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1866.

T A S M A N I A.

**TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN  
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ITS  
DEPENDENCIES.**

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 20 August, 1867.



CIRCULAR.—TASMANIA.

*Downing-street, 23rd May, 1867.*

SIR,

I TRANSMIT to you, for the information of yourself and your Government, a Copy of a Letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, with a Copy of a Treasury Minute explaining the principles by which their Lordships will be governed in encouraging the extension of Telegraphic Communication between the United Kingdom and its Dependencies.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.

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*Mr. HUNT to Sir F. ROGERS.*

*Treasury Chambers, 8th May, 1867.*

SIR,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you, for the information of the Duke of Buckingham, copy of a Treasury Minute, dated 10th January, 1867, relative to Telegraphic Communication between the United Kingdom and its Dependencies; and I am to request that, in laying the same before His Grace, you will state to him that my Lords, in laying down principles for their own governance in regard to the amount of encouragement which it may be deemed expedient on the part of the Imperial Government to afford towards the extension of Telegraphic Communication, have no wish to interfere with any arrangements, whether pecuniary or otherwise, which the Governments of any of the Australian Colonies may be inclined to enter into with any company or companies formed for the furtherance of the object in question.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE WARD HUNT.

Sir F. ROGERS, *Bart.*

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*Treasury Minute, dated 10th January, 1867.*

THE First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer call the attention of the Board to the important question in regard to the extension of Telegraphic Communication which is likely to arise in consequence of the success which has attended the submerging of the Atlantic Cable of 1866, and the recovery and completion of that attempted to be laid in 1865.

It has already been intimated to Her Majesty's Government that it is in contemplation to form a Company for the purpose of laying a line of telegraph between this country and Gibraltar, and from thence to Malta. Between Malta and Alexandria there is already telegraphic communication by means of the Malta and Alexandria Telegraph Cable belonging to Her Majesty's Government, which is at present agreed to be leased for a term of 42 years to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company. The lease it is intended should be transferred to the new Company, as well

as the land line between Alexandria and Suez, originally belonging to the Red Sea Line, but now the property of the "Telegraph to India Company." From some point on the Red Sea to which a land line will be laid, it is stated that the new Company will lay a Telegraph Cable to Aden, and from thence to Kurrachee, where the Telegraph will become connected with the land lines of the Indian Government, which extend as far as Rangoon. From Rangoon it is proposed to carry a cable to Singapore, and from that place cables to China and Japan *viâ* Saigon, and Australia *viâ* Java and Copang.

Two other schemes for the extension of telegraphic communication beyond Rangoon have also been brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, namely, one by Mr. F. Gisborne, which involves, however, financial assistance on the part of the Government; and another by Mr. Seymour Clarke, for "a line of telegraph from Rangoon, through the kingdom of Siam to Singapore, from Malacca through Sumatra, Java, &c. to Australia, with a branch from Tavoy through Bangkok to Saigon, and thence, on the approval of France, through Cochin China to China Proper."

As, in the opinion of the Earl of Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the establishment between this country and India of an alternative line of telegraphic communication with that *viâ* the Persian Gulf, and the extension of such line to China and Japan on the one hand, and to the Australian Colonies on the other, is of great importance, they submit to the Board whether some encouragement may not be given for the formation of a Company or Companies able and willing to carry out so desirable an object. They are, however, decidedly of opinion that, looking to the great advance that has, within the last few years, been made in the art of manufacturing, laying, and repairing submarine cables, thereby increasing the confidence of the public in the permanence of such undertakings, they would not be justified in proposing that any assistance, either by way of subsidy or guarantee, should be given to any Company which may at the present time be formed for the purpose of establishing lines of telegraphic communication. They would, however, submit whether encouragement may not be afforded to Companies willing to lay lines of which the Government approve, by the Government causing surveys, where none now exist, to be made of the route along which it may be proposed cables should be laid; by rendering assistance to such Companies when laying the cables, by means of any of Her Majesty's vessels, in the same manner as was recently afforded by Her Majesty's ship *Terrible*, in the case of the Atlantic Cable; and by using the good offices of the British Government with any Foreign Government upon whose Territories it may be requisite to land cables, or to lay land lines.

In any arrangement to be entered into with a Company it should be distinctly stipulated, that while Her Majesty's Government claim no advantage as regards the rate of charge for the Government messages, all messages transmitted by Her Majesty's Government shall have priority; and that in certain contingencies Her Majesty's Government should have the power of assuming possession of any telegraphic line upon payment of proper compensation.

My Lords entirely coincide in the opinions expressed by the Earl of Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and they will have them in view in the event of any arrangements being made with any Company or Companies for the purpose of laying telegraphic cables, or erecting land lines of telegraph. In the meanwhile, it appears to My Lords that it will be advisable to designate those lines of communication which they consider are most called for by Imperial and commercial interests, and towards the formation of which they are of opinion that the countenance and encouragement of Her Majesty's Government may properly be afforded in the manner indicated; viz.—

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| Section A. Falmouth to Gibraltar.  | 1. A direct line between Falmouth, or some other point on the coast of England, and Gibraltar, without touching anywhere between those two points.  |
| Section B. Gibraltar to Malta.   | 2. A line between Gibraltar and Malta, without touching at any intermediate point.  |
| Section D. Suabin to Aden.<br>" E. Aden to Kooria Moorla Islands.<br>" F. Kooria to Muscat.<br>" G. Muscat to Rass Jaub.<br>" H. Rass Jaub to Kurrachee. | 3. A line between some point on the Egyptian Territories, to be hereafter decided, and Aden, and from thence to Kurrachee, touching at the various points which may be thought requisite. |
| Section K. Rangoon to Pulo Penang.<br>" L. Pulo Penang to Singapore.   | 4. A line from Rangoon to Singapore, touching at Penang and other points, if deemed necessary.  |
| Section M. Singapore to Batavia.<br>" N. Java to Australia.  | 5. A line from either Singapore or Malacca, whichever point may be found most suitable, <i>viâ</i> Java, to some point on the coast of Australia, to be hereafter decided.                |

6. A line from Singapore to Shanghai, touching at Hong Kong and other points, if deemed advisable, including Saigon, if the French Government concur in such a proceeding.

Section O. Singapore to Saigon River.  
 " P. Saigon to Hong Kong.  
 " Q. Hong Kong to Amoy.  
 " R. Amoy to Shanghai.

7. A line from Shanghai to Japan.

Section S. Shanghai to Yokohama.

With regard to the several proposed lines of telegraphic communication My Lords are glad to find that, with some slight exceptions, the whole of the routes along which the lines in question would be laid have been examined, and the soundings completed sufficiently for telegraphic purposes, by the Admiralty, and marked in charts, the incomplete portions of the lines being between Java and Australia, of which about one-half has been sounded; between Saigon and Hong Kong, of which about one-half has been sounded, and the remainder is in progress; between China and Japan, of which about one-third has been sounded.

My Lords have now only to add that (whilst acting on the principles laid down for their guidance in the foregoing Minute), they will be prepared to give their attentive consideration to any proposals which may be submitted to them for carrying out any of the schemes of telegraphic communication above adverted to, by parties who can adduce satisfactory proof of their possessing the necessary pecuniary means for carrying such undertaking into effect, whether by submarine cables, or, when circumstances will admit, by alternative land lines; and My Lords will make arrangements with the Admiralty so as to afford such parties the opportunity of inspecting the surveys referred to.

Transmit copy of this Minute to Sir F. Rogers, and request that in laying the same before the Earl of Carnarvon he will state to his Lordship, that My Lords, in laying down principles for their own governance in regard to the amount of encouragement which it may be deemed expedient on the part of the Imperial Government to afford towards the extension of telegraphic communication, have no wish to interfere with any arrangements, whether pecuniary or otherwise, which the Governments of any of the Australian Colonies may be inclined to enter into with any Company or Companies formed for the furtherance of the object in question.

Transmit copy of this Minute to Mr. Hammond, for the information of Lord Stanley; to Mr. Romaine, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; to Mr. Merivale, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council; and to Mr. Farrer, for the information of the Board of Trade.