

(No. 80.)



1880.

T A S M A N I A.

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

EUROPEAN TELEGRAMS :

**CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO OPENING TELEGRAPH
STATIONS FOR LATE EUROPEAN TELEGRAMS.**

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 31, 1880.



*The "Mercury" and "Tasmanian Mail" Offices, Macquarie-street,
Hobart Town, 9th August, 1880.*

SIR,

OUR Melbourne Agents (Reuter & Co.) have arranged with Mr. Warren, of the Cable Company, to keep the cable open for the convenience of the public and the Press from 10.30 to 11 P.M. daily, without additional charges; and he is also willing to open the cable at the same hour on Sunday night instead of 9.30 P.M. as at present. To make this concession of any service to ourselves, we would ask you if you would kindly arrange to keep the local offices open between these hours? English messages frequently arrive in Melbourne after the Telegraphic Offices for Tasmania are closed, and our messages are delayed a day in consequence.

We feel assured you will recognise the necessity for this alteration, and

Have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

Hon. W. R. GIBLIN, Colonial Treasurer.

DAVIES BROS.

REFERRED to the Superintendent of Telegraphs for report.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
10. 8. 80.

Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited, Melbourne, 7th August, 1880.

SIR,

THE efficiency of the Foreign Telegraphic Service for the Press is at the present time seriously impaired in consequence of the early hour at which the Tasmanian cable and land lines are closed, viz., 8 P.M. daily. The messages of European intelligence despatched at an early hour by this Company from London (say 5 A.M.) almost invariably arrive between 9 and 10 P.M., i.e., too late to retransmit the same day to Hobart Town and Launceston, and have therefore to be held over until the following day, i.e., until after publication in all the other Australian Colonies.

I have recently been in communication with the Superintendent of the Cable Company, Mr. Warren, who has expressed his readiness to have an Operator in attendance between the hours of 10.30 and 11 P.M. daily, Sundays included, without any increase of the charges. I understand that the same Operator would retransmit any messages at the Cable Station to Hobart Town and Launceston, at which places only a receiving clerk would be required to attend.

My object in addressing you is to solicit your sanction of the proposed arrangement, and to ask that an Operator may be in attendance at the places named between the hours above mentioned.

I cannot doubt that the concession, if granted, would be greatly appreciated by the Press and public of your Colony, and that it would tend to increase the traffic of the Cable Company and the Tasmanian Telegraph Department.

I have, &c

*The Hon. W. R. GIBLIN,
Premier and Treasurer of Tasmania.*

HENRY M. COLLINS, *General Agent.*

REFERRED to the Superintendent of Telegraphs to report.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
11th August, 1880.

Electric Telegraph Department, 14th August, 1880.

SIR,

In re applications from Messrs. Davies Brothers and Reuter's Telegram Company (herewith) for later opening of the Tasmanian land lines from Low Heads to Launceston and Hobart Town, I have the honor to report—

There can be no question but that, as it appears European Press news usually reach Melbourne between 9 and 10 p.m., the publication of such news in Tasmania is delayed twenty-four hours in consequence of the hour at which the Tasmanian land lines close.

If the Press only are to be considered in this matter, and their messages at that hour are to be limited to foreign news, or news that could not possibly be transmitted at an earlier hour, then I am of opinion that opening the Tasmanian offices from 10.30 to 11 p.m. should be amply sufficient. But there is nothing to prevent Press correspondents from (as they often do) leaving their messages to the very last moment, thus throwing any amount of work into the late hour, and necessitating therefore longer attendance and expense. Again, it will often be found that instead of closing the offices at 11 p.m. word will be sent along that messages are coming forward, thus extending the hours. And again—there is no reason why, if this privilege is given to the Press, it should not also be available to the general public.

I mention these facts as the question of expense has to be considered; and I estimate the cost of opening the offices in Hobart Town and Launceston at from eighty to one hundred pounds per annum.

I note it is stated the Cable Manager has signified his willingness to open at the hour named, not only daily but also on Sunday, and abolishing the Sunday opening from 9 to 9.30 p.m., and also to pass messages at ordinary rates. I doubt if the alteration of the hour on Sunday evening will meet the convenience of the general public, although only twenty messages (private) have been transmitted through the cable during the last twelve months.

The following are the charges made for transmission of messages at other than the usual office hours:—

Tasmania.—For private messages, double rates on Sundays, and a minimum of 5s. for 58 words or under on week days. Press, a minimum of 3s. for 100 words, and 6d. each additional 50.

Victoria.—For private messages between 8 p.m. and midnight, double rates; between midnight and 8.30 a.m., treble rates. Press, between 7.30 p.m. and midnight, 2s. for 100 words, and 9d. each additional 50; between midnight and 8.30 a.m., 4s. for 100 words, and 9d. each additional 50.

South Australia, New South Wales, and New Zealand,—Double ordinary rates.

Queensland.—Fifty per cent. extra.

Victoria at present charges for cable messages a minimum of 5s. for private messages up to 58 words, and Press up to 118 words; but I have no doubt, on representation being made, that colony would assimilate their charges on cable messages to that of their local rates.

In view, therefore, of the proposed late opening I suggest that the charges on the Tasmanian land lines be 2s. for 10 words, and 2d. each additional word for private messages transmitted on Sundays or after ordinary office hours; and that the charges for Press messages remain as at present; viz.—a minimum of 3s. for the first 100 words, and 6d. for each additional 50 words or under.

I presume, of course, there will be no difficulty either with the Manager of the Cable Company or the Telegraph Department in Victoria; but in the absence of any communication from either I have requested them to favour me with their views, which, when received, I shall have the honor to lay before you.

I think this a fitting opportunity to suggest the desirability of *always* having the means of communication with Launceston, Low Heads, and the Colonies.

A night staff is always in attendance in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; and I am of opinion that the time is not far distant when such facilities must be provided in Tasmania.

To do this, however, it will be necessary to provide special accommodation for the purpose. I make the suggestion, however, as one that may be deemed worthy of consideration.

I have, &c.

ROBT. HENRY, JUNR., *Supt. of Telegraphs.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

FORWARDED to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, who will be good enough to arrange to give effect to this request from Monday next. At present no change to be made in the rates.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
26th August, 1880.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 26th August, 1880.

GENTLEMEN,

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your request, arrangements have been made to open the Telegraph Stations at Hobart Town, Launceston, and Low Heads nightly, Sundays included, between 10.30 and 11 o'clock to receive late European Telegrams.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
Messrs. DAVIES BROS., "*Mercury*" Office, Hobart Town.

26th August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, with regard to the Telegraph Stations at Hobart Town, Launceston, and Low Head being opened nightly, Sundays included, between 10.30 and 11 o'clock; and I have to state in reply that arrangements have been made to give effect to your request on and from Monday next.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
HENRY M. COLLINS, *Esq., Reuter's Agent, Melbourne.*

TELEGRAM.

Sydney, 27th August, 1880.

REOPENING for late Press Messages Saturday night unnecessary, but open on Sunday night. Shall be in Melbourne in a few days, will arrange matters, which I propose should be for trial of month or two, to see if availed of. New Zealand Cable receives from New Zealand Government £250 per annum for similar duty; suggest half this amount be paid by your Government to Tasmanian Cable.

W. WARREN, *Sydney.*

Superintendent.

FORWARDED for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

ROBT. HENRY, JUN., *Superintendent Telegraphs.*
27th August, 1880.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart Town Station, 28th August, 1880.

REUTER'S letter informs us he had recently been in communication with you, and that you had expressed your readiness to grant the concession "without any increase of the charges." Acting on this, arrangements have been made to commence the service on Monday next. The Government are not disposed to entertain the question of subsidy. Of course if you insist thereon arrangements must fall through.

W. WARREN, *Esq.*

R. HENRY.

TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 30th August.

ARRIVED from Sydney this afternoon. Cannot sanction opening Cable for late Press messages without subsidy. Reuter's Agent misled me by stating New Zealand Cable received nothing extra for late duty. I find, however, that New Zealand Government pays £250 per annum; therefore I cannot be expected to do similar duty without some remuneration. Will see Reuter in morning.

R. HENRY, *Esq., Melbourne.*

W. WARREN, *Melbourne.*

FORWARDED for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

ROBERT HENRY, JUN., *Superintendent Telegraphs.*
31. 8. 80.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 31st August, 1880.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I addressed you on the 26th instant in reference to opening the Telegraph Stations at Hobart Town, Launceston, and Low Heads, I had before me a letter from Mr. H. M. Collins, Reuter's Agent in Victoria, informing me that he had "recently been in communication with the Superintendent of the Cable Company, Mr. Warren, who had expressed his readiness to have an operator in attendance between the hours of 10.30 and 11 P.M. daily, Sundays included, without any increase of charges." Accepting this assurance, I instructed the Telegraph Department in this Colony accordingly, and provided for the extra expense to be incurred under the head of overtime £100, which the Government asked Parliament to assent to in the Estimates for the year 1881.

Since writing you, the Superintendent of Telegraphs has forwarded for the information of the Government a Telegram received by him from the Manager of the Tasmanian and Victorian Cable Company demanding a subsidy of £125 per annum for the service required, making with the estimate of £100 for overtime a yearly charge of £225 to the Treasury. Under the circumstances I have been obliged to countermand the instructions given by me on the 26th instant. The offices will therefore not be opened at present.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

Messrs. DAVIES BROS., "*Mercury*" Office, Hobart Town.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 31st August, 1880.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of the 26th instant, in reply to yours of the 7th, I have now the honor to inform you that, since writing to you notifying the willingness of this Government to open the Telegraph Stations at Hobart Town, Launceston, and Low Head, (which was done upon the assurance contained in your letter of the date referred to, that the Superintendent of the Cable Company, Mr. Warren, had expressed his readiness to have an operator in attendance between 10.30 and 11 P.M. daily, Sundays included, without any increase of charges), the Superintendent of Telegraphs has been in communication with the Manager of the Cable, who appears to know nothing about the proposed arrangements, as on his being telegraphed to he at once asks for a subsidy of £125 a year; and in a further Telegram he states that "Reuter's Agent," meaning you, "misled me by stating New Zealand Cable received nothing extra for the late duty."

As you are aware, I had made arrangements to open the offices on and from Monday last, but the receipt of the Telegram of to-day from Mr. Warren has compelled me to countermand the instructions given and await any explanation you may be pleased to offer.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

H. M. COLLINS, *Esq., Reuter's Agent*
Melbourne, Victoria.