

(No. 118.)



1883.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

INTERCOLONIAL TELEGRAMS:

REDUCTION OF CHARGES.

Laid upon the Table by the Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,
September 11, 1883.



*Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited,
Hobart, Tasmania, 16th June, 1883.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to the proposals made by you at our interview on the 8th instant for a further reduction of Cable charges, I have now the honor to inform you that my Directors have "sanctioned the proposed reduction of Cable Tariff upon the following conditions; viz., that the Government guarantee to the Company the sum of Five thousand six hundred Pounds (£5600) per annum for Message Receipts; the difference between the receipts for 1882 and the present traffic being at the rate of £6380 per annum. That the Government also allow the charge of 2½ per cent. per annum to be made on account of the Reserve Fund for renewal of Cable."

This Fund is a very essential one, as the Cable has now been laid over 14 years, and there is every probability that a considerable portion of it will require renewing before long, as we cannot, so far as our experience goes, reasonably expect it to last much longer without some expensive repairs being necessary, and the proposed charge of 2½ per cent. is a general one with all Cable Companies. I therefore trust your Government will agree to this necessary charge being made.

With regard to the reduced Press Rates proposed by you,—viz., 2s. per 100 words,—I conclude they are intended only to be allowed after 6 P.M., and that during the busy part of the day, viz., from 8-30 A.M. till 6 P.M., and on Sundays, half-rates are to be charged; if so, the Company will agree to this Press Tariff.

I am afraid there will be some difficulty in obtaining the proposed shipping news, and that if it is not forthcoming during the early part of the day general dissatisfaction on the part of the public will follow.

I think if the proposed reduction of tariff comes into force, this shipping news might well be dispensed with, as the low charges for Telegrams will enable all those interested in shipping to obtain the information they require at *their own expense*; whereas if this news is supplied to the public *gratis*, I am sure it will materially interfere with the ordinary traffic,—i.e., it will reduce the number of paid Telegrams, and lessen the amount of revenue of each administration:

An early reply to this will greatly oblige, as I have been detained here a considerable time, and am anxious to return to my official duties.

I have, &c.

Hon. J. S. Dodds, Treasurer, Hobart.

WM. WARREN, *Manager.*

19th June, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, written in reply to proposals made to you by me at an interview held at the Treasury on the 8th instant, respecting a reduction in the charges upon business passing through the Tasmanian and Victorian Cable.

The proposals then submitted to you were as follow:—

Private Messages to be charged for at the rate of one shilling for ten words, and one penny for every additional word. The address and signature not to exceed ten words.

Press Messages to be charged for at the rate of two shillings for the first one hundred words, including the address and signature, with a charge of one shilling for every additional fifty words.

Shipping intelligence to be passed at a fixed annual charge of Fifty Pounds per annum, limited to one hundred words per diem.

Upon the Company assenting to make the above reductions, the Government would guarantee the Company a fixed income from Message Receipts of Five thousand Pounds per annum.

In answer to this, your Directors have instructed you to state that they will "sanction the proposed reduction of Cable Tariff upon the following conditions; viz., that the Government guarantee to the Company the sum of Five thousand six hundred Pounds per annum for Message Receipts; the difference between the Receipts for 1882 and the present traffic being at the rate of Six thousand three hundred and eighty Pounds per annum. That the Government also allow the charge of 2½ per cent. per annum to be made on account of the Reserve Fund for the renewal of the Cable."

So far as the guarantee of the amount of the Receipts is concerned, I am prepared, on behalf of the Government, to fix the sum at Five thousand six hundred Pounds, the figure named by the Company; but with regard to the stipulation that a charge of 2½ per cent. upon Seventy thousand Pounds, made for the first time in the Account rendered for the year 1882, shall be allowed for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Fund, I must protest against this point being introduced in connection with the proposal to reduce the Cable charges. The two questions are entirely distinct; and the fixing of the tariff of the line should not be hampered by the introduction of a question which must be dealt with under the provisions of the contract, which binds equally the Government and the Company. I beg therefore that you will press your Directors to deal with the two questions separately, and not embarrass the proposal to reduce the charges, upon your Company being guaranteed against loss, by the introduction of a matter of account resting upon the construction of a written contract.

If your Directors are prepared to deal with the proposals in this way I shall do myself the honor to reply to the other paragraphs of your letter of the 16th instant.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *for the Treasurer.*

*The Manager, Tasmania and Victoria
Submarine Cable.*

*Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited,
George Town, Tasmania, 22nd June, 1883.*

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honor to inform you that my Directors have instructed me to say that the proposed reduction of Cable Charges will be dealt with as soon as the question of the charge for the "Reserve Fund" is settled. They consider that it is not only a legal charge but a very necessary one for the proper maintenance and renewal of the Cable; and the legality of the charge is admitted by the Company's Solicitors.

I must now leave the matter in your hands, and again refer you to the wording of Clause 5 of the Contract, as the Directors decline to authorise the proposed reduction of Cable Tariff until the question of Reserve Fund is settled.

Owing to your illness I was prevented from seeing you again and urging upon you the necessity for the immediate erection of a third wire between Hobart and Launceston, as already there is occasionally great delay in the Hobart Messages; and, in the event of the reduced charges coming into force, it would be a matter of impossibility for your Telegraph Department to dispose of the increased number of Intercolonial Telegrams without serious delay thereon, unless a direct wire is apportioned for the transmission of Cable Messages, the same as between Melbourne and Flinders.

I have, &c.

WM. WARREN, *Manager.*

The Hon. J. S. DODDS, Treasurer, Hobart.

Treasury, 7th July, 1883.

SIR,

Your letter of the 22nd ultimo duly came to hand on the 26th; and I learn from its contents that your Directors decline to deal with the proposal made to them to reduce the present Cable Rates until after the question of the charge made on account of the year 1882 for a Reserve Fund is settled.

I observe that you state "the legality of the charge is admitted by the Company's Solicitors."

I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that your Directors should have instructed you to insist on the settlement of the question as to the creation of a Reserve Fund out of the yearly receipts of the Line before they will deal with the proposal to reduce the present Cable Rates, as

it appears to me that the two questions are quite distinct, and in no way related,—the one being a matter of policy, and the other as to the provisions of a clause of a written Contract which cannot be altered or affected by any tariff considerations.

The Government have no desire to act illiberally with the Company, and will take the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown as to the provisions of Article 5 of the Contract; and, in doing so, will direct their special attention to the amount your Company seek, for the first time, in the Accounts for 1882, to set aside out of the earnings of the Line for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Fund to renew the Cable when necessary, which is a charge that even your Company appears to have entertained a doubt about before they consulted their Solicitors on the point.

If you have a copy of the opinion to which you refer I shall be glad to have it, in order that it may be attached to the papers to be sent on to the Law Officers of the Crown.

I have, &c.

Manager Tasmania and Victoria Cable, Low Heads.

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

*Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited,
George Town, Tasmania, 11th July, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, which I will forward on to my Managing Director, and also wire the principal portions of it, and endeavour to obtain authority for the reduced tariff to come into force at an early date.

With regard to the charge made in the last year's Returns for a Reserve Fund for renewal of Cable, although it is, as you state, the first time it has appeared in the Statements rendered, it has always been one that the Company considered they had a right to make; and the only reason why it has not appeared before was owing to the net revenue for the previous years not being sufficient to admit of such a charge being made.

If you will be good enough to refer to the letters and Statements for the years 1879, 1880, and 1881, you will observe that mention is made of the revenue not being sufficient for an amount to be placed to the Reserve Fund for renewal of Cable; and I would also particularly call your attention to the Statement for 1879, which shows that the net revenue for that year only realised 4 per cent. on the capital, in consequence of the heavy expense the Company was put to in having to lay new shore ends of Cable on both sides of the Straits, consequently the Directors had to obtain from other sources the remaining 2 per cent. to pay the Shareholders the guaranteed 6 per cent. on the capital invested. This, I think, will show the necessity for a Reserve Fund being established for the proper maintenance and renewal of the Cable.

I have not received a copy of the opinion of the Company's Solicitor, but if one should be sent to me I will forward it on to you.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. S. DODDS, Treasurer, Hobart.

WM. WARREN, *Manager.*

*REPLY to Memo. asking whether any answer had been received by Mr. Warren from his
Managing Director.*

Low Heads, 31st July, 1883.

NOTHING further. The reduced Tariff is authorised as soon as Government agrees to charge for Reserve Fund.

W. WARREN, *Manager.*

TELEGRAM.

Low Heads, 13th August, 1883.

I HAVE received instructions to comply with your request that reduction of rates should be dealt with independently of other question. Will it be convenient to you if I wait upon you on Thursday morning to complete the Tariff negotiations?

W. WARREN.

Hon. J. S. DODDS.

TELEGRAM.

YES.

*W. WARREN, Esq.,
Low Heads.*

*J. S. DODDS.
13th August, 1883.*

TELEGRAM.

In accordance with our agreement, have arranged with Cable Company for reduction of present rates, from first September next, as follows:—

| <i>Private Messages.</i> | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ten words, address and signature not to exceed a like number— | | | | | |
| Cable..... | | 1 | 0 | | |
| Colonies, 6 <i>d.</i> each | | 1 | 0 | | |
| | | <hr/> | | 2 | 0 |
| Making a 10-word message..... | | | | <hr/> | |
| Every additional word— | | | | | |
| Cable | | 0 | 1 | | |
| Colonies, ½ <i>d.</i> each | | 0 | 1 | | |
| | | <hr/> | | 0 | 2 |
| | | <hr/> | | <hr/> | |

| <i>Press Messages.</i> | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 100 words or part thereof— | | | | | |
| Cable | | 2 | 0 | | |
| Each Colony 9 <i>d.</i> | | 1 | 6 | | |
| | | <hr/> | | 3 | 6 |
| Making in all | | | | <hr/> | |
| For each additional 50 or part thereof— | | | | | |
| Cable | | 1 | 0 | | |
| Each Colony 6 <i>d.</i> | | 1 | 0 | | |
| | | <hr/> | | 2 | 0 |
| Making for every extra 50..... | | | | <hr/> | |

Will write with regard to Shipping.

The Press proposals are the only ones altered and requiring your approval, which please signify as soon as possible.

Letter will follow.

The Hon. GRAHAM BERRY, Postmaster-General, Victoria.

J. S. DODDS.
16. 8. 83.

TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 18th August, 1883.

MR. Berry has approved of Telegraph Rates mentioned in your telegram of 16th; to take effect from first proximo.

S. W. M'GOWAN, *Acting D.P.M.G.*

Hon. J. S. DODDS, Treasurer, Hobart.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Treasury, Hobart, 20th August, 1883.

“*The Electric Telegraph Act,*” 20 *Vict. No. 22, s. 7.*

THE Treasurer submits and recommends that, on and from the first day of September next, the following be the scale of charges for the transmission of Intercolonial Press Messages intended for publication:—

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 100 words or part thereof..... | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| | 0 | 9 |
| Every additional 50 words or part thereof | 0 | 6 |

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
20. 8. 83.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Treasury, Hobart, 20th August, 1883.

THE Government of Victoria having joined the Government of Tasmania in an arrangement to effect a reduction in the rates at present charged for the transmission of messages by submarine cable between Victoria and Tasmania, the Treasurer submits and recommends that he be authorised to conclude an agreement with the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, guaranteeing the said Company, from the first day of September next, the sum of £5600 per annum from "Message Receipts," on condition that the said Company reduce the present charges on private and press messages from that date as follows:—

Vide Memorandum 21 May, 1883, herewith.

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Private Messages— | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| 10 words, exclusive of address and signature | 1 | 0 |
| Every additional word | 0 | 1 |
| Press Messages— | | |
| 100 words | 2 | 0 |
| Every additional 50 words or part thereof | 1 | 0 |

Further, that the Government have the right to send and receive shipping intelligence, not exceeding in the whole one hundred words per diem, on payment of a fixed annual subsidy of Fifty Pounds, from a date to be agreed upon.

Any sum the Government of Tasmania may be called on to pay to the said Company to be provided on Supplementary Estimates.

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
20. 8. 83.

MEMORANDUM.

TASMANIA AND VICTORIA—CABLE SUBSIDY £4200 A YEAR.

AT interviews held on the 17th and 18th instant, between the Honorable the Postmaster-General (Mr. Berry) and the Honorable the Treasurer of Tasmania (Mr. Dodds), the latter requested that the Government of Victoria would consent to pay a portion of the subsidy—£4200 per annum—hitherto paid by Tasmania alone, for telegraphic communication by submarine cable between the two Colonies.

Mr. Dodds asked that Victoria should contribute one-third of the above subsidy; but it was pointed out that if Tasmania paid her share of the subsidy to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the duplicate cable, Port Darwin to Singapore, (calculated at £1832), the charge against Victoria would be £800 less than at present.

It was, however, shown that the telegraph revenue derived by Victoria on messages to and from Tasmania amounted in 1882 to nearly £1200,—or £950 if the £250 paid towards maintenance of the Station at Flinders be deducted.

It was ultimately arranged, with a view to secure to the large and growing mercantile interests in both Colonies the advantage of a further reduction in the cable rates (including those on press messages), that, upon a reduction taking place to the extent of at least Sixpence upon each message, the Victorian Government should, if found necessary, be charged with the first loss consequent upon such reduction to the amount of £1000 per annum, and the half of any further loss beyond that sum. The Government of Tasmania to make the necessary negotiations with the Cable Company.

Post Office, Melbourne, 21st May, 1883.

21st August, 1883.

SIR,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, and our interview at the Treasury on the 16th, when you intimated to me that you had received instructions from your Managing Director to comply with my request for a reduction in the present cable rates apart from the question of the charge made on account of a Reserve Fund, I have the honor to state that yesterday His Excellency the Governor in Council was pleased to approve of an arrangement being made with your Company to give effect to the proposed reduction of rates on and from the first day of September next. I have therefore to inform you, on behalf of the Government, that instructions have been issued to bring the reduced rates into operation from the date named, leaving the question as to the creation of a Reserve Fund to be dealt with separately.

With regard to the special provision respecting shipping intelligence, I hope to communicate with you again fixing a date when the same shall come into operation.

I beg to attach a copy of to-day's *Gazette* containing the notices as to the reduced rates, to which I have to direct your attention.

I have, &c.
J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

*The Manager Tasmania and Victoria Submarine Cable,
Low Head.*

Treasury, 25th August, 1883.

SIR,

WITH reference to the telegrams which have passed between your Department and this Office on the subject of the reduction of charges on messages transmitted between Victoria and Tasmania, I have now the honor to state for your guidance that arrangements have been concluded with the Manager of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company to reduce the cable charges on and from the first day of September next, on the Company being guaranteed the sum of Five thousand six hundred Pounds per annum from "Message Receipts." This is in accordance with the agreement entered into with you during my recent visit to Victoria; and I am glad to be able to inform you that I have succeeded in obtaining a tariff which must prove highly satisfactory to both communities.

The Scale of Charges to come into operation on the date named is as follows:—

Private Messages.—10 words, address and signature not to exceed a like number—Cable, One Shilling; each Colony, Sixpence; making together, Two Shillings. Every additional word—Cable, One Penny; each Colony, Half-penny; making together, Twopence.

Press Messages.—100 words or part thereof—Cable, Two Shillings; each Colony, Ninepence; making together, Three Shillings and Sixpence. Every additional 50 or part thereof—Cable, One Shilling; each Colony, Sixpence; making together, Two Shillings.

You will observe that the rates are uniform throughout the day, and that there is no restriction whatever as to hours.

Special provision has been made so that Shipping Intelligence to be posted up at the principal offices shall be forwarded at the rate of One Hundred words per diem on payment of Fifty Pounds a year by Tasmania; but before this can be brought into operation it will be necessary for me to first ascertain whether your Department is in a position to supply daily reports of a reliable character, on which point I shall be glad to hear from you. So far as this Colony is concerned, I am prepared to furnish Shipping Reports regularly, but it will be necessary to determine to what extent the information is to be supplied the public, which you will no doubt duly consider before replying to this.

I have the honor to forward for your perusal copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Manager of the Company and this Office, showing that unavoidable delay has prevented my completing arrangements earlier.

I have, &c.
J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Melbourne, Victoria.

TELEGRAM.

Low Head, 23rd August, 1883.

I HAVE received your letter of 21st; but I must have a formal agreement, signed by you, before reduced tariff can come into force *re* annual amount of guarantee for Message Receipts, as per my letter of 18th June and yours of 19th June. I shall feel obliged if you will post this to-day, in order that I may receive in time to send home by the out-going mail.

Hon. J. S. DODDS.

W. WARREN, *Low Head.*

*Post Office and Telegraph Department, General Post Office,
Melbourne, 3rd September, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Postmaster-General, to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 25th ult., respecting the charges on telegrams transmitted by cable between Tasmania and Victoria, and I am to state that, as advised by telegram, the new scale of rates came into operation in this Colony on the 1st instant.

I have, &c.
S. W. M'GOWAN, *Acting Deputy Postmaster-General.*

The Honorable the Treasurer, Hobart.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Treasury, Hobart, 3rd September, 1883.

Reduction of Cable Charges.—Council Minute, 20th August, 1883.

THE Treasurer submits and recommends that the Agreement herewith attached, made in obedience to the above quoted Council Minute, be approved.

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.

G.C.S.

3. 9. 83.

Articles of Agreement made this twentieth day of August one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF TASMANIA by the Honorable JOHN STOKELL DODDS of Hobart in Tasmania being and as Treasurer of Tasmania of the one part and THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED (hereinafter called the present Company) of the other part WHEREAS by Articles of Agreement dated the twenty-fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight and made between the Government of Tasmania (therein and hereinafter called "The Government") by George Gilmore of the one part and The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company Limited (therein and hereinafter called "The Company") of the other part for the considerations therein appearing it was mutually covenanted and agreed between the Government on the one hand and the Company their successors and assigns on the other hand (among other things) that (1) The Company would manufacture and within fifteen months from the date thereof lay down an Electric Telegraph Cable for establishing Telegraphic communication between the Terminate of the land Telegraph lines in Tasmania at Low Heads at the entrance of the River Tamar and the Terminate of the land Telegraph lines at or near Cape Schank on the north side of Bass' Straits in the Colony of Victoria AND WHEREAS the Company established Telegraphic communication between the said two Terminates in Tasmania and Victoria in accordance with the said recited Articles of Agreement AND WHEREAS the present Company have acquired by purchase all the rights and have taken on themselves all the liabilities and responsibilities which at the time of such purchase were possessed by or had devolved on the Company under the said recited Articles of Agreement AND WHEREAS the present Company have agreed with the Government to reduce the scale of charges for the transmission of private and press telegrams to be transmitted by the Submarine Cable worked by the present Company between Tasmania and the Colony of Victoria on the terms and conditions and at the rate of payment hereinafter expressed Now for the considerations hereinafter appearing it is hereby covenanted and agreed between the Government on the one hand and the present Company their successors and assigns on the other hand as follows:—

ARTICLE 1 The present Company shall transmit Telegraphic messages to from and between Tasmania and any other place throughout each day of the week during the continuance of the contract expressed or contained in the said recited Articles of Agreement dated the twenty-fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight and also on each Sunday between such hours as shall be appointed by the Government from time to time for opening the Tasmanian lines of Telegraph and the rate of charges for the transmission of every such message as aforesaid shall be as follows:—

Private messages of ten words address and signature not to exceed a like number of words one shilling.

Every additional word one penny.

Press messages not exceeding one hundred words two shillings.

Every additional fifty words or part thereof one shilling.

ARTICLE 2 The present Company shall be entitled to the whole of "The Message Receipts" (which term is hereby declared to mean and to be taken as the proportion of the moneys to be collected on Telegrams to be sent to from and between Tasmania and any other place through the present Company's Submarine Cable connecting Tasmania and Victoria and receivable by the present Company) in each year from all sources and if in any one year the message receipts shall not amount to Five thousand six hundred pounds the Government shall pay to the present Company the difference between the actual "Message Receipts" and the said sum of Five thousand six hundred pounds.

ARTICLE 3 During any interruption of telegraphic communication by the said Submarine Cable between Tasmania and Victoria the liability of the Government to guarantee the payment of the said sum of Five thousand six hundred pounds to the present Company shall cease and the Government shall be entitled to be credited on the adjustment of accounts between the Government and the present Company at the close of each year with a sum equal to the amount received by the present Company for Message Receipts during the corresponding period of the preceding year.

ARTICLE 4 The guarantee hereby entered into by the Government is to cease on the termination of the period of twenty years during which the payment of interest is guaranteed by the Government.

ARTICLE 5 The said guarantee on the part of the Government shall take effect on and from the first day of September one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three IN WITNESS whereof the said John Stokell Dodds hath hereunto set his hand and seal and the present Company have caused their common seal to be affixed the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered by the within-named
John Stokell Dodds in the presence of

J. S. DODDS.

JOHN E. PACKER *Ministerial Clerk Treasury Hobart.*

The Common Seal of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph
Company Limited was hereunto affixed in the presence of—

6th September, 1883.

SIR,

IN accordance with your Telegram of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honor to forward herewith the formal Agreement to which you refer, and ask may be supplied, in connection with the reduction of Cable Rates.

I have, &c.

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

The Manager T. & V. Submarine Cable, George Town.

*Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited,
George Town, Tasmania, 8th September, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant and the Agreement prepared by you relative to the guarantee for the reduction of Cable Tariff.

I do not think the Company will accept the said Agreement, as it contains matter quite foreign to the proposals submitted by you at our interview on June 8th and in your letter of June 19th.

I have, therefore, suggested that the Company's Solicitors may be instructed to draw up an Agreement in accordance with the proposals originally submitted by you, and forward it to me as early as possible.

If, however, in the meantime, you think fit to draw up a fresh one, having reference *solely* to the recent reduction of Tariff and the guarantee, as stated in your letter of June 19th, and omitting Articles Nos. 3 and 4 of the present document, I will accept it, and telegraph to the Managing Director not to have a fresh Agreement drawn up by the Company's Solicitors.

I have, &c.

Hon. J. S. Dodds, Treasurer, Hobart.

WM. WARREN, *Manager.*

Treasury, 11th September, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and I regret to learn therefrom that the Agreement forwarded with my letter of the 6th does not meet with your approval.

As you have suggested to your Managing Director that the Company's Solicitors be instructed to draw up an Agreement to be sent on to you, I do not see the use, in the meantime, of discussing the provisions of the document given by me, which you are aware was supplied in deference to your wishes, and not because I regarded it as more binding on the Government than the pledge given in my letter of the 21st August guaranteeing the Company a fixed sum from "Message Receipts."

I have, &c.

*The Manager Tasmania and Victoria Cable,
George Town.*

J. S. DODDS, *Treasurer.*

NET Submarine Cable Receipts for first Eight Months of 1882 and 1883.

| | 1882. | | 1883. | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| <i>January</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 373 10 6 | | 546 19 0 | |
| European | 7 2 0 | | 14 8 0 | |
| | | 380 12 6 | | 561 7 0 |
| <i>February</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 436 19 0 | | 511 5 6 | |
| European | 4 12 6 | | 10 2 0 | |
| | | 441 11 6 | | 521 7 6 |
| <i>March</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 444 11 2 | | 488 11 2 | |
| European | 9 3 6 | | 7 1 0 | |
| | | 453 14 8 | | 495 12 2 |
| <i>April</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 338 4 10 | | 420 16 5 | |
| European | 5 15 0 | | 6 5 6 | |
| | | 343 19 10 | | 427 1 11 |
| <i>May</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 422 11 2 | | 443 16 9 | |
| European | 6 19 0 | | 10 2 6 | |
| | | 429 10 2 | | 453 19 3 |
| <i>June</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 363 11 10 | | 388 3 11 | |
| European | 6 19 0 | | 11 5 0 | |
| | | 370 10 10 | | 399 8 11 |
| <i>July</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 390 10 9 | | 451 2 4 | |
| European | 9 4 6 | | 10 4 0 | |
| | | 399 15 3 | | 461 6 4 |
| <i>August</i> — | | | | |
| Intercolonial..... | 475 14 8 | | 447 2 11 | |
| European | 6 11 0 | | 15 16 0 | |
| | | 482 5 8 | | 462 18 11 |
| | | £3302 0 5 | | £3783 2 0 |