

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
24TH DECEMBER, 1910.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR has directed the publication for general information of the following correspondence on the subject of the Royal Mail Transatlantic Service.

By Command,

S. W. KNAGGS,  
Colonial Secretary.

(No. 369.)

Telegram received by the Governor of Trinidad from the Governor of the Windward Islands on the 9th December, 1910.

Following telegram from Secretary of State :—

With reference to your predecessor's telegram of 27th September have to inform you that subsidy of £55,000 in lieu of poundage payments now made by General Post Office and West Indian Colonies for direct Transatlantic Service with Head Quarters at Trinidad has been offered to and refused by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company who asked for subsidy of £68,000. In making their offer His Majesty's Government have had in mind £15,000 offered by Trinidad, and were prepared in order to meet the desires of the West Indian Colonies for direct communication with United Kingdom to ask Parliament for £40,000 which is more than double present poundage payments by General Post Office and would be in addition to Imperial share of Intercolonial subsidy. His Majesty's Government greatly regret failure to secure direct communication but does not consider that circumstances justify greater contribution from Imperial funds in view of long period of transit for Mails to Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara provided under Company's proposals and of cancellation of homeward voyage of steamer of 21st December and further irregularities in main line service. Postmaster-General will now be obliged to make such arrangements as are possible for mails utilizing Intercolonial steamers to the best advantage. Proposed time table sent by mail.

*Telegram from the Governor of Trinidad to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 20th December, 1910.*

With reference to your telegram of 9th December, Finance Committee and Chamber of Commerce will support increase £5,000 contribution if necessary making total to £20,000 for direct Service, provided Trinidad made Head-quarters and reasonable cold storage room reserved for fruit: also, if Barbados does not contribute to direct Service, Steamer should come direct here.

LE HUNTE.

*Telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Trinidad dated 23rd December, 1910.*

I have received your telegram of 20th December with pleasure and gladly welcome this evidence of willingness of Trinidad to assist His Majesty's Government in their effort to secure direct communication with West Indies.

HARCOURT.

*Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Trinidad.*

TRINIDAD—No. 364.

DOWNING STREET,  
5th December, 1910.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a correspondence with the General Post Office on the subject of the proposals made to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the continuation of the direct Transatlantic service to the West Indies.

2. You will have been informed of the substance of this correspondence by telegraph, but you will no doubt desire to publish the text of the letters to and from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the general information of the public in the Colony.

General Post Office,  
18th November.

To General Post  
Office, 2nd December.



3 The letters which have passed between the General Post Office and this Department explain the circumstances in which His Majesty's Government have proposed to the Company a time table for their Inter-colonial Service which I fear cannot but result in serious inconvenience to passengers. I regret this result, but the Company's action has left the Government no practicable alternative.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Sgd.) L. HARCOURT.

Governor SIR G. R. LE HUNTE, K.C.M.G.,  
&c., &c., &c.

COPY—518096

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,  
28th November, 1910.

SIR,

With reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the determination of the Contract for the Transatlantic Service from this Country to the West Indies, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that the Postmaster-General has been unable to come to terms with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for a continuance of the Service, and I am to enclose copies of correspondence with the Company in which an offer of an inclusive subsidy of £55,000 per annum has been made by this Department and refused by the Company.

2. As Mr. Secretary Harcourt is aware, the only other shipping Companies engaged in West Indian Trade with any degree of regularity are those of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. The vessels of these Companies are not run in such a way as to be suitable for a mail service, owing to the fact that they do not call at any West Indian Colony on the homeward voyage. The Postmaster-General has ascertained that the Companies are unable to make any change in the homeward itinerary, and that any attempt to arrange a regular fortnightly departure from this Country would result in a complete dislocation of their trade, which they are unwilling to face.

3. In the meantime it appears necessary to make temporary arrangements for the mail service by employing the Harrison Line Steamer "Traveller" on the 31st of December for the outward voyage direct to Barbados to be followed by the adoption of the route of New York in conjunction with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Intercolonial Service. I am to submit the annexed time table for Mr. Secretary Harcourt's consideration and I am to suggest that if approved, the Company should be instructed to comply with it.

I am, &c.,

(Sd.) MATTHEW NATHAN.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
Colonial Office.

COPY.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,  
22nd November, 1910.

SIR,

With reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the Transatlantic Mail Service to the West Indies carried out under the Contract of the 6th of June, 1907, which terminated on the 10th of this month, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, that the Postmaster-General is now in a position to make a definite offer for the continuance of the service under the following conditions, vizt.:—

- (1.) As far as possible the main conditions of the late Contract with regard to speed, frequency and itinerary would be adhered to, but the Postmaster-General would require the Mails for the Windward and Leeward Islands and for British Guiana to be carried on to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, for transhipment at that Port to the Company's Intercolonial Packets. Port-of-Spain will thus take the place of Barbados as the Head-quarters of the Company in the West Indies.
- (2.) Due consideration would be given to the Company's commercial requirements, and such modifications as may from time to time be necessary for those purposes would be provided for in a new Contract.
- (3.) Payment for the conveyance of Mails by weight would cease absolutely, and all postal facilities afforded by the service under Contract would be paid for under an inclusive subsidy at the rate of £55,000 per annum.



- (4.) The new Contract would contain the usual provisions as to Time Tables, security of mails, etc., which are common to all Contracts between the Postmaster-General and Shipping Companies.
- (5.) The agreement would be made for a period not exceeding three years on and from the date of despatch of the first steamer from Southampton under the proposed Contract, and would be terminable at the end of that period or at any time thereafter by 6 months' notice on either side.

The Court of Directors will of course understand that this offer is subject to the approval of His Majesty's Treasury, and that no Contract will be binding until it has been approved by the House of Commons.

The Postmaster-General will be glad to be made acquainted with the decision of the Court of Directors as soon as possible.

I am, &c.,

(Sgd.) MATHEW NATHAN

The Secretary

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

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THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY,

18, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

SIR,

24th November, 1910.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22nd November, 1910, intimating that the Postmaster-General is now in a position to make a definite offer for the continuance of the Transatlantic Mail Service to the West Indies for a period not exceeding three years at an inclusive subsidy (that is, including the present poundage) of £55,000 per annum.

The Court of Directors have carefully considered the proposals contained in your letter, but seeing that the additional payment which you have been good enough to propose would not cover the loss which the Company sustains in carrying out the service, they regret that they are unable to see their way to accept it.

In order to put the service on a commercial basis the subsidy should be £60,000 more than the poundage payment which the Company has been receiving recently, but in view of the historic connection between His Majesty's Government, the Company and the West Indian Colonies the Court of Directors are prepared to enter into a Contract at a lower sum than they would be justified in accepting on strictly business principles. The lowest sum, however, which they can possibly accept is £50,000 more than was provided under the poundage basis.

The Court of Directors think that, on consideration, the Postmaster-General will recognise that a three year's contract is far too short for the Company, which has to organise and make arrangements throughout their large system, nor does it afford the Company that stability and certainty which they undoubtedly ought to have in carrying out a contract of this nature.

The Company would submit that the contract should be for not less than ten years, but in any case it should run concurrently with the present Intercolonial Mail Service Contract and not terminate before the expiration of that contract.

I have, &c.,

(Sgd.) R. L. FORBES,  
Secretary.

The Secretary,

GENERAL POST OFFICE.



## Pro Forma Time Tables for the employment of the Intercolonial Service.

## Royal Mail Steam Packet.

Leave Southampton	...	21	December.
„ Cherbourg	...	21	„
Arrive St. Michaels (Azores)	...	26	„
„ St. Thomas	...	3	January.
„ Savanilla	...	6	„
„ Cartagena	...	7	„
„ Colon	...	8	„
Leave Colon	...	9	„
Arrive Jamaica	...	11	„
Leave Jamaica	...	12	„
Arrive Antilla (Cuba)	...	13	„
„ New York	...	17	„

## Demerara Branch Line.

Leave Southampton	...	21	December.
„ Cherbourg	...	21	„
Arrive St. Michaels (Azores)	...	26	„
„ St. Thomas	...	3	January.
Leave St. Thomas	...	3	„
Arrive Trinidad	...	6	„
„ Demerara	...	8	„
Leave „	...	8	„
Arrive Trinidad	...	10	„
Leave „	...	11	„
Arrive Barbados	...	12	„
„ New York	...	17	„
„ London	...	23	„

## Islands Line.

Leave Southampton	...	21	December.
„ Cherbourg	...	21	„
Arrive St. Michaels	...	26	„
„ St. Thomas	...	3	January.
Leave „	...	3	„
Arrive St. Kitts	...	4	„
„ Nevis	...	4	„
„ Antigua	...	5	„
„ Montserrat	...	5	„
„ Dominica	...	6	„
„ St. Lucia	...	7	„
„ St. Vincent	...	8	„
„ Grenada	...	9	„
„ Trinidad	...	10	„
„ New York	...	17	„
„ London	...	23	„

## Harrison Line s.s. "Traveller."

Leave Liverpool	...	31	December.
Arrive Barbados	...	13	January.
„ Trinidad	...	15	„
„ Demerara	...	17	„
„ La Guaira	...	20	„
„ Porto Cabello	...	21	„
„ Curaçao	...	22	„

Connecting at Barbados with Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

## Demerara Branch Line.

Leave Liverpool	...	31	December.
Arrive Barbados	...	13	January.
Leave „	...	13	„
Arrive Demerara	...	15	„
Leave „	...	18	„
Arrive Grenada	...	20	„
„ St. Vincent	...	20	„
„ Barbados	...	21	„
„ New York	...	31	„
„ London	...	7	February.

## Islands Line.

Leave Liverpool	...	31	December.
Arrive Barbados	...	13	January.
„ Grenada	...	15	„
„ St. Vincent	...	15	„
„ St. Lucia	...	16	„
„ Dominica	...	16	„
„ Montserrat	...	17	„
„ Antigua	...	17	„
„ Nevis	...	17	„
„ St. Kitts	...	18	„
„ Nevis	...	18	„
„ Antigua	...	18	„
„ Montserrat	...	19	„
„ Dominica	...	19	„
„ St. Lucia	...	20	„
„ Barbados	...	21	„
„ New York	...	31	„
„ London	...	7	February.

Homeward connection at Trinidad with Royal Dutch Line on the 10th January, 1911.

Homeward connection at Barbados with Royal Dutch Line on the 23rd January.

After these voyages it is proposed that one Branch boat shall connect at Barbados, on the 23rd of January and convey the Islands Mail, returning to Trinidad with the Homeward Mail for conveyance to New York, by Royal Dutch Line on the 31st January: and the other Branch boat shall connect at Trinidad, on the 30th of January, and convey the British Guiana Mail, returning to Barbados, on the 6th of February, to transfer the Homeward Mail, to the Royal Dutch Line, for conveyance to New York.

And at intervals of 2 weeks thereafter this routine will be followed.

COPY—36447/1910.

DOWNING STREET,

SIR,

2nd December, 1910.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th of November, (518096) enclosing a copy of correspondence with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and of the Time-table of the Intercolonial Service which the Postmaster-General proposes to suggest to the Company in view of the failure of his effort to obtain a renewal of the Direct Transatlantic Service Contract.

2. Mr. Harcourt has carefully considered the matter, as it is clear to him that the adoption of the proposed Time-table must be attended by serious inconvenience to passengers; but he recognises that the cancellation of the Homeward voyage of the Steamer of the 21st of December, and the probability of further alterations in the Main Line Service affecting passenger traffic, render inevitable the withdrawal of the Time-tables previously suggested by the General Post Office. In these circumstances Mr. Harcourt can but acquiesce in the efforts of the Postmaster-General to make the best use possible of the Intercolonial Service for mail purposes until such time as the demands of the passenger traffic produce the offer of facilities from some other source than the Main Line Service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

3. Mr. Harcourt understands that the necessary communication to the Company will be made by the Postmaster-General.

4. Copies of your letter and its enclosures are being communicated to the West Indian Colonies concerned.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) H. W. JUST.

The Secretary,  
TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.