

1911

E. AFRICA

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17 FEB 11

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Union Castle Co. Service.

Date

1911

18 Feb.

previous Paper.

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Leads con. with Co. regarding offer of subsidy of £5000 for a mail service four weekly & so arranged so to provide with the I. Co's service a fortnightly British service to & from E. Africa. Co and not accept offer, & P.O. are proceeding with contract with O.S. Co.

Mr Fiddes.

I understand that this is only for record.

Put by ?

H. J. R.

22 / II

P.O. 24

at once  
H. J. R.  
18/11

R

(Africa)

C. O.  
5143

160

February 13<sup>th</sup> 1877

My dear Selig,

You will see from the enclosed correspondence how the question of a subsidy for an East African service referred to in your note of the 8<sup>th</sup> stands as far as we are concerned.

We offered the Company \$4500 a year on condition that

the service was four weeks a  
 so arranged as to provide with  
 the British India Company's  
 Contract Packets a fortnightly  
 service in each direction. They  
 declined to make any rearrange-  
 ment themselves and suggested  
 that the B. I. Co. should alter  
 their time-table in such a way as  
 to make a fortnightly interval  
 with the Union Castle steamers.  
 In a personal interview I had  
 with Sir James Mackay on the subject  
 he pointed out that the suggestion

alteration, which involved putting back  
 their departures one week would upset  
 certain connected services. It was stated  
 that it could be arranged with the B. I. Co.  
 for the Union Castle to make the  
 adjustment, but the latter Co. declined to do so.  
 In these circumstances we have  
 pursued the matter with the latter  
 company and we are proceeding with  
 the contract with the B. I. Co. which  
 has been held over while there seemed  
 some prospect of securing a fort-  
 nightly service to the East Coast.  
 Under this contract £9000 p. a.  
 will be paid for a monthly service

This sum is as you know much larger than the amount payable at Postal Union rates for all the mail matter that goes from this country to British East Africa and it would be impossible to justify from the Post Office point of view the payment in addition of your part of the £12,500 which Mr. Tolson suggests would be a not unreasonable subsidy.

The question of enabling the British company to compete <sup>successfully</sup> with the Germans in the East African carrying business is of course a matter quite distinct from paying them for postal services.

Yours sincerely,  
Matthew Nathan

C O 162  
5143  
17 FEB 11

C O P Y.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

Gentlemen,

The Postmaster General has been furnished with a copy of the Agreement dated the 12th instant between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company Limited in respect of the service which it is proposed to institute next month between the United Kingdom and the East Coast of Africa via Suez.

He has carefully considered the question of the conveyance of Mails, which is referred to in clause 5 of the Agreement and has formed the subject of discussion with your Directors at the recent Conference at the Colonial Office and on other occasions; and he is prepared to offer a payment of £1,500 per annum to cover

Donald Currie & Co.,  
Managers,

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd.

the conveyance of all Mails, whether "letter" or "parcel" mails and without regard to origin or destination, which may be tendered for conveyance either in the offward or in the homeward direction by any of your Company's vessels employed in the new service between the United Kingdom and East Africa via Suez. It is understood that Port Natal will be the terminal port.

This offer is, however, subject to the condition that the service shall be once a week regularly in each direction, and that the Time Table be fixed so that the arrivals and departures from Mombasa shall as nearly as possible be one fortnight after the arrivals and departures of the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company performing the four weekly service between Aden and Zanzibar under contract with this Department, the intention being that there shall be a fortnightly British service in both directions.

It will also be necessary that arrangements should be made for transferring Mails between the packets of the

Peninsular

Peninsular and Oriental Company and those of your Company, both on the outwards and homeward passages, and it is assumed that the same will be done.

The Postmaster General desires that your Company should publish notices of the new service that the first sailing will be taken by the steamship "Guelph" which is scheduled to leave Southampton on Wednesday the 14th of September and to reach Mombasa on the 10th of October; and it is understood that it is the intention of your Company that subsequent sailings will be made on every fourth Wednesday counting from the 11th of September. It is to point out to you that under existing arrangements the mails for British East Africa leaving England on Friday the 3rd of September will be conveyed from Peninsular and Oriental Packet and will be transhipped at Aden to the British India Steam Navigation Company's Packet which is due at Mombasa on the 10th October & the same day is the "Guelph". The arrivals at Zanzibar will be made similarly; an arrangement under which your Company's service will be

practically

practically without value to this Department. In the  
circumstances it will be necessary, as already indicated,  
if an agreement is arrived at, that there shall be an  
adjustment of Time Tables before the new Service can be used  
for the conveyance of Mails.

I am to request that you will take these proposals into  
consideration. If they are accepted in principle the  
Postmaster General will cause a draft Contract to be  
prepared for your approval. It would be convenient to the  
Postmaster General if you would at once furnish him with  
detailed time table showing all ports of call outward  
and homeward with the times of arrival and departure in  
each case and also the connexions with the minor ports  
which your Company advertises an intention of serving by  
this service.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) A. F. King.

C O P Y.

THE UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED,  
Donald Currie & Co., Managers.

London, E.C. 2nd September 1910.

The Secretary,  
General Post Office,  
LONDON, E.C.

Sir,

We beg to thank you for your communication, No. 396011 of  
dated 29th ultimo, and to appreciate the attention which is  
being afforded to the matter of the undertaking given in  
connection with our new East African Steamship Service  
via Suaz that His Majesty's Government would do their best  
to arrange for the carriage of mails outward and homeward  
by the steamships of the Union-Castle Co. with the payment of  
a suitable subsidy.

We regret, however, that we are unable to regard as an  
all adequate the proposed payment of £1,500 per annum  
offered by the Postmaster General provided we can arrange a  
Service

C O P Y.

Service to alternate with the British India Co's  
 present four-weekly Service between Aden and Zanzibar,  
 whereby a fortnightly Service would be afforded.

With respect to the latter point, our East African  
 Service being scheduled to connect and alternate with  
 other Services, any material change from the dates at  
 present intended would involve a question of serious  
 re-organisation and expense, and we could venture to  
 suggest that possibly the desired alternation might  
 be more readily secured if the British India Co. were  
 able to arrange to adjust their itinerary between Aden  
 and Zanzibar to our Service, as per the accompanying  
 Timetable.

We are,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

THE UNION CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

(sd) Donald Currie & Co.,

for Managers.

S46011.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONGKONG

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to acknowledge  
 the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, in which  
 you state that you do not regard as at all adequate the  
 proposed payment of £1,500 per annum for the carriage of  
 Mails by your new East African Service provided that you  
 can arrange a four weekly service to alternate with the  
 four weekly service of the British India Steam Navigation  
 Company.

The Postmaster General regrets that he is not in a  
 position to vary his offer.

The Postmaster General observes that, as already  
 pointed out in the letter addressed to you on the 29th  
 ultimo, the steamship "Guedph" which left Southampton on  
 the 14th instant is timed for arrival at Mombasa on the  
 16th of October, thus clashing with the arrival of the

British



British India Company's Packet.

In the Time-table which accompanied your letter under reply the second and subsequent sailings are five days earlier than those under the previous Time Table, so that the second boat is timed to arrive at Mombasa on the 2nd of November, five days before the next British India boat, which is due on the 7th of that month.

I am to remind you that throughout the negotiations it has been stated to be essential to the proposed arrangement that there should be approximately equal intervals between the four-weekly arrivals and departures of your own Packets and those of the British India Company.

The present Time-table of the British India Company is framed not only to secure connection at Aden with the outgoing and homecoming steamers of that Company's fortnightly service between the United Kingdom and India but also the closest possible connection with the Peninsular and Oriental Packets by which the Mails are conveyed between the United Kingdom and Aden.

In the circumstances the Postmaster General suggests that your Company should endeavour to arrange with the British India Steam Navigation Company for such Time Tables

for both Companies as will ensure a fortnightly mail service to and from Mombasa and Zanzibar, with connection at Aden with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company both outward and homeward.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,  
(Sd.) MATTHEW HARRIS.

British India Company's Packet.

In the Time-table which accompanied your letter under  
reply the second and subsequent sailings are five days earlier  
than those under the previous Time Table, so that the second  
boat is timed to arrive at Mombasa on the End of November,  
five days before the next British India boat, which is due  
on the 7th of that month.

I am to remind you that throughout the negotiations it  
has been stated to be essential to the proposed arrangements  
that there should be approximately equal intervals between  
the four-weekly arrivals and departures of your own Packets  
and those of the British India Company.

The present Time-table of the British India Company is  
framed not only to secure connection at Aden with the out-  
going and homecoming steamers of that Company's fortnightly  
service between the United Kingdom and India but also the  
closest possible connection with the Peninsular and Oriental  
Packets by which the Mails are conveyed between the United  
Kingdom and Aden.

In the circumstances the Postmaster General suggests  
that your Company should endeavour to arrange with the  
British India Steam Navigation Company for such Time Tables

for both Companies as will ensure a fortnightly mail  
service to and from Mombasa and Zanzibar, with connection  
at Aden with the packets of the Peninsular and Oriental  
Steam Navigation Company both outward and homeward.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) MATTHEW PATTINSON

THE UNION CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

3 & 4, Leadenhall Street.

The Secretary,

GENERAL POST OFFICE, E.C.4.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication No. 558421 of 29th ult., and, in view of the conversation which Sir Frederick Mieleles had with Sir Matthew Nathan on the 2nd ult., we were not under the impression that we were still awaiting an answer to your previous communications referred to. As stated in our letter of 2nd September, we regard the proposed subsidy of £4,500 per annum as quite inadequate.

In your communication of 2nd September you indicated that it would be necessary to establish a time table such as would ensure, in alternation with the British India Company, a fortnightly service to and from Mombasa and Zanzibar, with connections at Aden with the Packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company both outward and homeward.

In respect of this adjustment of our service to that of

THE UNION CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

3 & 4 Fenchurch Street,

The Secretary,

GENERAL POST OFFICE, E.C.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication No. 558421 of 29th ultimo, and, in view of the conversation which Sir Frederick Wimperley had with Sir Matthew Nathan on the 2nd ultimo, we were not under the impression that you were still awaiting an answer to your previous communications referred to. As stated in our letter of 2nd September, we regard the proposed subsidy of £4,500 per annum as quite inadequate.

In your communication of 29th September you indicated that it would be necessary to establish a time table such as would ensure, in alternation with the British India Company, a fortnightly service to and from Mombasa and Zanzibar, with connections at Aden with the Packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company both outward and homeward.

In respect of this adjustment of our service to that of

the British India Company, we are met at once with serious difficulties, as our East African service is conjoined with our services via the Cape, with which a suitable alternation, for instance, as concerns the service to and from Beira, is important, so that any material departure from the present dates of our East African service, which have been chosen with a view to the adaptation referred to, would mean a serious dislocation, such as the small subsidy offered would not in any degree compensate for. In our opinion it would be much easier for the British India Company's local service between Aden and Zanzibar to adapt itself to the proposed alternation.

It would seem that an alteration of a week on the part of the British India Company would go far towards meeting the purpose, that is to say, if the British India Company's service were made a week later there would be established, in conjunction with our service, a fairly close approximation to fortnightly service both outward and homeward, and we enclose herewith a copy of our present time table, on which we have shown the British India Company's dates made a week later, and how these dates would fit in with ours.

The commencement of calls at Port Sudan and Aden renders our

our service we hope more valuable to the Government, and trust accordingly that the Board will be able to consider the question of arranging the British India Company's services to our dates, if this should be practicable, and the payment to this Company of a suitable subsidy, the present offer of £4,500 per annum being, as already stated, quite insufficient to make it possible for us, even presuming that the desired alternation with the British India Company could be secured without serious interference with our arrangements, to come under the obligation of maintaining regular Mail services. Not only would our service afford direct regular communication between the United Kingdom and Egypt, the Sudan, British East Africa and Zanzibar, but, as it is desired to stipulate that the service is to go down to Natal, we would be providing regular and direct means of communication between South Africa and British Central Africa, Zanzibar, British East Africa, the Sudan, Egypt, etc.

We are, Sir,  
Your obedient servants.

THE UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.  
Donald Currie & Co.  
Managers.

the British India Company, we are met at once with serious difficulties, as our East African service is confined with our services via the Cape, with which a suitable alternation, for instance, as concerns the service to and from Beira, is important, so that any material departure from the present dates of our East African service, which have been chosen with a view to the adaptation referred to, would mean a serious dislocation, such as the small subsidy offered would not in any degree compensate for. In our opinion it would be much easier for the British India Company's local service between Aden and Zanzibar to adapt itself to the proposed alternation.

It would seem that an alteration of a week on the part of the British India Company would go far towards meeting the purpose, that is to say, if the British India Company's service were made a week later there would be established, in conjunction with our service, a fairly close approximation to a fortnightly service both outward and homeward, and we enclose herewith a copy of our present line table, on which we have shown the British India Company's dates made a week later, and how these dates would fit in with ours.

The commencement of calls at Port Sudan and Aden renders

our service we hope more valuable to the Government, and trust accordingly that the Postmaster General will be able to consider the question of a subsidy for our service to the British India Company's services to our ships, if this should be practicable, and the payment to this Company of a suitable subsidy, the present offer of £4,500 per annum being, as already stated, quite insufficient to make it possible for us, even presuming that the desired alternation with the British India Company could be secured without serious interference with our arrangements, to come under the obligation of maintaining regular mail services. Not only would our service afford line of regular communication between the United Kingdom and Egypt, the Sudan, British East Africa and Zanzibar, but, as it is desired to stipulate that the service is to go down to Natal, we would be providing regular and direct means of communication between South Africa and British Central Africa, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Sudan, Egypt, etc.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

THE UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

Donald Currie & Co.  
Managers.

our

C O P Y.

22 December 1910.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letters of the 2nd and 3rd instant, marked G., respecting the steamship service with East Africa via the Suez Canal recently established by your Company, I am directed to inform you that steps have been taken to advertise in the Daily List published by this Department the inclusion of Marseilles and Naples as ports of call in the itinerary of the service in question.

As regards the suggestion contained in your letter of the 2nd instant that the British India Steam Navigation Company might find it possible to alter their Aden-Zanzibar sailings by one week in order to provide a suitable interval between the departures from Aden, I am directed to inform you that the Postmaster General, who has been in communication with that Company on the subject, is

assured that the suggested alteration would cause so much

J. Donald Currie & Co.,

Managers,

The Union Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd.

inconvenience

inconvenience and so dislocate the working of the  
Company's service in connexion with other lines of  
steamers as to prove virtually impracticable.

In these circumstances, I am to express the Postmaster  
General's regret that he is unable to avail himself of the  
use of your steamers at any rate for the present for the  
despatch of any but Ship Letter Mails to East Africa.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) E. W. Farnall.