protectorate.

Through The Director of Public Works, Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of a letter No. 348/18 dated 27th December 1913 received from the Director of Public Works and to hereto state the following re same.

Re the overexpenditure on the two Bungalows on Hospital Hill, Nairobi.

1. That I was never in charge of the work on these two bungalows, the work having been carried out by the Executive Engineer under whose orders I was. In support of this statement I have to refer you to a letter dated 29th February 1912, in which the Director of Public Works writes "This transfer is to the position of Assistant Engineer of various scattered works in Nairobi, where you will be under the orders of Executive Engineer Mr. Blain."

2. That no accounts in connection with same passed through my hands, and I was therefore not in a position to, or had any authority to check the expenditure on same.

3. That the work I did on the bungalows was done directly under the orders of the Executive Engineer, and that no deviation was made from the plans without his sanction.

4. That I left Nairobi for Mombasa on 4th December 1912, when the bungalows in question were only plinth level high, as can be seen from the Progress Reports for November 1912.

I therefore have the honour to point out that in no way can I be held responsible for any overexpenditure on the above.

Montrose building consequent upon Mr Wright's incompetency and lack of supervision is fully established and I consider that he is fortunate in not being called upon to bear any part of the cost.

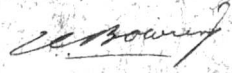
5. I caused him to be informed of my opinion and stated that I saw no reason for asking you to re-consider your decision regarding his leave. I also directed that the portion of Messrs Church and Eastwood's report, to which I have referred above, should be sent to him.

6. Mr Gordon Wright subsequently asked to be supplied with a complete copy of the report and was informed in reply that it was of a confidential nature and could not be furnished to him.

7. I have thought it advisable to acquaint you with these facts, as the matter may very possibly be raised by Mr Gordon Wright when he arrives in England.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



in the absence of the  
GOVERNOR.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

CONFIDENTIAL No. 72

18948 361  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

24th April 1914.

RECEIVED  
18 MAY 1914  
COL OFFICE

Sir,

*Gov 3961*

I have the honour to refer to your Confidential despatch of February 10th and to inform you that Mr Gordon Wright proceeded to England by the S.S. "Llanstephan Castle" on the 20th instant. In accordance with your instructions he was granted no leave on full pay in respect of his services in the East Africa Protectorate.

2. Mr Gordon Wright was dissatisfied with this decision and had previously addressed me on January 13th in a letter, a copy of which I attach, disclaiming responsibility for overexpenditure.

3. I accordingly asked the Manager of the Railway to arrange for a Board of Enquiry consisting of Messrs Church and Eastwood to investigate the whole matter and I enclose a copy of their finding.

4. From a perusal of this document and particularly the second section of paragraph 20 and the first four sections of paragraph 21 it appears that the overexpenditure upon the

Mombasa

From Mr C.G.  
Wright

Report by Messrs  
Church and  
Eastwood.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

3961 that he might hold no promise of leave. Para. 9 of the report shows that he did, & the refusal of leave seems to be a matter of withholding a special grant and becomes one of punishment by withdrawing an expectation that had been held out. The three months leave promised (rather less than his Parbairan brothers under the new leave regulations) exceeds £75, or more than half the wages on the home. Are we justified in multiplying him to the extent on the report? I doubt it - in view of the long time during which the Govt., for its own convenience, kept him on but only after the fact of the illness was known (a year) but after his responsibility for it had been established (at least 7 mos).

I think we had better tell the Govt. with reference to 3961, that of the statement in the report here, 9/10, to a promise of 3 months leave is correct that the illness that began with full force in that month, and continued for a considerable time after he was returned for a considerable time after his responsibility for the illness was known it is

"on full pay" if means that the fact of leave being granted that no promise during leave was made, or rather paid

difficult to refuse to carry out an understanding of the existence of which the S. G. had no knowledge when the def. 3961 was made his  
Council

6 Oct. 20/14

360

Wait for his letter

at once

H. J. R.

20/5/14

PM 30

Wright shd have leave under  
the reg<sup>ns</sup> - i.e. full pay vac<sup>ty</sup> leave  
for voyage & at 2 1/2 or 3 days rate  
(as may be proper) in respect  
of 31 months service.

But Wright will probably ask  
for a copy of the Board's report.  
Here, I suppose, that we  
must support the Governor,  
& refuse on the ground that it  
is a confidential document.

Two other points wh. arise incidentally  
I wd like to mention:-

① we shd ask why Mr Wright  
was not allowed to hear & answer  
Mr Crepswell's charges (see para 2  
of Board's report) - ask for a  
copy of Mr C's adverse report.

② we shd insist on a full  
explanation of the conduct of  
the S.P.W. ~~also~~ in suggesting  
in his letter of Nov 1892 that  
Mr W was applying to S.P.W.  
regards for employment in that  
dept, when clearly Mr Roff

regarded him as unsatisfactory  
(cf para 11 of report in Govt 3961  
"this comparative incapacity has  
been clearly recognised for some  
time scarcely in 1892  
i.e. before Sept 1892) 303

This action by Mr Roff seems to me  
most unsatisfactory & I cannot  
believe that he can furnish an  
adequate reply.

== If we do decide that Mr W shd  
have leave, it might be better  
(as a matter of form) to let the  
wheelcut down more easily  
by urging Gov to re-consider  
the matter with a clear lead  
that he is to recommend the  
grant of leave. we can then  
tell Mr W that the matter is  
referred back to the Gov

All of

see para 17/20  
The "operation" arranged for the  
home is that they have the  
work. It is a very tedious  
As regards here, the Gov told us a



As regards the Monabasa houses  
inexpensive, the Board say  
that there is no doubt that the cost  
of the work at Monabasa as  
carried out by Mr. G. W. was  
excessively high, but that  
Mr. G. W. was advised by the  
Govt as incompetent, that in spite  
of this they estimated his agreement  
to suit their own convenience as  
they were short-handed, that  
they even put him in charge of the work  
of a Division (i.e. Executive  
Engineer's work). ~~It is not clear~~  
~~what the reason was for~~  
~~appointing him to the position~~  
~~in the first place, and it is~~  
~~not clear why he was not~~  
~~dismissed when it was found~~  
~~that he was incompetent.~~

Mr. G. W. relies upon the  
first part of the funding, but  
makes no allusion to the com-  
mitting arguments put forward  
by the Board. One cannot  
help feeling that not only is  
Mr. Wright perhaps incompetent  
at engineering, but also that  
the Govt ought to bear the blame  
if they engage with their eyes  
open an incompetent man  
who does let them down.

So far as the over expenditure is  
concerned, the Govt. is bearing  
the brunt - but we have still  
to decide whether or not Mr. Wright  
is exonerated. I suppose that  
the answer must be that  
he is not exonerated, but that  
there were other extenuating cir-  
cumstances which justify the Govt. in not  
calling upon Mr. Wright to refund  
the money or part of the money  
wasted. 300

Then comes the question  
of leave. His local service  
is apparently 21 Sept 1911 to  
29 April 1914 - i.e. 30 months.

The Board consider that the extenuating  
circumstances cover also the leave question,  
that Mr. Wright should be granted  
leave under the usual reg<sup>s</sup> -  
a recommendation <sup>from</sup> supported by the  
written statements to Mr. Wright  
that he would be entitled to have  
if his service were returned.

Personally, I agree with the  
Board and consider that the