

8572

Address reply to "The Secretary, General Post Office,"
quoting Registered No. 38081.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.



10 March 1906.

198

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16th inst.,
 No. 40393/1905, enclosing a copy of despatch No. 561, dated
 the 16th of October 1905, from the Acting Commissioner of the
 British East Africa Protectorate, relative to the Contract
 with the British E.A. Steam Navigation Company for the Mail
 Service between Zanzibar and Mombasa, I am directed by the
 Postmaster General to acquaint you, for the information of the
 Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the question of
 altering the dates of departure of the Packets from Aden, so
 as to afford a service alternating with that maintained by the
 German steamships, was not long ago referred to the Directors
 of the British E.A. Steam Navigation Company, in consequence
 of the representations made by the Postmaster General of the
 Protectorate and in a despatch addressed to the Foreign Office
 by His Majesty's Agent at Zanzibar.

From the Company's reply, of which a copy is enclosed, it
 will be seen that the alteration proposed would interfere
 materially

Secretary of State,
GENERAL POST OFFICE.

2763-2771-15

materially with the service between London and Zanzibar, and that they do not think the public either in London or at Zanzibar would be benefited by the adoption of a direct service, with the inconvenience and expense involved. In view of the distance of the Company to carry out the service, and the fact that the Company has made their arrangements for the service, the Postmaster General approved a line to refer the Admiralty to the service for 1898, to be operated on the same lines as the service for 1897.

As regards the proposed direct service, it is stated that the Company have not yet decided whether they will operate a direct service, and that they are still in the process of making arrangements for the service. It is stated that the Company have not yet decided whether they will operate a direct service, and that they are still in the process of making arrangements for the service.

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As the Postmaster General is doubtless aware, the Contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company now runs from year to year, subject to the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. The service was formerly known as the slave trade service, having been maintained with a view to the suppression of the slave trade, and was borne on the Treasury Office vote. It is stated that the service could be justified on purely postal grounds.

In these circumstances, and in view of the representations made by the Directors, the Postmaster General does not feel that he is in a position to press the Company to alter their existing arrangements, except in the matter of ports of call, as referred to above.

I am, Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Handwritten signature

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COPY.

C.O.
8572
12-10-06

British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited

9 Throgmorton Avenue,

London 18th October 1906
E.C.

Ref. No. 443,992/05.

200

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 4th instant, I am instructed by the Directors of the British India Steam Navigation Company to say that they have carefully considered the proposal made by the Postmaster General of the East African Protectorate, to start the mail packets from Aden for Zanzibar a week earlier than at present, so as to alternate with the sailings of the German Steamers, and find that the effect would be to interfere materially with the cargo service between London and Zanzibar, which is maintained by a connection at Aden between the Company's steamers which run between London and Calcutta, and the local steamers which run between Aden and Zanzibar, inasmuch as it would involve cargo for Mombasa and Zanzibar, which is already detained five days at Aden by the present arrangement, being detained seven days longer at that port.

The Directors do not think that any advantage, commensurate with the inconvenience and expense involved by the detention of cargo, would be secured to the Mombasa and

Secretary,
General Post Office,
London E.C.

Zanzibar
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Zanzibar communities by alternating the British and German mail services as proposed, especially seeing that Zanzibar and Moabasa have besides these two mail services, three other mail services per month.

I am instructed also to mention that this cargo service, which is the only British cargo service via the Suez Canal, is of some value to the Foreign Office, who have at least on one occasion urged the maintenance of the connection. The proposed alteration, involving twelve days detention at Aden, would practically make the service unworkable.

The Directors express the hope therefore that the Postmaster General will be pleased to sanction the continuance of the same sequence of sailings for 1906 as at present, and that he will approve of the pro forma time table which I have the honour to submit herewith, and which is made up on that basis.

I am, etc.

(Sd) P. W. ARLOW,

Secretary.

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~~PAID~~ 2AP



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DRAFT

AP 2 = 148

China 2105

4 April 1906

Comma

Wang Sa Sen CBS

MINUTE.

- Mr. Lobb ²¹/₅
- Mr. Ellis
- Mr. Antrobus
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Luoss.
- Mr. Graham.
- Sir H. Osmantney
- Mr. Churchill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

2/4/06

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Jackson's despatch 2:5 of the 16th of October 1905 and in reply to transmit to you, for your convenience, the enclosed copy of prospectus on the subject of the proposed service between Aden and Zanzibar.

2. The Company's service would appear to be irregularly ill adapted for the carriage of passengers and from the enclosed information it is clear that the above mentioned service is not suitable for the purpose.

to 870 15-203 18
(40396)
to 870 83051 10-2nd 06
(8572)

to be in any way...

X 10 40396 (40396) 8572

It therefore becomes
necessary - ^{my opinion,}
to consider whether
the ^{efforts by} conversion
the B. I. C. is a
freight carrying
business, the ^{country}
and ^{of} ^{any} ^{bar} is
such as to justify
them being given an
annual subsidy of
£9000, and I shall
be glad to have
your observations on the
matter.

Yours, &c.

Edwards.