

EAST AFR. PROT
No. 28580

C O
28580
AUG 07

No. 283

(Subject.)

1907

Mr R. C. Kenning

Chief Office, Colonial Office

previous Paper

To copy proceedings of a Board of Enquiry into conduct of
to company letter from Manager. M. (name has appeared with the
papers to "prohibit" him with 1st passage to England. Request
approval.

(Misnote)

Mr. Read

Mr. V. was grossly immoral.
-derate & unprofessional to the
his superior officer. Such lack
of discipline cannot be overlooked
on a ship without grave danger
wherever may now a day be
thought of similar acts on
land. Accordingly he has been
mercifully dealt with by
being fined on a matter of only
of quins & few pence to long
land under the 10 of his
Agreement. Acts of officer

The Convention you wish whether a
candidate for the post of
Chief Officer should be selected in
England.

15/8

W. Arthur
So proposed?

A. J. R.

15/8

W. must appear in person.
(The Chairman said under
Cotton's trial for 15 months,
~~arranged a year or two~~
~~before the trial~~
but apparently Cotton could
find him and deliver
speech on with)

11/12/18
1878

C.O.
 28580
 Governor's Office,
 Recd 8
 10 AUG 07
 Nairobi

July 18th 1907

EAST AFRIC PROTECTORATE.

No. 297

(Incl. 5)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for Your Lordship's information a copy of the proceedings of a Board of Enquiry into the conduct of Mr. R. C. Venning, late Chief Officer, "S.S. Clement Hill", Uganda Railway Service and the covering letter from the Manager, Uganda Railway.

1. Mr. Currie as a result of this Enquiry has availed himself of clause 10 in Mr. R. C. Venning's agreement and has dispensed with his services providing him with a 1st class passage to England, a measure I authorized him to take should the circumstances of the enquiry justify the action. A careful perusal of these papers has satisfied me that Mr. Currie could have taken no other course.

2. Mr. Venning's ability as an Officer seems undoubted but his insubordinate temper renders his retention in the

service

H. W. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

LONDON, S.W.

service impossible; this present outbreak is only the last of a series and had he, as Mr. Currie suggests, been once more reprimanded, sooner or later would have come a lapse, and his further retention in the service would have been prejudicial to the interests of the Railway. Under these circumstances I venture to hope Your Lordship will approve of the action which has been taken.

A full appreciation of Mr. Venning's past services is, I consider, shown in the grant of a free passage back to England.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

service impossible; this present outbreak is only the last of a series and had he, as Mr. Currie suggests, been once more reprimanded, sooner or later would have cost a lapse, and his further retention in the service would have been prejudicial to the interests of the Railway. Under these circumstances I venture to hope Your Lordship will approve of the action which has been taken.

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Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a date or reference number.

C O
28580
REC'D &
AUG 10 1907

MAILED 10 JULY 1907. 217

... paper ... you and ...
... conduct ...
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... I held an ...
... the 6th ...
... is ...

... conclusion ...
... at that is ...
... received in a ...
... to Capt. Townsend. At the ...
... sufficient evidence ...
... to ...
... and ...

... if I could have ...
... of a ...
... you illustrate ...
... You will observe that ...
... is ...

MAILED 10 JULY 1907.

Proceedings of enquiry held at Port Florence on 6-7-07
 into the conduct of Mr. R. G. Vanning, Chief
 Officer of S.S. "FLORENCE" REC'D 10 AUG 07

EXHIBITS.

Mr. G. A. F. Currie - Manager.

• R. Grant - Arctic Labo Dept. (Marine)

1. Commander Townsend's letter dated 28th June 1907
 to Labo Superintendent read, (enclosure A.)
2. Mr. Vanning's letter dated 28th June to Assistant
 Labo Supdt. (Marine) read, (enclosure B.)
3. Steamer Clerk Magrath's called said-

When I was handing papers to Goods Clerk Capt. Townsend told me to put luggage of 1st class passengers into boat. When luggage was being put into boat after doors were open Mr. Vanning began to haul rope from upper deck and did so for about 5 or 6 minutes. We went back and Captain Townsend looked up and asked Mr. Vanning what he was doing. Mr. Vanning replied; who opened the door? Capt. Townsend said I did. Mr. Vanning replied, what the hell he know. Upon this Capt. Townsend went up.

4. Letter from Mr. Russell and Mr. Smith read - (enclosure C.)
5. Mr. Vanning asked for his remarks, said-

I say the whole thing is mine especially as regards my conduct and refusal to do my duty.

Regarding

Regarding the incident, I went along this after part of upper deck and saw the after gangway doors being pushed open contrary to repeated orders that I have given that the after gangway doors, on starboard side, shall not be opened. But the doors on port side shall always be used for baggage.

I saw these doors having being opened without any orders from me and I gave orders for them to be closed. The order was given to the boys whose hands I saw - either passengers or engineers boys - but no notice was taken of my orders. I caught hold of one of gay and made one or two hits at their hands. Then Capt. Townsend put his head up and said he had given orders. I replied that if only he had let me know before and or as soon as he had given orders to open the door it would have prevented me from having to use force.

Then I told Capt. Townsend that I had other important duties to do forward, as lighters were coming off to the ship and not knowing whether these lower doors on starboard side were open or shut unless done so by my orders, I could not be responsible for any damage that occurred to them, as I had other important duties to attend to and I asked Capt. Townsend to see that these doors were closed when he had finished.

With that I went away forward to attend to lighter work, and Capt. Townsend threateningly came up and threatened to report me to the Manager and place me off duty, but did not give any reason or explanation for doing so. I said that I could not help it if he thought it his duty to put me off duty and report me but I had done my duty to the best of

Regarding the incident, I went along the after part of upper deck and saw the after gangway doors being pushed open, contrary to repeated orders that I have given that the after gangway doors, on starboard side, shall not be opened. But the doors on port side shall always be used for baggage.

I saw these doors having being opened without any orders from me and I gave orders for them to be closed. The order was given to the boys whose hands I saw either passengers or engineers bags - but no notice was taken of my orders. I caught hold of one of my and made one or two hits at their hands. Then Capt. Townsend put his head up and said he had given orders. I replied that if only he had let me know before and or as soon as he had given orders to open the door it would have prevented me from having to use force.

Then I told Capt. Townsend that I had other important duties to do forward, as lighters were coming off to the ship and not knowing whether these lesser doors on starboard side were open or shut unless done so by my orders, I could not be responsible for any damage that occurred to them, as I had other important duties to attend to and I asked Capt. Townsend to see that these doors were closed when he had finished.

With that I went away forward to attend to lighter work, and Capt. Townsend threateningly came up and threatened to report me to the Manager and place me off duty, but did not give any reason or explanation for doing so. I said that I could not help it if he thought it is duty to put me off duty and report me but I had done my duty to the best of my

my ability and was quite willing to answer anything
regarding my conduct.

The Captain then placed me off duty. Some
few minutes later I apologized to the Captain for
any misunderstanding regarding the opening of these
doors but begged to point out to him that I had no
intention of not carrying out my duties unless it
was by his orders.

-s/- R. S. WARRING.

Did you lose your temper? - No.

Were you impertinent? - No. I speak the truth.

Did you refuse to obey his orders? - No.

On this particular occasion did you give orders for the doors to be closed when you were being opened? - Yes sir or several times in Dublin.

Capt. Townsend - did you hear Mr. Vanning give these orders? - I did not hear Mr. Vanning.

Capt. Townsend - did Mr. Vanning ask you to see that the doors were closed? - Mr. Vanning did not ask me to see that the doors were closed after I had finished.

Capt. Townsend - have you any further remarks to make? - Mr. Vanning came up to me about 2 hours after the incident and said "It was wrong of me to speak to you in that manner and I will see that the doors are closed and only for the lighter to come off".

How long after the occurrence did you go to Capt. Townsend? - It was 2 months after the occurrence that I went to see him. He said that I did not take any objection to Capt. Townsend that he wanted the door shut so it should have been.

Capt. Townsend - did you lose your temper? - No.

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PHOTOGRAPH

Did you take your temper? - No

Were you disappointed? - No, I wasn't really.

Did you refuse to obey his orders? - No.

On this particular occasion did you give orders for the dogs to be chained when you saw them being opened? - Yes, at seven times in all.

Capt. Sweeney - Did you hear Mr. Fleming give those orders? - I did not hear Mr. Sweeney.

Capt. Sweeney - Did you, Fleming ask you to see that the dogs were chained? - Mr. Fleming did not ask me to see that the dogs were chained. He said I had to chain them.

Capt. Sweeney - How far did you take the dogs to chain? - Mr. Fleming said to take them to the kennel and chain them. He said to take them to the kennel and chain them. He said to take them to the kennel and chain them.

How long after the appearance did you go to the kennel? - I went to the kennel after the appearance. I went to the kennel after the appearance. I went to the kennel after the appearance.

Capt. Sweeney - Did you lose your temper? - No.

On what previous occasion was Mr. Vanning insulting?

When Mr. Vanning joined the ship I explained to him the hours I wished him to keep. About a day or two after that he came down about 11:30 and then again to about 10 he was speaking.

Mr. Vanning - Do you admit that?

I don't know. I do not remember the particular occasion. I had been down in the ship and back to quarters.

Capt. Goodard - What is your opinion of Mr. Vanning as a Chief Officer?

Mr. Vanning has been with me since March last, and as regards his ability he is as good a man as I wish to sail with, and he can not stand being spoken to in any way in a proper manner.

Mr. Vanning - Do you think it subordinate or insubordinate to question Captain's orders?

Not as a rule.

Capt. Wright was then called.

Capt. Wright - What was your opinion regarding Mr. Vanning's abilities as a Chief Officer?

Mr. Vanning served under me for about 18 months and I considered him a capable and efficient officer.

Captain Goodard then asked to be allowed to ask Mr. Vanning a question.

Mr. Vanning - When you were on the upper deck did you turn your back and wave your hand over your stern in a very suggestive manner thus (Capt. Goodard stood up and described the action)?

Mr. Vanning - I did not do so.

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CONF.

Union Railway.

26th June 1907.

To,
The Captain,
P. O. STEAMER "KILIP",
Port Florence.

The Local Superintendent, Nairobi.
Wagram.

The Asst. Local Super. (Marine),
Port Florence.

Sir,

With reference to my wire of the 26th instant, regarding the Chief Officer Mr. Vanning being put off duty, I regret to have to inform you that owing to Mr. Vanning's grossly insulting behaviour to me, and his refusal to have my instructions carried out telling me at the time to see it done myself thereby compelling me to order him to his cabin, and then relieve him of his duties.

I have the honour to report the same information that, after the steamer's arrival at Mombasa on the 26th instant, at about noon, I was on the deck when the steamer's gangway door, which was closed. When several of the passengers requested that their luggage be placed in the boat and sent ashore. The steamer's door was near, I told him to have the after gangway door opened and the passengers' luggage attended to.

While the men were opening the door support on the upper deck commenced slanting at the time of opening the door, with a rope's end, which nearly hit several passengers and myself in the boat, fortunately stopping

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The Local Superintendent, Nairobi.
Wagram.

The Asst. Local Super. (Marine),
Port Florence.

The Captain,
P. O. STEAMER "KILIP",
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The Local Superintendent, Nairobi.
Wagram.

The Asst. Local Super. (Marine),
Port Florence.

The Captain,
P. O. STEAMER "KILIP",
Port Florence.

The Local Superintendent, Nairobi.
Wagram.

The Asst. Local Super. (Marine),
Port Florence.

The Captain,
P. O. STEAMER "KILIP",
Port Florence.

stepping it in time with my crew. On looking up I saw it was the Chief Officer, I asked him what he was doing. He informed me that he was hitting at the men because they were opening the door contrary to his orders.

I informed him that I had just given instructions for the gangway to be opened so as to enable the passengers luggage to be put into the boat. He then got into a violent passion, shouted, and inquired how the sea he to know that I had ordered the door to be opened, and informed me in an insulting manner, that, as I had opened the gangway door I could well shut it myself, and also said that if I interfered with his work that I could carry on the work myself. As he would have something more to do with it. I then went up on to the upper deck and told him that he had nearly hit several passengers and myself in the face with the rope, and told him that it was an easy matter to call down and find out why the doors were being opened instead of clanking with a rope's end to the danger of all underneath. I also informed him that it was a simple matter to have the doors closed again before the lighters arrival alongside, and then told him to instruct the men to close the door again after the luggage was placed in the boat. He commenced shouting at me again, telling me he didn't care what happened, told me that I could close the door myself and refused to have anything more to do with the matter.

I thereby ordered him to his cabin and told him the Chief Officer could carry on his duties pending your decision in the matter after the vessels arrival at Port Florence.

I regret to have to inform you that this is not the first occasion that Mr. Tanning has insulted himself and used insolent language to me.

ABOUT

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WILKINSON, S. J.

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The first witness...

...of the witness...

...of the witness...

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I thereby ordered him to his cabin and told him the Chief Officer could carry on his duties pending your decision in the matter after the vessel's arrival at Port Pirrama.

I regret to have to inform you that this is not the first occasion that Mr. Wanning has forgotten himself and used insolent language to me.

About

B. S. WILKINSON HILL,

PORT FLORENCE,

28th June 1907.

To,

The Assistant Leeco Supdt. (Marine).

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 27th instant.

I respectfully beg to refer you to Commander
Townsend for an explanation as to why he placed me off
 duty.

His conduct towards me I fail to understand
and can only suggest that he was not accountable for
his actions, through want of control of temper, or ill-
nature, or some other reason.

I have etc.

s/- WILKINSON HILL
(Lieut. B.N.E. Rgs R.M.)

W. S. "CLARENCE HILL"
29th June 1907

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W. S. "CLARENCE HILL"

(initials) ...

W. S. "CLARENCE HILL"
29th June 1907

Captain Townsend has asked me to state what I know of a dispute which has arisen between himself and Mr. Venning.

I did not see the origin of this dispute but I heard Mr. Venning speaking in a manner which can only be described as impudent to the Captain. In my opinion, Captain Townsend controlled his temper in a complete way under grave provocation.

To the best of my recollection this was what I heard when I came up to Captain Townsend and Mr. Venning. The dispute appeared to be something about the opening of a door and I heard Captain Townsend say "I don't care if you strike the boy. You are not to take a rope's end to him". To which Mr. Venning replied "I don't care what you say. It's here to do my duty - and if you take the boy's part against me, I won't do it. Captain Townsend said - "You are not to strike the boy. I shall have to relieve you of your duties". Mr. Venning said "You can do what you like - I don't care. It's here to do my duty". Mr. Bath-Smith, who was with us and I then moved away. I do not, of course, suggest that the words I have quoted are exact - substantially they are correct, I have no doubt whatever.

Mr. Venning's manner and address were gravely impudent and Captain Townsend in my opinion acted with dignity and restraint in trying circumstances.

W. S. "CLARENCE HILL"

Green Advocate,

Uganda Protectorate.

I did not hear the words which passed but I heard

Mr. Venning

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Mr. Venning ... in a way which was in my opinion absolutely insubordinate and the last thing I heard when I left with Mr. Russell was the Captain ordering him to go to his cabin.

In other respects I agree with what Mr. Russell has said.

L. M. ...
Assistant Surveyor,
...

From,
The Manager,
Uganda Railway.

To,
Mr. R. G. Wanning,
Chief Officer,
Through The Assistant Secy Genl,
FOUR FLORENCE.

Dated, 6th July 1907.

Sir,

I hereby give you notice under clause 10 of
your agreement that your services with the Uganda Rail-
way terminate on date.

The Chief Accountant will be instructed to pay
you one month's salary and to provide you with a let-
ting passage to England.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W/- H. A. F. SMITH.

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22 August 1907

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MINUTE.

- Mr. Lull / 8
- Mr. Ross 20/19/9
- Mr. Juck
- Mr. Adrobus
- Mr. Cor
- Mr. Lucas
- Sir P. Hopwood
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Elgin

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your ref. No. 253 of the 12th of July last, and to respond you that I approve of the steps which have been taken with regard to the termination of the appointment of Mr. T. C. Vanning Chief Officer of the S.S. "Clement Hill", whose T. C. Vanning I should be glad to