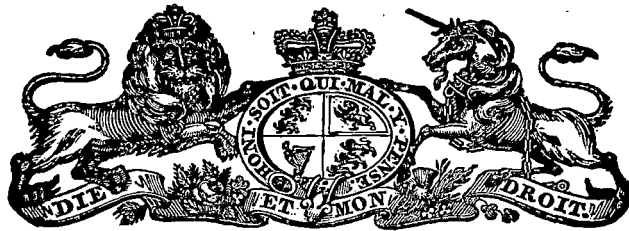


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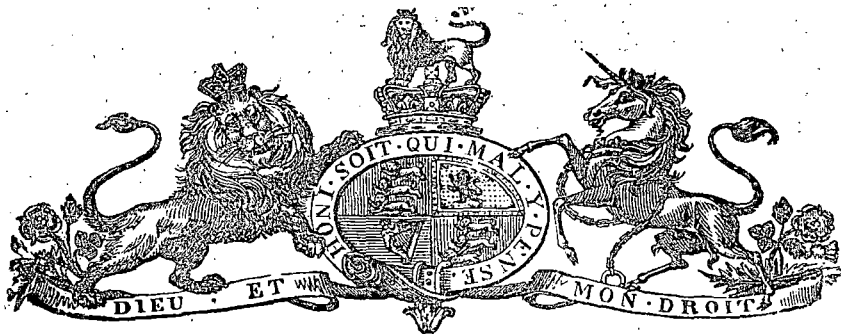
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

**STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOBART
TOWN AND NEW ZEALAND.**

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MESSRS. MACFARLANE BROTHERS.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, September 20, 1876.



New Wharf, Hobart Town, 9th August, 1876.

SIR,

WE beg to address you on the subject of establishing a regular line of Mail Steamers between this port and New Zealand.

The trade hitherto has been entirely confined to sailing vessels, and they will still retain a considerable portion of it, so that we cannot look for a remunerative return to the steamers for their expenditure and loss of time in calling here.

Our principals in Melbourne, Messrs. M'Meekan, Blackwood, & Co., who own the line of steamers proposed to be put on, hope that they may look to the Tasmanian Government for some substantial encouragement, as the advantage to the Colony in the increased facilities in despatch of the Postal Service alone will be very considerable; the encouragement of passenger traffic, and trade in fruit, horses, and such articles as require despatch, will greatly benefit the community; and the expenditure of these steamers in port, and the probability of considerable purchases of coal here, will all tend to the benefit of Tasmania. We therefore ask, Sir, your most favourable consideration to our application that the Government will grant a subsidy, and the remission of the Hobart Town light dues, which on these large steamers will be very heavy.

Our friends in Melbourne have requested us to make this application, and they are prepared to open the service with the *Otago*, 1000 tons, to sail from here on the 1st prox. for New Zealand ports. Without some assistance it is unlikely a regular service can be carried on.

Hoping for the favour of an early and favourable reply,

We remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servants,

MACFARLANE BROS. & CO.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

New Wharf, Hobart Town, 11th August, 1876.

SIR,

IN reference to our letter of 9th inst., on the subject of a direct line of steamers to New Zealand, we beg to say that our principals, Messrs. M'Meekan, Blackwood, & Co., had looked for the remission of the port charges, which would amount to, with pilotage, say £1200 per annum. We understand, however, these cannot be remitted, and therefore in looking for a subsidy of £1000 per annum it is under the expenditure for port charges alone.

To follow the *Otago*, to sail say 1st prox., it is proposed to have a first-class steamer every four weeks, and returning from New Zealand about the 18th prox., and so on every four weeks.

We remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servants,

MACFARLANE BROS. & CO.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 16th August, 1876.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated respectively the 9th and 11th instant, on the subject of establishing a regular line of steamers between this port and New Zealand, and requesting that the Company which you represent may be granted a subsidy by this Government on account of the Mail Service equal to £1000 per annum, which you state is under the amount your Company will be called on to pay in the shape of port charges.

I shall have much pleasure in laying the matter before my Colleagues with a view to the question being submitted for the consideration of Parliament during the coming Session.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES MEREDITH.

Messrs. MACFARLANE BROS. & Co., New Wharf.