

E. AFRICA
ZANZIBAR
32024

C O
32024
REC'D
RFD 11 OCT 12

Office
Date.
1912
10 Oct.
Previous Paper
1145
89419

Union Castle Steamer Service

Leads dep. p. Zanzibar complaining of delay
in conn with shipment of foot. Cargo. Inquires
whether similar cases have occurred in the other P.A.
Ports. & whether a claim could be made in C. for
expenses incurred in this & similar cases

~~Mr. [unclear]~~
~~Mr. [unclear]~~
~~Mr. [unclear]~~ Mr. J. F. [unclear]

The reply of the Company will be that
the delay at Zanzibar is
not their fault but is due to the failure
of the foot. to provide proper facilities
at Zanzibar. But how is it that
delays do not occur at the other
P.A. ports

In the first instance? copy of letter
sent to [unclear] for their records.
Co. 15710
N.B. 15/10

Subsequent Paper
4606

I think that we might leave the
F.D. to check this out with the
C.A. Send the F.D. a copy of our
recent corresp^{ce} regarding the shortcomings
of the Co^y. & suggest that they
should take the ^{present} matter up with
the C.A.?

H. J. R.

16/5

Alvin (P.M. 17)

C O
32024
REC'D
OCT 11 1912
FOREIGN OFFICE

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote
No. 41679/12.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

October 10 1912.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith for the information of Mr. Secretary Harcourt copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar respecting the delay caused to Zanzibar Government cargo ~~being~~ to the necessity of shipping by the Union Castle Line.

*Take
25/.*

Sir E. Grey would be glad to learn whether any similar cases have occurred in connexion with cargoes shipped to the other East African Protectorates which are parties to the agreement with the Union Castle Line, and also whether Mr. Harcourt considers that it would be possible to make a claim on the Company for expenses incurred in this and similar cases.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

W. Randolph

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.



323

September 9, 1912.

No. 251.

Sir,

I have had repeatedly to complain of the service given us by the Union Castle Steamship Company ever since the fatal day when we were handed over to their tender mercies: and at this moment no less than three points in connexion with their proceedings have been submitted to you in regard to which I am still awaiting your decision :-

1. whether we are bound when we buy stores et cetera abroad to send them at great expense and inconvenience to the nearest port where they can be shipped by the Union Castle.
2. whether for the present we cannot be allowed to ship goods from England by any line that offers instead of as at present being obliged

The Right Honourable,

Sir Edward Grey, Bart, K.G.,

cc. cc. cc.

cc to a
29448 K
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obliged to wait for months and months until the Union Castle Line are so obliging as to accept our consignments.

3. whether in view of the fact that the Union Castle have announced that for the future all their boats will wait for six days at Mombasa they should not at any rate be obliged to pay for the passage of our officials on to Zanzibar when an occasion for their proceeding on their journey before the expiry of the six days may present itself.

I sincerely trust that you will decide these points in our favour.

I have now a further complaint to make of the Company.

The Zanzibar Government had a certain amount of goods consigned to them by the S.S. "GAIKA" - though not I understand nearly as much as there ought to have been, many articles having been shut out by the Company.

We were presently informed that the "Gaika" would stop at Mombasa for no less than three weeks and that

when

40
3/11/45

when she did leave that port she did not intend to call here at all in consequence of the outbreak of cholera.

It was as you can easily imagine quite irritating enough to hear that we should have to wait three weeks longer than would have been necessary had the goods been shipped by any other line for such small proportion of the things ordered as the S.S. "Gaika" had taken on board:- but it was really intolerable to be told that the ship was not going to touch at Zanzibar at all until she passed on her return journey when there was no reason whatever why she should not have put herself into voluntary quarantine in the port in the same way as has been done by ships of all other lines.

In these circumstances we decided to send up H.H.S. "BARAWA" to fetch away as many things as we could at a cost of One thousand and six hundred rupees - this being the usual rate of Four hundred rupees a day - but on presenting the bill for this service to the agents here of the Union Castle they declined to pay it. I would ask you to endeavour to recover

Rs.1,600.

Rs.400.

some at any rate of this account from the Company, the expense being one which was caused to us entirely by their own incompetence.

I may add that while the "Gaika" was in process of unloading at Mombasa our new motor car which was among the cargo was so much damaged as to be rendered quite useless and the wreck of it is now being returned to England. I sincerely trust that we may be able to recover damages; but even if we do, the delivery of the car will be immensely delayed to the great detriment of the public service.

The appearance on this coast of a direct line of British steamers was welcomed here with great enthusiasm - but the enthusiasm with which its withdrawal would be hailed would be infinitely greater, seeing that ever since it began to run our passengers have been very much worse off than they were in old days while the delay we experience in obtaining the goods we order is such as to make it all but impossible to carry on the public service.

I presume it is hopeless to be asked to be released from this fatal bargain until the Union

Castle is in a position to supply a service which
will not compare too ^{un}favourably with that offered
by the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie. But that is
undoubtedly the solution of our difficulty which
would be most pleasing to us here; while a similar
release would I believe rejoice the hearts of the
British Central Africa people who suffer equally
with ourselves.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

(Signature) EDWARD C...

J.D. F. Abria
32074 Zamboanga

333

R. 21007
D. 77

LC

27 October

Drawn 34606

Sir

I am etc to act.

DRAFT.

W.S.

J.D.

MINUTE.

Mr. 1076 1/2

Mr. Read 19

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

the receipt of your letter
no 41670/12 of the 10th
of October forwarding a
copy of a despatch from
H His Agent Consul General
at Zamboanga respecting
the delay caused to the
Zamboanga Port. Cargo owing
to the necessity of shipping
by the U.C. line.
Previous complaints have
2 Complaints have
been received from the
Post Office Postal authorities

in cases after speaking
to Read