

EAST INDIA PROT.

4603

No. 4603

1895 FEB 07

Individual

(Subject.)

Mr J. A. G. C.

1907

Inland Telegraph Rates

Submits and recommends proposal of Postmaster General of S.A.P. that addresses should be charged for

previous Paper  
13/1/06

(Minutes.)

Mr. G. C.

The despatch of the 28<sup>th</sup> of January to which Mr. G. C. refers is his letter to Col. Sadler on the external telegraph rates which will no doubt come through some time. I am sorry that it is not by Mr. G. C. to Mr. Johnson.

As regards the inland rates, Mr. G. C. does not refer to registered telegraphic addresses, for which there is sure to be a demand when addresses are charged for. This may affect his estimate of loss or gain.

Copy of this letter, with the minutes by Mr. Brown & Col. Sadler, to come up again, saying that if he approves he should communicate with Mr. G. C. at Kanobi [he will have returned to duty by that time]

Copy done on 24/1/07  
Copy done on 28 Feb 1907

subsequent Paper

Comm  
15353

H. J. R. E.H.P. for inf. S.M. 1/2

St. Ermins Hotel,  
REGD. 5 FEB 07  
London.

30th January 1907.

INLAND TELEGRAMS

Sir,

In continuation of my despatch of the 28th inst. I have the honour to submit for your Excellency's consideration the following proposals regarding the changes desirable in the inland telegraph charges in sequence to the adoption of a central currency.

2. The present system of charging only for the words in the text of messages, and transmitting the addresses free is a somewhat antiquated one. It was in operation in India at the time the Indian Telegraph Acts and rules were imported for adoption in East Africa, but has since been discontinued. The addresses of all ordinary telegrams are now charged for in India and I believe I am right in saying that British East Africa is practically the only country in which the system remains in force. The granting of free addresses is opposed to the international arrangements and fits in very ~~poorly~~ <sup>badly</sup> with them, and I shall therefore be glad if in connection with the revision of rates which has become necessary the system can be abandoned and the new rates be based on the whole message, names and addresses being charged for as well as the text.

3. I would propose that on and from the 1st of April next the rate for ordinary inland telegrams be 10 cents per word, with a minimum charge of one rupee, and for urgent telegrams the rate be 20 cents per word with a minimum charge of two rupees; the name and

address

His Excellency  
Lt. Col. J. Hayes-Sadler C.B.  
Commissioner for  
British East Africa

address of the person to whom the message is sent being charged for, also that of the sender if transmitted.

4. I am of opinion that these alterations would have practically no effect upon the telegraph revenue. Under the present system of free addresses messages containing 8 words of text and possibly 4 words of names and address are transmitted for a rupee. ~~With~~ a rate of 10 cents a word such a message would cost 120 cents. In regard to short messages therefore the proposals are against the public and in favour of the revenue, as in the majority of cases telegrams sent for the minimum charge (one rupee) could contain only 6 or 7 words of text as against the 8 words allowed at present. For messages of average length (about 18 words 4 being in the names and address) the charge would be practically the same, viz Rs 1-12as (175 cents) under the present system and 180 cents under the proposed new scale. In the case of long messages the change would be to the advantage of the public. e.g. a message of 52 words (4 words being names and address) which at present costs Rs 6 would be transmitted for Rs 5-20 cents.

5. In addition to bringing the system of telegraph charges of the Protectorate into line with those of the United Kingdom, and of British Colonies generally, the proposed alteration would have the effect of saving a certain amount of unnecessary work to the telegraph staff and to that extent would tend to expedite the despatch of telegrams. The system of free addresses is open to abuse, both in the purposeless writing of an unnecessarily lengthy direction and in
- the

the pre-arranged long address which is varied or written in a particular manner to convey intelligence to the receiver of the telegram supplementary to that contained in the text. In either case the effect is to burden the lines with work resulting from an abuse of the system which would not be possible under the proposed new arrangement.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servant,

Postmaster General  
British East Africa.

J. C.

Forwarded and strongly recommended  
J. C.  
5/2/07

Mr. Head

I concur in the opinion  
to be commended with regard to that matter.  
After I myself that if the address be  
to be added to communications with the  
Genl P. M. S. at Harar.  
And if so may the most suitable be  
brings - such force as required.

5/2/06

J. C.

S  
4603

EAR

11

*Express*

*(Dru)*

9 February 1907

DRAFT

*Warrant no. 43*  
*Comms*  
*H. Herbert Bell Esq*

I have the honor to  
transmit to you, with  
ref. to my despatch no. 207

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~Rowley~~ 8/2
- Mr. Row
- Mr. Andrews
- Mr. Coz
- Mr. Lucas
- Mr. Graham
- Sir M. O'Malley
- Mr. Churchill
- The Earl of Egin.

(32584)

of the 25<sup>th</sup> of September  
last, the accompanying  
copy of ~~unpublished~~ letter  
addressed by W. J. T.  
Forbes, the Postmaster  
General of the East African  
and Abyssinian Protectorates,  
to Lt. Col. H. G. S. S. S.  
on the subject of the  
to be charged  
new rates of ~~post~~ telegrams  
in the two  
Protectorates on the  
introduction of the  
central division of the  
rate.

*Working block Sadder 30/2/07*  
*4603 - minutes on*  
*2/2/07 also copied*

*Copy 9/1/07*

*by 4603 & this aff to*  
*TRG, ENT, All for inf*

2/07

You will observe that  
the W. Goshing's proposals  
~~approved~~  
are accepted by Col.

Hayes Saddle so far as  
the E. A. P. is concerned,  
~~and I shall be glad~~  
and if you are prepared  
to accept them for

Myself I shall be  
glad if you will

inform W. Goshing,  
who will have returned  
to Vaucluse before

you receive this  
despatch. You should  
decide, not inform  
me as to the action

which you take

Yours

J. S.