

E AFRICA

DOMESTIC

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17 FEB 09

or Individual

Common

909

Previous Paper

Troops for Somalia - a
arrangement by German steamer

Mr. Evelyn Cecil.—To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, owing to unrest in Somaliland, the second battalion of the King's African Rifles in Nyassaland were ordered to Somaliland last December whether they were conveyed up the coast in the German mail steamer "Prinzessin," in consequence of there being no suitable British or steamers communicating between the British East African Colonies; what the landing of these troops at Berbera so delayed the German mails that His Majesty's Government have to pay the fine levied for exceeding the contract time, as well as demurrage for calling at a port not on the course, and, if so, what is the amount of these penalties; and whether the consequence of such disadvantages, His Majesty's Government are prepared forward the negotiations for assisting to maintain a direct British steam line to East Africa adequate to the needs of the Empire. [Thursday, February]

3. 5. 09

Reply -

Two companies of the 1st Battalion of the King's African Rifles & a company of mounted rifles were ordered to Somaliland last December and were conveyed up the coast in the German mail steamer the "Prinzessin." In consequence of there being no suitable British steamers

In the statement of revenues which has been furnished to the commissioners of Somaliland no reference is made to

Subsequent Paper

to the payment of a fine or demurrage,
I have no reason to doubt that
[but the Secretary of State for the Colonies
will not ~~be~~ ~~responsible~~ for
the Hon. Member's
information on this point is correct.]
~~It is a fact~~ ~~on~~ ~~carefully~~ ~~considering~~

I should
like
to

The question of the establishment of
a direct British steamship line
to East Africa, ^{continues to engage the attention of the Govt.} [and no avoidable
delay will be incurred in coming to
decisions on the matter.]

H 2 1
17/2

Reply as above. I see no
reason why we should not make
use of German ships when it is
convenient to us to do so.

17/2

J. L.
17.2

Quint part in brackets and in italics
and I am not therefore in a position
to answer the part in the box with the question

From an answer

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE
for the COLONIES (Colonel SEELY):

Two companies of the 1st Battalion of the
King's African Rifles and one company of
troopers were ordered to Somaliland last
December, and were conveyed up the coast
in the German mail steamer the "Franz
Siedler".

The statement of expenses which
has been furnished by the Commissioner
of Somaliland no reference is made to
the payment of a fine or demurrage. The
question of the establishment of a direct
British steamship line to East Africa con-
tinues to engage the attention of the
Government, and I am not therefore in
a position to answer that part of the hon.
Gentleman's Question.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: May I ask the
hon. Gentleman if the Government has
under consideration the subsidising of a
line of steamships on the East African
Coast or elsewhere in East Africa.

The UNDER-SECRETARY for the
COLONIES: That is just the question.