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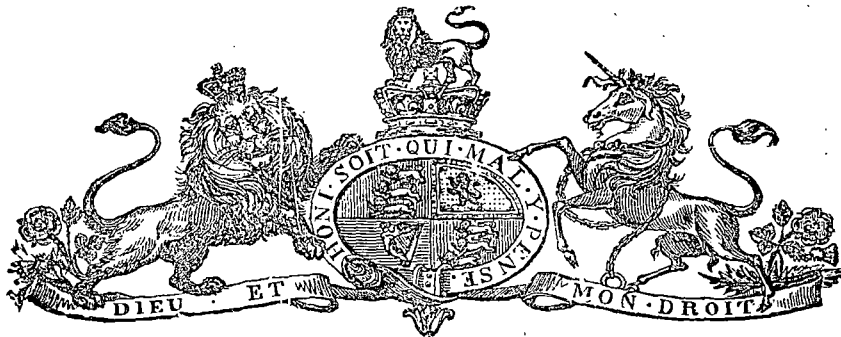
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 17, 1873.



INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, HELD AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1873.

THIS Conference was convened at the instance of the Honorable Henry Parkes, representing the Government of New South Wales, for the consideration, primarily, of the following subjects:—

1. A scheme of Ocean Mail Services which would meet the demands of all the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.
2. The policy of Intercolonial Free Trade, and the objections thereto advanced by the Secretary of State, in despatches of July 13, 1871, and April 19, 1872.
3. Telegraphic Communication, more especially in relation to submarine Cables.

All the Colonies of Australasia, including Tasmania and New Zealand, responded to the invitation, and sent the under-mentioned gentlemen as their representatives:—

On behalf of New South Wales—

The Honorable HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary.

The Honorable SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council.

On behalf of New Zealand—

The Honorable JULIUS VOGEL, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.

The Honorable W. H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs.

On behalf of Queensland—

The Honorable A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary.

The Honorable J. M. THOMPSON, Secretary for Lands.

On behalf of South Australia—

The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary.

The Honorable J. H. BARROW, Treasurer.

On behalf of Tasmania—

The Honorable F. M. INNES, Treasurer.

The Honorable J. M. WILSON, President of the Legislative Council.

On behalf of Victoria—

The Honorable J. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary.

The Honorable EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer.

On behalf of Western Australia—

The Honorable F. B. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary.

The Conference assembled at the Treasury, Sydney; the first sitting being on Wednesday, January 22nd, and the last on Friday, February 14th.

At the first meeting the Hon. Henry Parkes was unanimously elected Chairman, and A. C. Budge, Esq., Clerk of the Executive Council, was appointed Secretary.

The subjects discussed by the Conference were the following:—

I.—THE GALLE POSTAL SERVICE.

With reference to this question, it was decided, after several days' deliberation, that the proposal of the Lords of the Treasury for the establishment and maintenance of a four-weekly Service between Galle and Australasia be accepted, on the following conditions:—

- (1.) That Melbourne be the Terminus of the Service.
- (2.) That the cost of all the requisite Branch Services be considered as part of the cost of the whole Service.
- (3.) That the several Australasian Governments shall contribute to the cost of the whole Service, in proportion to the correspondence conveyed by such Mail Service from each Colony.
- (4.) That the Governments of the Colonies requiring Branch Services make the necessary arrangements for their respective Services with the Government or Governments of the Colony or Colonies negotiating the Contract for the Mail Service from Galle.
- (5.) That the Government of Victoria make all payments for the Main and Branch Galle Services, rendering quarterly estimates of the amounts to be contributed by the several Colonies, with annual final adjustments of accounts.
- (6.) That Cockburn Sound, in Western Australia, be substituted for King George's Sound as a port of call for the Ocean Mail Steamers, provided arrangements can be made to obviate material delay, or increase of cost of the Service.
- (7.) That the Ocean Mail Steamers call at Glenelg, South Australia, to receive and deliver Mails.

During the discussion a Resolution was passed that if, during the sittings of the Conference, the Representatives of New South Wales concurred in the action of the Conference with regard to the Galle Service, the arrangements respecting it should be left to the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. New South Wales, however, refusing to concur, and protesting against the Terminus being at Melbourne, the arrangements for the negotiation of the Service remain with Victoria alone.

The decision that the Terminus be at Melbourne was arrived at on the following division:—
 Ayes: Messrs. Francis, Langton, Vogel, Reynolds, Innes, Wilson, Barlee, Barrow, and Sir Henry Ayers. Noes: Messrs. Palmer, Thompson, Samuel, and the Chairman (Mr. Parkes). The general resolution approving of the Galle Service was then adopted by the votes of all the Delegates, except those from New South Wales, who explained that their votes were given in opposition because it had been decided that the Terminus should be at Melbourne. At a subsequent meeting of the Conference the question of the Terminus being at Melbourne was re-discussed, on a Motion by Mr. Innes to the effect that the arrangement for the transmission of the New South Wales and Queensland Mails, as embodied in the Motion of Mr. Langton, adopted January 27th, was "not satisfactory." A division was taken on Mr. Innes's Motion with the following result:—For the Motion—Messrs. Innes, Palmer, Thompson, Samuel, and the Chairman (Mr. Parkes). Against the Motion—Messrs. Francis, Langton, Vogel, Reynolds, Barlee, Barrow, and Sir Henry Ayers,—Mr. Wilson declining to vote. The result was, therefore, to affirm the former decision that the Terminus be at Melbourne. Upon this, Messrs. Parkes and Samuel, on behalf of New South Wales, lodged a protest, which, together with memoranda on the same subject by the Representatives of Victoria and New Zealand, will be found in the Minutes of Proceedings.

II.—THE TORRES STRAITS SERVICE.

A Resolution was adopted in favour of the establishment of a Mail Service between Singapore, Brisbane, and Sydney, provided the total cost should not exceed £25,000 per annum, the cost to be divided between all the Colonies in proportion to the number of letters they despatch by this route. The Imperial Government to be asked to contribute £5000 per annum towards the subsidy. It was further decided that the negotiations for the establishment of the Service be left to the Government of Queensland.

III.—THE SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE.

The Conference agreed to move the Imperial Government to pay all charges upon the transmission of Mails to and from London and San Francisco (retaining all Postages collected in the United Kingdom on account thereof), and to contribute £20,000 annually towards a San Francisco Service, to be agreed upon between the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales.

IV.—POSTAL RATES AND ARRANGEMENTS.

With reference to postal charges and the further facilities required in this department of the Public Service, the Conference adopted Resolutions to the following effect:—

- (1.) That the rates of postage to the United Kingdom, by any of the Services agreed to by the Colonies—already established or to be established—shall be the same as at present by the Southampton route; the Brindisi charge also remaining as at present.
- (2.) That there be, on and after 1st January, 1874, a uniform Intercolonial letter rate of 2*d.* per half-ounce, both overland and by sea; and that a uniform Intercolonial parcel and book-packet rate be also adopted, according to a scale agreed upon. (*Vide Minutes.*)
- (3.) That after 31st March next, captains of vessels be permitted to have a box or bag for the reception of letters up to the time of sailing, provided such letters are sufficiently stamped, and also bear the late fee stamp; such letters to be delivered without extra charge by the Postal Authorities of the Colonies to which they are addressed.

V.—THE TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The Conference considered various questions connected with the Telegraph Service, and came to the following conclusions:—

- (1.) That in view of the serious inconvenience that would result from the stoppage of Telegraphic Communication with Europe, it is desirable to construct a Cable between Singapore and the terminus of the Queensland lines at Norman Mouth.
- (2.) That a Memorial be transmitted to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, informing him that the several Australasian Governments are very desirous of co-operating with the Imperial Government in the acquisition or construction of through lines of Telegraphic Communication between Great Britain, India, and Australasia.
- (3.) That on and after November 1st next, the charge for telegraphic message within each of the Australasian Colonies be one shilling for ten words (exclusive of address and signature), and one penny for every additional word, but that these charges are not to include messages on the lines from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, from Bowen to Norman Mouth, nor the Cable charge between Tasmania and Victoria.
- (4.) That messages for New Zealand and Western Australia be received at all Australian Stations, the proper charge being made for their transmission to the port or place from which they are to be posted, and *vice versa* with regard to telegrams posted in New Zealand and Western Australia to the telegraph operator at any port in Australia; and that arrangements should be made for the collection of telegraph charges on all such messages.

It was proposed,—“That in order to obtain a reduction in the charge for telegrams between Great Britain, India, and Australasia, the Imperial Government be requested to join with the Colonies in a temporary subsidy not exceeding £25,000 per annum, for the purpose of securing that object, and that the Governments of South Australia and Victoria be requested to take the necessary steps to give effect to the above recommendation; on which Question the numbers for and against were equal.

A Resolution was also proposed in reference to the above Motion,—“That in addition, a Free Press Message of fifty words per diem from London to Australia be furnished,” which was negatived.

VI.—INTERCOLONIAL COMMERCIAL RECIPROCITY.

The Conference, after duly considering Lord Kimberley's despatch of April 19th, 1872, and the other correspondence on this subject, resolved to again urge upon the attention of His Lordship the claims of the Australasian Colonies, and adopted a Memorial in favor of the removal of the restrictions which prevent two or more Colonies entering into arrangements for the admission, within their respective territories, of articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of any part of Australasia, upon terms of which they may mutually agree.

VII.—INTERCOLONIAL CUSTOMS UNION.

The question of adopting a uniform Tariff throughout the Australasian Colonies was discussed by the Conference, and a Resolution was passed affirming the desirableness of such a course, on the understanding that the “Union” should be established on the principle that Customs Duties ought to be levied for purposes of Revenue only, and not for the purposes of Protection. On this question there was much diversity of opinion, and the Motion was carried by a majority of one.

VIII.—THE MURRAY RIVER DUTIES.

The Conference passed a Resolution affirming the desirableness of abolishing the present system of collecting Customs Duties on the Murray, and substituting the payment of lump sums, to be arranged on an equitable basis by the Colonies more immediately concerned.

IX.—COAST LIGHTS.

The subject of Coast Lights having been brought under the attention of the Conference, a Committee was appointed to consider whether it would be desirable to establish a General Board for the Australasian Colonies, similar to the Trinity Board of London. The Committee reported that the time had not yet arrived when an independent Board, possessing executive functions, could be advantageously appointed in these Colonies; but it was recommended that the principal Marine Officers of the several Colonies should meet in conference to consider the whole question of the Coast Lights, and to report as to their efficiency and economical management; also, whether new Lights were required, and in what proportion the several Colonies should contribute to the general lighting-up of the Coast. The Report of the Committee was adopted by the Conference, and several independent Motions on the subject of Light-houses, and the liability of the different Governments for their payment, were then withdrawn, in order that they might be referred to the proposed Nautical Committee. The Conference, further, passed a Resolution to the effect that the risk to life and property occasioned by the existence of dangerous groups of islands, known as "The Snares," and the Auckland Islands, southward of New Zealand, rendered the erection and maintenance of a Light-house in that vicinity eminently desirable; and that it be a recommendation to the Imperial Government, and to the several Colonial Governments, to contribute to the expense of such Light in proportion to the tonnage of the shipping, inwards or outwards, in Great Britain, and in each Colony deriving benefit from the same.

X.—AUSTRALIAN WINES.

In consequence of the Treaty with France, which limits the alcoholic strength of Wines admitted into the United Kingdom at 1s. per gallon duty to 26 degrees of proof spirit, virtually precluding the exportation of the most suitable class of Australian Wines, the Conference appointed a Committee to prepare a Memorial to the Home Government on the subject. The Committee brought up a Report, praying that the strength of Wines to be admitted at the shilling duty might be increased to 35 degrees; and the Memorial, having been discussed and considered, was adopted by the Conference.

XI.—REMEDIES AGAINST ABSCONDING DEBTORS AND CRIMINALS.

These subjects having occupied the attention of the Conference, it was resolved that the Government of South Australia be requested to undertake the preparation of a measure to remedy the defects in the law regarding absconding Debtors, and that the Government of Queensland be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject of the Extradition of Criminals. The Conference undertook to use their best endeavours to get such Bills passed into law, subject to their being approved by the Law Officers of the several Colonies.

XII.—TRUST FUNDS.

The Conference adopted a Memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, praying that Her Majesty's Government would take the necessary steps to enable Trustees in the United Kingdom to invest Trust Funds in Colonial Government Securities.

XIII.—REFUGE FOR DISTRESSED SEAMEN AT SOMERSET.

It was decided by the Conference that the various Colonies should contribute to the maintenance of Somerset, in proportion to their tonnage passing through Torres Straits, and that an application be made to the Imperial Government to continue their present subscription to the said settlement, Queensland undertaking to defray one-third of the total cost.

XIV.—DISEASES IN STOCK.

The Conference having taken into consideration the great danger to which Australian Live Stock are exposed from the importation of animals from Countries in which infectious diseases prevail, it was resolved that it is expedient to prohibit, for the period of two years, the landing of cattle, sheep, and pigs from any places beyond the limits of the Australasian Colonies, and that such prohibition should take effect from and after the publication of a notice in the *London Times*.

XV.—THE FIJI ISLANDS.

The question of Her Majesty's Government assuming the Protectorate of the Fiji Islands was discussed; and it was resolved that the state of affairs in the Fijian Islands urgently demanded, in the interest of the Australasian Colonies, and in that of the British Empire generally, the immediate attention of the Imperial authorities.

XVI.—COLONIAL STATISTICS.

With a view to facilitate comparison between the official Statistics of the various Australasian Colonies, it was resolved by the Conference that it is expedient to have all such Statistics framed, as far as possible, upon a uniform system, and that the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales be requested to prepare a plan and submit a draft thereof to the several Governments for consideration.

Several other questions were discussed by the Conference, on which no definitive action was taken.

(Signed)	HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary,	}	New South Wales.
	SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council,		
	JULIUS VOGEL, Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General,	}	New Zealand.
	WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs,		
	A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary,	}	Queensland.
	J. MALBON THOMPSON, Secretary of Public Lands,		
	HENRY AYERS, Chief Secretary,	}	South Australia.
	JOHN H. BARROW, Treasurer,		
	FRED ^K . M. INNES, Colonial Treasurer,	}	Tasmania.
	J. M. WILSON, President of Legislative Council,		
	J. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary,	}	Victoria.
	EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer,		
	FRED. P. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary.	}	Western Australia.

The Treasury, Sydney, 14th February, 1873.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, HELD AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1873.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1873.

THE under-mentioned gentlemen, Representatives of the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia, were present; viz.—

<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary. The Honorable EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer.
<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary. The Honorable SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary. The Honorable J. H. BARROW, Treasurer.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary. The Honorable J. M. THOMPSON, Secretary for Lands.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable W. H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. INNES, Treasurer. The Honorable J. M. WILSON, President of the Legislative Council.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary.

The Honorable Henry Parkes was unanimously elected to the Chair.

Mr. A. C. Budge, Clerk of the Executive Council, was appointed Secretary.

It was then resolved that the Conference should meet daily, at half-past Ten o'clock A.M., Saturday excepted.

Mr. Langton proposed—"That the proceedings of the Conference shall not be made public, except with the sanction of the Conference."

Seconded by Mr. Wilson, and agreed to unanimously.

It was then resolved, "That the Secretary be required to make out Minutes of each day's proceedings, which shall be read over and confirmed, at the next sitting, prior to any other business being entered upon."

The Conference decided upon the following order of business :—

1. The Mail Service between England and the Colonies.
2. The question of Intercolonial Free Trade.

The Meeting then adjourned until the next day, at half-past Ten o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1873.

Present :

<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable Edward Langton.
<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at the appointed hour, the Minutes of the Proceedings of yesterday's date were read by the Secretary, and confirmed.

Mr. Parkes then laid before the Conference—(1.) The circular despatch from Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 4th September, 1872, on the subject of a New Postal Service with the Australasian Colonies, on the termination of the present Contract with the P. & O. Co., at the end of the year 1873; also—(2.) Correspondence respecting action of Government of Victoria relative to the New Postal Service *via* Suez.

Mr. Samuel laid before the Conference the following papers :—

- (1.) Return of the specified and actual days of Arrival and Departure of the Contract Steamers of the P. & O. Co. during the year 1872, showing the number of days taken in the passage from and to London, *via* Suez and Brindisi and *via* Suez and Southampton.
- (2.) Return of the Arrival at and Departure from Sydney of the Steamers which, during the year 1871, conveyed Mails by way of New Zealand and California, and by way of Fiji and California, with the number of days occupied in the transit of the Mails to and from London.
- (3.) Return of the number of Letters, &c. despatched and received by the Peninsular and Oriental Co.'s Steamships between Galle and Sydney, and the cost of conveyance.

(4.) Return showing the number of Letters despatched and received by the Steamships conveying Mails between Sydney and San Francisco, and the cost of conveyance.

(5.) Return of the number of Letters, &c. received from and despatched to the East Indies, China, &c. by the Packets of the P. & O. Co.

Mr. Wilson then moved—"That Lord Kimberley's despatch, above referred to, be considered as read."

Seconded by Mr. Barlee, and agreed to.

Mr. Parkes briefly stated the substance of the correspondence between the Government of New South Wales and the several Australian Colonies and New Zealand, bearing upon the present Conference, and laid before the Conference copies of the same.

Mr. Parkes, as Chairman, then drew the attention of the Conference to the subject of the Postal Service between England and the Colonies,—which was generally discussed; and during such discussion, on the motion of Mr. Barrow, the despatch from the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, dated 19th October, 1867, was read by the Secretary.

1. Mr. Wilson then handed in the following Notice of Motion, which was ordered to be printed; viz.—

"That the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand accept the proposal of the Lords of the Treasury for the establishment and maintenance of a four-weekly Mail Service between Point de Galle and a port or ports in Australia, on the understanding that the cost of the branch Services required to deliver the South Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland, and New Zealand Mails shall be considered as part of the cost of the whole Service, and on the further understanding that the several Governments shall contribute to the cost of the whole Service, in proportion to the correspondence conveyed by such Mail Service to and from each Colony."

Mr. Samuel, during the said discussion, expressed his belief that the three Postal Lines, viz.—(1) From Galle to Sydney, *via* King George's Sound, Glenelg, and Melbourne; (2) From San Francisco and Melbourne, *via* Honolulu, Fiji, and Sydney, to include New Zealand either by a branch line or otherwise; and (3) Singapore, Batavia, and Sydney, *via* Brisbane and other ports in Queensland,—could be carried out at a cost very little exceeding that paid by the Colonies collectively for the present Line *via* Galle; and in support of his statement, submitted the approximate cost of each Service, which the Conference desired might be printed.

The Council adjourned at twenty-five minutes past One, until next day at the usual hour.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1873.

Present :

<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having assembled at the hour appointed, it was proposed by the Honorable J. G. Francis, and unanimously agreed to—"That in consequence of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales having been in session for two days and nights consecutively, and the Chairman, Mr. Parkes, having been engaged without intermission for that period, this Conference stands adjourned until Monday next, at half-past Ten o'clock."

The Conference adjourned accordingly.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1873.

Present :

<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having assembled at the appointed time, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 23rd and 24th instants were read and confirmed.

The Chairman then addressed the Conference as follows:—"I desire to apologise for not having been present at the meeting of the Conference on the 24th instant, and to express my grateful sense of the handsome manner in which the proceedings were adjourned in consideration of the cause of my absence."

1. Mr. Innes then gave the following Notices of Motion; viz.—

- "(1.) That in the event of separate Contracts being entered into for the conveyance of European and Australian Mails, it is expedient that a compact should be made between the respective contracting Governments to adhere to the same rates of postage."
- "(2.) That it is desirable that the Statistics of the several Australian Colonies should be framed on a uniform system; and that with a view to this object, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria be requested to devise a plan, and refer a draft of the same for approval or amendment to the Governments of the respective Colonies interested; and the plan having been matured, the same to be observed in the preparation of the Annual Statistics of the Colonies."

2. Mr. Reynolds gave notice of the following Motion; viz.—

The Representatives of New Zealand will, on a future day, submit to the Conference the following scheme for erecting and maintaining a Light-house on the "Snarcs"—

Rough estimated cost of Lantern and apparatus for a Revolving White Light	£
of the first order	5,000
Rough estimated cost of building	10,000
	<hr/>
	15,000
Rough estimated cost per annum of maintenance, including the pay of four	
Keepers	1,500

It would be necessary that the station should be visited four times a year, and the vessel performing the service could also visit the Auckland Islands, for the purpose of renewing the supply of provisions at the dépôt, and examining the islands for possible castaways.

Estimated cost per annum of such visits and examinations..... £500

Contributions towards the cost of erection (say £15,000), and of maintenance and visiting (say £2000 per annum), to be made by the following Colonies in proportion to population; viz.—

New South Wales,
Queensland,
Victoria,
Tasmania,
South Australia, and
New Zealand.

Some discussion then took place, on the motion of Mr. Vogel, on the subject of the whole correspondence respecting the Postal Service being laid before the Conference, when it was resolved that the Secretary should arrange the same, and have it printed for the use of the Conference.

3. Mr. Langton then moved, and Sir Henry Ayers seconded,—

"That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Innes, Mr. Barlee, and Mr. Barrow, be appointed to consider what correspondence addressed to the Conference should be laid before the Conference." Unanimously agreed to.

4. Mr. Wilson gave notice of the following addendum to his Notice of Motion on the 23rd instant:—

"That a representation be made to the Imperial Government that its proposed contribution of £40,000 towards the Mail Service will be found considerably to fall short of one-half the cost of the direct and branch Services between Point de Galle and the Australasian Colonies, and therefore that a reasonable augmentation of the subsidy should be accorded."

5. Mr. Francis moved, and Mr. Vogel seconded,—

"That in referring to the several Colonies represented in any of the proceedings of the Conference, the names be placed in alphabetical order." Agreed to unanimously.

6. Mr. Vogel gave the following Notices of Motion; viz.—

(1.) That the Imperial Government be applied to by telegram to grant a subsidy of £20,000 to the Californian Service, in addition to paying all charges upon the transmission of mails to and from London and San Francisco.

(2.) That the Imperial Government be applied to by telegram to grant a subsidy of £4000 to a Torres Straits Service, to be arranged for by New South Wales and Queensland.

(3.) That the Imperial Government be applied to by telegram to increase the promised subsidy to the line between Australia and Galle by £10,000, as in consequence of the rise in coal and the cost of the branch Services the £40,000 proposed to be given will not nearly cover a moiety of the necessary expenditure.

(4.) That subject to such arrangement being found feasible, the present San Francisco Service be varied to a Service similar to that agreed upon provisionally between Mr. Duffy, Mr. Vogel, and Mr. Webb, except that "Sydney" be substituted for "Melbourne."

That the subsidy be £50,000, of which New Zealand pay £30,000; the balance to be paid by the subsidy of £20,000 from the Imperial Government.

That the Colonies using the Service pay to New Zealand the full amount of the postage received by them for the mail matter they transmit by the Service.

(5.) That New South Wales and Queensland arrange for a Torres Straits Service, New South Wales to contribute £4000. If the boats call at Port Darwin, South Australia to contribute £2000. The balance to be paid by Queensland, and Queensland to receive all postages other than those of contributing Colonies on mail matter transmitted by the Service.

(6.) That a sum not exceeding £110,000 be paid for a Service through, from Australia to Galle.

(7.) That a sum not exceeding £6000 be paid to New South Wales and Queensland for a branch Service to connect with the main line.

(8.) That a sum not exceeding £5000 be paid to New Zealand for a branch Service to connect with the main line.

(9.) That a sum not exceeding £2500 be paid to Tasmania for a branch Service to connect with the main line.

- (10.) That should the cost of the Galle Service exceed £110,000, Victoria pay the excess.
- (11.) That the several sums stated, amounting in all to a sum of not exceeding £123,500, be first reduced by the Imperial contribution of £40,000 or £50,000 as the case may be,—be contributed by the whole of the Colonies, in proportion to the number of the letters despatched by them severally by the Galle Service.
- (12.) That inasmuch as Railway Communication between Sydney and Melbourne should be so far completed by the middle of 1874 as to make the carriage of the mails by land between Melbourne and Sydney quicker than by sea, the terminus of the Galle route shall for the first six months of 1874 be at Sydney, and that subsequently Melbourne shall be the terminus.
- (13.) That the Galle steamer shall call at Cockburn Sound (if arrangements can be made to do so), and if by such calling the delay shall not exceed 24 hours.
- (14.) That the steamers shall call off Glenelg, to receive and deliver Mails.
- (15.) That the Governments of the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia shall jointly arrange the Galle Contract in the terms described; that such Contracts shall be on behalf of the Colonies collectively; and that it may, at the option of the Colonies named, be made either by calling for Tenders or by private Contract.
- (16.) That the Colony of Victoria make all the payments hitherto described, and furnish each year, as soon after the 1st January as possible, Statements of Account to the various Colonies concerned.
- (17.) That Mails be not carried to or from Colonies not contributing.

7. Mr. Langton then gave the following Notices of Motion; viz.—

- (1.) That, unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Colonies, the rates of postage to the United Kingdom by any of the Services agreed to by this Conference, and by any Service which any one of the contracting Colonies may establish, shall be the same as at present by the Southampton route. The extra charge for Mails *via* Brindisi to remain as at present.
- (2.) That, inasmuch as the Railway from Melbourne to Albury will be completed during the current year, and as mails can then be conveyed between Melbourne and Sydney in thirty-four hours, or twenty-two hours less than the average time occupied by the P. & O. Company's steamers,—thus securing the delivery of New South Wales and Queensland Mails one day earlier than at present,—the terminus of the Galle Service shall be at Melbourne.

8. Mr. Samuel gave notice of the following Amendment on the Motion to be proposed by Mr. Wilson; viz.—

That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the three Postal Services, *via* Galle, San Francisco, and Torres Straits, should be maintained by the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, by contributions from the several Colonies, proportioned to the advantages which the three lines shall be considered to confer on the said Colonies.

Mr. Wilson brought forward the Motion standing in his name, together with the addendum, of which notice had just been given by him, when, after having been discussed by the Members of the Conference generally, it was moved by Sir Henry Ayers and agreed to, "That the Conference adjourn until a quarter to Two o'clock."

The Conference adjourned accordingly at One o'clock. On resuming, all the Members being present,—

9. Mr. Wilson then gave notice of the following Motions; viz.—

- (1.) That the Highway or Ocean Lights situated in Banks' and Bass's Straits; viz., King's Island, Kent Group, Swan Island, and Goose Island, have since 1864 been exclusively maintained by the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, under a compact entered into between those Colonies, which included the Light-houses on Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island.
- (2.) That the first four-named Lights, though erected on Tasmanian territory, and practically isolated beacons, provided for the safety and protection of Australasian commerce.
- (3.) That it is reasonable and just that South Australia should fulfil its equitable obligation, by also contributing to the maintenance of the Ocean Lights in proportion to the advantages derived by its shipping, based upon the principles agreed to by the Conference held in Melbourne in 1864.

10. Mr. Barlee also gave notice of the following Motion:—

That this Conference is willing to substitute the Port of Cockburn Sound as a port of call for Mail Steamers at West Australia, in lieu of King George's Sound, provided such arrangements are made by the Government of Western Australia as may obviate delay, or any difficulties of a serious nature.

Mr. Wilson, by leave of the Conference, postponed the further consideration of his Motion for the present, and Mr. Vogel having brought forward the first Resolution standing in his name,—

Mr. Samuel submitted the following as an Amendment:—

"That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the three Postal Services, *via* Galle, San Francisco, and Torres Straits, should be maintained by the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, by contributions from the several Colonies, proportioned to the advantages which the three lines shall be considered to confer on the said Colonies."

After discussion, the further consideration was adjourned till a future day.

It was resolved, that the Conference adjourn until Wednesday next, at half-past Ten o'clock, when the Motion in Mr. Langton's name, given by him to-day, on the subject of the Terminus of the Mail Service *via* Galle, be brought forward for discussion.

The Conference adjourned accordingly, at half-past Four o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1873.

Present :

New South Wales : The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.

New Zealand : The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.

Queensland : The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.

South Australia : The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.

Tasmania : The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.

Victoria : The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.

Western Australia : The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at the usual hour, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 27th instant were read and confirmed.

1. Mr. Wilson then gave notice of the following Motions ; viz.—

1. That the re-arrangement of contributions towards the maintenance of the Light-houses situated on King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan Island, Goose Island, Wilson's Promontory, and Gabo Island, shall be as follows :—

(1.) That the Light-houses situated on King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan Island, Goose Island, Wilson's Promontory, shall be maintained at the joint expense of the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, rateably, in proportion to the tonnage of the shipping entered inwards and cleared outwards in each Colony deriving benefit from the same, in accordance with the subjoined Tables A and B.

(A.)

<i>Light-house.</i>	<i>Contributing Colony.</i>	<i>On Tonnage of all Vessels entered Inwards.</i>	
		<i>From</i>	<i>At</i>
King's Island..	Victoria	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	All ports of contributing Colony except Portland Bay.
	New South Wales....	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	Ditto.
	Tasmania	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	Launceston.
	South Australia.....	Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America	All ports of contributing Colony.
Kent's Group!..	Victoria	New Zealand, West Coast of America, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, South Sea Islands	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Mauritius, South Australia, China, Launceston, Africa, Victoria....	Ditto.
	Tasmania	New South Wales, Queensland	Launceston.
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
Swan Island and Goose Island..	South Australia.....	New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America, New South Wales, Queensland	All ports of contributing Colony.
	Victoria	Hobart Town and Southern Ports of Tasmania	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Nil.	
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
Wilson's Promontory	Tasmania	New Zealand, West Coast of America, South Sea Islands	Launceston.
	South Australia.....	Hobart Town	All ports of contributing Colony.
	Victoria	Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, West Coast of America, New South Wales, South Sea Islands	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Victoria, Europe, East Coast of America, India, Africa, South Australia, China, and Mauritius	Ditto.
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
	South Australia.....	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, and West Coast of America	All ports of contributing Colony.

(B.)

Light-house.	Contributing Colony.	On Tonnage of all Vessels cleared Outwards.	
		At	For
King's Island..	Victoria	Port Phillip and Eastern Ports ..	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, India, and China.
	New South Wales..	All ports of contributing Colony..	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-fourth tonnage to India and China.
	Tasmania	Ditto	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and half tonnage to India and China.
	South Australia....	Ditto	Melbourne and Eastern Ports, New South Wales, Queensland, Launceston, New Zealand.
Kent's Group..	Victoria	Ditto	Tasmania, $\frac{2}{3}$ Europe, $\frac{1}{2}$ West Coast of America.
	New South Wales..	Ditto	Launceston.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town	Victoria.
		Launceston	Port Albert, New South Wales, Queensland, and half tonnage to India and China.
Swan Island and Goose Island	South Australia....	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America.
	Victoria	Ditto	Hobart Town, Southern Ports of Tasmania, $\frac{1}{3}$ Europe, New Zealand, $\frac{1}{2}$ West Coast of America.
	New South Wales..	Nil	Nil.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town.....	Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-quarter tonnage to India and China.
	Tasmania	Launceston	Europe, New Zealand, West Coast of America.
Wilson's Promontory	South Australia....	Nil	Nil.
	Victoria	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, Europe, New Zealand, West Coast of America, Tasmania, and half tonnage to India and China.
	New South Wales..	Ditto	Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-fourth tonnage to India and China.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town	Port Phillip and Eastern Ports.
	South Australia....	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America.

- (2.) That Gabo Island Light-house shall be maintained conjointly by Victoria and New South Wales, each Colony paying one moiety of the cost of same.
- (3.) That the contributions, calculated on the basis stated in the paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be payable half-yearly by each Colony for a period of five years, commencing from 1st January, 1873.
2. (1.) That this Conference, having had under its consideration Lord Kimberley's circular despatch of the 19th April, 1872, resolves to adopt a joint Memorial to the Queen, praying that Her Majesty will direct such measures to be taken as will enable the Royal Assent to be given to the Intercolonial Reciprocity Acts of the Legislatures of Tasmania, South Australia, and New Zealand, and that Her Majesty will direct such measures to be taken as may be found necessary to give full effect to the wishes and requests of the Governments and Legislatures of Her Majesty's Australasian Possessions in the matter of Intercolonial Free Trade.
- (2.) That Mr. Parkes, Mr. Vogel, and the Mover be a Committee to prepare a draft of such joint Memorial for the consideration of the Conference.
2. Mr. Parkes then gave notice of the following Resolutions; viz.—
- That the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and West Australia, assembled by their duly accredited Representatives in Conference at Sydney, agree to accept the proposal of the Imperial Government for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails between Ceylon and Australia, as communicated to the Governments of the several Colonies by Lord Kimberley's despatch transmitting the letter of the Lords of the Treasury, dated 14th August, 1872, with the following conditions:—
- (1.) The mail ships of the main line shall proceed from Point de Galle to Sydney, calling at Cockburn Sound, in Western Australia, at Glenelg (to receive and deliver mails) in South Australia, and at the Port of Melbourne; and on each return voyage shall call at the same places.
- (2.) Branch Services between Melbourne and Launceston, between Melbourne and a port in New Zealand, and between Sydney and Queensland ports, shall form part of and be in regular connection with the principal Service.
- (3.) The several Colonies shall contribute to the subsidy required to establish this general Service, in addition to the yearly sum of £40,000 offered by Great Britain, the amount set opposite the name of each hereunder; viz.—
- | |
|---|
| New South Wales and Victoria, equal amounts, namely, each |
| New Zealand |
| Queensland |
| South Australia |
| Tasmania |
| Western Australia |

- (4.) The principal Service shall be performed within periods which shall ensure the delivery in London of the Sydney Mails in days, and of the Melbourne Mails in days; and the delivery of the English Mails in Melbourne in days, and in Sydney in days.
- (5.) The Governments of New South Wales and Victoria are requested to act jointly on behalf of the other Colonies in calling for Tenders and making the Mail Contract, as proposed by the Lords of the Treasury, governed by the terms of this Resolution; and if either of the said Governments decline to act, then the other Government is hereby authorised to do all things necessary within the same limits to establish the new Service.

Mr. Parkes drew the attention of the Conference to the business to be brought forward after the subjects of Postal Service and Intercolonial Free Trade have been disposed of, when it was unanimously resolved as follows:—
That the Order of Business be—

Telegraphs,
Diseases in Stock,
Coast Lights,
The Investment of Trust Funds and Securities, and
Border Customs.

3. Mr. Langton then moved the following Resolution:—

- “That inasmuch as the Railway from Melbourne to Albury will be completed during the current year, and as Mails can then be conveyed between Melbourne and Sydney in 34 hours, or 22 hours less than the average time occupied by the P. & O. Company’s steamers,—thus securing the delivery of New South Wales and Queensland Mails one day earlier than at present,—the Terminus of the Galle Line should be at Melbourne.”

The Motion having been discussed, Mr. Parkes moved that all the words after the word “That,” at the commencement of Mr. Langton’s Motion, be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words:—

- “That the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and West Australia, assembled by their duly accredited Representatives in Conference at Sydney, agree to accept the proposal of the Imperial Government for the conveyance of Her Majesty’s Mails between Ceylon and Australia, as communicated to the Governments of the several Colonies, by Lord Kimberley’s despatch, transmitting the letter of the Lords of the Treasury, dated 14th August, 1872, with the following conditions:—

- (1.) “The mail ships of the main line shall proceed from Point de Galle to Sydney, calling at Cockburn Sound, in Western Australia, at Glenelg (to receive and deliver mails), in South Australia, and at the Port of Melbourne; and on each return voyage shall call at the same places.
- (2.) “Branch Services between Melbourne and Launceston, between Melbourne and a port in New Zealand, and between Sydney and Queensland Ports, shall form part of and be in regular connection with the principal Service.
- (3.) “The several Colonies shall contribute to the subsidy required to establish this general Service, in addition to the yearly sum of £40,000 offered by Great Britain, the amount set opposite the name of each hereunder; viz.—

New South Wales and Victoria, equal amounts, namely, each.....
New Zealand.....
Queensland.....
South Australia.....
Tasmania.....
Western Australia.....

- (4.) “The principal Service shall be performed within periods which shall ensure the delivery in London of the Sydney Mails in days, and of the Melbourne Mails in days; and the delivery of the English Mails in Melbourne in days, and in Sydney in days.
- (5.) “The Governments of New South Wales and Victoria are requested to act jointly on behalf of the other Colonies in calling for Tenders and making the Mail Contract, as proposed by the Lords of the Treasury, governed by the terms of this Resolution; and if either of the said Governments decline to act, then the other Government is hereby authorised to do all things necessary within the same limits to establish the new Service.”

The Chairman then put the following Motion:—

- “That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Question.”

When, on division, it was decided in the affirmative.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Francis,	Mr. Palmer,
Mr. Langton,	Mr. Thompson,
Mr. Vogel,	Mr. Samuel, and
Mr. Reynolds,	The Chairman.
Mr. Innes,	
Mr. Wilson,	
Mr. Barlee,	
Sir Henry Ayers,	
Mr. Barrow.	

Mr. Langton’s Motion was then put and carried, the division being the same as before.

4. Mr. Barlee then moved,—

- “That this Conference is willing to substitute the Port of Cockburn Sound as a Port of Call for Mail Steamers, at Western Australia, in lieu of King George’s Sound, provided such arrangements are made by the Government of Western Australia as may obviate delay or any material increase in the cost of the Service.”

And the same having been put from the Chair, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Barlee then requested the permission of the Conference to his making a confidential communication to the Government of Western Australia on the subject of the said Resolution, affecting as it does that Colony, when it was proposed by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Innes, and unanimously agreed to, that the permission be accorded.

5. Mr. Vogel proposed the following Notice of Motion: viz.—

“That the steamers shall call off Glenelg to receive and deliver Mails; which having been amended by the insertion of the words “in South Australia” after the word “Glenelg,” was agreed to.”

6. Mr. Langton then moved the following Resolution:—

“That unless otherwise determined by the Governments of a majority of the Colonies represented at this Conference, the Rates of Postage to the United Kingdom by any of the Services agreed to by the Conference, and by any Service which any one of the said Colonies may establish, shall be the same as at present by the Southampton Route. The extra charge for Mails *via* Brindisi to remain as at present.”

Which was unanimously agreed to.

7. Mr. Vogel gave notice of the following Motions; viz.—

“That since a unanimous decision concerning the Galle Service cannot be arrived at, the undersigned Representatives of the Colonies of
and which Colonies contain
out of a total population for the whole of the Australasian Colonies
of
urge upon the Imperial Government to leave the Colony of Victoria to arrange for the Galle Service to Melbourne on the following conditions:—That from the total cost of the Service between Galle and Australia, including the cost of the necessary branch Services to connect with the Colonies in Australia at which the Mail Steamer does not call, and with New Zealand and Tasmania, the Imperial Subsidy be first deducted, and the balance be paid by the whole of the Australasian Colonies in the proportion of the letters they severally despatch by the route.

(2.) A maximum sum to be named for each branch Service, and the Colonies respectively interested to make each its own arrangements for its own branch Service.

The Conference then adjourned shortly after One o'clock, until a quarter to Two o'clock.

The Conference having resumed, Mr. Vogel proposed the first Motion, of which notice had been given by him to-day, when, after discussion, Mr. Palmer moved,—That all the words after the word “That,” in the first line, be omitted, down to and including the words “on the following conditions;” and the Motion having been put by the Chairman, “That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Question,” it was resolved in the affirmative, as follows; viz.—

AYES.

Mr. Francis,
Mr. Langton,
Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Reynolds,
Mr. Innes,
Mr. Wilson,
Sir H. Ayers,
Mr. Barrow,
Mr. Barlee.

NOES.

Mr. Samuel,
Mr. Palmer,
Mr. Thompson, and
Mr. Parkes.

The Conference adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Three o'clock, until the next day at half-past Ten o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1873.

Present:

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.
New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.
Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having assembled at the usual hour, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 29th instant were read and confirmed.

Mr. Parkes then stated that, in consequence of his presence at the Legislative Assembly on the preceding night, and his inability to confer with his colleague (Mr. Samuel), on the decision arrived at by the Conference yesterday, on the subject of the Terminus of the Mail Service *via* Galle, that the further consideration of the subject be postponed until such time as he could confer with his said colleague.

After some discussion, it was moved by Sir Henry Ayers,—seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried,—That the further consideration of the Mail Service Question be postponed until the next sitting day.

Mr. Barrow then gave notice of the following Motion, to be considered when the question of Light-houses is under consideration,—

That in order to perfect the lighting-up of the South Australian and Victorian Coasts, the following additional Lights are required; viz.—

- (1.) A Light on Penguin Island, Rivoli Bay, about midway between Cape Jaffa and Cape Northumberland.
- (2.) A Light on Cape Bridgewater.
- (3.) A Light on Ram Head, about 35 miles west of Cape Howe.

The Conference then adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock, until next day at the usual hour.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1873.

Present:

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.

New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.

Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.

South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.

Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.

Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.

Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at the usual hour, the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 30th instant sitting were read and confirmed.

1. Mr. Vogel then moved,—That the consideration of the following Motion, notice of which had been given by him on Wednesday last, be postponed:—

- (1.) "That, since a unanimous decision concerning the Galle Service cannot be arrived at, the undersigned Representatives of the Colonies of _____, out of a total population for the whole of the Australasian Colonies of _____, urge upon the Imperial Government to leave the Colony of Victoria to arrange for the Galle Service to Melbourne, on the following conditions:—That, from the total cost of the Service between Galle and Australia, including the cost of the necessary branch Services to connect with the Colonies in Australia at which the mail steamer does not call, and with New Zealand and Tasmania, the Imperial subsidy be first deducted, and the balance be paid by the whole of the Australasian Colonies, in the proportion of the letters they severally despatch by the route.
- (2.) "A maximum sum to be named for each branch Service, and the Colonies respectively interested to make each its own arrangements for its own branch Service."

2. Mr. Wilson then, pursuant to notice, moved as follows:—

"That the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand be advised to accept the proposal of the Lords of the Treasury, for the establishment and maintenance of a Four-weekly Mail Service between Point de Galle and a port or ports in Australia, on the understanding that the cost of the branch Services required to deliver the Queensland, Tasmanian, and New Zealand Mails shall be considered as part of the cost of the whole Service; and on the further understanding that the several Governments shall contribute to the cost of the whole Service in proportion to the correspondence conveyed by such Mail Service to and from each Colony."

When, after discussion, it was amended as follows:—

"That subject to conditions which have been or may be determined by this Conference, the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and West Australia be advised to accept the proposal of the Lords of the Treasury, for the establishment and maintenance of a Four-weekly Mail Service between Point de Galle and a port or ports in Australia, on the understanding that the cost of the branch Services shall be considered as part of the cost of the whole Service; and on the further understanding that the several Governments shall contribute to the cost of the whole Service in proportion to the correspondence conveyed by such Mail Service from each Colony."

And having been put from the Chair, it was carried upon the following division; viz.—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Francis,	Mr. Samuel,
Mr. Langton,	Mr. Parkes.
Mr. Vogel,	
Mr. Reynolds,	
Mr. Innes,	
Mr. Wilson,	
Sir Henry Ayers,	
Mr. Barrow,	
Mr. Palmer,	
Mr. Thompson,	
Mr. Barlee.	

3. Mr. Wilson then, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the addendum moved by him to the Motion before referred to; viz.—

"That a representation be made to the Imperial Government that its proposed contribution of £40,000 towards the Mail Service will be found considerably to fall short of one-half the cost of the direct and branch Services between Point de Galle and the Australasian Colonies, and therefore that a reasonable augmentation of the subsidy should be accorded."

4. Mr. Innes also, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the following Notice standing in his name:—

"That in the event of separate Contracts being entered into for the conveyance of European and Australian Mails, it is expedient that a compact should be made between the respective contracting Governments, to adhere to the same rate of postage."

5. Mr. Wilson then proposed, and Mr. Reynolds seconded the following Motion:—

"That should the Representatives of New South Wales, during the continuation of this Conference, concur in the action of the Conference in regard to the Galle Service, the arrangements be left to the Governments of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria; but that otherwise the necessary steps for entering into a Contract be undertaken by Victoria."

The said Motion having been put from the Chair, was carried on the following division :—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Francis,	Mr. Samuel,
Mr. Langton,	Mr. Parkes.
Mr. Vogel,	
Mr. Reynolds,	
Mr. Innes,	
Mr. Wilson,	
Sir Henry Ayers,	
Mr. Barrow,	
Mr. Palmer,	
Mr. Thompson,	
Mr. Barlee.	

6. Mr. Palmer then gave notice of the following Motion, to be moved on a future day :—
 “That the Governments of the Colonies interested in branch Services make the necessary arrangements for their respective Services with the Government or Governments of the Colony or Colonies in charge of the Contract for the Mail Service from Galle.”
7. Mr. Innes gave notice of the following Motion :—
 “That the Conference take into consideration the question of existing means for the transmission, overland, of the New South Wales and Queensland portion of the Mails, with a view to the adoption of such temporary arrangements as will meet the requirements of these Colonies, pending the completion of Railway Communication suitable for the transmission of Mails from Melbourne to Sydney.”
8. Mr. Wilson gave notice of the following Motion :—
 “That this Conference move the Imperial Government to pay all charges upon the transmission of Mails to and from London and San Francisco (retaining on account thereof all the Postages collected in Great Britain), and to contribute the sum of £20,000 per annum towards a single Service between San Francisco, New Zealand, and Sydney; such Service to be agreed upon between the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales.”
9. Mr. Langton gave notice of the following Motion :—
 “That in the opinion of this Conference, the Imperial Government should be moved to contribute the sum of £5000 per annum towards a Service from Singapore to Queensland and New South Wales; such Service to be arranged for by the Governments of Queensland and New South Wales, South Australia undertaking to contribute the sum of £2000 per annum if the Mail Steamers call at Port Darwin.”
10. Mr. Vogel gave notice of the following Motion :—
 “That these Resolutions be telegraphed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a statement showing what Colonies have voted for and against each Resolution; and that the Secretary of State be requested to telegraph to the Conference the views of Her Majesty’s Government upon the Resolutions.”
11. Mr. Francis gave notice of the following Motion :—
 “The Conference is of opinion that, should there be more than one Californian Service, the Imperial subsidy should not be paid as long as the double Service continues.”
- On the motion of Sir Henry Ayers, it was resolved, “That the Conference adjourn until Monday next, at Ten o’clock.”
- The Conference adjourned accordingly, at twenty-five minutes to One o’clock, until Monday at Ten A.M.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1873.

Present :

<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at Ten o’clock A.M., the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 31st ultimo were read and confirmed.

1. Mr. Parkes then laid before the Conference the following Telegram, dated 28th January, 6’40, from the Earl of Kimberley to Sir H. Robinson, Sydney :—

“Inform Conference that, as there appears to be some apprehension in this Country, it is to be understood that the Treasury does not exclude from their consideration any second Mail Service recommended by the Australian Colonies, in pursuance of letter of 14th August, provided it is alternative with the other, although they hold themselves free to decline any such second Service.”

2 Mr. Vogel gave notice of the following Motion :—

“That an Address to the Secretary of State, in the following terms, be adopted, when the subject of the Investment of Trust Funds comes before the Conference for consideration :—

“The Representatives of the various Australasian Colonies, assembled in Conference, desire urgently to impress upon the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the very unnecessary disadvantages to which, as it appears to them, the Colonies are subjected, through English Trustees not being at liberty to invest Trust Funds in Colonial Securities and Colonial Lands.

“When Trustees act under instruments which do not expressly exclude or include certain Securities, their discretion as to investment is still limited by certain Acts of Parliament. They may invest in Securities guaranteed by Parliament, in Securities authorised by General Order of the Court of Chancery, in Parliamentary Stocks, in Public Funds, or Government Securities: They are also allowed to invest in Indian unguaranteed Stocks; and lately they have been permitted to invest in Railway Securities.

“It is submitted by the Conference, that Legislative provision should be made, in virtue of which Trustees would be equally at liberty to invest in Colonial Securities and Lands. There do not appear to be any reasons against this course, except such as might be urged by those who desire or anticipate the disintegration of the Empire. As the assurance has been more than once lately given, that Her Majesty's Government—in accordance with the undoubted feelings of the vast majority of Her Majesty's subjects—do not entertain opinions favourable to the severance of the Colonies from the Mother Country, there seems no reason why the Securities of the Colonies should not be placed upon as favourable a footing as the unguaranteed Securities of India.

“There are numerous cases of persons who reside in the Colonies, and on whose behalf Trusts are held, who desire that the Trust Funds in which they are interested should be invested within the Colony in which they reside. The Trust Deeds do not prohibit such a course, yet the Trustees, in the absence of the suggested legislative provision, find themselves unable to comply with the wishes of those on behalf of whom they act.

“The enormous accumulation of Trust Moneys would make the measure now suggested one of great convenience to a large number of Her Majesty's subjects residing in the United Kingdom.

“The Conference earnestly urges the Secretary of State to take the steps necessary to give effect to this representation.”

3. Mr. Palmer moved the following Resolution, which having been seconded by Mr. Thompson, was agreed to; viz.—

“That the Governments of the Colonies interested in branch Services make the necessary arrangements for their respective Services with the Government or Governments of the Colony or Colonies in charge of the Contract for the Mail Service from Galle.”

4. Mr. Vogel proposed, and Sir Henry Ayers seconded the following Resolution :—

“That the Colony of Victoria make all the payments for the main and branch Galle Services. That it furnish to the Colonies separately quarterly estimates of the amounts to be contributed, and that, provided the computations are approved, remittances be at once made. That as soon after the 1st January as possible, every year, final accounts be rendered and final adjustments made.”

And the same having been put by the Chairman, was resolved in the affirmative, on the following division; viz.—

AYES.

Mr. Francis,
Mr. Langton,
Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Reynolds,
Mr. Innes,
Mr. Wilson,
Sir Henry Ayers,
Mr. Barrow,
Mr. Palmer,
Mr. Thompson,
Mr. Barlee.

NOES.

Mr. Samuel, and
Mr. Parkes.

5. Mr. Palmer gave notice of the following Motion; viz.—

(1.) “That it is desirable that a Mail Service, alternating with the four-weekly Service *via* Galle, be established through Torres Straits to Singapore, taking as a basis the conditional agreement entered into between the Colonial Secretary of Queensland and Mr. Frazer.

(2.) That the Terminus of such line in the Australian Colonies be at the port of

(3.) That the contributions of the various Colonies towards such Service be in the following proportions; viz.—

New South Wales,
New Zealand,
Queensland, one-half,
South Australia,
Tasmania, and
Victoria.”

6. Mr. Innes gave notice of the following Motion, in lieu of the Notice of Motion given by him on Friday January 31; viz.—

(1.) “That the Conference having taken into further consideration the following Resolution, adopted on the motion of Mr. Langton, on the 27th ultimo, viz.—

“That inasmuch as the Railway from Melbourne to Albury will be completed during the current year, and as mails can then be conveyed between Melbourne and Sydney in 34 hours, or 22 hours less than the average time occupied by the P. and O. Company's steamers, thus securing the delivery of New South Wales and Queensland mails one day earlier than at present,—the terminus of the Galle Service shall be at Melbourne,”—

are of opinion that the provision therein contemplated, for the transmission of the New South Wales and Queensland Mails from Melbourne to Sydney, is not satisfactory.

- (2.) "That pending the establishment of a Second Mail Service between Europe and New South Wales, in any new Contract which may be entered into for the Service from Galle, it be provided that the Mails for New South Wales and Queensland should continue to be delivered in Sydney, subject to the condition of New South Wales engaging to bear any excess of cost which may arise from the Mails being conveyed beyond Melbourne by the Mail Steamer.
- (3.) "That with a view to the disposal of these Resolutions, the Government of New South Wales be requested to lay official Reports before the Conference on the existing facilities for the conveyance of Mails from Albury to Sydney."

7. Mr. Wilson then moved a Resolution of which notice had been given by him on the 31st ultimo, as follows (which having been amended, after much discussion, was unanimously agreed to):—

Original Motion,—

"That this Conference move the Imperial Government to pay all charges upon the transmission of Mails to and from London and San Francisco (retaining an account thereof all the postages collected in Great Britain), and to contribute the sum of £20,000 per annum towards a single Service between San Francisco, New Zealand, and Sydney; such Service to be agreed upon between the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales."

Amended Motion,—

"That this Conference move the Imperial Government to pay all charges upon the transmission of Mails to and from London and San Francisco (retaining on account thereof all the Postages collected in Great Britain), and to contribute the sum of £20,000 per annum towards a San Francisco Service, to be agreed upon between the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales."

8. Mr. Palmer gave notice of the following Motion:—

"That in view of the serious inconvenience which would arise to the whole of the Australian Colonies in the event of interruption to telegraphic communication with Europe, it is desirable that a cable should be constructed between Java or Timor and the terminus of the Queensland Telegraph lines at Norman Mouth.

"That this Conference, or the Members of it who agree to these Resolutions, recommend their various Governments to obtain Parliamentary sanction to a guarantee of 5 per cent. on the cost of construction of such Cable. Recommendations contained in the letter of the Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs, herewith annexed, to be taken as a basis in any agreement with a Cable Construction Company. The Government of Queensland to enter into the necessary arrangements, and receive and pay all claims under such agreement either with the Construction Company or the subscribing Colonies."

The Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

*Electric Telegraph Department, Superintendent's Office,
Brisbane, 9th December, 1872.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to return, with schedule annexed, the several offers lately received from England to lay a Cable from East Java to the terminus of the Queensland lines at Carpentaria.

I am informed that the British-Australian Company's Directors have declined to connect their Cable with the lines of this Colony, although pledged to do so. Under these circumstances, I would strongly recommend, as most suitable for the general interests of Australia, that the promoters of the Indo-Australian Company's offer be accepted, subject, however, to the following modifications, namely,—that the Cable, in lieu of being taken to Java, as at first proposed, should be carried north of Timor to a point on the southern coast of Celebes near Macassar, a distance of 1550 nautical miles, thence to the south-west coast of Borneo, 700 miles; total length of Cable, 2250 miles,—for which Queensland and New South Wales should jointly guarantee 5 per cent. on the cost of construction.

A Cable from thence to Singapore, 350 miles, to be provided for by the Company without a colonial guarantee. If this route is followed, the land lines in Sumatra and Java will be avoided, the important islands of Borneo and Celebes placed in circuit, and on completion of the Calcutta and Singapore Company's line, which will be at once commenced, independent communication with the United Kingdom, *via* the Indo-European and Submarine Companies' lines, will be secured.

In the event of this proposal being favourably considered, the Imperial authorities should be requested to take soundings between Celebes and Carpentaria without delay; and much time and trouble might be saved by sending a competent person to London, with full power from the Queensland and New South Wales Governments to enter into necessary arrangements for manufacturing, submerging, and working the Cables.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CRACKNELL, *Supt. Electric Telegraphs.*

SCHEDULE.

TENDERS received for Manufacturing and Laying Submarine Telegraph Cable.

No.	Name of Tenderer.	Total Length	Length—Divisions of Cable.	Weight per mile of 7-wire copper conductor.	Weight of insulating material.	Price per knot.	Sheathing.	Total Cost.	Prices, Extra Length Cable.	Time of Contract.
1.	India-rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Co. (Limited).	Miles. 1995	A Main cable, 800 knots B Main cable, 1050 knots C Shore-end cable, 120 knots D Shore-end cable, 25	210 lbs. 180 „ 200 „ „ „	260 lbs. 240 „ 220 „ „ „	£ 187 236 348 1000	Galvanised iron wires, covered with three coatings of mineral pitch and silica.	£460,000	..	9 calendar months to manufacture cable only; no specified time for laying.
2	Indo-Australian Telegraph Co.	ditto	A } B } ditto C } D }	210 lbs. 180 „ 200 „ „ „	260 lbs. 240 „ 220 „ „ „	..	A serving of India-rubber, felt, and jute yarn over core, & sheathed with galvanised wire, served with Clarke's compound and jute yarn.	£694,000—5 per cent. guarantee.	..	
3	Hooper's Telegraph Works.	ditto	A } B } ditto C } D }	210 lbs. 180 „ 200 „ „ „	260 lbs. 240 „ 200 „ „ „	..	ditto	£480,000	..	12 calendar months to manufacture and lay the cable.
4	Siemens Bros. No. 1.	ditto	A } B } ditto C } D }	210 lbs. 180 „ 200 „ „ „	260 lbs. 240 „ 200 „ „ „	..	ditto	£560,000	A £160 B £164 C £224 D £660	12 calendar months to manufacture and lay the cable.
5	Siemens Bros. No. 2.	ditto	A } B } ditto C } D }	210 lbs. 180 „ 200 „ „ „	260 lbs. 240 „ 200 „ „ „	..	ditto	£685,000—5 per cent. guarantee.	..	12 calendar months to manufacture and lay the cable.
6	W. T. Henley ..	ditto	Ditto	ditto	ditto	300	ditto	£598,500		

W. J. CRACKNELL, Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs.

Electric Telegraph Department, Superintendent's Office,
Brisbane, 9th December, 1872.

“That the Imperial Government be requested to assist the Governments of the Australian Colonies in the construction of such Cable :—

- 1st. By causing soundings to be taken by Her Majesty's ships in the seas through which the Cable must pass.
- 2nd. By such aid, pecuniarily or otherwise, as they may think fit.”

9. Mr. Vogel then moved, and Mr. Reynolds seconded,—

“That a communication from the Representatives of New Zealand, dated January 30th, 1873, on the subject of the Californian Mail Service, addressed to the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, should be entered upon the Records of the Proceedings of the Conference.”

Agreed to.

(For letter, see separate Papers.)

10. Mr. Barlee gave notice of the following Motion :—

- (1.) “That as it is undesirable for the several Colonies of Australia to depend on a single line of telegraphic communication with Europe, this Conference recommends the construction of a second cable, either from Galle to Western Australia *via* the Cocos or Keeling Islands, or from Java to Western Australia.
- (2.) That such cable be landed at the Port of Geraldton, in Western Australia, in latitude 28° 47", from whence telegraphic communication exists overland to the Port of King George's Sound in the same Colony, in latitude 35° 0".
- (3.) That from thence communication be conveyed either by land-line to South Australia, or by cable to such point in Australia as may in the opinion of this Conference be most conducive to the general interests of the several Colonies.
- (4.) That the adoption of these Resolutions possesses the great advantage of placing all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Tasmania in immediate communication—a manifest commercial advantage to be gained by no other route.
- (5.) That the cost of this Service will best be met by Parliamentary sanction being obtained to a guarantee not exceeding 5 per cent. on the cost of construction to and from the ports of arrival and departure in Western Australia.”

11. Mr. Wilson then moved as follows :—

- (1.) “That this Conference, having had under its consideration Lord Kimberley's circular despatch of the 19th April, 1872, resolves to adopt a joint Memorial to the Queen, praying that Her Majesty will direct such measures to be taken as will enable the Royal Assent to be given to the Intercolonial Reciprocity Acts of the Legislatures of Tasmania, South Australia, and New Zealand, and that Her

Majesty will direct such measures to be taken as may be found necessary to give full effect to the wishes and requests of the Governments and Legislatures of Her Majesty's Australasian Possessions in the matter of Intercolonial Free Trade.

- (2.) That the Hon. H. Parkes, the Hon. J. Vogel, and the Mover be a Committee to prepare a draft of such joint Memorial for the consideration of the Conference."

Which having been amended, as follows, was agreed to,—

"That this Conference having had under its consideration Lord Kimberley's circular despatch of 19th April, 1872, resolved to adopt a joint Memorial to the Queen praying that Her Majesty will direct such measures to be taken as may be found necessary to give full effect to the wishes and requests of the Governments and Legislatures of Her Majesty's Australasian Possessions in the matter of Intercolonial commercial reciprocity.

"That Mr. Parkes, Mr. Vogel, and the Mover be a Committee to prepare a draft of such joint Memorial, for the consideration of the Conference at its meeting on a future day."

The Conference adjourned at Four o'clock, until next day at Ten o'clock A.M.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1873.

Present :

<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at Ten o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings of yesterday's date were read and confirmed.

1. Mr. Barrow then gave notice of the following Motion :—

"That he will, on an early day, call the attention of the Conference, or the Representatives of those Colonies more immediately interested therein, to the unsatisfactory nature of the existing arrangements for the collection of Customs Duties on the River Murray, and will move that it is desirable to terminate as soon as possible the present system of the collection of duties, and to substitute instead the payment of lump sums in lieu of duties, to be arranged by the Colonies concerned on an equitable basis, calculated upon past actual collections."

2. Mr. Palmer gave notice of the following Motion :—

"That the present state of the law in regard to the extradition of criminals escaping from one Colony into another is defective.

"That in lieu of the present system, an Act should be passed in each Colony enabling a criminal warrant duly issued in one Colony to be executed in another, on the endorsement of a Judge or Magistrate.

"That such Act should provide (with such safeguards as may be deemed necessary) that the contents of any such warrant issued in one Colony may be transmitted by telegraph to another Colony, and that a certified transcript of the message shall have the same effect as an original warrant.

"That the Act referred to should, as nearly as possible, be alike in each Colony."

3. Mr. Palmer moved a Resolution in accordance with notice given by him on the preceding day, on the subject of the establishment of a Mail Service through Torres Straits to Singapore, when, after discussion, it was moved by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Thompson, that the following Motion be substituted for the original one, which was agreed to unanimously, and carried :—

"That Queensland negotiate for a Service between Singapore, Brisbane, and Sydney, at a cost not exceeding £25,000 per annum. The cost to be divided between all the Colonies in proportion to the number of letters they despatch by this route. The Imperial Government to be asked to contribute £5000 per annum towards the subsidy."

4. Mr. Barrow proposed, and Mr. Palmer seconded, the following Resolution :—

"That the Minutes of Proceedings of the Conference be printed, confidentially, for the use of the Members only, and that each day's proceedings be printed after being confirmed by the Conference," which was unanimously agreed to."

Mr. Vogel, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the Notices of Motion given by him on Monday, 27th ultimo.

Mr. Samuel, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the Notice of Motion given by him on Monday, 27th ultimo.

Mr. Langton, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the Notice of Motion given by him on 31st ultimo.

Mr. Francis, also, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew the Notice of Motion given by him on 31st ultimo.

5. Mr. Vogel then gave notice of the following Motion :—

- "The Representatives of the Colonies of
desire to express their sense of the untiring energy and perseverance displayed by the Colony of South Australia, in connection with the establishment of through Telegraph Communication between the Australasian Colonies and Great Britain.
- "That the arguments which may be used in favour of the Governments of a Country and its dependencies taking charge of the Land Telegraph Lines apply with greater force to their taking charge of the Lines of Telegraph Cable which connect them.
- "That if the means of Telegraph Communication between Great Britain and the Colonies were in the hands of the joint Governments, the rates of charges for the use of the line might be materially reduced, since the interest required by the shareholders of the various companies interested is much larger than that which would have to be paid on borrowed money.
- "That Great Britain, by the use of her Navy, has great facilities for maintaining the Cables in a condition of efficiency.
- "That for these and other reasons of a self-evident character, the Conference urge on Great Britain to join with India and the Colonies in acquiring or constructing a through line of Telegraph Communication between Great Britain, India, and the Australasian Colonies.
- "That the money necessary for the purpose be borrowed by Great Britain, and that the yearly interest, together with the annual cost of maintenance, and, if necessary, an annual sum for renewal, be divided between Great Britain, the various Indian Possessions, and the Australasian Colonies, in the proportion of the mileage of the messages despatched from each contributing Country—each contributing Country to keep its own receipts.
- "That in acquiring the through line, a distinction be made between the ordinary land lines in the Australian Colonies and in those parts of the land lines constructed or principally required for through use. That the ordinary land rates be charged on the ordinary land lines; but that the land lines for through use should be acquired.
- "That South Australia should be fully reimbursed the expense she has incurred in establishing the through line, and that an alternative line by way of Queensland should be constructed. That the Cable connecting with Tasmania, and one connecting with New Zealand, should be acquired or constructed.
- "That in anticipation or in default of effect being given to the foregoing Resolutions, the Colonies shall, in joint association, acquire so much of the land lines of Australia as may be considered to belong to the through route, shall construct or acquire an alternative line by way of Queensland, the Cable connecting with Tasmania, and a Cable connecting with New Zealand. That the necessary money be borrowed on their joint security, and that the annual interest and maintenance be charged to the Colonies, in proportion to their several receipts, for the use of the lines belonging to the associated Colonies, each Colony to retain its own receipts.

6. Mr. Innes moved, and Mr. Palmer seconded, as follows :—

- (1.) That the Conference having taken into further consideration the following Resolution, adopted, on the motion of Mr. Langton, on the 27th ultimo, viz. :—

"That inasmuch as the Railway from Melbourne to Albury will be completed during the current year, and as mails can then be conveyed between Melbourne and Sydney in 34 hours, or 22 hours less than the average time occupied by the P. and O. Company's steamers, thus securing the delivery of New South Wales and Queensland Mails one day earlier than at present,—the terminus of the Galle Service shall be at Melbourne,"—

is of opinion, that the provisions therein contemplated for the transmission of the New South Wales and Queensland Mails from Melbourne to Sydney is not satisfactory."

Which after having been fully discussed, was put from the Chair, and negatived on the following division :—

AYES.
Mr. Innes,
Mr. Palmer,
Mr. Thomson,
Mr. Samuel, and
Mr. Parkes,

NOES.
Mr. Francis,
Mr. Langton,
Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Reynolds,
Sir Henry Ayers,
Mr. Barrow,
Mr. Barlee,

Mr. Wilson declined to vote.

7. Mr. Parkes then handed in a protest for himself and his colleague against the grounds on which the Conference had arrived at the above decision, also a Memorandum signed by Mr. Samuel and himself, which he requested might be printed. The Conference agreed to the same being entered upon the Minutes.

"We, the undersigned Representatives of the Government of New South Wales, duly accredited to this Conference, having in our places protested against the Resolution adopted by a majority, on the 27th January, now desire to record our protest against the grounds on which the Conference has decided that the Terminus of the Mail Service *via* the Red Sea and Point de Galle shall be at Melbourne.

- 1st. Because the Galle Service is the premier Australian Service, and the only Service supported by the Imperial Government in the interest of all the Colonies, and ought therefore to be arranged and contracted for in view of securing its Postal advantages to all equally, irrespective of other considerations.
- 2nd. Because, if the geographical situation and commercial advantages of any one port point it out as the natural or most convenient terminus in the interest of the majority of the Colonies, such an arrangement should not be frustrated by any local jealousy of the distinction, or other minor collateral benefits, which may be supposed to be incidental to a terminal point.
- 3rd. Because the terminus of this Service has hitherto been at Sydney, and the superiority of that port as the terminus, considered in view of Australian as distinguished from local interests, has not been attempted to be disproved, and cannot be denied.
- 4th. Because the period which must necessarily be agreed upon for the course of post under any Contract will allow ample time for the mail ships to proceed to Sydney as hitherto, without a reshipping of mails, and without injury to the interests of any Colony (in respect to the carriage of mails, passengers, or cargo) which properly ought to be served by a Postal Service.
- 5th. Because an extensive passenger and goods traffic between New South Wales and Europe is carried on by the ships of the Galle Service; and it would be unjust to require the passengers and goods for this Colony to be unnecessarily reshipped at Melbourne.

- 6th. Because no single ground of a Federal character, advanced in the interests of all the Colonies, has been stated in support of the mail ships stopping at Melbourne.
- 7th. Because the support offered by the Imperial Government is manifestly not intended to give any pre-eminent advantages to the South-western apart from the other Australian Colonies, and still less to subsidize the commercial ambition of any one of them apart from the proper objects of a Postal Service.
- 8th. Because the South-western Colonies, in relation to the Galle Service, possess important incidental advantages, by being the first Colonies which the steamers reach and the last from which they depart,—thus enjoying much longer time than New South Wales for the purposes of correspondence.
- 9th. Because the geographical disadvantage to which New South Wales is exposed in this respect, would be needlessly aggravated by the Ocean Steamers stopping short at Melbourne, whilst such a course would neither conduce to economy nor afford any additional postal advantage to the Southern Colonies.
- 10th. Because the making that port the terminus, without any necessity whatever, and not with the view of improving, but by directly impairing, the efficiency of the Service, would be fostering the rivalry of Melbourne by Imperial expenditure, and embittering the relations between the two Colonies and the Mother Country.
- 11th. Because the ground assigned by a majority of the Conference for a change of terminus,—*that the Mails for New South Wales and Queensland should be carried overland between Melbourne and Sydney, 230 miles out of a total distance of 550 miles, by horse teams*,—is scarcely less preposterous, under existing circumstances, than if it were proposed that they should be carried by a service of balloons; and it cannot be regarded by us as other than an evidence of indifference to the just claims of New South Wales.

For the foregoing reasons, the Representatives of New South Wales, while expressing their anxiety for agreement and united action on other questions, cannot take part in any further consideration of the proposed Mail Service between Melbourne and Galle."

HENRY PARKES.
SAUL SAMUEL.

Sydney, February 4th, 1873.

MEMORANDUM.

The Representatives of New South Wales are prepared—

- "1st. To abide by the result of Tenders being called for two Services—one to Sydney and one to Melbourne, with the necessary branches—and to accept whichever is cheapest in the interest of all the Colonies; or,
- "2nd. To leave the question of Terminus to the decision of the Secretary of State."

HENRY PARKES.
SAUL SAMUEL.

February 4th, 1873.

8. Sir Henry Ayers proposed, and Mr. Barlee seconded, the following Motion; viz.—

- "That the Chairman be requested to apply by letter to Mr. Macaulay, to ascertain whether he is prepared to give any answer to the questions put to him on the 27th ult."—which, on being put from the Chair, was carried unanimously.

The Conference adjourned at Four o'clock, until next day at half-past Ten o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1873.

Present:

<i>New South Wales:</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>New Zealand:</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Queensland:</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>South Australia:</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Tasmania:</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Victoria:</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>Western Australia:</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at half-past Ten o'clock A.M., the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 4th instant were read and confirmed.

1. Mr. Langton laid before the Conference a paper embodying the reasons of the Victorian Representatives in favour of Melbourne being the Terminus of the Suez Mail Service, which the Conference desired should be printed; viz.—

"Reasons submitted by the Representatives of Victoria in favour of Melbourne being the Terminus of the Suez Mail Service:—

1. Because for the Suez Service it is the most central port of Australia, and from it the branch Services to New Zealand and Tasmania must diverge.

2. Because the time occupied with the mails from Europe will be shortened to all the Colonies (except Western Australia, which will not be affected by the change), by the saving of some hours in taking in coals at King George's Sound for the voyage from Melbourne to Sydney.

3. Because a further saving of (on the average) twelve hours will be effected, by avoiding the delay now caused by the detention in Hobson's Bay, for the discharge of cargo for Melbourne, and the transshipment of mails for other Colonies.

4. Because after August next, when the North-eastern Railway of Victoria will be completed to the boundary of New South Wales, on the journey from Melbourne to Sydney a further saving can be effected, if the mails are carried overland, of at least ten hours. (See Report of Engineer-in-Chief of Victoria attached.)

5. Because for every ten miles of Railway completed by New South Wales from Goulburn towards Albury, a further saving of one hour will be effected.

6. Because if the Land Service from Albury to Goulburn be objected to by New South Wales, and the mails to that Colony and Queensland are sent by a branch steamer, the saving of time at King George's Sound and Hobson's Bay will still be effected, and those mails delivered from fifteen to twenty-four hours earlier than under the present arrangement; or the mail may be divided, on the same principle as is adopted *viâ* Brindisi and Southampton, the letters being sent overland, while the heavy portion of the mail could be sent by sea.

7. Because Sydney is the natural terminus of the Pacific and Torres Straits routes; and, in the distribution of the advantages incidental to Mail Services, Melbourne is entitled to the terminus of the Service for which it is most conveniently situated, and towards which it contributes so large an amount. Without this concession Victoria would contribute largely to all the Services, and participate in the incidental advantages of none.

8. Because New South Wales will, in regard to the Torres Straits and Pacific Services, enjoy similar advantages to those which will be conferred on South Australia and Victoria by the Galle Service.

9. Because by the terminus being at Melbourne, the Service would cost less to all the Colonies than by requiring the Galle steamer to go on to Sydney.

10. Because the voyage from Galle to Melbourne is 4635 miles,—an extreme distance for any vessel to be kept under steam, and to perform her voyage with regularity at the speed required. To this long distance, the extension to Sydney involves an addition of 602 miles.

11. Because the finest dock in Australia has been built at Melbourne, mainly with the view of fitting the port to be the terminus of this line.

12. Because by the steamer calling at Glenelg, at least forty hours notice will always be given to prepare for despatch of the branch steamers from Melbourne.

13. Because steamers sail almost daily from Melbourne to Sydney, thus ensuring without delay or undue expense the immediate transmission of the mails.

14. Because Victoria pays about one-half of the entire subsidy to the Suez line.

15. Because the contemplated subsidy of the Imperial Government to the second line is contingent on its being an alternating line, as shown in Treasury letter, 14th August, 1872; and by the terminus of the Suez Line being at Melbourne, the time for delivery of European mails at Sydney would be,—

<i>Viâ</i> San Francisco	..	..	..	47 days.
<i>Viâ</i> Suez (by branch Service)	..	..	..	47 days.

16. Because any postal compact, such as it is desired to enter into at this Conference, must be based upon mutual concession; but if this terminus be not conceded to Victoria, that Colony would be, while the largest contributor, the only Colony to which no concession whatever was made.

17. Because, on the ground of population, commerce, and correspondence, Victoria has the greatest interest in the Service.

18. Because Victoria is willing to contribute to other lines affording little or no advantages to her.

19. Because the Parliament of Victoria does not meet till May, and then will not confirm any agreement unless the terminus of this line be at Melbourne. It will then be too late to enter into fresh negotiations for any contract to commence the Service in January next.

J. G. FRANCIS.

EDWARD LANGTON.

5th February, 1873.

*Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Railway Department,
Melbourne, 8th January, 1873.*

MEMO.

The distance from Melbourne to Belvoir, which is the terminus of the North-eastern Railway, is 186½ miles; from Belvoir to Albury it is 2½ miles, and from Albury to Goulburn, which is the present terminus of the Southern Railway of New South Wales, the distance is 217 miles. This Railway is open from Goulburn to Sydney, a distance of 134 miles.

The North-eastern Railway will probably be opened to Belvoir not later than August next, and the journey between Melbourne and Sydney will then be made over 320½ miles of railway and 217 miles of road. That part of the journey which is by rail can be done easily in ten hours, and that by road in thirty-one hours, making the whole time between Melbourne and Sydney forty-one hours. The present average passage of the P. & O. Mail Steamers is fifty-six hours.

The New South Wales Government has determined to extend its Southern Railway from Goulburn to Wagga Wagga, which is 310 miles from Sydney. This extension is to be commenced at once, and completed in three years. Wagga Wagga is seventy-nine miles from the terminus of the North-eastern Railway at Belvoir. At the end of three years, therefore, the journey between Sydney and Melbourne will be made by rail for 496½ miles, and by road for 79 miles. That part of the journey which is by rail can be done easily in fifteen hours, and that by road in eleven hours, making the whole time between Sydney and Melbourne twenty-six hours, as against fifty-six hours by the mail steamers.

To state the matter shortly: fifteen hours can be saved in transmitting the mails between Sydney and Melbourne after next August, by adopting the North-eastern Railway instead of the sea route; and when the Southern Railway of New South Wales is completed to Wagga Wagga, thirty hours can be saved. If express speed were used for the mail trains the saving of time would be still greater.

T. HIGINBOTHAM, *Engineer-in-Chief.*"

2. Mr. Palmer then gave notice of the following Motion, to be moved by him on a future day, viz.—

"That the circular letter of the Colonial Secretary of Queensland, annexed hereto, on the subject of Intercolonial Telegraph Messages, be taken into consideration."

(Circular.)

Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11th January, 1873.

SIR,—

With reference to former correspondence on the subject of the tariff for Intercolonial Telegraph Messages, I have the honor to inform you that, in order to simplify arrangements, it is considered desirable to adopt, as nearly as possible, the system and manner of working now in general operation throughout the world. To effect this it will be necessary for the several Colonies to agree to a terminal and transit rate, and to charge for the address and signature; but it is proposed to extend the message from ten to twenty words, including address and signature, allowing ten words for the latter, and instead of charging for each additional word, to make a charge for every additional ten words or part of ten words.

The rates proposed for consideration are as follows:—

RATE for transmission of twenty words, including address and signature, every ten words, or portion of ten words being charged half rate.

	Terminal Rate for Messages received or delivered within the Colony.	Transit Rate for Messages sent through the Colony.
	s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	2 0	7 0
New South Wales	2 0	2 0
Victoria	1 0	1 0
South Australia	2 0	20 0
Tasmanian Cable Co. .. .. .	...	4 0
Tasmania	1 0	

According to this scale, the charges for Intercolonial Messages of twenty words, including address and signature, would be—

Between any Station in Queensland and any Station in New South Wales ..	4s.
Ditto, Victoria	5s.
Ditto, South Australia	6s.
Ditto, Tasmania	10s.

Half rate for every ten words or part of ten words additional. Press messages to be charged one-half the ordinary rates.

It is also proposed to divide the receipts between the Colonies in the following manner, viz.—

New South Wales business	1/3 to New South Wales.
	1/3 to Queensland.
Victorian	1/3 to Victoria.
	1/3 to New South Wales.
	1/3 to Queensland.
South Australian	1/3 to South Australia.
	1/3 to New South Wales.
	1/3 to Queensland.
Tasmanian	1/3 to Tasmania.
	1/3 to Cable Company.
	1/3 to Victoria.
	1/3 to New South Wales.
	1/3 to Queensland.

I would strongly recommend the proposed alterations for the favourable consideration of your Government, as it is considered that the simplification of the arrangements, and the establishment of the charges on a more satisfactory and uniform basis, would tend to facilitate the transaction of telegraphic business.

I have, &c.,

A. H. PALMER.

3. Sir Henry Ayers gave notice of the following Motions:—

- (1.) "That as those descriptions of Australian Wines best capable of sustaining a voyage to Great Britain contain more than twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, this Conference move the Imperial Government to admit such Wines at the uniform duty of one shilling per gallon; or, should a limit of the strength be considered necessary, then that all Australian Wines containing less than thirty-five per cent. of proof spirit be admitted at a duty of one shilling per gallon."
- (2.) "That the Governments of the Australian Colonies recommend to their respective Legislatures the passing of a uniform law relating to the remedies to be had against absconding Debtors, including the issuing of execution in any Colony upon registration of the judgment from any Court of the Colony in which the cause of action arose."

4. Mr. Francis moved, and Mr. Palmer seconded, the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That in reference to Lord Kimberley's despatch of 19th April, 1872, a Committee be appointed to draw up a Memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, requesting him to move the Imperial Government to introduce a measure into the Imperial Parliament enabling the Australian Colonies to make arrangements with each other for the reciprocal admission of their products and manufactures on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon, and that such Committee consist of Messrs. Parkes, Vogel, and Wilson."

The Conference adjourned from One o'clock until Two.

5. On resuming, Mr. Reynolds moved the Resolution, notice of which had been given by him, on the subject of the erection and maintenance of a Light-house on "The Snares," when, after discussion, the Resolution was amended as follows:—

"That the Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Tasmania, and Victoria undertake to urge upon their respective Governments and Legislatures to join in the erection and maintenance of a Light-house on 'The Snares,' to the south of New Zealand, as a site offering more advantages than the Auckland Islands to shipping, on the homeward voyage from the Australian Colonies."

Whereupon Mr. Francis moved, and Mr. Langton seconded, the following Amendment:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that the risk to life and property occasioned by the existence of dangerous groups of islands, known as 'The Snares,' and the Auckland Islands, lying to the southward of New Zealand, and situated respectively in 48° 5' S. lat., and 166° 32' E. long., and 50° 50' S. lat., and 166° E. long., would be very much reduced by the establishment and maintenance of a First-class Ocean Light;

and in order to cover the cost of erecting and maintaining the said Light, the Conference agree to recommend to the Imperial and to their respective Governments, that the expense should be borne by contributions in proportion to the tonnage of the shipping entered inwards or outwards in Great Britain, or in each Colony deriving benefit from the same."

The Chairman then put the Question to the Conference as follows:—That all the words after the word "That," in the beginning of Mr. Reynolds' Resolution, be omitted, with a view to the insertion of all the words of the Amendment proposed by Mr. Francis, when it was carried in the affirmative.

AYES.

Mr. Francis,
Mr. Langton,
Mr. Samuel.

NOES.

Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Reynolds.

The Amendment moved by Mr. Francis was then put from the Chair, and carried on the following division:—

AYES.

Mr. Francis,
Mr. Langton,
Mr. Samuel,
Mr. Parkes.

No.

Mr. Reynolds.

Messrs. Thompson, Barlee, Barrow, Vogel, and Sir Henry Ayers declined to vote.

6. Mr. Barrow then proposed the following Motion standing in his name; viz.—

That in order to perfect the lighting up of the South Australian and Victorian Coasts, the following additional Lights are required:—

- (1.) A Light on Penguin Island, Rivoli Bay, about midway between Cape Jaffa and Cape Northumberland.
- (2.) A Light on Cape Bridgewater.
- (3.) A Light on Ram Head, about thirty-five miles west of Cape Howe.

When, after discussion, the further consideration was postponed.

7. Mr. Langton gave notice of the following Motion:—

"That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Barrow, Reynolds, Samuel, Francis, and Palmer, be appointed to consider and report on the desirability of constituting some general Trinity Board, to determine on the best means of lighting effectively the Australasian Coasts."

8. Mr. Vogel moved the Resolution, of which he had given notice, on the subject of the Investment of Trust Funds.

When, after some discussion, it was resolved to postpone the further consideration thereof for the present.

The Conference then adjourned until the next day at Eleven o'clock A.M.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1873.

Present:

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.
New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.
Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having assembled at Eleven o'clock A.M., the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 5th instant were read and confirmed.

1. The Chairman laid before the Conference the Draft of a Memorial relating to Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity, prepared by the Committee appointed to draw up the same, which was ordered to be printed.

"The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, assembled in Conference in Sydney, have carefully considered the lengthened correspondence which has taken place between the Secretary of State and their several Governments upon the subject of Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity. They have given respectful attention to the arguments used by the Secretary of State in opposition to the views taken by the Colonies. The Conference consider it their duty respectfully to urge upon the Imperial Government to remove the restrictions which stand in the way of two or more Colonies of the Australasian group entering into arrangements for the reciprocal admission of articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of any part of Australia or New Zealand, upon terms to which they may mutually agree.

"The Secretary of State expresses the opinion that the Colonies in making the request for powers to enter into Reciprocal Tariff Arrangements are actuated by leanings in favour of a protective policy. The Conference desire to assure His Lordship that the decision they have arrived at is not based upon any considerations in favour of Protection.

"The fact that the concession asked for by the Colonies has been supported by public men holding widely different opinions on the subjects of Free Trade and Protection, should be, it is submitted, a sufficient proof that the Colonies are not seeking to insidiously promote Protection in the requests they are making. The tendency of the exercise of the powers which the Colonies now seek will be rather antagonistic to Protection than otherwise, inasmuch as it may lead to the modification of hostile and retaliatory Tariffs.

"The Conference loyally and earnestly assure the Secretary of State that they are actuated by the desire to strengthen the ties which so happily unite the Colonies to the Mother Country. They cannot believe that the people of the United Kingdom will consider that their fellow-subjects in Australasia are doing more,

in urging their present requests, than endeavouring to fulfil the duties devolving upon them, of colonizing in the most effective manner Countries in which the whole of Her Majesty's subjects have a common and national interest.

"The Australasian Colonies only ask for powers which have been and are still exercised by the British-American Provinces for a long series of years. Seeing that the Constitution Act of New Zealand does not debar that Colony from exercising the powers sought, it would almost appear that accident, rather than design, has been the cause of that clause in the Constitution Acts of the other Colonies which denies to them the discretion to which they deem they have a right.

"The Secretary of State admits that the powers sought are not inconsistent with Treaty obligations of Great Britain. Indeed such a deduction is inevitable, because, otherwise, seeing that the same powers have been exercised by the British-American Provinces, the conclusion would be that Great Britain had permitted her Dependencies to violate her Treaties.

"The great distance which separates the Australasian Colonies from the Mother Country would prevent any arrangements they might enter into from affecting the trade of the United Kingdom to any appreciable extent. Reciprocity amongst the Australasian Colonies clearly could not prejudice the commercial interests of the Mother Country so much as reciprocity amongst the British-American Provinces.

"Two of the Governors of these Colonies—the Earl of Belmore and Governor Du Cane—have personally, on their own independent authority, as Representatives of Her Majesty, declared themselves favourably to granting the requests of the Colonies. It is submitted that the advice of experienced Imperial Officers is entitled to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, especially when it independently confirms the respectful requests of the colonists themselves.

"As the Secretary of State has expressed an opinion favourable to a Customs Union of the Australasian Colonies, it is submitted that the power to enter into reciprocal Tariff Arrangements is eminently calculated to promote that object.

"For these reasons, and for others to which it is unnecessary to refer, the Conference urge the Secretary of State, without delay, to introduce the necessary measure into the Imperial Parliament, to enable any two or more of the Australasian Colonies to enter into Reciprocal Tariff arrangements, upon terms to which they may mutually agree."

2. Sir Henry Ayers gave notice of the following Motion:—

"That as inconvenience is caused through letters to the various Australian Colonies, posted for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, being charged at different rates of postage, one uniform rate be adopted of three-pence for all letters, whether despatched overland or by ship; also, that the several Australian Colonies adopt one uniform rate on parcels and book packets, whether for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially; viz.—

	s.	d.
Not exceeding 1 oz.....	0	1
1 oz. but not exceeding 2 ozs.	0	2
2 oz. " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	0	4
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. " $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	0	8
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	1	0
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. " 1 lb.	1	4

and so on, increasing 4d. for each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or fraction of a $\frac{1}{4}$ lb."

3. Mr. Vogel handed in the reasons of the New Zealand Representatives in favour of Melbourne being the Terminus of the Suez Mail Service, which the Conference desired should be printed.

"From the outset, Victoria has declared that, unless Melbourne were made the Terminus, she would not have anything to do with the Service; whilst New South Wales, until quite recently, did not contend that Sydney was the proper Terminus, but seemed disposed rather to depend upon the decision of the other Colonies as to which Terminus was most expedient.

"The Representatives of New Zealand consider that, unless Victoria join in the proposed Service, it would be unsafe for New Zealand to consent to join upon any terms based on rateable contribution.

"If Victoria take part in the Service, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania must also do so, and the same may probably be said of Queensland and New South Wales; but without Victoria, or with that Colony starting a fast Service by way of the Cape of Good Hope, the cost of the Galle Service must fall very heavily upon the contributing Colonies. This is not a new idea upon the part of New Zealand. That Colony was not influenced by South Australia or New South Wales's notice of withdrawal from the present Suez Service; but the New Zealand Government sent Home, with their notice to withdraw, a request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he would only hand it in to the Contractors in case Victoria had given, or should give, notice of withdrawal. Within a few days of the New Zealand letter being written, Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, in London, wrote to the Lords of the Treasury in similar tone, evidently equally impressed with the importance of Victoria's adherence to the Contract. He pointed out that, as Victoria had given notice, the Treasury was bound to do so. It is true that passing reference was made to the fact that South Australia had determined to retire from the Contract, and it was also mentioned that New South Wales had given notice several years before; but it was clearly implied that, unless Victoria had given notice, their Lordships would not have do so. In fact, as long as Victoria continued the Service, the other Colonies, whether they approved of it or not, were bound to contribute to and use it. This was proved by the fact that, though New South Wales had given notice of withdrawal several years before, no one seemed to be affected by it, and she was glad to continue her connection with the Service. The argument is clear and conclusive. New Zealand wishes to have the use of the Galle Service; she cannot safely join as a rateable contributor unless Victoria also join; Victoria will not join unless Melbourne be made the Terminus: therefore, unless Melbourne be made the Terminus, New Zealand cannot have the use of a Service she desires.

"The reasons why it would be dangerous for New Zealand to join in the Galle Service without Victoria, apply much more strongly to the cases of South Australia and Tasmania. New Zealand has an alternative Service. South Australia and Tasmania are so dependent upon the Suez route, that they might possibly find themselves bound to contribute a very large sum towards its cost, on account of other Colonies having at their command other routes.

"It is to be recollected that New South Wales's share of the correspondence by the Galle route is somewhat small, compared with her population—a circumstance to be accounted for by the fact that, being an old-established Colony, a considerable proportion of her population is not in such active communication with the Mother Country as the population of younger Colonies. New South Wales's contribution to the Suez Service has not solely depended on her proportion of letters; she has had to share with New Zealand and Queensland the cost of the Service between Melbourne and Sydney. But, under the new

arrangements proposed, all the Colonies would share the cost of the Service and Branches, in the proportion of the letters transmitted by them; and New South Wales's contribution would thus depend upon her somewhat small correspondence in proportion to her population.

"The arguments adduced would be equally forcible supposing it were admitted that Victoria's insistence upon Melbourne being made the Terminus of the Galle route was tyrannical and arbitrary. But the Representatives of New Zealand are not altogether prepared to make such an admission. They think that the claim to the Terminus was somewhat arrogantly asserted; but they believe that Victoria, paying as she would do the largest proportion of the cost of the Service, has a right to insist upon the Service being such as will be best suited to her wants. There can be no doubt that it is a great disadvantage to Victoria that the Peninsular and Oriental Company's boats should stay so short a time in Hobson's Bay. As soon as one of the boats is anchored, the passengers have to be hurried over her side; and freight to be sent on has to be delivered to the Agents two or three days before the sailing-date of the boat.

"Another reason in favour of Melbourne being the Terminus is that the longer the voyage the vessels make, the greater is the risk of a break-down, and the less the time that is available for making repairs.

"The present contractors do not keep a spare boat in Australia, and to require one would entail a large extra cost. The length of the voyage performed is very trying, considering that the boats are not auxiliary screw steamers, but keep on their course, regardless of the direction of the wind. The boats from Galle in reality come from Bombay. By proceeding on to Sydney, instead of stopping at Melbourne, 1200 miles of steaming, there and back, are added to an already sufficiently arduous voyage. The distance from Bombay to Melbourne is about 6000 miles. Clearly, it is desirable the boats should have as long a rest as is practicable before making the return voyage. Even if they stop at Melbourne, they will only have fifteen days to make any required repairs. To cause the boats to proceed to Sydney would, in the opinion of the New Zealand Representatives, be to greatly increase the risk of occasional break-downs; besides that, as their stay in Sydney would necessarily be shorter, there would be less time for repairs.

"It has been alleged that, by the decision of the Conference, New South Wales is placed in an unfair and unfavourable position. The Representatives of New Zealand not only deny that allegation, but they contend that New South Wales will be placed in much the best position of any of the Colonies. It has been virtually decided that New South Wales shall have the use of the Galle Service, on condition that she contributes to the cost, rateably in proportion to the correspondence carried for her; the cost of the Branch Service being added to that of the main line. Hitherto, New South Wales has had to bear separately a considerable portion of the cost of the Service between Melbourne and Sydney. It has also been virtually decided by the Conference that Sydney shall be the Terminus of the Torres Straits Service, and the Australian Terminus of the San Francisco Service.

"With respect to the latter, New Zealand has made to New South Wales an offer* to extend the Service to Sydney, to fix the times so that the Service shall alternate fortnightly with the Galle Service at Sydney, to give to New South Wales a full share in the management, and to co-operate in requiring that the Service shall be efficiently performed; asking from New South Wales no larger payment than the Postages, up to £5000 a year, on mail matter transmitted for the Colony by the line.

"Where vessels run in opposite directions, the much-urged advantage of a fortnightly Service can only be given to one port. A fortnightly Service at each port would require a duplication of a particular monthly Service. Sydney will really be the only port at which a fortnightly Service can be given. The Torres Straits Service will be too lengthy to correspond with that to Galle, or it might be made a fortnightly alternative Service. But, under the offer made respecting the San Francisco Service, New South Wales would have a genuine fortnightly alternative Service, and it would be the only Colony to which such an advantage would be given. Yet the total cost to the Colony of the three Services would probably not amount to £20,000, and could not possibly exceed £25,000. It is believed the amount would not be more than £18,000.

"The proposal to convey the mails from Melbourne to Sydney either by a branch steamer or by land, will expedite rather than delay their delivery. Supposing a branch Service to be adopted, the steamer could leave Hobson's Bay immediately after the arrival of the mails; and thus, delays in Hobson's Bay, which frequently occur to the mail steamer, would be avoided. Besides, the mail steamer will require to take in less coal upon the route. As to the outward Service, New South Wales has now to close her mails at least three days before the departure of the boat from Melbourne; but if a separate branch steamer were employed, the closing of the mails sixty hours before the time of leaving Melbourne would suffice, and thus twelve hours for correspondence would be gained. It will also, before long, be in the power of New South Wales to have her mails conveyed by land to and from Melbourne much quicker than is possible by sea-carriage. Great objections have been urged against land carriage of the mails; but whatever may be the case with Sydney, unquestionably the residents in country districts bordering on the line of Railway will be much benefited by having their letters sent by way of Melbourne, instead of by way of Sydney. For instance, it will be a great hardship to settlers in the neighbourhood of Albury, and throughout the Riverina district, if it be made necessary that their mails should be brought to Sydney instead of being sent forward to Melbourne.

"To sum up: The New Zealand Representatives feel sure that if the Terminus of the Galle Service be not in Melbourne, Victoria will refuse to have anything to do with that Service, and will establish a Cape route Service; but, on the other hand, the New Zealand Representatives are not satisfied that the Government of New South Wales will be unwilling to accept the proposals which have been made. They certainly do not believe that the Government will recommend to Parliament to vote from £50,000 to £70,000 per annum for a Californian Service, when such a service is offered to the Colony without any payment being asked. They believe that New South Wales will be content that the Colony shall have, for a payment of from £15,000 to £25,000, the use of the Galle Service, and that Sydney shall be the Terminus of the Torres Straits Service, and the Australian terminus of the San Francisco Service—besides that New South Wales would be the only Colony with a genuine alternative fortnightly Service. The Representatives of New Zealand are convinced that no unprejudiced person can fail to recognize that New South Wales, by these proposals, will be put into a better position than any of the other Colonies.

"For the reasons stated, the New Zealand Representatives support Melbourne as the Terminus of the Galle Service, and Sydney as the Terminus of the Torres Straits Service; and they offer to extend to Sydney the present Californian Service, and to give to New South Wales a share in the management of that Service."

JULIUS VOGEL.

WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS.

Sydney, February 5th, 1873.

* See letter to the Hon. Mr. Parkes, copy of which has been presented to Conference.

4. Mr. Innes then moved the following Resolution:—

"That it is desirable that the Statistics of the several Australian Colonies should be framed on a uniform system; and that, with a view to this object, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria be requested to devise a plan, and refer a draft of the same for approval or amendment to the Governments of the respective Colonies interested, and the plan having been matured, the same to be observed in the preparation of the Annual Statistics of the Colonies."

When, after full discussion, the following amended Resolution was unanimously agreed to; viz.—

"That it is desirable that the Statistics of the several Australasian Colonies should be framed on a uniform system; and that, with a view to this object, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria be requested to devise a plan, and refer a draft of the same for approval or amendment to the Governments of the respective Colonies interested, and the plan having been matured *and approved*, the same be observed in the preparation of the Annual Statistics of the Colonies, *and the several Governments represented at this Conference undertake to use their best endeavours to secure the adoption of the plan agreed upon in the preparation of the Statistics for 1873.*"

5. Mr. Wilson proposed the following Motion:—

- (1.) "That the highway or Ocean Lights situated in Banks' and Bass' Straits, viz., King's Island, Kent Group, Swan Island, and Goose Island, have, since 1864, been exclusively maintained by the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania; under a compact entered into between these Colonies, which included the Light-houses on Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island.
- (2.) "That the first four named Lights, though erected on Tasmanian territory, are practically isolated beacons provided for the safety and protection of Australasian commerce.
- (3.) "That it is reasonable and just that South Australia should fulfil its equitable obligation by also contributing to the maintenance of the Ocean Lights in proportion to the advantages derived by its shipping, based upon the principles agreed to by the Conference held in Melbourne in 1864."

Which having been discussed, Mr. Wilson, with the concurrence of the Conference, withdrew,—on the representation of the South Australian Representatives, that their Government had never been called on to contribute to the lights referred to in the motion, and expressing their willingness to bear an equitable share of the cost.

6. Mr. Wilson then moved,

"That the re-arrangement of contributions towards the maintenance of the Light-houses situated on King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan Island, Goose Island, Wilson's Promontory, and Gabo Island shall be as follows:—

- (1.) "That the Light-houses situated on King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan Island, Goose Island, and Wilson's Promontory shall be maintained at the joint expense of the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, rateably, in proportion to the tonnage of the shipping entered inwards and cleared outwards in each Colony deriving benefit from the same in accordance with the subjoined Tables A. and B.

(A.)

Light-house.	Contributing Colony.	On Tonnage of all Vessels entered Inwards.	
		From	At
King's Island..	Victoria	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	All ports of contributing Colony except Portland Bay.
	New South Wales....	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	Ditto.
	Tasmania	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Africa, South Australia, China, Mauritius	Launceston.
	South Australia.....	Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America	All ports of contributing Colony.
Kent's Group ..	Victoria	New Zealand, West Coast of America, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, South Sea Islands	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Europe, America, (not including West Coast), India, Mauritius, South Australia, China, Launceston, Africa, Victoria....	Ditto.
	Tasmania	New South Wales, Queensland	Launceston.
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
	South Australia.....	New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America, New South Wales, Queensland	All ports of contributing Colony.
Swan Island and Goose Island..	Victoria	Hobart Town and Southern Ports of Tasmania	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Nil.	
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
	Tasmania	New Zealand, West Coast of America, South Sea Islands	Launceston.
Wilson's Promontory	South Australia.....	Hobart Town	All ports of contributing Colony.
	Victoria	Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, West Coast of America, New South Wales, South Sea Islands	Ditto.
	New South Wales....	Victoria, Europe, East Coast of America, India, Africa, South Australia, China, and Mauritius	Ditto.
	Tasmania	Victoria	Hobart Town.
	South Australia.....	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, and West Coast of America	All ports of contributing Colony.

(B.)

Light-house.	Contributing Colony.	On Tonnage of all Vessels cleared Outwards.	
		At	For
King's Island..	Victoria	Port Phillip and Eastern Ports ..	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, India, and China.
	New South Wales..	All ports of contributing Colony..	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-fourth tonnage to India and China.
	Tasmania	Ditto	South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and half tonnage to India and China.
	South Australia....	Ditto	Melbourne and Eastern Ports, New South Wales, Queensland, Launceston, New Zealand.
Kent's Group..	Victoria	Ditto	Tasmania, $\frac{2}{3}$ Europe, $\frac{1}{2}$ West Coast of America.
	New South Wales..	Ditto	Launceston.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town	Victoria.
		Launceston	Port Albert, New South Wales, Queensland, and half tonnage to India and China.
Swan Island and Goose Island	South Australia....	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America.
	Victoria	Ditto	Hobart Town, Southern Ports of Tasmania, $\frac{1}{2}$ Europe, New Zealand, $\frac{1}{2}$ West Coast of America.
	New South Wales..	Nil	Nil.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town.....	Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-quarter tonnage to India and China.
Wilson's Promontory	Tasmania	Launceston	Europe, New Zealand, West Coast of America.
	South Australia....	Nil	Nil.
	Victoria	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, Europe, New Zealand, West Coast of America, Tasmania, and half tonnage to India and China.
	New South Wales..	Ditto	Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Africa, Mauritius, and one-fourth tonnage to India and China.
	Tasmania	Hobart Town	Port Phillip and Eastern Ports.
	South Australia....	All ports of contributing Colony..	New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, South Sea Islands, West Coast of America.

(2.) That Gabo Island Light-house shall be maintained conjointly by Victoria and New South Wales, each Colony paying one moiety of the cost of same.

(3.) That the contributions, calculated on the basis stated in paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be payable half-yearly by each Colony for a period of five years, commencing from 1st January, 1873."

When, after discussion,

Sir Henry Ayers moved, and Mr. Barrow seconded, the following Amendment :—

"That the Representatives of the several Governments pledge themselves to use their influence to obtain an equitable re-arrangement of liabilities for the maintenance of the Light-houses situated on King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan Island, Goose Island, Wilson's Promontory, and Gabo Island."

The Chairman then put the following Motion to the Conference :—

"That all the words after the word 'That,' in the first line in Mr. Wilson's motion, be omitted, with a view to the insertion of all the words after the word 'That' in the amendment proposed by Sir Henry Ayers,—when the Conference, with the exception of Mr. Wilson, approved of the same."

The Amendment was then put from the Chair and adopted,—the Representatives of New Zealand and Western Australia declining to vote.

7. Mr. Langton moved,

"That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Barrow, Reynolds, Samuel, Francis, and Thompson, be appointed to consider and report on the desirability of constituting some general Trinity Board, to determine on the best means of lighting effectively the Australasian Coasts."

When, after discussion, the following amended Resolution was unanimously agreed to :—

"That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Barrow, Reynolds, Samuel, Francis, and Palmer, be appointed to consider and report on the desirability and practicability of constituting some general Board to supervise the lighting of the Australasian Coasts."

Mr. Parkes laid before the Conference a communication from Mr. Macaulay, the Agent of the P. & O. Company, in answer to the enquiries made yesterday by the Chairman, which was read by the Secretary.

The Conference adjourned from 1 to 2 o'clock.

8. On resuming,—Mr. Vogel moved the following Resolutions, notice of which had been previously given by him, on the subject of the "Investment of Trust Funds :"—

"The Representatives of the various Australasian Colonies, assembled in Conference, desire urgently to impress upon the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the very unnecessary disadvantages to which, as it appears to them, the Colonies are subjected, through English Trustees not being at liberty to invest Trust Funds in Colonial Securities and Colonial Lands.

"When Trustees act under instruments which do not expressly exclude or include certain Securities, their discretion as to investment is still limited by certain Acts of Parliament. They may invest in Securities guaranteed by Parliament, in securities authorised by General Order of the Court of Chancery, in Parliamentary Stocks, in Public Funds or Government Securities. They are also allowed to invest in Indian unguaranteed Stocks; and lately they have been permitted to invest in Railway Securities.

"It is submitted by the Conference, that legislative provision should be made, in virtue of which Trustees would be equally at liberty to invest in Colonial Securities and Lands. There do not appear to be any reasons against this course, except such as might be urged by those who desire or anticipate the disintegration of the Empire. As the assurance has been more than once lately given, that Her Majesty's Government—in accordance with the undoubted feelings of the vast majority of Her Majesty's subjects—do not entertain opinions favorable to the severance of the Colonies from the Mother Country, there seems no reason why the Securities of the Colonies should not be placed upon as favorable a footing as the unguaranteed Securities of India.

"There are numerous cases of persons who reside in the Colonies, and on whose behalf Trusts are held, who desire that the Trust Funds in which they are interested should be invested within the Colony in which they reside. The Trust Deeds do not prohibit such a course, yet the Trustees, in the absence of the suggested legislative provision, find themselves unable to comply with the wishes of those on behalf of whom they act.

"The enormous accumulations of Trust Moneys would make the measure now suggested one of great convenience to a large number of Her Majesty's subjects residing in the United Kingdom.

"The Conference earnestly urges the Secretary of State to take the steps necessary to give effect to this representation."

After discussion, the Chairman put the first paragraph, which, having been amended, was carried.

The second paragraph was put from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

The third paragraph was carried by a majority, as amended.

The fourth paragraph was, after discussion, carried as amended.

The fifth and sixth paragraphs were unanimously agreed to.

The Motion, as amended, having been put from the Chair, was agreed to, as follows:—

"The Representatives of the Australasian Colonies, assembled in Conference, desire urgently to impress upon the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the very great and unnecessary disadvantages to which, as it appears to them, the Colonies are subjected, through Trustees in the United Kingdom not being at liberty to invest Trust Funds in Colonial Government Securities.

"When Trustees act under instruments which do not expressly exclude or include certain Securities, their discretion as to investment is still limited by certain Acts of Parliament. They may invest in Securities guaranteed by Parliament, in Securities authorised by General Order of the Court of Chancery, in Parliamentary Stocks, in Public Funds or Government Securities. They are also allowed to invest in Indian unguaranteed Stocks; and lately they have been permitted to invest in Railway Securities.

"It is submitted by the Conference, that legislative provision should be made, in virtue of which Trustees would be at liberty to invest in Colonial Government Securities. There can be no reason why the Securities of the Colonies should not be placed upon as favorable a footing as the unguaranteed Securities of India.

"There are numerous cases of persons who reside in the Colonies, beneficially interested in Trust Funds in the United Kingdom, who desire that such Funds should be invested within the Colony in which they reside. The Trust Deeds do not prohibit such a course, yet the Trustees, in the absence of the suggested Legislative provision, find themselves unable to comply with the wishes of those on behalf of whom they act.

"The enormous accumulations of Trust Moneys would make the measure now suggested one of great convenience to a large number of Her Majesty's subjects residing in the United Kingdom.

"The Conference earnestly urges the Secretary of State to take the steps necessary to give effect to this representation."

9. Mr. Samuel gave notice of the following Motion on the subject of the Prevention of Diseases in Stock in the Australian Colonies, and laid before the Conference papers bearing upon the subject:—

"That he will to-morrow bring under the consideration of the Conference the necessity for deciding upon some united action with a view to prevent the importation of Diseased Stock into the Australian Colonies."

Mr. Palmer moved a Resolution, of which notice had been given by him, on the subject of the construction of a cable between Java or Timor, and Norman Mouth (Queensland), and, after discussion, Mr. Samuel read a memorandum on the subject.

Sir Henry Ayers also read correspondence on the subject of the existing Telegraphic Communication with England, when it was resolved that the further consideration of the subject should be postponed.

The Conference then adjourned at Four o'clock until the next day at half-past Ten.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1873.

Present:

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.

New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.

Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.

South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.

Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.

Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.

Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at half-past Ten o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 6th instant were read and confirmed.

1. The consideration of Mr. Palmer's Resolutions on the subject of Telegraphic Communication with Europe, by Singapore and Norman Mouth, was resumed, and after discussion the first paragraph, as amended, was put by the Chairman, and carried, on the following division:—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Vogel,	Sir Henry Ayers,
Mr. Reynolds,	Mr. Barrow,
Mr. Palmer,	Mr. Barlee.
Mr. Thompson,	
Mr. Samuel, and	
The Chairman.	

The Resolution was accordingly agreed to, as follows:—

"That in view of the serious inconvenience which would arise to the whole of the Australasian Colonies in the event of interruption to telegraphic communication with Europe, it is desirable that a cable should be constructed between Singapore and the terminus of the Queensland Telegraph lines at Norman Mouth."

The Representatives of Victoria and Tasmania declined to vote.

The further consideration of the said Resolutions was postponed until Monday next.

2. Mr. Samuel asked Mr. Vogel if he would have any objection to lay on the table the following information:—

(1.) The number of days occupied by Mr. Webb's steamers, between California and New Zealand in both directions, on the last six voyages?

(2.) The number of days which the steamer now expected was overdue when the *Hero* left Auckland?

Mr. Vogel consented to do so.

3. Mr. Vogel moved, and Mr. Barlee seconded the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That this Conference, representing the Governments of the several Australasian Colonies, desire to express to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State their willingness and anxiety to co-operate with the Imperial Government in the acquisition or construction of through Lines of Telegraphic communication between Great Britain, India, and Australasia."

It was also unanimously resolved by the Conference that Messrs. Langton and Vogel be appointed a Committee to prepare a Memorial to the Secretary of State, embodying the said Resolution.

The Conference adjourned at One o'clock until a quarter to Two.

4. On re-assembling, Mr. Wilson gave notice of the following Motion:—

"That this Conference takes into consideration, on Monday next, the advisability of memorialising the Home Government on the subject of assuming the Protectorate and Colonisation of 'the Fiji Islands.'"

5. Mr. Langton proposed, and Sir Henry Ayers seconded, the following Resolution:—

(1.) "That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable to obtain a reduction in the charge for telegrams between the United Kingdom, India, and Australia, and that the Imperial Government be requested to join with the Colonies in a temporary subsidy, not exceeding £25,000 per annum, for the purpose of securing that object.

(2.) "That the Governments of South Australia and Victoria be requested to take the necessary steps to give effect to the foregoing Resolution."

Mr. Vogel proposed the following amendment at the end of the first Resolution, which, on being put from the Chair, was negatived on the following division:—

"Provided that in addition a free message of fifty words per diem from London to Australia be furnished."

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Francis,	Mr. Langton,
Mr. Vogel,	Sir Henry Ayers,
Mr. Reynolds.	Mr. Palmer,
	Mr. Thompson,
	Mr. Barlee,
	Mr. Samuel.

The original Resolutions were then put and carried.

The Conference adjourned at half-past Three o'clock until Monday, 10th February, at a quarter to Twelve.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1873.

Present :

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.

New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.

Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.

South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.

Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.

Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.

Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at a quarter to Twelve o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 7th instant were read and confirmed.

Mr. Vogel then laid before the Conference the answers to Mr. Samuel's Questions of the 7th instant, on the subject of the time occupied by Mr. Webb's line of steamers between New Zealand and San Francisco, and *vice versa*, which the Conference ordered to be printed.

Question 1: The number of days occupied by Mr. Webb's steamers between California and New Zealand in both directions, on the last six voyages?

Answer: The *Dakota* came through from San Francisco to Auckland in twenty-five days one hour, including twenty-four hours stoppage at Honolulu. I am not able, without reference to New Zealand, to give the times of the other steamers; but if a return as to them were furnished it would be of little good, as none of them (excepting the *Dakota*) ran through either from or to San Francisco, and, consequently, did not run in accordance with the Contract. The *Nebraska*, now due, will have run through from San Francisco, for the two voyages after hers, connection will have to be made at Honolulu; and, subsequently, each boat will make the through voyage each way. On each of the six voyages, except that of the *Dakota*, a very inferior vessel was used between Honolulu and San Francisco; and, consequently, those voyages were most unsatisfactorily performed.

Question 2: The number of days which the steamer now expected was overdue when the *Hero* left Auckland?

Answer: According to a telegram received from New York, the *Nebraska* sailed from San Francisco on the 9th January, having waited eight days for the mails, which were delayed upon the Atlantic and during the trans-continental route. She would therefore be due in Auckland on the 3rd February; the *Hero* left Auckland on Wednesday, the 29th January, and consequently some days before the *Nebraska* was due, though two days later than the date on which she would have been due, had she not waited eight days at San Francisco for the detained mails.

Mr. Barlee laid before the Conference papers on the subject of Sericulture, forwarded to him by Sir George Verdon, who requested, at the instance of Mrs. Neill, that they should be laid before the Conference. The papers were subsequently distributed among the Members.

The further consideration of Mr. Palmer's Resolutions, on the subject of Telegraphic Communication with Europe, by Singapore and Norman Mouth, was then resumed, and, after some discussion, Mr. Palmer withdrew the same, on the ground that the three Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland had come to an agreement which rendered the Resolutions unnecessary.

Mr. Barlee withdrew the Notice of Motion given by him on the 3rd instant, on the subject of the construction of a second Cable, either from Galle to Western Australia, *via* the Cocos or Keeling Islands, or from Java to Western Australia.

Mr. Palmer then moved the following Notice of Motion, on the subject of Intercolonial Telegraph Messages:—

"That the circular letter of the Colonial Secretary of Queensland, annexed hereto, on the subject of Intercolonial Telegraph Messages, be taken into consideration."

(Circular.)

Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11th January, 1873.

SIR,

With reference to former correspondence on the subject of the tariff for Intercolonial Telegraph Messages, I have the honor to inform you that, in order to simplify arrangements, it is considered desirable to adopt, as nearly as possible, the system and manner of working now in general operation throughout the world. To effect this it will be necessary for the several Colonies to agree to a terminal and transit rate, and to charge for the address and signature; but it is proposed to extend the message from ten to twenty words, including address and signature, allowing ten words for the latter, and instead of charging for each additional word, to make a charge for every additional ten words or part of ten words.

The rates proposed for consideration are as follows:—

RATE for transmission of twenty words, including address and signature, every ten words, or portion of ten words being charged half rate.

	Terminal Rate for Messages received or delivered within the Colony.	Transit Rate for Messages sent through the Colony.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Queensland	2 0	7 0
New South Wales	2 0	2 0
Victoria	1 0	1 0
South Australia	2 0	20 0
Tasmanian Cable Co. .. .. .	....	4 0
Tasmania	1 0	

According to this scale, the charges for Intercolonial Messages of twenty words, including address and signature, would be—

Between any Station in Queensland and any Station in New South Wales ..	4s.
Ditto, Victoria	5s.
Ditto, South Australia	6s.
Ditto, Tasmania	10s.

Half rate for every ten words or part of ten words additional. Press messages to be charged one-half the ordinary rates.

It is also proposed to divide the receipts between the Colonies in the following manner; viz.—

New South Wales business	..	..	..	..	1	to New South Wales.
					2	to Queensland.
Victorian	..	..	..	..	1	to Victoria
					2	to New South Wales.
					2	to Queensland.
South Australian	..	..	..	..	3	to South Australia.
					3	to New South Wales.
					3	to Queensland.
Tasmanian	..	..	..	..	3	to Tasmania.
					10	to Cable Company.
					2	to Victoria.
					10	to New South Wales.
					1	to Queensland.

I would strongly recommend the proposed alterations for the favourable consideration of your Government, as it is considered that the simplification of the arrangements, and the establishment of the charges on a more satisfactory and uniform basis, would tend to facilitate the transaction of telegraphic business.

I have, &c.,

A. H. PALMER.

When much discussion ensued; and the Conference adjourned from twenty minutes past One to a quarter past Two o'clock.

On resuming,—

Mr. Samuel proposed and Sir Henry Ayers seconded the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to; viz.—

“That on and after the 1st day of October next the charge for Telegraphic Messages within each of the Australasian Colonies shall be at the uniform rate of 1s. for ten (10) words, exclusive of address and signature, and one penny (1d.) for every additional word. Press messages not to exceed half rates. These charges not to include messages upon the lines from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, Bowen to Norman Mouth, and between Tasmania and Victoria.”

Mr. Vogel proposed and Mr. Francis seconded the following Resolution, which, on being put from the Chair, was carried unanimously; viz.—

“That in accordance with the practice now partly adopted, but not laid down by regulation, Messages for New Zealand be received at all the Telegraph Stations in the Australian Colonies, and that the proper charge be made for transmission to the port or place from which the telegrams are to be posted to New Zealand—that they be posted to the Telegraph Operator at the first Station that the steamer touches at in New Zealand. Similarly, that telegrams posted in New Zealand to the Telegraph Operator at any Port in Australia, shall be forwarded to their destination. The Telegraph charges in Australia to be collected on delivery. That a similar practice be adopted in respect to Telegrams between Western Australia and the other Australasian Colonies. That the Representatives of the several Colonies agree to endeavour to give effect to this Resolution.”

Sir Henry Ayers then moved as follows:—

“That as those descriptions of Australian Wines best capable of sustaining a voyage to Great Britain contain more than twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, this Conference move the Imperial Government to admit such Wines at the uniform duty of one shilling per gallon; or, should a limit of the strength be considered necessary, then that all Australian Wines containing less than thirty-five per cent. of proof spirit be admitted at a duty of one shilling per gallon.”

Which, after some discussion, he proposed to amend as follows,—and the same having been seconded by Mr. Samuel, was carried unanimously,—

“That as those descriptions of Australian Wines best capable of sustaining a voyage to the United Kingdom contain more than 26 per cent. of proof spirit, which is above the maximum strength of Wine admitted into the United Kingdom, at one shilling per gallon, under the French Treaty, this Conference move the Imperial Government to extend the limit of strength of such Wines to 35 per cent., and admit the same at a duty of one shilling per gallon.”

Mr. Palmer moved the following Resolutions:—

“That the present state of the law in regard to the Extradition of Criminals escaping from one Colony into another is defective.

“That in lieu of the present system, an Act should be passed in each Colony, enabling a criminal warrant duly issued in one Colony to be executed in another, on the endorsement of a Judge or Magistrate.

“That such Act should provide (with such safeguards as may be deemed necessary) that the contents of any such warrant issued in one Colony may be transmitted by telegraph to another Colony, and that a certified transcript of the message shall have the same effect as an original warrant; and

“That the Act referred to should, as nearly as possible, be alike in each Colony.”

When, after discussion, he proposed, and Mr. Francis seconded the following amended Resolution, which was carried unanimously; viz.—

“That the present state of the law in regard to the Extradition of Criminals escaping from one Colony into another is defective. That the Government of Queensland be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the Representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavour to pass into law.”

Sir Henry Ayers then moved the following Resolution:—

“That the Governments of the Australian Colonies recommend to their respective Legislatures the passing of a uniform law relating to the remedies to be had against absconding Debtors, including the issuing of execution in any Colony upon registration of the judgment from any Court of the Colony in which the cause of action arose.”

Which having been fully discussed, the Conference unanimously agreed to, as amended; viz.—

“That the present state of the law in regard to remedies to be had against absconding Debtors is defective.

“That the Government of South Australia be requested to prepare a Bill to remedy the defects, and, subject to the approval of their respective Law Officers, the Members of this Conference will endeavour to procure the passing of a similar Bill in their respective Legislatures.”

The draft Memorial relating to Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity was then considered, and certain Amendments proposed therein by Mr. Innes ordered to be printed, when the Conference resolved to adjourn until next day, the said draft Memorial and Amendments to be then further considered.

The Conference adjourned accordingly, at half-past Four o'clock, until next day, at half-past Ten.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1873.

Present :

<i>New South Wales :</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>New Zealand :</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Queensland :</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>South Australia :</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Tasmania :</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Victoria :</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>Western Australia :</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at half-past Ten o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 10th instant were read and confirmed.

Mr. Innes then gave notice of the following Motion :—

“That it is desirable that a Common Tariff or Customs Union be established between the Australian Colonies ; and the Delegates present pledge themselves to use their influence with their respective Governments to promote that object, provided this Resolution receives the concurrence of a sufficient number of Members to afford a reasonable hope that the object in view may be accomplished.”

Mr. Parkes gave notice of the following Motion :—

“That in the event of the establishment of a Californian Mail Service including New Zealand, which shall secure the regular delivery of mails between a port in Australia and a port in England within forty-five days, this Conference is of opinion that each of the Australasian Colonies ought to contribute to the Subsidy in rateable proportion to the amount of its mail matter carried by such Service.”

The consideration of the Draft of the proposed Memorial to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity, laid before the Conference on the 6th instant, was then resumed, and the first paragraph, as amended, approved.

Mr. Barlee proposed and Mr. Francis seconded the following Motion :—“That all the words after the first paragraph be omitted.”

Whereupon Mr. Vogel proposed the following new paragraph, which having been seconded by Mr. Reynolds, was after discussion agreed to; viz.—

“The Conference express their earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government will introduce, at as early a date as possible, the necessary measure of legislation to give effect to the wishes of the Conference.”

The amended Memorial was then finally adopted as follows :—

“The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, assembled in Conference in Sydney, have carefully considered the correspondence which has taken place between the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and their several Governments, upon the subject of Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity. The Conference having given respectful attention to the arguments used by the Secretary of State still consider it their duty to urge upon the Imperial Government the removal of the restrictions which preclude two or more Colonies of the Australasian Group from entering into arrangements for the admission of articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of any part of Australia or New Zealand, upon terms to which they may mutually agree.

“The Conference express their earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government will introduce, at as early a date as possible, the necessary measure of legislation to give effect to the wishes of the Conference.”

Mr. Wilson moved and Mr. Innes seconded the following Resolution :—

“That the Chairman be requested to move His Excellency, Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, to transmit a Telegraphic Message to Lord Kimberley, embodying the unanimous decision of the Conference in reference to Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity, with the object that no delay may take place in the introduction of Imperial Legislation to give effect to the wishes of the Conference ;”—

Which having been put by the Chairman, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Reynolds proposed the following Resolution, which was seconded by Sir Henry Ayers, and unanimously agreed to:—

“That the cost of all Telegrams, authorised by the Conference, be defrayed by contributions from the several Colonies, on the basis of population.”

The Conference adjourned shortly after One o'clock until Two.

On resuming, Mr. Wilson moved the following Motion:—

“That this Conference take into consideration, on Monday next, the advisability of memorializing the Home Government on the subject of assuming the Protectorate and Colonisation of the Fiji Islands.”

When, after some discussion, he proposed, and Mr. Langton seconded, the following Resolution; viz.—

“That, in the opinion of the Conference, the condition of affairs in the Fiji Islands urgently demands, in the interest of the Australasian Colonies, as well as the rest of the Empire, grave consideration on the part of Her Majesty's Government,”—which was unanimously agreed to.

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of correspondence addressed to the Conference drew attention to a memorial forwarded by Mr. Samuel Bennett, newspaper proprietor and publisher, Sydney, relating to delay, disappointment, and exorbitant charges in obtaining cable messages from England, when it was resolved that the Secretary be requested to inform Mr. Bennett that the complaints contained in his communication to the Conference were not of a nature that could be investigated by the Conference.

Mr. Francis then gave notice of the following Motion:—

“That as it is expedient there should be uniform legislation throughout Australasia in regard to “Patents,” the Law Officers of the Colony of Victoria be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the Representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavour to pass into law.”

Mr. Palmer gave notice of the following Motion:—

“That it having been represented to the Conference that the settlement of Somerset has been founded in the interests of humanity for the relief of distressed seamen, and that the sole cost of its maintenance, with the exception of £2000, contributed by the Imperial Government, has hitherto fallen upon Queensland, —they are of opinion that the several Colonies of the Australian Group should contribute to the support of the settlement, in proportion to the tonnage of ships clearing from each Colony for ports to which the usual route is through Torres Straits.”

Mr. Samuel proposed the Motion given by him on Thursday last, as follows,—when after discussion he proposed, and Mr. Palmer seconded, the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

“That the importation of cattle, sheep, and pigs into New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia be prohibited for a period of two years from all places beyond the Australasian Colonies,—such prohibition to commence from and after the publication of a notice in the *London Times*; and the representatives of the various Colonies engage to introduce into their several Legislatures such measures as may be necessary to carry out this object.”

Sir Henry Ayers then brought up a Memorial to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the duty charged on the admission of Colonial Wines into the United Kingdom, which having been put from the Chair, paragraph by paragraph, and amended in certain particulars, was unanimously agreed to:—

“To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies,—

“The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia respectfully request the Imperial Government to take into consideration the great disadvantage under which the vinegrowers of Australia labour with respect to duty charged on the admission of their Wines into the United Kingdom.

“The natural alcoholic strength of Australian Wines is generally in excess of twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, on which the duty of two shillings and sixpence is payable,—a rate which is almost prohibitory of the import of wine from Australia into the United Kingdom.

“A large proportion of the Wines of France and Germany seldom reach the standard of twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, and are therefore admitted at the lowest duty of one shilling per gallon.

“Large quantities of Wine are being produced in the Australasian Colonies, greatly in excess of the consumption of their inhabitants, and a very considerable export could be made to the United Kingdom if the standard of strength, at which the higher duty of two shillings and sixpence is charged, was increased from twenty-six to thirty-five per cent. of proof spirit.

“The Representatives of the Colonies in Conference therefore trust that the Secretary of State will take the necessary steps to extend the limit of the standard of strength to thirty-five per cent. accordingly, and thus allow such Wines to be admitted at the duty of one shilling per gallon, and afford encouragement to a most important industry in which so many colonists are engaged.”

Mr. Francis then moved and Sir Henry Ayers seconded the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to; viz.—

“That information having reached the Conference, that a new Treaty with France is under negotiation, it is desirable a communication be transmitted by telegraph to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, containing the substance of the preceding Address.”

Messrs. Langton and Vogel then brought up an Address to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the acquisition or construction of through lines of Telegraphic Communication between Great Britain, India, and Australasia; which having been put from the Chair, paragraph by paragraph, and amended in certain particulars, was unanimously agreed to, as follows:—

“The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, in Conference assembled, in forwarding to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Resolution attached (which passed the Conference unanimously), desire to impress upon His Lordship their sense of its urgency and importance.

“The Governments of all the Australasian Colonies have taken charge of the lines of Telegraphic Communication in their respective Colonies. Experience has shown that this course has enabled far greater facilities to be offered to those using the Telegraph, and at lower rates, than if the lines had been permitted

to pass into private hands, or into the hands of public Companies. Her Majesty's Government have recently acquired the land lines within the United Kingdom; and the Conference believe, from the information they possess, that the change has been attended with success.

"They are of opinion that the arguments which may be used in favour of Governments taking charge of the land lines within their territories, apply with more force to their taking charge of the means of communication between the separate parts of the same Empire.

"The national objects served are too obvious to need comment. It is submitted that they are sufficiently strong to be worthy of consideration, even supposing the communication would have to be maintained at some pecuniary cost.

"But the proposal made by the Conference will in all probability not involve a loss. On the contrary, it may equally be urged on the ground of economy as on that of good government. Her Majesty's subjects in the United Kingdom, India, and Australasia have now to use the lines in the hands of Joint Stock Companies, who look for rates to yield their shareholders from ten to fifteen per cent. If the Governments acquired the lines, they could obtain money at about four per cent.; besides that, by the use of Her Majesty's ships the lines could be maintained at less than the present cost of maintenance. The Governments would, therefore, be able to offer the use of the Telegraph at lower rates than Joint Stock Companies are inclined to do. When it is considered how materially Telegraphic Communication promotes the prosperity of the Countries enjoying it, it may without exaggeration be asserted that the proposal made by the Conference is one in the interest of a large portion of Her Majesty's subjects.

"The Conference would prefer that Her Majesty's Government should elaborate the details; and they merely throw out as a suggestion, that the Imperial Government, in conjunction with the Governments of India and the Australasian Colonies, should jointly acquire or construct a through line between the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, and by way of Her Majesty's Indian Possessions."

Sir Henry Ayers then moved,—

"That as inconvenience is caused through letters to the various Australian Colonies, posted for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, being charged at different rates of postage, one uniform rate be adopted of threepence for all letters, whether despatched overland or by ship; also, that the several Australian Colonies adopt one uniform rate on parcels and book packets, whether for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially; viz.—

	s.	d.
Not exceeding 1 oz.....	0	1
1 oz. but not exceeding 2 ozs.	0	2
2 ozs. " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	0	4
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. " $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	0	8
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	1	0
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. " 1 lb.	1	4

and so on, increasing 4d. for each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or fraction of a $\frac{1}{4}$ lb."

After discussion, the Motion was amended as follows, and agreed to:—

"That as inconvenience is caused through letters to the various Australian Colonies posted for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, being charged at different rates of postage, this Conference are of opinion that one uniform rate should be adopted, of two-pence, for all letters, whether dispatched overland or by ship; also, that the several Australian Colonies adopt one uniform rate on parcels and book packets, whether for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, to come into operation on 1st January, 1874; viz.—

	s.	d.
Not exceeding 1 oz.....	0	1
1 oz. but not exceeding 2 ozs.	0	2
2 ozs. " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	0	4
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. " $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	0	8
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	1	0
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. " 1 lb.	1	4

and so on, increasing 4d. for each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or fraction of a $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

The Representatives of Tasmania and Western Australia did not vote.

The Representatives of New Zealand also did not vote.

At the same time, they desire it to be recorded that they will recommend the adoption of the Resolutions to their Governments.

Mr. Samuel then proposed the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Langton, and agreed to:—

"That whereas letters which are too late for post are frequently handed to the captains and the passengers of vessels trading between the Australasian Colonies to post at their port of destination, which letters, although they bear the required amount of postage stamps, are subjected to the payment of further postage in the Colony to which they are addressed,—the Conference are of opinion that the captains of vessels should be permitted to have a box or bag for the reception of letters after the post shall have closed, and such letters, provided they bear the proper amount of postage stamps of the Colony in which they originated, including the late fee, shall be received at the Post Office of the several Colonies, and delivered to the persons to whom they may be addressed without any additional charge. Stamps to be defaced in the Post Office of the Colony to which they are forwarded. To come into operation on 31st March next."

The Conference then directed that the two Addresses to the Secretary of State should be engrossed.

The Conference adjourned at half-past Four o'clock until the next day at Eleven o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1873.

Present:

New South Wales: The Honorable Henry Parkes.
The Honorable Saul Samuel.

New Zealand: The Honorable Julius Vogel.
The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.

Queensland: The Honorable A. H. Palmer.
The Honorable J. M. Thompson.

South Australia: The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers.
The Honorable J. H. Barrow.

Tasmania: The Honorable F. M. Innes.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson.

Victoria: The Honorable J. G. Francis.
The Honorable E. Langton.

Western Australia: The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at Eleven o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings of yesterday were read and confirmed.

The Committee appointed to consider the desirability of constituting a General Board to supervise the Lighting of the Australasian coasts brought up their Report, which, after being considered by the Conference, was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Mr. Samuel, as follows:—

"The Committee appointed to consider the desirability of constituting a General Board to supervise the lighting of the Australasian coasts report that in their opinion the time has scarcely arrived for the creation of an independent Board with Executive functions, but that it is desirable a meeting should be convened, consisting of the principal officers of the Marine Departments of the several Colonies; that the duties of such officers shall be to report to the Australasian Governments upon the state of the coast lights, their management with regard to economy and efficiency, also where, in their judgment, new lights are required, and further to indicate the proportion in which the several Colonies should contribute to the maintenance of those lights which may be considered highway lights, in distinction from those that are merely local. The Committee recommend that as soon as the Governments interested have appointed their respective officers, their names be forwarded to the Government of New South Wales, whose officer shall be authorised to convene the projected meeting."

Mr. Francis gave notice that he would move, on the next day of meeting:—

"That as it is very essential a first class Light-house should be established at Cape Bridgewater, on the south-west coast of Victoria, adjoining the Colony of South Australia, it is desirable the same should be erected, at the joint cost of Victoria and South Australia, and be afterwards maintained by contributions from the various Australasian Colonies, based on the amount of tonnage of each Colony using the said Light."

Mr. Parkes moved the following Resolution:—

"That in the event of the establishment of a Californian Mail Service, including New Zealand, which shall secure the regular delivery of mails between a port in Australia and a port in England within forty-five days, this Conference is of opinion that each of the Australasian Colonies ought to contribute to the subsidy in rateable proportion to the amount of its mail matter carried by such Service."

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Langton, seconded by Mr. Vogel:—

"That in the opinion of the Conference it is not desirable to re-open the Postal Question."

The Chairman then put the following Motion:—

"That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the Question,"—

When it was negatived on the following division:—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Palmer,	Mr. Francis,
Mr. Thompson,	Mr. Langton,
Mr. Samuel,	Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Parkes,	Mr. Reynolds,
	Mr. Barrow.

Sir Henry Ayers, Mr. Innes, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Barlee, declined to vote.

The Amendment was then put and carried.

Mr. Barrow moved,—

"That it is desirable to terminate, as soon as possible, the present system of the Collection of Customs' Duties on the River Murray, and to substitute the payment of lump sums in lieu of duties, the amounts to be arranged by the Colonies concerned on an equitable basis." Seconded by Mr. Langton, and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Innes then moved,—

"That it is desirable that a Common Tariff or Customs' Union be established between the Australian Colonies; and the Delegates present pledge themselves to use their influence with their respective Governments to promote that object, provided this Resolution receives the concurrence of a sufficient number of Members to afford a reasonable hope that the object in view may be accomplished." Seconded by Mr. Wilson.

When, after discussion, in which Mr. Samuel proposed the words "based upon the principles of Free Trade," after the word "Tariff," in the first line, the following amended Resolution was proposed:—

"That it is desirable that a Common Tariff, based upon the principles of Free Trade and a Customs' Union, be established between the Australian Colonies; and the Delegates present pledge themselves to use their influence with their respective Governments to promote these objects, provided this Resolution receives the concurrence of a sufficient number of Members to afford a reasonable hope that the objects in view may be accomplished."

"(2.) That the policy of Free Trade as contemplated by this Resolution limits the imposition of Taxes to Revenue purposes only."

Mr. Francis moved the previous Question,

The Chairman then put the following Motion,—That the Question be now put—which was carried in the affirmative, on the following division:—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Innes,	Mr. Francis,
Mr. Wilson,	Mr. Langton,
Sir Henry Ayers,	Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Barrow,	Mr. Reynolds,
Mr. Barlee,	Mr. Thompson,
Mr. Samuel,	Mr. Palmer.
Mr. Parkes.	

The Resolution, as amended, was put and carried, the division being the same as before.

Mr. Francis proposed and Sir Henry Ayers seconded the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

“That a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the expediency of adopting a uniform system of Excise Duties throughout Australasia, such Committee to consist of Messrs. Samuel, Langton, Vogel, and Barrow.”

Mr. Francis proposed the following Motion, which was carried unanimously:—

“That as it is expedient there should be uniform legislation throughout Australasia in regard to ‘Patents,’ the Law Officers of the Colony of Victoria be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the Representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavour to pass into law.”

Mr. Palmer moved,—

“That it having been represented to the Conference that the settlement of Somerset has been founded in the interests of humanity for the relief of distressed seamen, and that the sole cost of its maintenance, with the exception of £2000 contributed by the Imperial Government, has for many years fallen upon Queensland,—they are of opinion that the several Colonies of the Australian group should contribute to the support of the settlement, in proportion to the tonnage of ships clearing from each Colony for ports to which the usual route is through Torres Straits.”—

Which after having been amended to read as follows, was, on the motion of Mr. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Wilson, unanimously agreed to.

“That it having been represented to the Conference that the settlement of Somerset has been founded in the interests of humanity for the relief of distressed seamen, and that the sole cost of its maintenance, with the exception of £2000 contributed by the Imperial Government, has for many years fallen upon Queensland,—they are of opinion that the several Colonies of the Australasian group should contribute to the support of the settlement, in proportion to the tonnage of ships clearing from each Colony for ports to which the usual route is through Torres Straits, and that such representations should be made to the Imperial Government as may induce them to continue the subsidy which they have paid for the last two years.”

Mr. Palmer proposed and Mr. Thompson seconded the following Resolution:—

“That the Chairman be requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through His Excellency the Governor.”—Carried unanimously.

The Conference then appointed a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Parkes, Langton, and Barrow, to draw up the Report of the business brought before the Conference.

The Conference adjourned at half-past Four o'clock until Friday at Nine o'clock.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1873.

Present:

<i>New South Wales:</i>	The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Saul Samuel.
<i>New Zealand:</i>	The Honorable Julius Vogel. The Honorable W. H. Reynolds.
<i>Queensland:</i>	The Honorable A. H. Palmer. The Honorable J. M. Thompson.
<i>South Australia:</i>	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers. The Honorable J. H. Barrow.
<i>Tasmania:</i>	The Honorable F. M. Innes. The Honorable J. M. Wilson.
<i>Victoria:</i>	The Honorable J. G. Francis. The Honorable E. Langton.
<i>Western Australia:</i>	The Honorable F. P. Barlee.

The Conference having met at half-past Nine o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 12th instant were read and confirmed.

Mr. Parkes (the Chairman) informed the Conference that His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson had duly forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the telegram on the subject of Inter-colonial Commercial Reciprocity, forwarded to him for that purpose on the 11th instant.

Mr. Palmer proposed and Mr. Reynolds seconded the following Resolution, which was agreed to:—

“That the Minutes being silent as to the Votes given on Mr. Langton's Motion, No. 5, of the Proceedings of the 7th instant, the Motion be now put with a view to supply the deficiency.”—

And the same having been put, resulted in the following division :—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Francis,	Mr. Vogel,
Mr. Langton,	Mr. Reynolds,
Sir Henry Ayers,	Mr. Palmer,
Mr. Barrow,	Mr. Thompson,
Mr. Wilson,	Mr. Samuel,
Mr. Barlee.	Mr. Parkes.

Mr. Innes did not vote.

The numbers being equal, and the Chairman not having a casting vote, no decision was arrived at.

Mr. Francis moved :—

“That, as it is very essential a first class Light-house should be established at Cape Bridgewater, on the south-west coast of Victoria, adjoining the Colony of South Australia, it is desirable the same should be erected, at the joint cost of Victoria and South Australia, and be afterwards maintained by contributions from the various Australasian Colonies, based on the amount of tonnage of each Colony using the said Light.”

When, after discussion, Mr. Barrow proposed and Sir Henry Ayers seconded the following amended Resolution, which was carried unanimously :—

“That, as it is very essential a first class Light-house should be established at Cape Bridgewater, on the south-west coast of Victoria, adjoining the Colony of South Australia, this Conference determine to refer this question to the immediate consideration of the Committee to be appointed on the subject of Light-houses, the Victorian Delegates having expressed their willingness to pay half the cost of the erection, and to contribute to its maintenance in proportion to the tonnage of Victorian shipping using the Light.”

Mr. Vogel proposed the following Resolution, but did not press the same, in consequence of the Chairman (Mr. Parkes) considering that it was not fair to New South Wales :—

“That immediately before the Report of the Conference is signed, the Resolutions which have been carried on Postal Services be telegraphed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a statement showing what Colonies have voted for and against each Resolution, and a request that His Lordship will communicate the Resolutions to the Agents-General of the several Australasian Colonies ; the telegram also to state that the Honorable Mr. Parkes desired the Secretary of State to know that the Representatives of New South Wales handed in a protest against the change of Terminus.”

The Committee appointed to draw up the Report of the proceedings of the Conference submitted the same, which having been read over paragraph by paragraph, and amended in certain particulars, was finally approved, and signed by the Members of the Conference.

Mr. Francis proposed and Mr. Vogel seconded the following Resolution :—

“That the thanks of the Conference be given to the Chairman, Mr. Parkes, for the great services he has rendered in the arduous and important position he has occupied as Chairman of the Conference,”—which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Reynolds proposed and Mr. Barlee seconded the following Resolution :—

“That the Chairman be requested to convey the thanks of the Conference to A. C. Budge, Esq., Clerk of the Executive Council, for the efficient services rendered by him as Secretary.”

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY PARKES, *Chairman*.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1873.

MEMORANDUM laid before the Conference by Mr. SAMUEL on the Estimated Cost of the three Mail Services to Europe.

Estimated Cost of three Mail Lines from Europe.

1. Galle and Sydney, <i>via</i> King George's Sound, Glenelg, and Melbourne	£100,000
2. San Francisco and Melbourne, <i>via</i> Honolulu and Fiji, and including Service to New Zealand	60,000
3. Singapore, Batavia, and Sydney, <i>via</i> Brisbane and Queensland Ports	25,000
	£185,000
Less estimated Subsidies or Contributions from—	
The Imperial Government	£60,000
Honolulu	5000
Fiji	3000
	68,000
	£117,000

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1873.

[Laid before the Conference by Mr. SAMUEL.]

No. 1.

DEPARTURE from London and arrival at Sydney and Melbourne, departure from London and arrival at Sydney, alternating every 14 days.

<i>Via</i> Brindisi.			<i>Via</i> California.		
46 days to Melbourne. 49 days to Sydney.			48 days to Sydney. 51 days to Melbourne.		
Leave	Arrive		Leave	Arrive	
London, Friday, 8·50 p.m.	Melbourne, Tuesday, 9 p.m.	Sydney, Friday, 3 p.m.	London, Friday, 8·50 p.m.	Sydney, Thursday.	Melbourne, Sunday.
24 Jan. 1873	11 Mar. 1873	14 Mar. 1873	7 Feb. 1873	27 Mar. 1873	30 Mar. 1873
21 Feb.	8 April.	11 April.	7 Mar.	24 April.	27 April.
21 Mar.	6 May.	9 May.	4 April.	22 May.	25 May.
18 April.	3 June.	6 June.	2 May.	19 June.	22 June.
16 May.	1 July.	4 July.	30 May.	17 July.	20 July.
13 June.	29 July.	1 Aug.	27 June.	14 Aug.	17 Aug.
11 July.	26 Aug.	29 Aug.	25 July.	11 Sept.	14 Sept.
8 Aug.	23 Sept.	26 Sept.	22 Aug.	9 Oct.	12 Oct.
5 Sept.	21 Oct.	24 Oct.	19 Sept.	6 Nov.	9 Nov.
3 Oct.	18 Nov.	21 Nov.	17 Oct.	4 Dec.	7 Dec.
31 Oct.	16 Dec.	19 Dec.	14 Nov.	1 Jan. 1874	4 Jan. 1874
28 Nov.	13 Jan. 1874	16 Jan. 1874	12 Dec.	29 Jan.	1 Feb.
26 Dec.	16 Feb.	13 Feb.	9 Jan. 1874	27 Feb.	1 Mar.

No. 2.

DEPARTURE from Sydney and Melbourne and arrival at London, departure from Sydney and arrival at London, alternating every 14 days.

Vid Brindisi.			Vid California.		
48 days from Sydney and 45 days from Melbourne 7 times in the year, and 50 days from Sydney and 47 days from Melbourne for remaining 6 times.			48 days from Sydney. 51 days from Melbourne.		
Leave		Arrive	Leave		Arrive
Sydney, Tuesday, 11 a.m.	Melbourne, Friday, 2 p.m.	London, Monday, 2 p.m.	Melbourne, Saturday.	Sydney, Tuesday.	London, Monday.
28 Jan. 1873	31 Jan. 1873	17 Mar. 1873	8 Feb. 1873	11 Feb. 1873	31 Mar. 1873
25 Feb.	28 Feb.	14 April.	5 April.	11 Mar.	28 April
25 Mar.	28 Mar.	12 May.	3 May.	8 April	26 May.
20 April.	23 April	9 June.	31 May.	6 May.	23 June.
Sun. 18 May.	Wed. 21 May.	7 July.	8 Mar.	3 June.	21 July.
15 June.	18 June.	4 Aug.	28 June.	1 July.	18 Aug.
13 July.	16 July.	1 Sept.	26 July.	29 July.	15 Sept.
10 Aug.	13 Aug.	29 Sept.	23 Aug.	26 Aug.	13 Oct.
7 Sept.	10 Sept.	27 Oct.	20 Sept.	23 Sept.	10 Nov.
Tues. 7 Oct.	Fri. 10 Oct.	24 Nov.	18 Oct.	21 Oct.	8 Dec.
4 Nov.	7 Nov.	22 Dec.	15 Nov.	18 Nov.	5 Jan. 1874
2 Dec.	5 Dec.	19 Jan. 1874	13 Dec.	16 Dec.	2 Feb.
30 Dec.	2 Jan. 1874	16 Feb.	10 Jan. 1874	13 Jan. 1874	2 Mar.

No. 3.

DEPARTURE from Sydney and Melbourne and arrival at London, departure from Melbourne, alternating every 14 days.

Vid Brindisi.			Vid California.		
48 days from Sydney and 45 days from Melbourne 7 times in the year, and 50 days from Sydney and 47 days from Melbourne for remaining 6 times.			48 days from Sydney. 51 days from Melbourne.		
Leave		Arrive	Leave		Arrive
Sydney, Tuesday, 11 a.m.	Melbourne, Friday, 2 p.m.	London, Monday, 2 a.m.	Melbourne, Friday, 2 p.m.	Sydney, Monday.	London, Sunday.
28 Jan. 1873	31 Jan. 1873	17 Mar. 1873	14 Feb. 1873	17 Feb. 1873	6 April, 1873
25 Feb.	28 Feb.	14 April.	14 Mar.	17 Mar.	4 May.
25 Mar.	28 Mar.	12 May.	11 April.	14 April.	1 June.
Sun. 20 April.	Wed. 23 April.	9 June.	9 May.	12 May.	29 June.
18 May.	21 May.	7 July.	6 June.	9 June.	27 July.
15 June.	18 June.	4 Aug.	4 July.	7 July.	24 Aug.
13 July.	16 July.	1 Sept.	1 Aug.	4 Aug.	21 Sept.
10 Aug.	13 Aug.	29 Sept.	29 Aug.	1 Sept.	19 Oct.
7 Sept.	10 Sept.	27 Oct.	26 Sept.	29 Sept.	16 Nov.
Tues. 7 Oct.	Fri. 10 Oct.	24 Nov.	24 Oct.	27 Oct.	14 Dec.
4 Nov.	7 Nov.	22 Dec.	21 Nov.	24 Nov.	11 Jan. 1874
2 Dec.	5 Dec.	19 Jan. 1874	19 Dec.	22 Dec.	8 Feb.
30 Dec.	2 Jan. 1874	16 Feb.	17 Jan. 1874	20 Jan. 1874	8 Mar.

No. 4.

ARRIVAL at Melbourne from London and Sydney, arrival alternating at Melbourne every 14 days.

Via Brindisi.			Via California.		
46 days to Melbourne. 49 days to Sydney.			48 days to Sydney. 51 days to Melbourne.		
Leave	Arrive		Leave	Arrive	
London, Friday, 8-50 p.m.	Melbourne, Tuesday, 9 p.m.	Sydney, Friday.	London, Sunday.	Sydney, Saturday.	Melbourne, Tuesday.
24 Jan. 1873	11 Mar 1873	14 Mar. 1873	16 Feb. 1873	5 April, 1873	8 April, 1873
21 Feb.	8 April.	11 April.	16 Mar.	3 May.	6 May.
21 Mar.	6 May.	9 May.	13 April.	31 May.	3 June.
18 April.	3 June.	6 June.	11 May.	28 June.	1 July.
16 May.	1 July.	4 July.	8 June.	26 July.	29 July.
13 June.	29 July.	1 Aug.	6 July.	23 Aug.	26 Aug.
11 July.	26 Aug.	29 Aug.	3 Aug.	20 Sept.	23 Sept.
8 Aug.	23 Sept.	26 Sept.	31 Aug.	18 Oct.	21 Oct.
5 Sept.	21 Oct.	24 Oct.	28 Sept.	15 Nov.	18 Nov.
3 Oct.	18 Nov.	21 Nov.	26 Oct.	13 Dec.	16 Dec.
31 Oct.	16 Dec.	19 Dec.	23 Nov.	10 Jan. 1874	13 Jan. 1874
28 Nov.	13 Jan. 1874	16 Jan. 1874	21 Dec.	7 Feb.	10 Feb.
26 Dec.	10 Feb.	13 Feb.	18 Jan. 1874	7 Mar.	10 Mar.

By taking Table No. 1, by which the arrivals at Sydney would alternate every 14 days, and Table No. 3, by which the departures from Melbourne would alternate every fourteen days, we have the following result:—

	Via Brindisi.	Via California.
Leave London	24 Jan. 1873	7 Feb. 1873
Arrive Sydney	14 Mar.	27 Mar.
Arrive Melbourne	11 Mar.	30 Mar.
Leave Melbourne	28 Mar.	11 April.
Leave Sydney	25 Mar.	14 April.
Arrive London	12 May.	1 June.
Leave London	16 May.	30 May.
Arrive Sydney	4 July.	17 July.
Arrive Melbourne	1 July.	20 July.
Leave Melbourne	16 July.	1 Aug.
Leave Sydney	13 July.	4 Aug.
Arrive London	1 Sept.	21 Sept.
Leave London	5 Sept.	19 Sept.

The defect in this arrangement is, that the mails *via* California would leave London about two days before the arrival of the inward mail *via* California, thus precluding a reply.

Whereas, by Tables Nos. 1 and 2, London, Sydney, and Melbourne would have a reasonable time allowed for reply, as will be seen from the following; viz.—

	Via Brindisi.	Via California.
Leave London	24 Jan. 1873	7 Feb. 1873
Arrive Sydney	14 Mar.	27 Mar.
Arrive Melbourne	11 Mar.	30 Mar.
Leave Melbourne	28 Mar.	5 April.
Leave Sydney	25 Mar.	8 April.
Arrive London	12 May.	26 May.
Leave London	16 May.	30 May.
Arrive Sydney	4 July.	17 July.
Arrive Melbourne	1 July.	20 July.
Leave Melbourne	16 July.	26 July.
Leave Sydney	13 July.	29 July.
Arrive London	1 Sept.	15 Sept.
Leave London	5 Sept.	19 Sept.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1873.

ADDRESSES to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, adopted by the Representatives of the several Australian Colonies.

No. 1.

INTERCOLONIAL Commercial Reciprocity.

To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, assembled in Conference in Sydney, have carefully considered the correspondence which has taken place between the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and their several Governments, upon the subject of Intercolonial Commercial Reciprocity. The Conference, having given respectful attention to the arguments used by the Secretary of State, still consider it their duty to urge upon the Imperial Government the removal of the restrictions which preclude two or more Colonies of the Australasian Group from entering into arrangements for the admission of articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of any part of Australia or New Zealand, upon terms to which they may mutually agree.

The Conference express their earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government will introduce, at as early a date as possible, the necessary measure of legislation to give effect to the wishes of the Conference.

Signed at Sydney, the 14th day of February, 1873.

HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary,	}	New South Wales.
SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council,		
JULIUS VOGEL, Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General,	}	New Zealand.
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs,		
A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary,	}	Queensland.
J. MALBON THOMPSON, Secretary for Public Lands,		
HENRY AYERS, Chief Secretary,	}	South Australia.
JOHN H. BARROW, Treasurer,		
FREDK. M. INNES, Colonial Treasurer,	}	Tasmania.
J. M. WILSON, M.L.C.		
JAS. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary,	}	Victoria.
EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer,		
FRED. P. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary,	}	Western Australia.

DUTY on Australian Wines imported into the United Kingdom.

To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia respectfully request the Imperial Government to take into consideration the great disadvantage under which the vinegrowers of Australia labour with respect to duty charged on the admission of their Wines into the United Kingdom.

The natural alcoholic strength of Australian Wines is generally in excess of twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, on which the duty of two shillings and sixpence is payable,—a rate which is almost prohibitory of the import of wine from Australia into the United Kingdom.

A large proportion of the Wines of France and Germany seldom reach the standard of twenty-six per cent. of proof spirit, and are therefore admitted at the lowest duty of one shilling per gallon.

Large quantities of Wine are being produced in the Australasian Colonies, greatly in excess of the consumption of their inhabitants, and a very considerable export could be made to the United Kingdom if the standard of strength, at which the higher duty of two shillings and sixpence is charged, was increased from twenty-six to thirty-five per cent. of proof spirit.

The Representatives of the Colonies in Conference therefore trust that the Secretary of State will take the necessary steps to extend the limit of the standard of strength to thirty-five per cent. accordingly, and thus allow such Wines to be admitted at the duty of one shilling per gallon, and afford encouragement to a most important industry in which so many colonists are engaged.

Signed at Sydney, the 14th day of February, 1873.

HENRY PARKES,	}	New South Wales.
Colonial Secretary,		
SAUL SAMUEL,	}	
Vice-President of the Executive Council,		
JULIUS VOGEL,	}	New Zealand.
Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General,		
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS,	}	
Commissioner of Customs,		
A. H. PALMER,	}	Queensland.
Colonial Secretary.		
J. MALBON THOMPSON,	}	
Secretary for Public Lands,		
HENRY AYERS,	}	South Australia.
Chief Secretary,		
JOHN H. BARROW,	}	
Treasurer.		
FREDK. M. INNES,	}	Tasmania.
Colonial Treasurer,		
J. M. WILSON, M.L.C.,	}	
JAS. G. FRANCIS,		
Chief Secretary,	}	Victoria.
EDWARD LANGTON,		
Treasurer,	}	Western Australia.
FRED. P. BARLEE,		
Colonial Secretary,		

ACQUISITION or Construction of through Line of Telegraphic Communication between Great Britain, India, and Australasia.

To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, in Conference assembled, in forwarding to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Resolution attached (which passed the Conference unanimously), desire to impress upon His Lordship their sense of its urgency and importance.

The Governments of all the Australasian Colonies have taken charge of the lines of Telegraphic Communication in their respective Colonies. Experience has shown that this course has enabled far greater facilities to be offered to those using the Telegraph, and at lower rates, than if the lines had been permitted to pass into private hands, or into the hands of public Companies. Her Majesty's Government have recently acquired the land lines within the United Kingdom; and the Conference believe, from the information they possess, that the change has been attended with success.

They are of opinion that the arguments which may be used in favour of Governments taking charge of the land lines within their territories, apply with more force to their taking charge of the means of communication between the separate parts of the same Empire.

The national objects served are too obvious to need comment. It is submitted that they are sufficiently strong to be worthy of consideration, even supposing the communication would have to be maintained at some pecuniary cost.

But the proposal made by the Conference will in all probability not involve a loss. On the contrary, it may equally be urged on the ground of economy as on that of good government. Her Majesty's subjects in the United Kingdom, India, and Australasia have now to use the lines in the hands of Joint Stock Companies, who look for rates to yield their shareholders from ten to fifteen per cent. If the Governments acquired the lines, they could obtain money at about four per cent.; besides that, by the use of Her Majesty's ships the lines could be maintained at less than the present cost of maintenance. The Governments would, therefore, be able to offer the use of the Telegraph at lower rates than Joint Stock Companies are inclined to do. When it is considered how materially Telegraphic Communication promotes the prosperity of the Countries enjoying it, it may without exaggeration be asserted that the proposal made by the Conference is one in the interest of a large portion of Her Majesty's subjects.

The Conference would prefer that Her Majesty's Government should elaborate the details; and they merely throw out as a suggestion, that the Imperial Government, in conjunction with the Governments of India and the Australasian Colonies, should jointly acquire or construct a through line between the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, and by way of Her Majesty's Indian Possessions.

Signed at Sydney, the 14th day of February, 1873.

HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary,	}	New South Wales.
SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council,		
JULIUS VOGEL, Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General,	}	New Zealand.
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs,		
A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary,	}	Queensland.
J. MALBON THOMPSON, Secretary for Public Lands,		
HENRY AYERS, Chief Secretary,	}	South Australia.
JOHN H. BARROW, Treasurer,		
FREDK. M. INNES, Colonial Treasurer,	}	Tasmania.
J. M. WILSON, M.L.C.,		
JAS. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary,	}	Victoria.
EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer,		
FRED. P. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary,	}	Western Australia.

RESOLUTION REFERRED TO.

3. Mr. Vogel then moved and Mr. Barlee seconded the following Resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That this Conference, representing the Governments of the several Australasian Colonies, desire to express to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State their willingness and anxiety to co-operate with the Imperial Government in the acquisition or construction of through Lines of Telegraphic Communication between Great Britain, India, and Australasia."

(Signed) HENRY PARKES, *Chairman.*

No. 4.

INVESTMENT of Trust Funds in Colonial Government Securities.

To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Representatives of the Australasian Colonies, assembled in Conference, desire urgently to impress upon the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the very great and unnecessary disadvantages to which, as it appears to them, the Colonies are subjected, through Trustees in the United Kingdom not being at liberty to invest Trust Funds in Colonial Government Securities.

When Trustees act under instruments which do not expressly exclude or include certain Securities, their discretion as to investment is still limited by certain Acts of Parliament. They may invest in Securities guaranteed by Parliament, in Securities authorised by General Order of the Court of Chancery, in Parliamentary Stocks, in Public Funds or Government Securities. They are also allowed to invest in Indian unguaranteed Stocks; and lately they have been permitted to invest in Railway Securities.

It is submitted by the Conference, that legislative provision should be made, in virtue of which Trustees would be at liberty to invest in Colonial Government Securities. There can be no reason why the Securities of the Colonies should not be placed upon as favorable a footing as the unguaranteed Securities of India.

There are numerous cases of persons who reside in the Colonies, beneficially interested in Trust Funds in the United Kingdom, who desire that such Funds should be invested within the Colony in which they reside. The Trust Deeds do not prohibit such a course, yet the Trustees, in the absence of the suggested Legislative provision, find themselves unable to comply with the wishes of those on behalf of whom they act.

The enormous accumulations of Trust Moneys would make the measure now suggested one of great convenience to a large number of Her Majesty's subjects residing in the United Kingdom.

The Conference earnestly urges the Secretary of State to take the steps necessary to give effect to this representation.

Signed at Sydney, the 14th day of February, 1873.

HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary,	}	New South Wales.
SAUL SAMUEL, Vice-President of the Executive Council,		
JULIUS VOGEL, Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General,	}	New Zealand,
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs,		
A. H. PALMER, Colonial Secretary,	}	Queensland.
J. MALBON THOMPSON, Secretary for Public Lands,		
HENRY AYERS, Chief Secretary,	}	South Australia.
JOHN H. BARROW, Treasurer,		
FREDK. M. INNES, Colonial Treasurer,	}	Tasmania.
J. M. WILSON, M.L.C.,		
JAS. G. FRANCIS, Chief Secretary,	}	Victoria.
EDWARD LANGTON, Treasurer,		
FRED. P. BARLEE, Colonial Secretary,	}	Western Australia.