

EAST AFR PROT
904

C.O.
904
JAN 17

Union Castle Mail
P.S.G.

Cargo Service

1913

6 Jan.

Last previous Paper.

31138
12

Complains that service is prejudiced by inadequacy of existing Railway facilities to cope with the increasing transport of produce to Mombasa for shipment.

W. Cottarley ~~Request~~ Sri. J. Anderson

At W. Reed's request I have seen Major Carmichael, who has given me the following information:-

1. Inquiries.

a. 6 Mallet Engines - 2 steamed a fortnight ago & 4 to be steamed in about

10 days time. I understand that it did not take more than a month at the outside to get an engine shipped after it has been steamed provided of course that no defect is found when the steaming takes place.

The original order was for 8. Two are already at work in the Port.
H.S.R.

b. 10 Mallet Engines - these are not due until May.

c. 3 Steamers Engines - 2 shipped 27 Dec.

15 Jan. 1913
Complains at
Copy done 7/1/13 a/f

CS 1311. Wt. 29 897-56
11,000. 11/12 A.F.W.

wt subsequent Paper.

H. J. L.
1087

2 ask receipt of this letter. Say 9
that L.S. is fully aware of
the difficulties to which reference
is made that the question of
improving transport facilities
in the East & Uganda
generally, both ^{by} rail, steamer &
road, is constantly engaging
the attention of the local
Govts & the L.S. - & that steps
are being taken to bring
the rolling stock on the Uganda
Railway up to the requirements
of the increasing traffic &
to improve facilities etc
arrangements for handling
cars at Mombasa -

send C.A. a copy of the
corresp. for info saying that
L.S. trusts that they will
bear in mind the need to
hasten matters as far as
possible -

send L.S. a copy of the
corresp. for info etc

H.S.R. 9/11 W.S.G. all
9/11/13 at once
10.1.13

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited.

Telegraph Address
UNIONCASTLE, LONDON
Telephone
AVENUE 2913 (B Lines)
ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

W
3rd & Fenchurch Street
London E.C. 3
6th January, 1918.

C.O.
904
REC'D
JAN 13 1918

*In reply
please quote*

G.
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, S.W.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence which has taken place recently in regard to this Company's East African service and to the endeavours which we are making to establish an efficient and satisfactory service, we have had occasion previously to call attention to the inadequacy of the facilities at the port of Mombasa, and, while we feel sure that the Colonial Office will use whatever pressure is possible to remedy matters in this respect, looking to the fact of the greatly increasing trade and the extent to which steamers are held up at the port of Mombasa, we think it desirable that the Secretary of State for the Colonies should also be aware that we have been seriously prejudiced in connection with some of our recent steamers on account of the inability of the Uganda Railway to cope with the transport of produce to the port for shipment.

When we have learned that there is an expectation of shipments in excess of the capacity of our regular four-weekly steamers, we have aimed at despatching at

suitable times additional steamers, as in the instance of the S.S. "Guelph" intended to load home from Mombasa as an extra steamer towards the end of November last, which steamer, however, as well as the "Carisbrook Castle" following her, had to sail from Mombasa with large quantities of vacant space. The reason assigned for this by our Agents is that the Railway was quite unable to cope with the traffic. They say that all the exporters had tons of produce lying at various stations on the line but were unable to get it down. It is stated that, owing apparently to the lack of rolling stock and locomotives on the Railway, there was a vast amount of cargo held up at various ports round the Lake. At Kisumu alone there were reported to be some 1,500 tons, whereas the "Guelph" and the "Carisbrook Castle", as above mentioned, had to come away from Mombasa in a large measure with empty space; also we have learned that the "Dunvegan Castle", which sailed from Mombasa 31st ultimo, had not a full cargo.

This disappointment in respect of the cargo expected for the steamers in question seriously affects the matter of their making profitable voyages in this expensive trade, and we trust that it will not be considered out of place that we should call attention to the insufficiency of the railway facilities, which we hope the Authorities concerned will lose no time in seeking to extend and improve in keeping with the requirements of the increasing traffic.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,
THE UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

W. Walker

Secretary.

W.C. 904 East Afr. Prot.
M

C. D. S.
R. 1 JAN
D. 1913

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DRAFT.

The Union Castle Mail Steamships Co. Ltd

15 January 1913

MINUTE.

Mr. Downie 10/1

Mr. Bostromby 10/1

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott.

Mr. Harcourt.

Gentlemen,

I am ck. to ackn. the receipt of your letter, marked 'G' of the 8th of January, respecting the deficiencies in rolling stock and locomotives on the Uganda Railway.

2. Mr. Harcourt is fully aware of the difficulties to which you refer, and the question of improving transport facilities

L.F. Hunt

2 d/6

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