

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC

MAILS.

C.S.

193 1.

No. 307 | 31.

2

Mr. J. Robertson.

SUBJECT.

193 1.

11th September,

Previous Paper.

REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING WEST FALKLAND
MAIL SERVICE.

MINUTES.

1-2. Letter from Mr. J. Robertson. 11th September, 1931.

y.2. Suggested that a draft vfy.

2. It cannot be done as it was of
the form with expressed in the
draft (see rejected 17th Hamilton
through the works of the 2.0 "Planes"
to call if possible at Port
Stephens in the course of
his trip round the coast

Subsequent Paper.

Falkland or charters for the

" Digging - expedition.

JWS

6.10.31.

Hon C.S.

I agree with reply
submitted

JWS

6.10.31

Letter to Mr. J. Robertson 7/10/31

3.4.

Col. Portman.

Please see

JWS

7.10.31

WCS. Been. Thank you.

WCS

Colonial Postmaster

7.10.31.

P.A
8/10/31.

5-8.

Letter from Mr. A.G. Barton of 10/11/34.

JH

Reas 5-8. submitted.

I was not aware that the "Gentoo" had been diverted into the Sound because of mails. I had understood that she intended calling at the ports mentioned and so the Captain agreed to take the mails. However as the amount which Mr. Barton asks is small will Your Excellency be pleased to approve payment?

It seems to me that the "Gentoo" is being placed at the disposal of the Govt. for the carriage of mails with the object of receiving payment as often as possible.

a. J. J.
for
26/11/34.

Hon. Col. Sec.

The "Gentoo" has been of service in conveying mails and as there are so few vessels in the Colony I do not think we should object to paying comparatively small sums, otherwise there might be difficulty in getting the vessel in future.

The amount of £7-10-0 may be paid.

MCH

Y/E

Draft letter to Mr. Barton submitted for approval.

A. J. J.
for
12/12/34.

Hon. Col. Sec.
Approved.
MCH

Letter to Mr. A. G. Barton of 15. Decr. 1934.

9.

P. H.
17/12/34

Letter from Mr. A. G. Barton of 5/1/35.

10.

Y/E

Rea 10 submitted.

I do not understand what further reply Mr. Barton wishes to his letter of the 10th of November 1934.

A. J. J.
for
8/2/35.

Letter to Mr. A. G. Barton of 18/1/35.

11.

P. H.
18/2/35

Port Stephens Station,
West Falkland Island.

11th September, 1931.



Sir,

I have the honour to ask you to bring before His Excellency's notice for information regarding the Government Mail Service to the West Falklands.

Why is Port Stephens not included as one of the principal ports, and their mails landed the same as the other large stations on the West Falkland.?

Port Stephens is one of the largest stations on the West Falkland, and it is the longest distance (viz) 9 hours ride away from the recognised Post Office Fox Bay, through the worst camp, and has one of the largest and heaviest mails, with the Islands mail included, of any on the West Falklands.

Port Stephens is called upon to make arrangements for Pratique to be given to the "Falkland". Also the "Morven" and "Penelope" Enter and get their Clearance here to and from Magallanes. This is the only port on the West Falklands that does this, and still is not recognised as a principal port.

If provisions can be made for the steamer to steam 60 miles (which means 120 return) to land one mail which is only 3½ hours ride from a principal port on either side. I should think some consideration should be made for Port Stephens and the adjacent Islands. Whereas Port Stephens is only about 45 miles from Fox Bay by water, where the 4 mails could be landed.

If they have such a dread of coming round Cape Meredith, there is no reason why the 3 Island mails could not be landed at Weddell Island which is just the same distance from Hill Cove to the Chartres, and Port Stephens mail could be landed at Fegen Inlet which is only about 10 miles further on.

What provisions are made for the Weddell, Beaver and New Island mails ?. How are these people to get theirs conveyed from Fox Bay??.

In

In my opinion, it was the very least that could be done, was for the steamer to make a three monthly call at all the ports on the West Falklands, to land their Parcel Post.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. Robertson

For DEAN & COMPANY

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

307/31.

7th October,

31.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 11th of September, 1931, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that Port Stephens has not been included in the mail contract with the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, among the ports on the West Falkland defined as principal ports by reason of its geographical position, which makes it unsuitable for use as a general centre for the collection and distribution of the mails.

2. I am to assure you that every endeavour is made on all occasions to consult the convenience of Port Stephens, and of Weddell, Beaver and New Islands in common with that of the other stations on the West Falkland alike for the collection and distribution of letter and of parcel mails, and to invite your consideration at the same time of the inevitable restrictions placed on good will in this connection by the expenditure involved.

3. I am to explain that where a port is not being visited by a vessel in the ordinary course of trade a comparatively heavy addition to the subsidy payable is necessitated by its diversion to that port ; this is so particularly in the case of Port Stephens on account of its remote and isolated situation.

4./

J. Robertson, Esq., J.P.,
Manager,
Dean and Company,
Port Stephens,
West Falkland.

4. I am to express agreement in your view that a three-monthly call at all the ports on the West Falkland - and also on the East Falkland - is to be desired but I am to state that it is doubtful whether such a service could be regularly maintained without the imposition of additional taxation which, however, in present circumstances your firm no doubt desires equally with this Government to avoid. I am to point out incidentally that during the first nine months of the current year the s.s. 'Falkland' has called at Port Stephens on no less than five occasions, to wit, 1st January, 15th February, 19th April, 9th July and 20th September.

5. In conclusion I am to express to you His Excellency's sympathetic understanding of the difficulties which you have to face in this connection and to assure you again that no possible opportunity of assisting you will be overlooked.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

DEAN BROS.

PEBBLE ISLAND,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

November 10th.1934

The Hon.the Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley

Sir,

I have further observations to add to my letter of the 16th.ultimo concerning payment for the carriage of mails per the m.v."Gentoo".

On the 21st.and following days in October all the West Letter Mail and sundry Paper & Parcel mails were delivered at Port Howard,Saunders Island,Hill Cove & Pebble Island by the "Gentoo".

This was perfectly in order - the vessel was due to call at these ports principally for the purpose of conveying Mr.and Mrs.Hugh Harding across the Sound,the schooner "Ilen" by which they had originally intended to travel having been driven ashore in a gale.

Mr.Harding naturally expects to pay for this service but he suggests,and rightly so in my opinion, that the sum of Ten Pounds should be the full extent of his liability,in view of the fact that the "Gentoo" was diverted into the Sound partly because the West Letter mails were at Brenton Loch.

The Falkland Island Company's Manager informs me that he neither asked for,nor was offered any payment for conveying these mails overland,but I have pointed out to him that his Company is in receipt of a very handsome yearly subsidy from the Government, and that this firm is not so situated.

2.

The cost of the voyage under discussion amounts to £17.10.0 more than the cost of the direct route from Stanley to Pebble, and this does not allow anything for continuing the voyage to Saunders and Hill Cove.

If Mr. Harding pays £10 of this amount will you feel disposed to pay the remaining £7.10.0 from Government funds ?

I think we are all agreed on the West that the Letter and Paper Mail service from the United Kingdom to Stanley is vastly improved since the contract was signed with the Falkland Islands Company, but we are not so satisfied with the Local Mail service, and we consider that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to deliver West Mails on the West by the very first opportunity that offers.

So far as the Parcel Post service is concerned, the whole Colony is being served far worse than ever before. If letters and papers can be transhipped in Montevideo without extra charge, why not parcels ? This, I may say, is a question that the working man in the Camp would like to know. He has not the advantage possessed by the Stanley working man of being able to select his requirements at the local Stores, and if he sends to England direct he has to wait three months for his parcels, or pay double postage.

According to the itinerary published in the "Penguin" of the 25th. September there will shortly be an occasion when a parcel mail due by P.S.N.C. cargo boat on the 20th. inst. and a letter mail due by the "Lafonia" on the 5/6th. December will not be delivered on the



DEAN BROS.

(6.)

PEBBLE ISLAND,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

3.

West until the 18th. December at the earliest, unless different arrangements are made.


Having this in mind I telegraphed you on the 6th. inst. to find out whether you would be willing to pay for a special voyage of the "Gentoo" to deliver these mails at an earlier date, and on the same day I received your non-committal answer.

My sole object in proposing this trip is to enable Westers to get their mails as early as possible. I have no cargo for the vessel myself, unless I receive an order for live mutton sheep in the meantime, so it cannot be said that I have an axe to grind, the more so because by that date the shearing season will be in full swing.

If the "Lafonia" were to collect all the farm produce from this Station I could lay up the "Gentoo" for six months in the year, discontinue the insurance for that period, and dismiss at least *Three* men, and the Station would probably be the better off financially.

During the "Lafonia's" frequent lengthy absences from the Colony there would not then be a single power-driven vessel in the Colony capable of being called upon in an emergency, saving the "Afterglow" & "Falkland", both of whose efficiency at the moment may well be questioned.

I have put forward my views in this way in the hope that you may consider them favourably, and come to some satisfactory arrangement with regard to the carriage of mails by the "Gentoo". I have not forgotten what you have done for this Station already,



DEAN BROS.

PEBBLE ISLAND,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

4.

in waiving Wharfage Dues at the Public Jetty, but this is comparatively a small item in the vessel's running expenses.

Trusting to hear from ^{you} by return mail,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. G. Barton

Manager for Dean Bros.

307/31

15th December,

54.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of November, 1934, and to inform you that in the circumstances as explained by you His Excellency has been pleased to approve of the payment to you of the sum of £7. 10. 0. in respect of the carriage of mails to the West Falkland by the m.v. "Gentoo" on the 21st of October, 1934.

2. I am to add that the amount in question has been paid to the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, on your behalf.

3. I am to add further that the whole question of the Parcel Post service between the United Kingdom and this Colony via Montevideo was gone into very thoroughly in the year 1928 and it was not found practicable to arrange for parcels to be transhipped at Montevideo at a cheaper rate than that which is at present in force.

I am,

A.G. Barton, Esqr., J.P.
PEBBLE ISLAND,
WEST FALKLAND.

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

G. S. P.
for Colonial Secretary

DEAN BROS.

PEBBLE ISLAND,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

January 5th.1935

The Hon.the Colonial Secretary,
Port Stanley

Sir,

*Excerpted
to
M.P.
227/34.*

I have received your letter No.227/34 dated the 8th.of
November 1934,wherein you enquire whether I am willing to lend
my services on the Committee appointed to make the necessary
arrangements for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary
of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne on May the 6th.1935.

I shall be pleased to serve on the Committee,and to
assist in any way,but I must tell you that it is unlikely that
I shall be able to be in Stanley at that time.

I have also received your letter No.307/31 dated the
15th.of December 1934 and I ~~am~~ glad to note that the sum of £7/10/
has been allowed in respect of the carriage of mails to the
West Falkland by the m.v."Gentoo" on the 21st.October 1934.

I regret that you neither acknowledged or replied to my
observations on the Local Mail Service,contained in my letter of
the 10th.November.

I am,Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. G. Barton.

for Messrs.Dean Bros.

307/31.

9th February,

35.

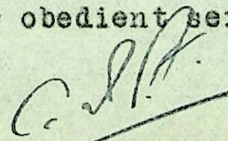
Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 5th January last, and to state with reference to the observations on the Local Mail Service contained in your letter of the 10th November, 1954, that Mails to and from the West Falkland are carried in conformity with the provisions of the Mail Contract entered into with the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, and that it is not possible at present to modify the terms of the contract.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

A.G. BARTON, ESQ., J.P.,

Pebble Island,

West Falkland.