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Date

Area

Previous Paper

3490

UNION CASTLE LINE
ALLOWANCE FOR OR FREE TRAVELLING BY

Before deciding on application asks for further information on points specified. Desires to know the estimated extra cost the Agreement with the U.C. Coy will throw on the four Protectorates in respect of officers' passages (apart from those of their families).

Mr Butler

With the help of the CA he can reply to questions 1, 3, and 4, but he must obtain from the Protectorate ports the answers to 2 & 5. The CA might be able to answer 6, but it will be safer to ask the beach ports.

I submit a letter to clear the matter.
Wills 3/4

Wills

April 11

Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a file number or reference.

4235

In the reply to this Letter the following Number should be quoted.

6751

11.

G. O.
TREASURY CHAMBERS,
13 April 1911.
RECEIVED

Sir,

I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Mr. Piddes' letter of the 4th instant (8490/1911), proposing the grant to married officers of the Uganda or East Africa Protectorates of an allowance to compensate them for the increased cost of travelling to and from East Africa by the ships of the Union Castle Line, in accordance with the terms of the recent agreement with that Company.

Before deciding on this application My Lords would be obliged if Mr. Secretary Harcourt would cause Them to be furnished with information on the following points.

1. The requirement that officers should travel by this line was apparently agreed to without consultation with this Board and My Lords would be glad to be informed whether the Secretary of State was at the time aware of the disparity of charges referred to in the letter under reply. They observe that in Article 3 of the Agreement the Government has power, if the Union Castle Company's rates for freight are higher than those of another similar line, to accept the offer of the latter after offering the freight to the Union Castle Company at the lower rate, and they would enquire whether a similar power could not have been required in respect of passengers.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

2. What is approximately the number of officers affected and the annual expenditure involved by Mr. Harcourt's proposed concession? My Lords understand that the concession, if granted, would be confined to officers of the two Protectorates named, but They would be glad of a specific assurance on this point.

3. My Lords note that only the charges of the Messageries Maritimes Company are given. They would enquire, however, whether this is the only line by which officers have hitherto travelled and if not how the rates charged by other Companies compare with those of the Union Castle Company. I am also to ask whether the Secretary of State is able to say whether there has recently been a reduction in the charges of the Messageries Maritimes Company.

4. I am to enquire what is meant by the term "standard rate" in the third paragraph of the letter under reply. Presumably officers when attended by their families are under no obligation to travel by any special class, and it is not altogether clear on what ground Mr. Harcourt excludes the lowest rate of first class passage, nor what is the charge for that rate.

5. In conclusion My Lords would be glad to learn what extra cost it is estimated the Agreement with the Union Castle Company will throw upon each of the four East African Protectorates in respect of officers' passages (apart from those of their families).

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Murray

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9. *Harcourt.*

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