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24 FEB 11

Common

Aden Zanzibar Mail Service

Date.

1911
23 Feb.

Last previous Paper

13

Mr. Cathcart Wason.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if, in view of the facts that the sum of £9,000 is paid for the conveyance of mails from Aden to Mombassa and that the mail services rendered could be obtained for £2,000, he will consider if the said sum of £9,000 could be more profitably employed in running a special steamer which would not only carry the coast mails but develop the resources of the coast provinces. [Monday 27th February.]

Mr. Fiddes

ask the P.M.G. to take?

H.V.R.

24/II

I have just heard from Mr. Farnell at the G.P.O. that they think that the answer should be a joint one. The G.P.O. are getting the material together & will communicate with us

Put by ✓

Mr. Fiddes See now letter from Mr. Farnell enclosing proposed answer. I will omit the last para. of the proposed reply to any

WI 26,032-80
1911 A.G.E.W.

Subsequent Paper

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case. It would perhaps be sufficient

to say -
The Secy has
I have considered my Hon. friend's
suggestion in consultation with the
Postmaster General, and I am he is
satisfied that the practical difficulties
are such that it is not possible
to give effect to it. 1

H. J. R

25/II

I am. The P.O. answer was not

found well as a spoken copy
[Col Secy will take the answer, I believe]
M 25

Col Secy
W Howard
as at

Secy.

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27.2. amce

Official Report 27.2.

Colonel SKEAY. The Secretary of State
has considered my hon. Friend's sugges-
tion in consultation with the Postmaster-
General, and he is satisfied that the practi-
cal difficulties are such that it is not pos-
sible to give effect to it.

A

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General Post Office,

20 February 1911.

Dear Mr. Read,

As promised on the telephone to-day I send you a draft showing more or less what we should propose to say if Mr. Cathcart Mason's question No. 21 had been addressed to us.

I have shown the draft to Sir Matthew Nathan, but not to the Postmaster General.

Yours sincerely,

E. W. Fernald

Monday 27 February.

21. Mr. Cathcart Watson.— To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if, in view of the facts that the sum of £9,000 is paid for the conveyance of mails from Aden to Mombassa and that the mail services rendered could be obtained for £2,000, he will consider if the said sum of £9,000 could be more profitably employed in running a special steamer which would not only carry the coast mails but develop the resources of the coast provinces.

It is thought that the sum of £9,000 a year would be less profitably employed in the provision of a special steamer on the lines suggested by the Hon. Member because

- (a) the amount is insufficient to secure the services of a steamer of suitable size and speed.
- (b) the trade of Uganda, British East Africa, and Zanzibar seems to fluctuate greatly for local seasons of a more or less temporary character
- (c) the regularity of despatch and arrival of the steamer, which is an essential quality of the mail Service, could not be guaranteed, if the steamer is to be used for cargo work to the best advantage.

H.M. Government have not lost sight of the question of the development of trade on the East Coast of Africa and special provision is made in the Agreement with the British India Company for the monthly mail steamer to call at additional ports between Aden and Zanzibar as occasion may require. The Colonial Office has also made an arrangement with the Union Castle Line for the conveyance of cargo and Government passengers by their Line of steamers proceeding to and from East Africa by way of the Suez Canal.

24.2.11