

EAST AFR. PROT.  
UGANDA  
No. 43131

Individual.

(Subject.)

1906

Nov 5

Previous Paper.

Cablegram charges to & from Mombasa

Notes as to dispute with the  
Eastern Tel. Co. re —

(Minutes.)

Mr. Read.

When Mr. Forby came on here he asked  
to see the conditions as to the new postal rates,  
etc., which, owing to his touring away much, he  
had not seen in East Africa. I gave him a  
copy of the papers, & asked him to see us here  
before anything was finally decided.  
As to the postal rates he has no criticisms  
as to stamps, he will write.

See note  
2387

As to telegraph rates, he wishes to remove the  
present system, but first of all he is  
opinion that the first question of the  
negotiations and apparently irregular  
terminal charge of 6/- a message between  
Mombasa and Kisumu should be  
settled. He has for some time been  
trying to get the E. T. Co. to agree to  
the first having a portion of the tariff  
charge on a message is compensation for  
the loss of the terminal charge.

The Company say they cannot do this as  
they are bound to pay the full tariff  
charge on the tariff.

already...  
 not...  
 take...  
 for...  
 therefore...  
 their...  
 those...  
 loss...  
 tariffs...  
 to the...  
 business...  
 which...  
 desirable...  
 but...  
 is based...  
 the small...  
 tariff...  
 this...  
 to...  
 which...  
 the volume...  
 it is probable...  
 for 10...  
 the...  
 the...  
 the...  
 the...  
 the...  
 the...  
 the...

Mr Johnson  
 With your advice...  
 the...

sometimes is, I think, too much  
 to be paid  
 for a terminal charge that we pay by the  
 Company to the G...  
 but I don't see why  
 the Company should pay 1/3 of that amount,  
 as they do in Mauritius. (See 43702 and  
 21444)

If you will tell  
 address and when he is  
 leave... Mr Hibberdine to call  
 and I think I can  
 on the above basis.  
 7.12.26  
 address  
 Mr Hibberdine  
 this is all leaving before 31st Nov  
 let Mr Johnson  
 the matter on this  
 bands  
 11/12  
 I agree  
 at once  
 4-J.R.  
 8/12  
 See on 4931

NOTES IN RE-DISPUTE WITH THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY CONCERNING CHARGES FOR CABLEGRAMS TO AND FROM MOMBASA.

1. The Company's Cable Station is at Kilindini some 3 miles from the town of Mombasa, and cablegrams are telegraphed from the Cable Station to the Mombasa Post Office, for delivery by Post Office Messenger. Similarly Cablegrams are accepted at the Post Office and telegraphed to the Cable Station for transmission abroad.

2. These services by the East Africa Post Office are remunerated in the customary manner. In the ordinary way a portion of the notified international charge (which is 2/- per word for European Cablegrams) would be allocated to the Post Office, but in the case of the Mombasa traffic the Post Office has to obtain its remuneration by levying a supplementary charge of 6d per message upon the senders and receivers of cablegrams. The

"for South Africa and East Coast places shall  
 "be assimilated and it will at once be seen  
 "that any reduction for Mombasa would compel  
 "us to reduce our tariffs for the before  
 "mentioned places, with the result that  
 "even on a small reduction the loss of  
 "revenue on the heavy traffic would be  
 "considerable.

ARGUMENT.

5. The Company's contention as outlined  
 by the quotation given above may be taken to  
 mean that its charges for Mombasa cablegrams are (and  
 must be) identical with those which it levies on  
 cablegrams for and from South Africa and Mauritius.  
 My information (derived from St. Martins - le -  
 Grand) is that this is not the case. I under-  
 stand that the Company actually receives a  
 higher rate for the Mombasa cablegrams than for  
 traffic with the Cape Colony. The charges to  
 the public in England are identical (2/11  
 word in each case) but while the Company pays  
 the Post Office of the Cape Colony a portion  
 of the total charges collected (4 baillies 10  
 centimes per word) for its services in the land

transmission and delivery (or collection) of the cablegrams it has not conceded a similar credit to the Post Office of East Africa.

6. - In Mauritius too, I understand that delivery of the cablegrams in the interior of the island is undertaken by the colonial Post Office which receives a payment from the Company for this service.

7. - In the case of Port Louis, and Zanzibar it is understood that the Company has to meet the expense of delivery of cablegrams (this being included in the charge of 2/6 per word) whilst at Mombasa the delivery by the Protectorate Post Office results in the collection from the public of a charge of 6d supplementary to the fees notified internationally. It is submitted that this does not give that uniformity of rates which was provided for in the Agreements mentioned in the extract from the Company's letter quoted in paragraph 4. above.



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The Eastern & South African Telegraph Company Limited.

MOBASA STATION,

22nd November 1905

The Postmaster General

Mombasa.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose, for your information,

all the telegrams I have received from London in reply

to the telegrams from your terminals

Yours faithfully,

J. H. DAVIS

Manager.

The Eastern & South African Telegraph Company Limited.

NOMBASA STATION,

22nd November 1905

The Postmaster General

Mombasa.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose for your information, a letter I have received from London in reply to your letter re Mombasa terminals

I have &c.,

(SD) J

This company is bound by an Agreement dated the 16th July 1895, made with the Imperial Government which has the effect of making the tariffs between Great Britain, and Zanzibar, Mombasa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Mozambique and Delagoa Bay level, which principle is also confirmed in an Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Company dated 28th February 1902.

It has also been agreed that the tariffs for South Africa and East Coast places shall be assimilated and it will at once be seen that any reduction for Mombasa would compel us to reduce our tariffs for the before mentioned places, with the result that even on a small reduction the loss of revenue on the heavy traffic would be considerable.

The gross traffic of the Eastern & South African Company is less this year than last, and to reduce the total of our through tariffs with the traffic decreasing would be a very serious matter.

The actual net receipts of the Company on Mombasa traffic for the year 1904 amounted to £5,782 and in view of this comparatively small return, we think the remarks of the Postmaster General regarding the expenses of working and maintenance of staff, etc., apply equally to ourselves.

Yours etc.

(SD) W. Hubbard

Traffic Accountant.