

C.O
12971
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W.C.

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75

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
THE ABOVE REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED.

TELEGRAMS, "CROWN, LONDON."
TELEPHONE 7780 VICTORIA (6 LINES)

WHITEHALL GARDENS,
LONDON, S. W.

18th March 1915

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 27th February, No 5542/1915,
respecting the freight on cargo for West Africa.

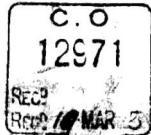
The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co. have
been in communication with the other Steamship Lines
in the trade, and have made the following offer:-

"The Merchants' current Tariff, together with
"such war surcharge as may be in operation, shall
"be applicable to your shipments, but before the
"addition of the surcharge 3/9 per ton shall be
"deducted in respect of landing, as it is desired
"by you that our rates shall be ex ship, and a
"deduction of 5% from such ex ship rates shall
"also be made."

In making this proposal they state that it
is put forward on the understanding that the Contract
rates of freight plus 20% surcharge are paid on the
steamers which sailed between the date of the intimation
that the surcharge would no longer be paid, and the
date when they terminated the Contract.

This will affect one steamer, viz: the
s.s. "DUNVEGAN CASTLE" which sailed on the 18th December,
but they will also include the s.s. "MATIANA" 20th
January, and the s.s. "FAYONIAN" 25th January. As the
two last steamers sailed after the termination of the
Contract

The Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.



Contract, a considerable advantage will be gained by their proposal.

5. The reduction of 5% is a small concession, but in the present state of the freight market, when Steam Ship owners are easily obtaining extravagant rates of freight, we do not think that it can be improved upon.

6. We, therefore, propose to make a tentative arrangement with the Steam Ship Lines on the terms proposed and to agree to pay the Contract rates, plus the 20% surcharge, on the three steamers named.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

for Crown Agents.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. Beecher

for Crown Agents.

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Jnt

St. Francis

16561

Gentlemen.

I am able to acknowledge
of your letter of the 15th

of the 18th of March, 1915,
and to inform you that the
approves of your ^{making a} ~~accepting~~
~~agreement with~~
the conditions offered by the
Steam Ship Lines for the
conveyance of Govt cargo
to E. African ports on the
terms indicated in your letter

2. Mr. Harcourt would
to know,
be glad however, whether
Steamship Lines, used or not in
this tentative arrangement
and whether it would
enable the Govt to use no
other steamers, and also
for what period the arrange-
ment will be made, and
about

DRAFT.

The Crown Agents
for the Colonies

(12971)

MINUTE.

- Mr. Downie 23-3-15
- Mr. Bolton 24 3 15
- Mr. Reid 24
- Mr.
- Mr. G. Fiddes.
- Mr. H. Just.
- Mr. J. Anderson.
- Mr. E. Slingson.
- Mr. Harcourt.

[Handwritten signature/initials]

[Handwritten signature]

Copy
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April 15th 1915
16561