No. 17205.
SUBJECT (0533/412

Branch Lines K. W. Q

Trinough Low Construction

Previous

16032/30

Subsequent

18149/32.

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hill with in project rate of come of review to branch his furface, exists so to be balanteties by reportations and traffic on cutar transportation of receipts. Seve Manuard & North 1 Tek 16032 offered to get any first heep he cases I as the mostly is peculiar's his Street we might the astantale this The ? up to on the po his campali. maen Of hercuelly for causan Moren 10/6/37 sus

Jubish coments on suggested method of accessive of reserve for branch line purposes; states as to calculations of reported and traffic on certains, branch loss defents has approved agreement with tangengina is aimeion of recepts. ___ 28 "april h Seve Stammand in Nots 7 The 16032 offered to get any for the help he cases I may the matter is peculiar's his Think he might take advantage this The & ? afor to on the po li canarento. Maen 10/6/31 Dit hertwell for in in.

the Hamand _______ 27 Jun.
Atalis has received copy of bened manager to be which reinforce remarks is branch line.

General Hammond is to the area to accept the General Manager's formula for assessing the expensiture on branch lines, eq. 1.5 enaiders that the results as forest the rash a line very if enyal earlit to rive a large antee for all the just if may the exertificarrangements the o intuit practices only. This solutions danger, f deliniteness. !t leaves group the arganizements hitherto accepted with to the circumstances both by the v . at and the Railway Administration. r on in crounds it is preferable, when the retrespective application er in thes constructed

subsequent

subsequent to the Order-in-Council, the Government of Kenya has already guaranteed the full extent of the losses in respect of the Nanyuki extension, but as regards the Thomson's fails, Yala and Butere extension in respect of which the guarantee is only for the loan charges, the secretary of State's despatch said that there will be no necessity to revise these guarantees in it is proposed to give any retrospective effect to the policy which has recently been laid down.

The ast mates for the Colony for 1 of provide

only 16,630 for the guarantee in respect of the

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"homson's wall branch, whereas the total lose'in 1930 ioan tharmes being only an, (%). The ost mates worthing in The on in respect of the Yala line (and this was noted in the reply) the loss on which in less was 14,350, whereas the loan charges are only il Bor. The outers extension is not ret don, lete so der not come name tratery into the traduce. It seems perceptly clear that to apply the Low , licy retrospectagery the right in respect of which the lean charges are menor guaranteed would invites an immediate additional and heavy expenditure on he following fovernment at the time when they are very hard put to it even to make the bud of balance. It is obvious therefore that any such arrangement would arouse great hostility in the Colony. Transport Administration, while making these remisentations with remark to the method of computat not asked for a coverion of the arrangement .. to the guarantees on the existing test or practice. Having o gard ' all the circumstances

14/1

I very much doubt the advisability of attempting to revise this particular arrangement. It is clearly a matter on which the advice of Sir John Campbell is necessary; and in the relation of which the advice of Sir John Campbell is necessary; and in the relation of the second of the

27/6/21

It is extremely difficult to see one's way clear in this matter; and that is perhaps due mainly to the fact that the railway rates are, as regards some of the chief export items, uneconomic and "unbalanced". The position is further complicated—to the disadvantage of the branch lines—by the fact that Nairobi is the effective distributing centre.

not at all sure that the system we proposed is not really on the whole, more equitable than the method of calculation which the H Cr: proposes, which is applied now, and which Gen: Hammond is prepared to accept. The tables on pages 11-14 of the 130 report suggest strongly that there is something artificial about the method of working at the branch line results. The 1930 ingress are wholly abnormal clearly; they corresed to no trend. The greater the traffic, the greater the loss. The conclusion from these figures—is that the sound course would be to shut down the branches, or do everything to retard their development. That is absurd, of

course-and everyone knows it is absurd.

"There must be a catch somewhere" - and the catch apparently is that the branghed are debited with the cult less windered chiefly on the main lise) on appremerative traffic, while not being credited with their full share of paying traffic. If the traffic which passes over the branches is reasonably representative of the traffic as a whole, then the system originally proposed seems fairer than that now suggested by the H Cr:. I feel somewhat reluctant to accept the system now in use and acceptable to Gen: Hammond, for the reasons indicated above; but the matter is an extremely technical one, in which I have no particular competence and I think we must concur with the views which the H Cr: and en: Hammond have expressed.

I dislike raising the further question of mrag branch line quarantees. The decision, as it stands, seems logical and defensible. The H Cr: does not ask for any reconsideration. Uganda may-but we can perhaps wait for that? The Kenya budget is in no position to stand further heavy charges at the moment, as Mr: Allen points out. Behind all this there is the big question of policy: -- as things stand, is it better to leave the branch line losses on the railway,or to accept them as chargeable to the Colony budget: The first -- and by far the strongest -- line of defence against the constant pressure to accept unconomic and unremunerative export rates ought to be the railway, which has at its disposal all the technical information, and the advantage of a quesi-independent position. It can always say-" There are my accounts. The thing can't

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be done. There gone to the there as regards concessions, If the Covt: shoulders the burden, the reliesy a/cs: will be better to the precise extens to which the boyt: relieves them of that burden, the railway infilmentalli attitude will then be less fire as regards further uneconomic rate reductions -- they Am gain by them, in fact-and the Gavt:, which is peculiarly susceptible to political pressure, will be left unaupported (or not so strongly supported) by the technical dept: which is the repository of the facts and in the best position to defend railway interests as a whole against undue endroachment on them. If we accept the suggestion made, and adopt the system of accounting proposed, inexample a large part of the burden as regards uneconomic rates will be transferred to the Govt:, while the railway will, to a considerable extent, escape the economic consequences of agreeing to such unecomomic rates. That seems to me a dangerous position, as things stand. I would therefore take no action in the direction of reviewing the decision recently arrived -- unless and until we are forced to embark on that course, possibly as a result of representations made by Uganda.

and so important, that it may be considered advisable to discuss the matter further before

a decision!

June 1931.

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Color fat of a statement thereof the for many of the colorest of the colorest of the thereof the star their the colorest of the star their th

The signature of the special warrants must obviously be approved. It is not blear why in the case of the lines in respect of which only loan charges are guaranteed, there should be any substantial divergence from the Estimates.

the Evener

The point of the last sentence of the telegram is that the High Commissioner reported in No. 1 on this file that pending further consideration of the question of the assessment of revenue for branch line purposes he had not communicated the Secretary of State's despatch

- 4

of the 5th of Jebruary1930 (which was the reply to the High Commissioner's Confidential despatch of the 7th of January 1930) to the Governors of Kenya and Uganda or to the Railway Advisory Council. The matter has already been discussed when it was decided to defer any action for a short while until a decision was taken in regard to the eppointment of a Financial Commissioner. What the High Commissioner asked was that the present system for assessing might he allowed to continue. One can appreciate that it may be inconvenient to the local authorities to be in a state of uncertainty on the matter. The view taken here (and General Hammond was prepared to moree) was that the present system of assessment should be continued. - the outstanding question was the further point raised by General Hammond but not by the High Commr. wnether any alteration should be made as regards the question of the guarantee in regard to existing lines, it having been originally decided not to make any alteration if the Financial Commissioner comes into this question of assessment of revenue and recommends an alteration it can hardly be effected until 1933. In that case it might be agreed now that the present system should if desirable to meet local convenience, be regarded as settled in respect of the present year and 1932.

The correct procedure would seem to be to deal with this particular matter in a separate "telegram

telebram to the High Commissioner and reply to this in a telegram to the Governor approving the signature of the special marrants; and say as regards the last sentence that the S. of S. is communicating with him in his canacity as High Commissioner.

I submit draft telegrams for conson. accordingly.

6. It H. Cr. Transport tel No. 26 conf Jo (Kange tal No 275 Conf.

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halad # Bring of the Light dayslops Josephan 2714 See nos on 18149/32 Kya

17205/1931 Mr. 111en 879 Downing Street, September, 1931. Ser Ca Bottomley. & Sir J. Shuchburgh. Sir G. Grindle. Permt. U.S. of S: Party. U.S. of S. Secretary of State. Confidential. Your Confidential (1) despatch 28th April. I have HIGHCOMA deferred further consideration NAIROBI. of question of assessment of revenue for branch line purposes pending decision as to appointmen of Financial Commissioners I 2 dfts. have no objection to communication of my Confidential despatch 6th February on understanding that assessment question is still under consideration and if desirable to meet local convenience I am prepared to agree that present system my case continue during present year and 1932.

Brund Zime (9 Mis report by 1930) Low days & 403 booking los \$ 264 pare 25 Shis report 1930 Low charge £ 5652 Thompson Inch lowling los \$ 17244 £ 22896 Kome - Jula Loun change \$ 1368 lonking los £ 2982 £ 4350 The themps But querenties all boss in Hapart of the Henrycki bround; but the boar charges Para 16 5. his report 1930 men in what I the other two. In the 1930 colinates the following ! popular were from for from line short hier £ 2160 . 1057 £ 6.30 . 2044 £ 6.30 . 9833 1 Le 74 Est, 431 Neuguki -After from Joseph Stalament 1/4

Telegram from the Governor Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. pated 4th September 1931. Recented 2.20 p.m 4th September. No.277 Confidential, Sanotion requested for signature of Special Warranta for 213576 to cover increases of £1599 on provision for sparantee on manykan Nanyuki extension and 22144 on Eparantee on Thompson's Fall Branch plas 19833 for guarantee in respect of North Katirondo Pranch Railway. He progission was made for guarantee on last named Branch Reilysy in 1931 estimates beginned Par ay Administration were not in a position at that date to furnish fagures, Giad to know when reply to High Commissioner's confidential despatch of the 7th January 1930 on Branch Lines policy oan be communicated.

BRIG-GEN. F. D. HAMMOND

TELEPHONE Nº VICTORIA 5854

eriami w

June 22nd 1931.

Sir Cecil Bottomley, REWEIVED Colonial Office, Downing Street 25 JUN 1931

Dear Bottomiey,

No.

Since writing my letter of June 17th., on the subject of Branch Line Terms I have received the Annual Report of the General Manager of the Kenya & Hganda Railways for 1930. The rigure on the reinforce strongly my remarks on the subject that the increase of traffic on the branches usually results in an increased load.

Thus on the Kitale Branch a revenue of £95,746 has resulted in a loss of £96,464, three times the loss that has been incurred in any previous yar. The Solai Branch a revenue of £26,283 has resulted in a loss of £45,894. On the other hand on the Thika-Naro work Branch there has seen a reduction in revenue but an increased loss.

As regards the lines gu ranteed to varying degrees by the Kenya Government, the Thomson's Falls Branch shows an increase in revenue as compared with 1929 of £2,136 compared with £2,546. The loss is £22,896

in 1930 as against \$7,990 in 1929.

In the case of the Thomson's Falls Branch and the Kisumu Yala, both of which are only guaranteed by the Kenya Government to the extent of loan charges, the net loss to the Railways after taking into account loan charges paid by the Kenya Government is greater than the Loan Charges.

I think these facts constitute a very strong argument that the Kenya Government should guarantee all branches built since the Order in Council up to the full extent of loss incurred.

Yours sincerely,

Port ...

TELEPHONE MY VICTORIA

4. DEAN'S YARD. WESTMINSTEE.

June 17th.1931.

Sir Cecil Bottomley, K.C.M.G., Colonial Office, Downing Street, London S.W.1.



Dear BottomLey,

NO 2

With reference to your letter 17205/31 of the 13th. June forwarding the despatch from the Migh Commissioner for Transport on the subject of branc. e terms, this despatch brings out clearly that the method I suggested for assessing the expenditure of the branch would bear very hardly on the Kenya Ugand Railways, and, in view of the particular circumstances of their case, I am quite prepared to accept the new formula he has proposed. Also, the method is already in force so that there would be no question of introducing new machinery in order to arrive at the result. But the special reasons they have brought forward bring out in great prominence one point which I think should be resa sidered, now that the question has been re-opened. That point is whether or not wu rentees for ranches cuilt in the past should be modified to conform to the new policy

The despatch shows that many of these branches are being worked at a heavy loss to the Railways. When the Annual Reports of the General Manager are read in conjunction,

it is seen that these losses increase at a truly alarming rate with the increase in the traffic.

This is due partly, as the de patch points out, to the fact that the principal traffic over these branches is carried at rates which, so far as the Railways are concerned, are quite unremunerative and economically It may also be due in part to the fact, pointed unsound. /6032 32 out in my letter of January 15th, that, owing to Mairoui being the distributing centre, the branch line uses not get the a vantage of the revenue earned over the 330 miles from Mombasa to "aircii on imports der ultimately for the branch. In the instance of Kitale, chosen by the Mich Commissioner, this last argument loses some of its force as the branch still gets the credit for the revenue for the carriage of imports from Nairoti to the junction, which is roughly 250 miles. Nor would it be easy to give any credit to branches for their share of imports which are consigned in bulk to Nairobi without any distinction as to the ultimate destination.

But, whatever may be the cause, the results to the Railways are most disturbing. On the Kftale branch a revenue of £58,600 in 1927 resulted in a loss of £20,617; in 1929 a revenue of £78,808 resulted in a loss of £31,468. On the Thika-Naro Moru branch a revenue of £32,370 in 1926

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resulted in a loss of £26,755; in 1929 a revenue of £61,093 resulted in a loss of £31,747. On the Thomson's Falls line in the first year of working,1929, a total revenue of £2,546 resulted in a loss of £7,990.

It will be seen that two of these branches were built before the Oper in Council was passed, but I can get no comparative results for any of the more recent lines from the annual Reports. There is good reason to suppose, however, that in general tendency these do not differ from the earlier-built branches.

If the new policy is not to have any retrospective effect, the Railways I be saudled with these branches for all time, and the larger the traffic they carry the greater will be the loss to the Railways. That seems to me not only unjust both to the Railways and to Uganda but also as being calculated to hamper the recovery of the Railways when the general sconomical situation improves.

As the High Commissioner for Transport has raised the question once again, I suggest that it would not be inappropriate to point cut, when agreeing to his proposals for assessing branch line expenditure, that his despatch, when read in conjunction with the hailway Aquual Reports, brings out in a manner which was not fully apparent before, the handicap under which the Railways suffer through these

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branch lines, and that, in the light of this new information, it is clear that the Government of Kenya ought to give a full guarantee for all branch lines built subsequent to the Order in Gouncil. This will still leave Kenya with the advantage which it now gains and will gain in the future from the earlier branches.

I am what, but not surprised, to hear that Rhodes and Marwell have come to an agreement regarding the Kahe-Mashi section and the Moshi-Srusha line, and I hope the new Governor of Tanganyika will approve it.

Yours sincerely.

K/17205771 7 4 Mr. Tomlinson. X Str C. Bollomley, 10-6 6 Store Sir J. Shuckburgh. Sir G. Grindle. toriberas, Permit. U.S. of S. Party. U.S. of S. Secretary of State. In you little the Prairies 160 24 20 1 hi 12 Feb la way had had I helps to Brigadur General J. D. Hannad war ful is anowar CAE. 550 RE maye! bar hat myse , of carea were, refe to you your in the In last place (1). matter the quaranteeing + branch lives as Kenya + tiganda. I do her jack Come in from the The I Premished in which houses a Totales bout a sent other assessment 4-sevenue I hand her botheres I lee Grain the a Con a the Tope that la ule winase our whetherness to Van Jely going no the tenefit of Your Caraculo and bester to come you sincerely (signed) W. O. BOTTOMLEY. bound a sport the assessment of revenue I hand here holpses I dan lenden toma Copy a the hope that Ta wie werese our adethorness to Van Ity going no the brocht of Your Camento a to; you amendy

(Signed) W. O. BOTTOMLEY.



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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

RECEIVED 26 MAY 1931

NAIROBI. KENYA.

COL 05 5 10 E 28 April, 1981

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FOR TRANSPORT.

OFFIDE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT,

A - DEIVED : 0 MAY 1931

NAIRQBI, KENYA.

.... 28 April, 1931

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d. Seneral Hammond's suggestion would give reasonably commute results only if the average rate for the branch line was the same as the average rate for the whole system, and if the traffic for the branch line was of a similar density to that on the main line. It would not be satisfied for application on this Administration with its unbalanced tariff policy whereby many of the low-rated commedities are carried at a rate which is con iterably below code and over branch lines which, in fact, carry little else excels and tow-rated traffic. As an example, under General Hammond's proposal in payment for the provision of loc mattives and vollday stock, Branch Lines reducing large termses of lev-rated traffic would be debited with less expenditure on this account than branches producing small timeses of high-rated traffic.

5. A further specific instance is the case of maire railed from Kitale to Kilindini; the revenue received per ton is Shgs. 14/-, the working cost on the basis suggested by General Hammond would be Shgs. 11/76, whereast the actual cost of carrying this maire to the Chast, as disclosed by ten mile statistics would be in the neighbour
It is clear, therefore, from these

examples, that a system of estimating costs, based on reverme received, is impracticable in the circumstances, and would give altogether erroneous and misleading results.

6. It appears necessary, therefore, to retain the system already in force on this Administration, a system which for branch lines was again generally endorsed by the Railway Council at their last meeting on the 8th of this month when they examined the prospects of the proposed extension from Kempela to Mubende; by this system expenditure is calculated as follows:

Abstract 4 - Bortheering Expenses;

The Franch Line mileage is multiplied by the sverage cost per mike of open line as deloulated over the whole system. It will be noted that the Branch Line thus yets the advantage of the cheaper is of maintanance.

(Abstract B. - Fransportation

Abstract C. - Mechanical Engineering.

Abstract D. - Management and Accounts.

Abstract 6. - Miscellaneous.

Branch Limp train miles are multiplied by cost per train mile over the whole system under each of the above four Abstracts. The Branch gets the benefit of the lower train mile cost and in view of the irregular traffic on Branch lines, necessitating a large amount of empty harbers, it is considered that train mile costs give a fairer representation of the cost of working the Branch than too mile costs would do.

MAIN LINE COSTS.

To obtain the cost of carrying the traffic over the Main Line, freight ton miles, less freight ton miles on the Branch itself, are multiplied by the working cost, excluding Represiation and Loan Charges per freight ton mile over the whole system.

7

- 7. To the above costs are added the following
 - A. Depreciation of wasting assets of Branch.
 - B. Loan tharges Actual Grarges on the Branch.
- 8. In the case of both Branch Line and Main Line expenditure, Depreciation and Loan Charges on all rolling stock are added to working expenditure under Abstract G. but no further Loan or Depreciation charges are included in respect of Main Line assets as it is considered that such charges should not be debited against the Branch.

There is therefore no undue complication in this meth d of calculating cost and the difficulties foreseen by General Hammond have been covered.

9. To illustrate the large difference in the results obtained by the two methods of calculation, the following figures for the Kitale B. Sh will be of interest:

a	Present Basis d	asis proposed in espatch dated 6.2.31.
,	* 2	2
Kitale Branch	in it	
Marnings	95,746	95,746
Working expenses, including Depreciation	182,898	90,436
Loan Charges	9,312	6,218
Total Expenditure	£ 192,210	£ 89,748
Loss	£96,464 Profit	£5,998

and appear to make it clear that the system now in force here is more equitable than the proposed scheme for the reasons siready given. I trust, therefore, that Your Lordship will be able to again to this system being continued.

16. It is noted that Your Lordship considers that there will be no necessity to revise the marintees or

conditions in connection with the Branch Lines that have already been constructed.

With regard to the remarks contained in paragraph 5 of Your Lordship's despatch on the question of the traffic ower the Kahe-Moshi section of the Tanga Line and the new section from Moshi to Arusha, I desire to inform Your Bordship that Colonel Maxwell, the General Manager of the Tenganyika Railways has recently been in Mairobi and has discussed at length these questions with the General Manager of this Administration. The two General Managers have come to an agreement with regard to the division of profits from freight and passengers arising on these sections of the Tanganyika Railways, and the General Manager of the Tanganyika Reilways is putting forward the agreement to his government f r their approval. I, myself, have approved the agreement in so far a Wis Administration is concerned, subject to the approval of the Tanganyika Covernment, and subject to the question being reconsidered at a later date, if necessary, when practical experience has been obtained of the results of calculation of traffic receipts on the basis new proposed by the two General Managers.

I have the honor to b

My Lop

Your Lordship 's most obedient, humble

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HIGH COMMISSIONER

No. 17206. SURJECT CO533/4/2

Previous

Subsequent See 17358/31 (barings Returns) 18301/32 Gunearle Offender

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