

(No. 100.)



1879.

T A S M A N I A.

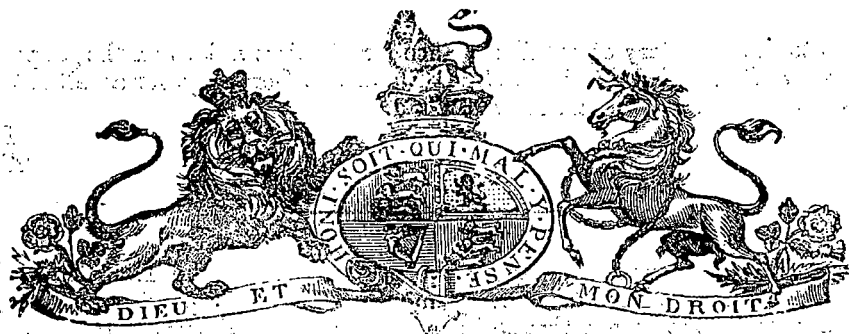
H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

N E W Z E A L A N D M A I L :

P A P E R S R E S P E C T I N G T H E M A I L S E R V I C E T O N E W Z E A L A N D.

(Mr. Pillinger.)

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, February 12, 1880.



£1000 for—

26 down Mails
26 up ditto

52

Total—£19 4s. 7½d. = ¾ per Mail.

Fortnightly Mails.

71, Macquarie-street, Hobart Town, 26th September, 1879.

SIR,

THE existing contract for the conveyance of Mails once a month to and from Hobart Town and New Zealand for the sum of £500 per annum expires on the 17th of February next; and, on behalf of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, we beg to offer to undertake the conveyance of the above Mails once a fortnight for the sum of One thousand Pounds per annum.

For some considerable time past additional facilities for the conveyance of Mails to and from New Zealand have been given to the Government, and freely taken advantage of by them, by the despatch of steamers once a fortnight, and even three times a month, for which no remuneration has been received; this is under consideration, but we are not prepared to say gratuitous services will be rendered in the future, should the steamers be despatched more frequently than once a month: in estimating therefore the proposed Mail contract for £1000 against the present one for £500 as an additional expenditure, an amount must be deducted which would no doubt reduce the additional £500 considerably.

We would remind you that the House of Assembly voted £1000 for the present contract; although the Legislative Council reduced the amount to £500, the amount of pilotage, light, and harbour dues paid during the last twelve months by the Union Steamship Company's steamers is £955 15s. 7d., which is not far short of the £1000 we ask for the fortnightly service; the expenses would be greater if the larger steamers of the Company were coming here, which we hope may be the case, the port dues being calculated by the ton register of the steamer: thus at present the Treasury is actually in receipt of £455 15s. 7d. more than the amount expended on the Mail Contract.

We may add, the total amount of money paid here for the expenses of the steamers, including port dues, coal, victualling, labour, telegrams, for the last twelve months, amounts to £2218 9s. 9d.

Looking to the nature of the services to be performed in the conveyance of Mails between Hobart Town and Wellington, New Zealand, a distance of 1427 miles each way,—in all 2854 miles once a fortnight, necessitating the employment of large and expensive steamers,—surely £1000 is very moderate for the Colony to pay to make certain of the great benefits enjoyed at present.

Comparing also the proposed contract for the conveyance of the English and Intercolonial Mails for £4000 per annum to and from Launceston and Melbourne, the former once a fortnight, the latter every five days,—say three trips (each 24 to 26 hours' voyage) a fortnight, making a distance run of 840 miles each way, or in all 1680 miles in the fortnight,—with the proposed New Zealand service of 2854 miles for the same period for £1000 per annum, we think the comparison of services to be rendered for the value to be received is decidedly in favour of the New Zealand Mails for economy.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

MACFARLANE BROS. & Co.

The Hon. DAVID LEWIS, Postmaster-General, Hobart Town.

REFERRED to the Secretary of the Post Office for his observations on the proposal by Messrs. Macfarlane Bros. & Co., on behalf of the Union Steamship Company, for an alteration in the Mail service from and to Hobart Town and New Zealand.

D. LEWIS.
27 Sept. 1879.

No doubt it must be a great advantage to the community for the New Zealand steamers to arrive at and depart from this Port *twice* every month. The correspondence is not, however, so great as to justify me to recommend that so large a sum as One thousand Pounds per annum be paid for the New Zealand Mail Service: indeed the present expenditure of £500 per annum is a heavy one for the Post Office Department to bear. From a mercantile point of view it might be considered good policy to subsidise the steamers to call here each way twice a month, but the additional expenditure should not be charged to the Post Office.

If I may be allowed to do so, I beg to suggest that when the sum of £500 now on the Post Office estimates for the New Zealand Mail Service is being considered by Parliament, the subject of this letter might then be brought forward and discussed.

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary General Post Office.*
1 Oct. 1879.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.