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NEW STEAMSHIP LINE TO SINGAPORE AND FAR EAST.

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From Consul General Edwin N. Gunsaulus.
(Edwin N. Gunsaulus)

Singapore, Straits Settlements, June 14, 1920.

Considerable interest is occasioned here by the announcement of the inauguration by the Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Co., Ltd., of a new steamship service from Canada to India, Straits Settlements and Java. The Service will be a direct monthly one from the Canadian port of Montreal to Port Said, Port Soudan, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Singapore, Batavia and other Java ports, as inducement offers, whilst cargo will also be accepted for Karachi, Madras and Calcutta with transhipment.

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800.8890/260

The first steamer of the new Service will be the "Katuna," expected ready to load in Montreal about 15th July, and rates of freight, it is said, will be about the same as those operative from New York.

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Office of Foreign Trade Advisers
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Report Sent in Quintuplicate.

NEW MONTHLY STEAMSHIP SERVICE FROM SINGAPORE TO EUROPE.

From Consul in Charge H. J. Dickinson

American Consulate General, Singapore, S. S. July 9 1920.

Copy hereof has been sent to Dept. Com.
Copy has also been sent to Ch. Com.
and to Fed. Trade Com.
AUG 28 1920

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800.8890/26

Under date of May 5, 1920, this office reported the inauguration of a direct steamship service between the United States and Singapore by the Admiral Line, acting as Oriental agents here for the Barber steamship Lines, Inc., of New York. It is now learned that the United States Shipping Board has decided to establish a regular monthly service from Singapore to Europe, the Barber Steamship Lines being the operating company. The first sailing will be the S. S. Hassayampa, about July 20th, with Rotterdam and Antwerp as destinations.

It is to be hoped that this is but the first of services to be established by the Shipping Board from Singapore to the Continent, and that, in the near future, a regular service will be maintained to Mediterranean ports as well as to ports in Northern Europe and the United Kingdom.

It is understood that the United States Shipping Board has taken a firm stand against the system as practiced here by the combination of shipping companies known as the Freight Conference in granting deferred rebates which, in effect, is nothing more nor less than a whip held over the heads of shippers to prevent their using

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using non-Conference lines. It is the intention of the Admiral Line to establish themselves here independent of the Conference and to quote nett conference rates, which will give the shipper the benefit of the low rates and at the same time leave him free to do business with whomsoever he may choose. It is anticipated that every obstacle will be thrown in the way of this new service to prevent its capturing the trade which has heretofore been in the hands of the Conference lines, but if it is enabled to guarantee to shippers an adequate and regular freight service to Europe, there is every likelihood that it will be successful.