

CONFIDENTIAL.
No. *9/6/30*

1930
~~1929~~

C.S.

Colonial Secretary.

SUBJECT.

1930.

~~1929~~

3rd April.

PROPOSED RE-ORGANIZATION OF POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

- 1-2. Confidential despatch to S. of S. of 2/4/30*
- 3. Telegram from S of S. 16 May 1930*

Spoke Hon. D.C. C-Halket 19. 5. 30.

Nil at present known

Jul

20. 5. 30

All.

*2030
5*

4 Telegram to Secretary of State 6th June 1930.

5-6 Despatch from Secretary of State. Conf. 17 May 1930

Hon. Treasurer.

Please see : 1

Subsequent Paper.

shall be glad if you will

prepare a conjunction with Lt

Dyne, the present Col. Postmaster,

a general and confidential report

on this Discor, with reference

especially to the names in which

she has performed her duty

and to her suitability for field

service.

J. H. H.

23.6.30.

Hon. Col. Sec.

From my experience of Miss Discor, I would say that she was careless and did not appear to take any real interest in her work. I formed the opinion that she lacked sense of responsibility and in consequence it was necessary to exercise continuous supervision over her work.

2. I would point out, however, that in our four years since I relinquished the duties of Col. Postmaster. It is possible that Miss Discor has become more efficient during that period.

M. Craigie Hackett
Wras.

30.6.30

Colonial Postmaster,

I discussed this matter with you. Will you please furnish your report.

MCH

30.6.30

C.S.O. No. C/6/30

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

Hon Treasurer

I found Miss Dixon rather careless at times and apt to shirk responsibility. On the other hand I have found her most willing & energetic at very busy periods such as the sorting & delivery of incoming mails.

W. Byron 30/6/30

bol Postmaster

y.e.

Submitted with a draft

despatch.

W.B.

2.7.30.

7.8 Confidential Despatch to S.O.S. 3 July 1930

6
FAULKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

2
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

2nd April, 1930.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I have been concerned for some time past about the administration of the Post Office department which has given rise to complaints on the part of the public. These complaints are in large measure to be accounted for and justified by the irregularities which have come recently to light. Moreover I have been of opinion for some time that the Department is over-staffed which tends to slackness and inefficiency. I consider, therefore, that re-organization should be no longer delayed. On the problems involved by this re-organization I have consulted the Treasurer, Mr. M. C. Craigie-Halkett and Captain Marshall of the Colonial Audit Department, both of whom are in full agreement with the proposals I have now to make.

2. Your Lordship is aware that since the promotion in 1926 of Mr. Craigie-Halkett from Postmaster to Treasurer the Post Office has been administered by an officer of this Government, who has other substantive duties to perform, with local and non-pensionable allowance of £100 a year. I now propose that the officer in question should be Mr. Craigie-Halkett who is familiar with Post Office work having, as previously stated, carried out those duties for several years.

3./

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

3. I propose that the Offices of Magistrate and of Registrar-General at present held by Mr. Craigie-Halkett be transferred to the Colonial Secretary with the same local and non-pensionable allowance. Mr. F. A. W. Byron, the Electrician, is now performing the duties of Postmaster. He is about to proceed on leave. I have further plans concerning the work of this officer, which I will communicate to Your Lordship on his return to the Colony.

4. Under the experienced direction of Mr. Craigie-Halkett the services of Miss Dixon, the 2nd Clerk in the Post Office, can be dispensed with. I propose, therefore, with Your Lordship's approval to abolish this office. No injustice will be inflicted on Miss Dixon as her work has been unfavourably reported on and I am satisfied that she is unsuited for a career in the Public Service. This will leave one junior Clerk in the Post Office which is sufficient to meet all requirements.

5. The re-organization I am recommending has a three-fold advantage; it reduces the staff, increases efficiency and simplifies the Post Office accountancy, moreover the financial saving will be £132 a year. If the arrangements suggested in this despatch meet with Your Lordship's sanction I shall be glad to have notification by telegram in order that I may inaugurate the new system on the 1st of July.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

DECODE.

3

TELEGRAM.

From Secretary of State.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched: 16th May, 192 30. *Time:* 1530.

Received: 17th May, 192 30. *Time:* 1035.

No. 12. Confidential.

Your despatch 2nd April Confidential I approve payment non-pensionable allowance £100 per annum to Byron while acting as Postmaster. Regret unable to approve other proposals pending receipt of further information. Despatch follows.

S. of S.

CODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Secretary of State.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : 6th June, 192 30. *Time* : 1510.

Received : 7th June, 192 30. *Time* : 0100.

No. 19. Confidential.

My telegram of 18th May Confidential No 12 following discussion with Marshall your proposals are approved but further information requested in my despatch of 17th May Confidential should be furnished as soon as possible.

S. of S.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DOWNING STREET.

17 May, 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 2nd of April, suggesting the redistribution of duties in the case of the Treasurer and the Colonial Secretary. I assume that it is your intention that the Treasurer on undertaking the duties of Postmaster should retain the permanent and pensionable allowance of £100 drawn by him in respect of his duties as Magistrate and Registrar, and that the Colonial Secretary should undertake the latter duties in respect of which he will receive the local non-pensionable allowance hitherto drawn by Mr Byron who has been performing the duties of Postmaster. On the information at present before me, it is not clear how the proposed saving of £132 per annum, to which reference is made in the concluding paragraph of your despatch is to be effected. The abolition of the post of Second Clerk in the Post Office, at present held by Miss Dixon will result in a saving of £62. per annum, but if it is proposed to employ Mr Byron on duties carrying salary and allowance equivalent to that which he has recently been receiving, it would appear that no saving will result from the redistribution of duties

now

GOVERNOR,

ARNOLD HODSON, B.A., C.M.G.,

etc.,

etc.,

etc.

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now suggested. Before approving your proposals I should be glad to receive further information in explanation of the proposed saving of £132 per annum, and indicating the duties on which it is intended to employ Mr Byron on his return from leave. I should also be grateful if you would furnish me with the further information in regard to the irregularities in the Post Office Administration to which you allude in the opening paragraph of your despatch. In the event of your proposing to retire Miss Dixon on the ground of abolition of office, you will no doubt advise me in due course of the terms on which you propose that this should be done. I shall also wish to receive further particulars of Miss Dixon's case as if she is unsuitable for the public service this should apparently have been discovered at an earlier date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

3rd July, 1930.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of the 17th of May, 1930, and Confidential telegram of the 6th of June, 1930, on the subject of the redistribution of duties in the case of the Treasurer and the Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to confirm that it is the intention that the Treasurer, on undertaking the duties of Postmaster, should retain the permanent and pensionable allowance of £100 drawn by him in respect of his duties as Magistrate and Registrar, and that the Colonial Secretary should undertake the latter duties in respect of which he will receive a local non-pensionable allowance at the same rate of £100 a year as hitherto drawn by Mr. Byron, who has been performing the duties of Postmaster.

2. I have already recommended in my despatch No. 105 of the 8th of May, 1930, that Mr. Byron's substantive emoluments as Electrician-in-Charge should be raised with effect from the 1st of January, 1931, from £250 a year to £350 a year and quarters, irrespective of any outside duties which he may be called upon at any time to perform.

3. Miss Dixon is in receipt of salary as from the 1st of January, 1930, at the rate of £132 a year

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

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in the scale of £120 by £6 to £150 a year. The actual saving therefore on the Post Office vote on the abolition of her office is that amount.

4. The irregularities in the Post Office administration to which reference was made in the opening paragraph of my Confidential despatch of the 2nd of April, 1930, chiefly consisted in the Postal Clerks not paying in daily to the Treasury the sums they had collected. This culminated in the trial of Mr. H. E. Evans, lately a clerk in the Post Office service, on the 7th of February, 1930, before the Supreme Court for alleged embezzlement of a cheque. Mr. Evans was found "not guilty" by the Jury and acquitted.

5. Miss Dixon's evidence in this case was not satisfactory. In addition, the Treasurer and Postmaster have reported from time to time that she is careless, shows little interest in her work, and requires constant supervision.

6. The office of Clerk in the Post Office is non-pensionable and on its abolition I have granted Miss Dixon three months leave with full salary. She has no claim to pension, gratuity or other compensation. I am glad to say she is in no way aggrieved as the reason for the reduction of the staff has been explained to her.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.