

(No. 23.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

REPORT, AND MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 23, 1870.

1870.

T A S M A N I A.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

R E P O R T

AND

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE

HELD IN MELBOURNE IN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY

1870.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.



Tasmania:

JAMES BARNARD, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART TOWN.

1870.

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*REPORT of Proceedings of the INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE assembled in Melbourne
in the Months of June and July, 1870.*

THIS Conference was convened at the instance of the Government of Tasmania, primarily in order to consider the desirability of the establishment of a Customs Union for the Australasian Colonies, and the removal of all restrictions upon intercolonial trade. The invitation was responded to by the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, whose representatives, with those of Tasmania, were as follows:—

PRESENT:

On behalf of New South Wales—

The Honorable C. COWPER, M.P., Colonial Secretary,
The Honorable S. SAMUEL, M.P., Colonial Treasurer.

On behalf of Tasmania—

The Honorable J. M. WILSON, M.L.C., Colonial Secretary,
The Honorable THOS. D. CHAPMAN, M.H.A., Colonial Treasurer.

On behalf of South Australia—

The Honorable J. HART, C.M.G., M.P., Treasurer,
The Honorable J. H. BARROW, M.L.C.,
W. TOWNSEND, Esq., M.P.

On behalf of Victoria—

The Honorable Sir J. McCULLOCH, M.P., Chief Secretary,
The Honorable J. G. FRANCIS, M.P., Treasurer.

Representatives from Queensland and New Zealand did not attend, for reasons given in the annexed correspondence.

The Government of Victoria having placed the Executive Council Chamber at the disposal of the Conference, its first meeting was held there on 20th June, at noon; the sittings being continued until 5th July.

The most important questions considered by the Conference were, a free interchange of the natural productions and manufactures of the respective Colonies, a uniform Tariff with assimilated excise regulations, a Customs Union, and a distribution of the revenue derived therefrom upon the basis of population. The desirableness of such arrangements was admitted, and the more important items subject to fixed duties were considered, and might have been agreed to; but upon approaching the list of articles involving free trade on the one hand, and discriminating duties on the other, various difficulties presented themselves, and it was found impracticable to effect such a compromise as would secure the desired result. These difficulties precluded New South Wales from accepting the principle upon which the proposal of Victoria was based; and the Representatives of the latter Colony, considering the prospective advantages thereby diminished, subsequently proposed new conditions for South Australia and Tasmania, to which those Colonies were unable to accede.

But although, for the reasons stated, the Conference has not arrived at any definite conclusion on the subject, the consideration of the question has led to a deeper conviction of its importance; whilst the resolution to memorialise Her Majesty's Government to remove the prohibitions against intercolonial free trade interposed by Imperial enactment will, if successful, materially facilitate further action.

That a plan for harmonising the diverse Tariffs of the Australasian Colonies so as to secure the assent of various political parties should be a work not easy of attainment is only what might have been expected; but the Conference, impressed with the excellence of the object, has faith in its ultimate and not far distant success.

The Conference, however has been in perfect accord upon several other questions of considerable importance. It has been decided to recommend the adoption by the various Governments represented of a uniform sea-going intercolonial postage rate of threepence, and also to reduce the charges upon telegraphic messages. It is believed that these arrangements will be found beneficial to trade and acceptable to the public generally.

The evils that have arisen from the facility with which absconding debtors and other offenders have been enabled to evade justice through the absence of uniform intercolonial law on the subject formed part of the deliberations of the Conference, and it was resolved that the Governments of the various Colonies should be urged to introduce Bills of similar import at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The question of Immigration was considered, and an opinion was recorded that it would be desirable in future to adopt a plan, common to the several Colonies, so as to secure to each the full benefit to which it would be entitled on account of the expenditure of public money for this object. The attention of the several Governments will be invited to the question, with a view to the adoption of corresponding regulations.

Despatches from the Imperial Government having intimated the intended withdrawal of the Troops now stationed in Australia, the Conference took into consideration the course to be pursued under the altered circumstances in which the Colonies are about to be placed, and it was decided to press upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government the paramount duty of their making adequate naval provision for the protection of British and Australian commerce in these waters, especially in time of war.

Resolutions were also agreed to on the following subjects:—

The adoption of the necessary steps to secure the withdrawal of the large amount of worn and deteriorated Silver Coinage now circulating in the Australian Colonies:

For obtaining the establishment of a British Protectorate over the Fiji Islands:

For the calling of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers at the port of Kangaroo Island, in South Australia:

Telegraphic communication with Port Darwin, and with the Gulf of Carpentaria:

The proposed new schemes of Ocean Postal and Passenger service:

The relief of distressed Colonists and Seamen in foreign ports:

The Statistical Records of the several Colonies being compiled upon a uniform method:

And the Conference also affirmed the desirableness of the respective Governments exerting their influence with a view to the introduction of the Cental system for weights.

CHARLES COWPER.
SAUL SAMUEL.
J. M. WILSON.
THOS. D. CHAPMAN.
JOHN HART.
JOHN H. BARROW.
JAMES McCULLOCH.
JAMES G. FRANCIS.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1870.

THE first meeting of the Intercolonial Conference was held in the Executive Council Chamber, at the Treasury, Melbourne, at noon, when the following gentlemen assembled, as the representatives of their respective Colonies :—

New South Wales.

The Honorable C. COWPER, M.P., Colonial Secretary.
The Honorable S. SAMUEL, M.P., Treasurer.

South Australia.

The Honorable J. HART, C.M.G., M.P., Treasurer.
The Honorable J. H. BARROW, M.L.C.
W. TOWNSEND, Esq., M.P.

Tasmania.

The Honorable J. M. WILSON, M.L.C., Colonial Secretary.
The Honorable Thos. D. CHAPMAN, M.H.A., Colonial Treasurer.

Victoria.

The Honorable Sir J. M'CULLOCH, M.P., Chief Secretary.
The Honorable J. G. FRANCIS, M.P., Treasurer.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Wilson, and seconded by Mr. Townsend :—

“That Sir James M'Culloch do take the chair.”—*Carried.*

Mr. Wilson gave notice of a series of resolutions, affirming the desirability of a mutual interchange of manufactures and natural products between the various Colonies represented, and upon the subject of an uniform tariff and customs union.

Conversation then ensued upon the following topics :—As to Imperial troops in the various Australian Colonies—Postal arrangements—Immigration—Intercolonial Legislation—Protectorate of the Fiji Islands—Courts of Appeal—Proposed telegraphic communication with Port Darwin ; and the issue of Silver Coin.

Conference then adjourned until noon of the following day.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1870.

The Conference met at noon ; at which all the members were present.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

Mr. J. C. Tyler was introduced and appointed as Secretary to the Conference.

Mr. Wilson presented a copy of despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Government of New South Wales; dated 7th January, 1868, relative to a customs union of the Australian Colonies, which was read and ordered to be printed. Appendix A.

Mr. Wilson laid on the table a comparative return of the tariffs of the Australian Colonies. Appendix B.

The resolutions submitted by the Honorable J. M. Wilson, upon the subject of a customs union, &c., were then deliberated upon :—

“1. That the commercial and producing interests of the Australian Colonies demand their recognition by the Imperial Government as a geographical unit for all purposes of customs revenue.”

“2. That this object can be best attained by the immediate adoption by the Australian Colonies of a common or uniform customs tariff, and a mutual agreement for the interchange of their manufactures and natural products, and of all commodities imported into any of them, free of all duties of customs and wharfage charges.”

“3. That the Colonies represented at this Conference do enter into a commercial federation on the basis of a customs union, with an equitable division of customs revenue, and a uniform tariff as between the federated Colonies and other countries or places.”

“4. That the customs revenue collected in each Colony under the common tariff be paid into a common fund or federal exchequer, and be periodically distributed among the Colonies rateably in proportion to the population of each, as ascertained by the last or next and each succeeding Census, or by such other means as this Conference may decide upon.”

“5. That such commercial federation shall be accomplished by the simultaneous enactment by the Colonies represented at this Conference of an identical tariff of customs duties upon all British and foreign imports, and of a law directing the revenue collected in each Colony under such tariff to be paid into the federal exchequer.”

“6. That any Australian Colony not represented at this Conference shall be deemed to have entered the federation whenever its Legislature shall have enacted the necessary identical tariff and federal customs revenue law.”

The Honorable J. G. Francis, during the discussion, presented a Memo. expressive of his own views as to the basis on which Victorian delegates might agree to consider the resolutions of Mr. Wilson.—*Ordered to be printed.* Appendix C.

Mr. Townsend gave notice of motion relative to legislation upon the subject of absconding debtors.

Mr. Hart stated that he would to-morrow (Wednesday) bring under notice “Intercolonial postal and telegraph charges.”

The Conference adjourned until one p.m. on the following day.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1870.

The Conference met, pursuant to adjournment, at one o'clock p.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meetings of 20th and 21st instant having been read, were confirmed.

Mr. Barrow handed in a notice of motion upon the subject of the removal of the Imperial troops.

Mr. Wilson gave notice of certain resolutions as to the withdrawal of Imperial troops, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

The Conference then further deliberated upon the resolutions submitted by Mr. Wilson, with reference to a customs union, &c.

Conversation then ensued upon the subject of intercolonial postal and telegraph charges, in accordance with notice by Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart presented definite resolutions upon the matter, which were deferred for future consideration.

Mr. Samuel introduced the question as to the relief of distressed colonial seamen in foreign ports.

The Conference adjourned until one p.m. on the following day.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1870.

Conference met at one p.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Appendix D. Sir James M'Culloch presented comparative returns of the number of telegraphic messages received, and revenue therefrom, from January to May, 1869 and 1870.

Further discussion took place upon the subject of intercolonial postal and telegraphic charges; during which the resolutions proposed by Mr. Hart were submitted, as follow:—

“That for all intercolonial telegraphic messages there be a uniform charge on the part of each Colony of one shilling for ten words, and one penny for each additional word.”

“That the sea postage on all letters between the various Colonies be at the uniform rate of three pence for the half ounce; and by overland mail, two pence between Victoria and South Australia, and three pence between South Australia and New South Wales.”

The resolution with respect to the telegraph charges was postponed for further consideration; but that relating to the intercolonial postal charge was agreed to.

Appendix E. Sir James M'Culloch submitted a communication from the Honorable J. J. Casey, Chairman of the Committee of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, upon the extradition of offenders, Court of Appeal, &c., which was read and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Townsend then brought forward his motion as to absconding debtors, as follows:—

“That it is desirable that the various Governments introduce a Bill for the purpose of dealing with absconding debtors from the different Colonies.”

Deliberation ensued, and question deferred, pending the receipt of certain information promised by Mr. Cowper as to the necessity or otherwise for Imperial legislation.

Mr. Barrow introduced his motion with reference to Imperial troops, as follows:—

“That the despatches received from Her Majesty's Government on the subject of military protection in Australia embody terms and conditions which cannot be accepted with due regard to the general interests of the various Colonies, and lead to the conclusion that the Imperial troops will be speedily withdrawn, thus throwing the Australias entirely upon their own resources. That, under these circumstances, it is desirable the Governments of the several provinces should prepare a memorial to Her Majesty, praying her to cause steps to be taken, by treaty or otherwise, that will secure to these Colonies, as far as practicable, the position of neutral states in the event of war.”

Discussion took place upon the proposition, further consideration of which was deferred.

The Conference adjourned until one p.m. the following day.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1870.

The Conference met at one p.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on the previous day were read and confirmed.

Appendix F. The Conference resumed the discussion upon Mr. Townsend's motion, and the question of the extradition of offenders, &c., during which Mr. Cowper presented various papers, as previously promised, from which he read extracts; and it was ordered that the opinions of the law officers and their Honors the Judges of New South Wales should be printed. The motion and the question generally under discussion were deferred for further consideration.

Appendix G. Mr. Samuel presented correspondence which had passed between His Excellency Earl Belmore and the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with respect to the necessity for the issue of new silver coinage, and gave notice that he would bring the subject forward for discussion at the next meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Hart's motion, upon the matter of intercolonial telegraph charges, was considered, whereupon the representatives of South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria agreed thereto (exclusive of cable charges between Tasmania and Victoria); but the representatives of New South Wales, while declining to assent to the proposal

for an intercolonial uniform telegraphic rate of one shilling (1s.) for each message of ten words (their lines being now nearly 6000 miles in length, the greater portion of which have been erected to connect them with the neighbouring Colonies), were willing to come to the following special arrangement:—

“That the charge for messages to and from New South Wales and Victoria should be as follows:—Three shillings (3s.) for ten words and threepence (3d.) for every extra word from and to all stations in New South Wales and Victoria, except Deniliquin, Albury, Echuca, and Belvoir, for which the charge is to be two shillings (2s.); in the former, New South Wales to receive two shillings (2s.), and Victoria one shilling (1s.), and in the latter to be equally divided.

“In the case of South Australia the charge to be five shillings (5s.), the division to be settled hereafter when the nature of the existing agreement shall have been further considered; and should any difference of opinion then arise between the two Colonies, the question shall be left to the arbitration of some disinterested party or parties to be mutually agreed upon. The question of revenue the New South Wales representatives felt could not be disregarded, and they did not feel justified in agreeing to lower rates than those already determined upon.”

Mr. Cowper presented printed correspondence as to postal and telegraphic communication with Great Britain. Appendix H.

The Conference resumed discussion upon Mr. Barrow's motion, with regard to the removal of Imperial troops. Sir James M'Culloch gave notice of an amendment upon the motion of Mr. Barrow, which was ordered to be printed. The subject was deferred for further consideration.

Mr. Samuel brought under notice the question of the present state of the silver coinage. The correspondence before specified in these minutes was then read; upon which discussion ensued, to be renewed at a subsequent meeting. The Secretary was desired to write to Colonel Ward, the Deputy-Master of the Mint at Melbourne, for information upon various points connected with the subject.

Mr. Francis also handed in a notice of motion on the subject.

Mr. Hart gave notice that he would, at the next meeting of the Conference, place before it the papers connected with the proposed line of telegraph with Europe *via* Port Darwin, for the purpose of obtaining the co-operation of the Colonies represented, in the construction and working of the proposed line.

The Conference adjourned until Tuesday, the 28th instant, at noon.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1870.

Conference met, pursuant to the adjournment, at shortly after noon.

Present: All the members.

Sir J. M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, were confirmed.

Mr. Townsend intimated his regret that pressing business arrangements necessitated his immediate return to Adelaide.

Deliberation was then resumed on the motion of Mr. Barrow, relative to the withdrawal of Imperial troops; as also on the amendment proposed by Sir James M'Culloch, which was discussed and finally agreed upon, as follows:—

“That the despatches received from Her Majesty's Government on the subject of military protection in Australia show that the Imperial troops can only be permitted to remain in the Colonies upon terms and conditions which cannot be accepted, and lead to the conclusion that the Imperial troops will be speedily withdrawn, thus throwing the Colonies entirely upon their own resources for their internal defence.

“That, in these circumstances, it is the opinion of this Conference that Her Majesty's Imperial Government should undertake to provide for the defence and protection of the coast-line of Australia and of British commerce in its various ports, and that this Conference do address a humble memorial to Her Majesty accordingly.”

It was agreed that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hart should prepare the memorial.

Mr. Wilson's motion upon the subject was withdrawn.

Mr. Barrow submitted notice of motion as to the branch mail service between South Australia and King George's Sound.

In the absence of Mr. Townsend, Mr. Hart took up that gentleman's motion with reference to absconding debtors. It was discussed further, but deferred for consideration in connection with an amendment, of which notice was given by Sir James M'Culloch, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Samuel brought forward the subject of the deteriorated silver coinage, which, with the motion of Mr. Francis, was discussed, and the Conference came to the following resolution:—

“That an application be made to the Imperial authorities to permit the minting of silver coins in the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria; or, that the Imperial Government shall be requested to cause to be supplied periodically to the Mint authorities in these Colonies new silver coins, to exchange in the Colonies for those which may from time to time become worn and defaced.”

The representatives of New South Wales and Victoria undertook to make the necessary application to the Imperial Government in the matter.

Mr. Hart solicited the attention of the members of the Conference to his proposition for telegraphic communication with Europe, *via* Port Darwin; he presented and read correspondence, &c. upon the subject, which was ordered to be printed. Further consideration deferred. Appendix I.

Mr. Francis placed on the table a return showing the apparent loss to Victoria, should a “Customs Union” be adopted, as between the Colonies of South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria, based upon the Customs receipt in Victoria for 1867-68-69 (for the latter year for Melbourne only); and he invited the delegates from Tasmania and South Australia to table similar returns of the products of Victoria imported into those Colonies respectively for the same periods. Appendix J.

A letter from the Colonial Secretary, Wellington, New Zealand, was presented by Sir James M'Culloch, dated 10th June, covering communication to the Chief Secretary, Tasmania, upon the subject of the Intercolonial Conference of date 9th instant. The letter was read and ordered to be printed. Appendix K.

The Conference adjourned until noon on the following day.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1870.

The Conference met at one p.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir J. M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The motion of Mr. Townsend with respect to absconding debtors was further considered, but subsequently withdrawn in favour of the motion, of which notice had been given by Sir James M'Culloch, which, after some discussion, was agreed to, as follows:—

“That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is highly important to secure early legislation in order to prevent the defeat of justice in the case of offenders escaping from one Colony to another, and that the Governments of the Australasian Colonies be invited to take the subject into immediate consideration, with a view to the attainment of that object by the adoption of a uniform law.”

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales consented to a request to prepare a draft Bill to carry out the object of the resolution for submission to the Governments of the Australasian Colonies. It was also ordered that the Secretary should forward a copy of the resolution to the Honorable the Chief Secretary of Victoria for transmission to the Governments of the other Australasian Colonies not represented at the Conference, with the view of obtaining their co-operation.

Mr. Barrow, in accordance with notice, invited the consent of the Conference to the delivery of South Australian mails by the ocean steamer at some port of that province. It was deferred for consideration, and pending production of further information upon the subject.

Mr. Cowper intimated that he would, on the following day, bring under notice postal routes generally between the Australian Colonies and Europe.

Appendix L. A draft memorial, prepared in accordance with resolutions passed on the previous day, with respect to the withdrawal of Imperial troops, was read. It was ordered to be printed for future consideration.

A conversation took place upon the subject of the Protectorate of the Fiji Islands, but the matter was deferred for further consideration.

Appendix M. The resolutions of Mr. Wilson, upon the desirability of forming a Customs Union, &c., were further considered. A memorandum prepared by Mr. Francis, embodying the views of the Victorian delegates, was read, and ordered to be printed. After prolonged discussion the question was postponed.

Appendix N. Mr. Hart read a memorandum in reply to the minute presented by Mr. Francis on the previous day (Appendix J).

Appendix O. Mr. Cowper presented a minute affirming the views of the delegates from New South Wales on the same subject.

The Conference then adjourned until twelve o'clock on the following day.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1870.

The Conference met at twelve o'clock.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The consideration of the question as to the mail steamer calling at Kangaroo Island, as proposed by Mr. Barrow, was resumed, and the following resolution was agreed to:—

“That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is only equitable that the South Australian mails, by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steamers, should be conveyed by them direct to the port of Kangaroo Island, without any additional cost to the Colonies.” Mr. Hart, on the part of South Australia, agreeing to provide for the safety and quick despatch of the mail steamers.

The Conference then discussed the subject of telegraphic communication with Europe, *via* Port Darwin, in accordance with the invitation of Mr. Hart, who read the following memorandum:—

“The delegates on the part of South Australia desire to bring under the notice of Conference that their Government have entered into a contract to construct a direct line of telegraph from Port Augusta to join the submarine cable from Europe *via* Java, which the British and Australian Telegraph Company have contracted to land at Port Darwin. The Government of South Australia would, had time permitted, have invited the Colonies here represented to join them in the undertaking before making the arrangement; but they were compelled to accept or reject the proposal made to them by the June mail. They are still anxious, however—having the sanction of the Legislature for that purpose—to secure on equal and reciprocal terms and conditions the co-operation and assistance of those Colonies to carry out and maintain this great national work.

“It is desirable, therefore, that Conference should express an opinion on this proposal.”

After further deliberation, the following Resolution was agreed to:—

“That this Conference deems it inexpedient to consider at the present time the question of telegraphic connection between these Colonies and the Gulf of Carpentaria, as the two Colonies of Queensland and South Australia propose carrying out the work.”

Mr. Cowper, in accordance with the notice given yesterday, brought under consideration the various proposals for establishing steam communication between England and the Australasian Colonies, *via* Galle, San Francisco, the Cape of Good Hope, and Torres Straits. After discussion, it was agreed by the members of the Conference that it would be to the advantage of the Colonies interested in the question to await the further development of these and of other schemes which it is probable the competing companies may originate.

Appendix P. Discussion was then resumed upon the resolutions of Mr. Wilson to a Customs Union, &c. The minute which Mr. Cowper had submitted was read, as also a memorandum by Mr. Francis, expressive of the views of the Victorian delegates, as to the terms to which they could assent. Deliberation continued, but was deferred until the following day.

Mr. Wilson gave notice of motion as to desirability of steps being taken to alter the law at present existing which prohibits the interchange of the commodities of the Australian Colonies; and also notice of motion contingent thereupon.

The Conference adjourned until noon of the following day.

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1870.

The Conference met at noon.

Present: All the members.

Sir J. M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Samuel presented copies of telegrams and correspondence which had taken place between the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Government of Queensland, and their Agent-General, in reference to the telegraphic communication with Europe *via* the Gulf of Carpentaria. Appendix Q.

Mr. Hart also placed before the Conference a copy of a telegram from himself, as Treasurer of South Australia, to F. S. Dutton, Esq., Agent-General for that Province in London, conveying the decision of that Government as to a telegraphic line to Port Darwin. Appendix R.

The consideration of the resolutions, with respect to a Customs Union, was then resumed.

The representatives of South Australia and Tasmania presented to the Conference a minute upon the points of difference between themselves and the Victorian representatives upon the subject. Appendix S.

Mr. Francis tabled a minute expressing the willingness of the Victorian representatives to consider any further statistical information which can be furnished from South Australia or Tasmania relative to an amended basis for the distribution of the aggregate Customs revenue of the three Colonies. Appendix T.

The Conference not agreeing to the resolutions of Mr. Wilson, he submitted his motion and contingent motion of which he had on the previous day given notice, and the Conference, after deliberation, assented to the following resolution:—

“That, in the opinion of this Conference, the Australasian Colonies ought to be enabled to enter into arrangements with each other, which would allow of the reciprocal admission of their respective products and manufactures duty free on such terms as might mutually be agreed upon, and that so much of the Acts of the Imperial Parliament as prohibits such engagements ought to be repealed.”

The representatives of Tasmania undertook to prepare a measure for the purpose of being submitted to the Governments of the various Australasian Colonies to give effect to the foregoing resolution.

The question of the Fiji Islands was then discussed, and the members of the Conference agreed to the following determination:—

“This Conference, being of opinion that the geographical position of the Fiji Islands renders their protection of the very highest consideration as regards Australia and both British and Australian commerce,

“Resolves—That it is of the utmost importance to British interests that these Islands should not form part of, or be under the guardianship of any other country than Great Britain, and that a respectful address to this effect be prepared for transmission to the Imperial authorities.”

Mr. Samuel adverted to the question of relief being rendered to distressed British colonists and colonial seamen, but the Conference was of opinion that each Colony should deal with the matter as it might seem fit.

In lieu of the memorial prepared relative to the withdrawal of the Imperial troops, Sir James M'Culloch proposed:—

“That this Conference do agree to the following memorandum, and that a copy thereof be laid by the representatives of each Colony before their respective Governments, in order that the subject to which it relates may be brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government:—

“That it appears from Her Majesty's Secretary of State's Despatches, on the subject of Military protection in Australia, the terms upon which Imperial troops can be permitted to remain in the Colonies cannot be satisfactorily adjusted, as between Her Majesty's Government and the Colonial Governments, and that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the troops at a very early date, by which withdrawal the local Governments will be thrown entirely on their own resources for providing means for their own defence against any invading power.

“That in these circumstances it is desirable to press upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government the duty of providing at all times, and especially in time of war, for the naval defence and protection of the coast line of Australia and the extensive British commerce in its waters, and to express the confidence with which the Colonial Governments believe this obligation will be recognised and admitted by the Imperial Government.”

Carried.

The attention of the Conference having been called to the importance of adopting the cental system for weights, it was deemed inexpedient to recommend any special legislation upon the matter, but the representatives of the respective Governments would be prepared to encourage the introduction of the system in their Colonies severally.

The subject of uniformity of statistics was brought under consideration, and the Conference determined that it was desirable for the Registrars-General, or other statistical officers of the Australasian Colonies, to communicate with each other through their respective Governments with a view to the adoption of a uniform system.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Barrow were appointed a committee to prepare a draft report of the proceedings of this Conference.

The Conference adjourned until Monday, the 4th instant, at one o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 4, 1870.

The Conference met at one p.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The subject of immigration to the Australasian Colonies was discussed, and the Conference arrived at the following conclusion:—

It is expedient that, in the conduct of immigration to the Australasian Colonies, a combined system should be carried out as speedily as possible. The representatives at this Conference, therefore, undertake to bring the subject under the consideration of their respective Governments without delay, with the view of regulations being determined upon, and provision made therefor.

The representatives of South Australia intimated that, although at present they were not prepared to recommend to their Government the resumption of public immigration, they were of opinion that whenever it be resumed co-operation with the other Colonies would be desirable.

The Conference adjourned until ten o'clock a.m. the following morning, to consider the Draft Report.

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1870.

The Conference met at ten a.m.

Present: All the members.

Sir James M'Culloch in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Draft Report was submitted, and, having been approved of, was signed by the representatives of the various Colonies.

The proceedings of the Conference then terminated; but it was arranged that the Report should not be published until Tuesday, the 12th instant.



CORRESPONDENCE CONNECTED WITH THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1870.

1.

(CIRCULAR.)

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th February, 1870.

SIR,

It will be in the recollection of the Government of New South Wales that, towards the close of 1868, Mr. Stafford, then Colonial Secretary of New Zealand, in a Circular Despatch to the Governments of the Australian Colonies under date 29th October, 1868, proposed that a Conference of Delegates should be held in Sydney, for the purpose of considering the Commercial relations of the Australasian Colonies with each other, and with the United States and other Foreign Countries, as affected by Treaties made by Great Britain with Foreign Powers; and to consider and advise upon other cognate subjects of common interest to the collective group of Colonies.

The proposal met with ready acquiescence from the Governments of New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland.

The Government of Queensland suggested that, in addition to the principal subject of deliberation indicated by Mr. Stafford, the Delegates should be invited to confer and advise upon the questions of—

The admission into other Countries duty free, or upon such terms as may be agreed upon, of the products of Australia and New Zealand:

The free interchange of products between New Zealand and the Australian Colonies respectively:

The expediency of establishing a uniform Tariff for the Colonies; and also Immigration, Ocean Steam Postal Service, Telegraph extension, Light-houses, Legal Comity, and an Australian Court of Appeal.

To these subjects the Government of South Australia proposed to add the question of the reduction of Imperial Troops in Australia.

The Government of New South Wales, in reply to Mr. Stafford's Circular, "invited the Governments of the other Australian Colonies to express their opinion upon the advisability of adopting the suggestion for a Conference of Delegates to consider—

1. The introduction of Free Trade in Intercolonial products.
2. A uniform Tariff; and
3. A union of Customs."

The same Government subsequently intimated its intention to propose for discussion at the Conference the question of Telegraphic communication with Europe viâ India and Java; and further suggested "that the question of the Naval Defence of the Australasian Colonies, which formed the subject of Earl Granville's Circular Despatch of the 26th January, 1869, should be referred for discussion to the Conference." And the Government of New Zealand intimated its intention "to bring forward for discussion at the Intercolonial Conference the question of paying direct, without the intervention of the Board of Trade, the expenses incurred in one Colony in the relief of distressed Seamen belonging to another Colony, as suggested in a Despatch from the Secretary of State, Circular No. 2, of 1st May, 1869."

Those preliminary arrangements led to no practical results: and the Government of Tasmania has observed with sincere regret that, notwithstanding the general recognition of the Australian

Governments of the gravity of the questions suggested for their joint deliberations in 1868, the year 1869 has been allowed to close without witnessing the assembly of an Intercolonial Conference,—a project which seemed to promise a sensible enhancement of the commercial prosperity and political importance of the Australasian Colonies.

Impressed with these views, the Government of Tasmania desires to renew the suggestion of combined action on the large and important question of Intercolonial Commercial relations; and I have now the honor to propose that a Conference of accredited Representatives of the several Governments of Australia and New Zealand be held in Melbourne in the month of May next, to consider and decide upon the advisability of establishing an Australian Commercial Federation on the basis of a Customs Union with a Common Tariff, and a free interchange of products and commodities.

Of all the questions hitherto proposed for the consideration of an Australasian Conference that of a Customs Union, with Intercolonial Free Trade, is unquestionably the most important, and the most likely at this moment to combine the suffrages of the Governments and Legislatures of the several Colonies.

I am inclined to think it is not desirable to complicate the discussion or jeopardise the settlement of that question by formally referring to the Conference now proposed other subjects of common interest on which, from whatever causes, a considerable difference of opinion is known to prevail or would probably be provoked. At the same time, the various questions of common Australasian concern that were suggested for discussion at the Conference projected by Mr. Stafford still demand the joint deliberation of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the Conference now proposed might be thought a favourable opportunity for dealing with them. It would, therefore, be well that these questions should not be formally excluded from consideration by the Delegates, who, being Members of the respective Governments represented, would be fully empowered to confer and advise upon all such matters without any special authorization. But the question of Customs Union should, I think, be deemed the first and principal object of the Conference.

It will scarcely be denied that the commercial and producing interests of the Australasian Colonies demand the recognition of the collective Group by the Imperial Government as a geographical unit for all purposes of Customs Revenue.

That recognition would at once free the Colonies from the restrictions imposed upon their fiscal legislation by the existing Imperial veto on Differential Duties, and would also permit the establishment of a system of mutual interchange amongst themselves, free of all Duties of Customs, of their respective natural products, and of all manufactured commodities imported into any of them from Great Britain or Foreign Countries.

I deem it superfluous to enlarge upon the beneficial effect such a system would be likely to produce upon the Foreign Commerce and domestic industry of the Federated Colonies, or to point out how seriously and inconveniently those advantageous results would be inevitably lessened by any combination that failed to comprise the whole group.

The Despatch addressed by the Duke of Buckingham to the Governor of New South Wales, under date 7th January, 1868, announces "that Her Majesty's Government would gladly aid in the establishment of a Customs Union comprising all the adjacent Australian Colonies, and providing for an equitable division of the Customs Duties, and for a Uniform Tariff as between Australia and other Countries or places."

More recently, Lord Granville's Circular Despatch of the 8th September, 1869, conveys the assurance that Her Majesty's Government "have every desire to encourage the combined action of any of the Colonies in furtherance of their wishes and interests."

There would consequently seem to be no reason to apprehend that any difficulty would be experienced in securing the sanction of Imperial Legislation to measures designed to unite these Colonies in a Commercial Federation.

I trust that the Governments of Australia and New Zealand will be willing to adopt this suggestion of a Conference for the special object of bringing about Commercial Federation and Intercolonial Free Trade.

At such a Conference the Government of Tasmania will be prepared to submit a proposal that the Revenue derived from the collection of Customs Duties on a Uniform Tariff throughout the Union should be paid into a common Fund or Federal Exchequer, to be periodically distributed amongst the Colonies rateably, in proportion to the population of each as ascertained by the last, or next, and each succeeding decennial Census, or by such other means as the Conference may decide upon.

Melbourne, from its central position, seems the most suitable locality for the Conference; and I beg to name the 2nd of May next as the most convenient period for the first meeting of the Delegates, as during that month no Australian Legislature is likely to be in Session.

I beg to invite your serious attention to the subject matter of this communication, and to request the favour of an early reply.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

[Similar to Governments of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand].

2.

MEMORANDUM.

MR. WILSON does himself the honor to transmit to the Governor a copy of a Circular communication about to be despatched to the Governments of the Continental Colonies of Australia and of New Zealand, proposing an Intercolonial Conference in Melbourne in May next on the subject of a Customs Union and Intercolonial Free Trade.

It will be in His Excellency's recollection that in the Speech delivered at the opening of Parliament in August reference was made to a Conference then expected to be held with a similar object in Sydney in October last.

From various causes, arising out of Ministerial changes and the Sessions of the Legislatures of the other Colonies, it was found impossible to hold such a Conference in 1869.

The objects originally aimed at in the suggestion of a Conference by the Government of New Zealand in 1868 were generally recognised by the Australian Governments as sufficiently important to warrant joint deliberation and collective action.

His Excellency's Advisers, fully sharing those views, and anxious to promote a Commercial Federation of the Australian Colonies as likely to conduce largely to the political importance of the collective group, and the material prosperity of each member of it, have deemed it advisable to renew the proposal of a Conference which they are not without hopes may meet with the assent of the several Governments addressed in the accompanying communication, and prove eventually productive of highly beneficial results to the commercial prosperity of Tasmania.

Mr. Wilson has also the honor to transmit herewith a Memorandum in reply to His Excellency's Minute on the subject of the retention of Her Majesty's Troops in this Colony.

(Signed)

JAMES MILNE WILSON.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th February, 1870.

His Excellency the Governor.

3.

South Australia,

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 28th February, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir James Fergusson, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, on the subject of an Intercolonial Conference, and to inform you that the matter will receive the earnest attention of this Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN T. BAGGOT, *Chief Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

4.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
1st March, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, proposing that a Conference should be held in Melbourne with a view to the establishment of a Commercial Federation of the Australian Colonies on the basis of a Customs Union, and to inform you, in reply, that the subject will receive the immediate consideration of this Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CHARLES COWPER.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.

6

5.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th April, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a Circular communication from this Government addressed to your predecessor, under date 18th February last, proposing to hold a Conference in Melbourne on the subjects of Australian Federation on the 2nd proximo.

I shall be glad to learn from you the views of the Government of Victoria on the subjects treated of in that letter so soon as you can conveniently communicate them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. Sir JAMES M'CULLOCH, Knt.,
Chief Secretary, Victoria.

6.

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 21st April, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that this Government has had under consideration the proposal contained in your Circular letter of the 18th February for holding a Conference in Melbourne on 2nd May, and I have to intimate our assent to the holding of a Conference, but it will be necessary to fix a day later in the month than you propose.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES M'CULLOCH.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

7.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Tasmania, 30th April, 1870.

BEFORE replying to your letter of the 21st instant, just received, I would be glad to know if Monday, the 20th June, would be a convenient time for the first Meeting of Delegates. I should be obliged by your reply on Monday next, to enable me to communicate with the other Colonies.

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

Sir JAMES M'CULLOCH, Chief Secretary, Victoria.

8.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Melbourne, 2nd May, 1870.

MONDAY, twenty-first instant, will suit us very well.

Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

9.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Tasmania, 3rd May, 1870.

I SUGGESTED Monday, the 20th June, for the first Meeting of the Delegates, will you reply if that day will suit you? Your telegram received yesterday expressed a different date.

(Signed) J. M. WILSON, *Colonial Secretary,*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

10.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Melbourne, 3rd May, 1870.

MONDAY, twentieth June, will suit.

Chief Secretary, Melbourne.

The Colonial Secretary.

11.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 21st ultimo, assenting to the proposal by this Government to hold a Conference in Melbourne as suggested in my Circular letter dated the 18th February last, but pointing out that it will be necessary to fix a later period than the day proposed for the assembling of Delegates.

In compliance with your wishes, I beg to name the 20th June next for the first meeting of Delegates, and which extension of time I will communicate to the Governments of the other Continental Colonies.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

12.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 30th April, 1870.

(CIRCULAR.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose herewith a letter addressed to me by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, requesting to be furnished with certain Returns therein referred to for the information of the Conference proposed to be held in Melbourne.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. Sir JAMES M'CULLOCH, Knt.,
Chief Secretary, Victoria.

[Similar to Chief Secretary, South Australia.
Similar to Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.
Similar to Colonial Secretary, Queensland.]

(Copy.)

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 30th April, 1870.

SIR,

With the view of assisting the Members of the respective Governments about to meet in Conference in Melbourne to consider the question of a Customs Union, I have had a Return prepared showing the principal articles entered for Home Consumption in this Colony, for the years 1868 and 1869, upon which fixed Duties of Customs are levied; and, as a very large portion of the Revenue in the other Colonies is derived from Customs' Duties on similar articles, I have to request that copies of the Return may be forwarded to the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland by the out-going mail this day, with a request that each Government will be good enough to fill up one copy of such Return, showing the quantities of similar articles entered for Home Consumption in each Colony during those years, and return the same to this Government by an early mail.

In addition to the goods referred to entered for consumption, I have added returns showing the actual total Customs' Revenue, and estimated population of the Colony, for the same years.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

QUANTITIES of the under-mentioned Goods entered for Home Consumption during the Years 1868 and 1869.

	TASMANIA.		VICTORIA.		NEW SOUTH WALES.		SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		QUEENSLAND.	
	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.
Spirits.....galls.	66,899	69,935								
Wine.....galls.	17,367	22,219								
Ale and Beer.....galls.	45,836	58,388								
Cider.....galls.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>								
Perry.....galls.	137	56								
Vinagar.....galls.	14,838	18,925								
Oil, excepting Whale....galls.	63,584	39,621								
Tea.....lbs.	611,364	544,123								
Hops.....lbs.	139,484	109,078								
Malt.....bushels.	725	68								
Sugar, Raw.....} cwts.	67,024	58,269								
Ditto, Refined...}										
Molasses.....cwts.	203	261								
Dried Fruits.....lbs.	371,115	227,469								
Rice.....lbs.	337,177	212,677								
Sago.....lbs.	25,334	14,023								
Coffee.....lbs.	120,298	134,421								
Chicory.....lbs.	66,442	81,816								
Cocoa.....lbs.	5093	12,170								
Chocolate.....lbs.	5847	8978								
Tobacco.....lbs.	158,257	156,542								
Ditto, Sheepwash....lbs.	18,335	25,628								
Cigars.....lbs.	4450	6024								
Snuff.....lbs.	1269	1140								
Candles.....lbs.	60,087	45,211								
Gunpowder.....lbs.	12,754	10,450								
Shot.....lbs.	61,719	94,431								
Soap.....lbs.	67,603	102,827								
Soda Crystals.....lbs.	181,513	349,767								
<hr/>										
Total Amount of Revenue derived from Customs Duties upon all Imported Goods....	£181,459	£137,621								
Estimated Population of the above-named Colonies at the close of the Years 1868 and 1869.....	100,700	101,000								

13.

*Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 8th April, 1870.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to your communication of the 18th February last, directing the attention of the Queensland Government to a Circular Despatch under date 29th October, 1868, addressed by Mr. Stafford, the Colonial Secretary of New Zealand, to the Governments of the Australian Colonies, and having special reference to that portion of your letter wherein it is proposed that a Conference of accredited Representatives of the several Governments of Australia and New Zealand should be held in Melbourne in the month of May next, to consider and decide upon the advisability of establishing an Australian Commercial Federation on the basis of a Customs Union with a common Tariff and a free interchange of products and commodities, together with other cognate subjects of common interest to the collective group of the Colonies, I have the honor to inform you, by direction of the Colonial Secretary, that as the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Queensland meet for the despatch of business on the 26th of April instant, and will be in session in the month of May next, it will not be possible for any Member of the Government or of the Legislative Body to attend at the time and place proposed for holding the Conference respecting the various matters referred to.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. M. MASSIE, *Under Colonial Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

14.

*Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 6th May, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, intimating "that, as the Parliament of Queensland will be in session in the month of May next, it will not be possible for any Member of the Government or Legislative Body to attend at the time and place proposed for holding the Conference respecting the various matters referred to."

With the view of consulting the wishes and convenience of the Continental Governments interested in the Conference proposed in my Circular Letter of the 18th February last, I have suggested that the first meeting of Delegates should take place on the 20th June.

The Chief Secretary of Victoria has already assented to this postponement; and, should the objects for which the Conference has been sought meet with favour from your Government, I would be glad to be informed whether you propose that Queensland shall be duly represented.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

15.

*South Australia,
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 26th April, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 18th February last, that this Government regret they will be unable to send a Representative to the proposed Conference in May next, as the South Australian Parliament will probably then be in Session.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN T. BAGOT, *Chief Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

10

16.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, expressing the inability of your Government "to send a Representative to the proposed Conference in May next, as the South Australian Parliament will probably then be in Session."

With a view of consulting the convenience of the Continental Governments, I beg to suggest the 20th of June for the first meeting of the Conference, and to inform you that the Government of Victoria has already assented by telegraphic message to this proposition.

I hope the period I have named will meet with your acquiescence, and enable your Government to be represented at the proposed Conference.

I shall be glad to be favoured with an early intimation of your determination on this point.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, South Australia.

17.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th May, 1870.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Circular Letter of the 18th of February last on the subject of an Intercolonial Conference proposed to be held in Melbourne during this month, I have the honor to acquaint you that, in anticipation of consulting the convenience of the Governments of the Australian Colonies, I have proposed that the first meeting of Delegates should take place on the 20th of June.

To this proposition the Government of Victoria at once assented by Cable message; and I now await the favour of your reply intimating the views of your Government on this matter.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

18.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Sydney, 13th May, 1870.

THE twentieth June too late; say first week,—i. e. a fortnight earlier. Reply by telegram.

The Colonial Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary, Sydney.

19.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Tasmania, 16th May, 1870.

As the arrangements for the meeting of the Conference have already been made for the 20th June, I confidently rely on your making it convenient to attend. Reply by telegram.

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Sydney.

11

20.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Sydney, 21st May, 1870.

WILL endeavour to do as you wish, and hope to be able to do so.

The Colonial Secretary, Sydney.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

21.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington,
28th March, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, No. D 39, in which you recommend that a Conference of Delegates of the Australasian Colonies should be held in Melbourne in May next, to consider various subjects, but especially the question of a Customs Union.

You describe the steps which were taken to convene a Conference last year, but you do not carry the narrative to its conclusion.

Notwithstanding that the arrangements for the Conference were made several months in advance, the Delegates from New Zealand found, on their arrival in Australia to attend the expected Conference, that some of the Colonies were not prepared to proceed with it. The Government of Victoria were understood to be of opinion that Conferences were not a desirable mode of carrying on Intercolonial negotiations, that there was the risk of the Cabinets of the various Colonies not accepting the conclusions arrived at, and that more could be effected by correspondence.

The New Zealand Delegates proceeded to New South Wales, the Government of which were anxious to confer with them. There the representatives of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland conferred, and amongst other results there was the Memorandum, copy of which I attach, and which I do not doubt that the Government of New South Wales have already communicated to you officially. You will observe that it deals with the subject of setting at rest the doubts which exist as to the power of the Colonies to enter into commercial arrangements with themselves and other countries. The term "doubts" is advisedly employed, because it cannot be maintained, as has been alleged, that treaty obligations stand in the way of the Australian Colonies exercising such powers, seeing that Canada for a long while has done so. The Memorandum provides for the Colonies jointly and severally taking steps to give effect to its objects, and it is within their own power to do so.

Your proposal for a complete Customs Union goes much further, but I do not agree with you that the Colonies are prepared to adopt it. Your argument in effect is, that it is so desirable that the Colonies should interchange their productions duty free, that it is their interest to submit to a common Tariff,—a course the Imperial Government would only be too glad to ratify by law. I am not prepared to say that for the sake of the advantages of a complete and intimate federation of the Colonies it might not be expedient for them to consent to the disadvantage, necessarily incident to a common Tariff, of being unable to vary their Tariffs from time to time in accordance with their various wants and resources. But I cannot concur that it is desirable to seek out and secure the more objectionable condition of federation without at the same time obtaining its redeeming benefits. In the absence of a federal Parliament a common Tariff would practically be irreversible; but, as a matter of fact, no Colony has yet found an unalterable Tariff advisable.

The fiscal requirements of the various Colonies differ so widely that it would be impossible to fix on a common Tariff which would not yield either more than some or less than other Colonies require. If the maximum were to be selected such a Tariff could not be regarded as a free trade one, so far as it affected the Colonies for which it would raise more revenue than they required. Those Colonies would in such a Tariff experience all the evils of a protective Tariff without—what Protectionists claim as an advantage—the power of adapting it to varying circumstances as they arise. On the other hand, if a minimum Tariff were selected, the necessity of resorting to other taxation would be forced on some of the Colonies to compensate for their losses in their Customs Revenue.

A Customs Union would to a great extent paralyze the external commerce of all the Colonies, except the one fortunate enough to have the largest trade and commerce, and able to afford to keep the largest stocks. The other Colonies would draw their supplies from that Colony, and would lose the advantages of direct foreign shipments and direct immigration. Even the benefit to the favored Colony, which, for the purpose of my argument, I will suppose to be Victoria, would be

doubtful; at any rate the effect would be a reversal of the policy which has guided that Colony during the last few years, for merchants would secure advantages which would injuriously react on producers and manufacturers. Importers would be induced to flood that particular market with goods at such a cheap rate as to crush local production. In short, a Customs Union would tend towards leaving the Colonies, as at present, producers and exporters of less than half a dozen leading articles, and exchanging those in their raw state for the manufactures of other countries.

I feel far from certain that Victoria, notwithstanding the tempting (in other respects) nature of the proposal, would be willing to adopt it. I may observe, that the plan has been already discussed with approbation by the principal Victorian Importers,—of its benefit to whom there can be no question.

At all events this Government are of opinion that such a proposal would not be suitable for this Colony. They would be prepared to recommend the New Zealand Legislature to join those of the neighbouring Colonies in asking for power, and if necessary in insisting on obtaining it, to make reciprocal Tariff arrangements with other Colonies and countries; and the Government are confident that such a power, when granted, would be fettered by no narrow selfish considerations, but be exercised with comprehensiveness and liberality. But the Government are not prepared to recommend the Legislature to abandon its right to deal with such matters itself, to renounce all power over its own Tariff, and to be constrained by Imperial Legislation into a Commercial not a Federal Union, from which, if proved unsuitable, it would have great difficulty in freeing itself.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. GISBORNE.

(Copy.)

MEMORANDUM agreed between the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland.

1st. To address an earnest representation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the disadvantage under which the Australasian Colonies labor in regard to the doubts which exist as to their power to make mutual arrangements for the interchange, duty free, of their several products and manufactures,—as also in respect of the doubts which exist as to their powers to enter into conventions with foreign countries,—to point out that Canada for a lengthened period has been placed on a more favorable footing,—to urge that all doubts as to the rights to exercise such powers be removed, and that in entering into arrangements with foreign countries the Imperial Government should aid the Colonies. That such aid should be immediately granted in respect to endeavouring to negotiate with the United States for the introduction into that country, duty free, of wool the product of the Australasian Colonies.

2nd. That direct representations be made to the United States with the object of inducing that country to admit Wool, the product of the Australasian Colonies, duty free.

3rd. That a representation be made to the Imperial Government urging the desirability of Legislative provision to enable Trustees to invest in the Government Securities of the Australasian Colonies.

4th. That the Crown Law Officers of the Colonies should be moved to enter into correspondence with the view of determining the means best calculated to facilitate the apprehension of offenders when they pass from one Colony to another.

5th. That copies of this Agreement be transmitted to the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, in the hope that they will aid in promoting the several objects it embraces.

6th. It is agreed by the Honorable John Robertson, of New South Wales, the Honorable Julius Vogel, of New Zealand, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, of Queensland, that the views embodied in this Memorandum shall be submitted to their respective Cabinets for approval.

(Signed) JOHN ROBERTSON.
JULIUS VOGEL.
CHARLES KNIGHT.
For CHARLES LILLEY, by his authority,
(Signed) JOHN ROBERTSON.

Sydney, 6th January, 1870.

22.

*Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th May, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication under date the 20th March, in reply to my Circular Letter of the 18th February proposing an Intercolonial Conference to be held in Melbourne in May to consider the question of an Australian Customs Union.

I regret to learn from your letter that the Government of New Zealand is indisposed to acquiesce in the advisability of a common Australasian Tariff, and is "of opinion that such a proposal is not suitable for that Colony."

In the face of the strongly-expressed opinions enunciated in your letter adversely to the object contemplated by the proposed Conference, I see nothing to be gained by attempting to combat the views on this point of the Government of New Zealand beyond recording my own belief that you have over-stated the difficulties likely to obstruct the establishment of such a Union between the continental Colonies and Tasmania, and that you have formed an erroneous estimate of the probable effects of such a fiscal policy upon the commercial and producing interests of the Federated Group.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Memorandum attached to your letter embodying the views of the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland on several matters affecting the relations of the Colonies with the Mother Country, with Foreign States, and with each other, it is due to the Government of Tasmania that I should state that the Memorandum in question has never been officially communicated to me, and that I read it for the first time as an enclosure to your letter.

The topics embraced in that Memorandum might be appropriately discussed at the Conference I have recommended. But I am inclined to think that insuperable obstacles would be found to stand in the way of the attainment of the object aimed at in the Resolution which suggests collective action in the direction of Intercolonial Differential Duties and Reciprocity Treaties with Foreign States.

The recent abrogation by the United States Government of the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada, accompanied by the declaration in the President's Message that its continuance would prove commercially beneficial to no state or citizen of the Union, leaves little room for the anticipation that Australasian wool would be admitted duty free into the United States, while there is still less reason to assume that the British Government would undertake to negotiate a Reciprocity Treaty with any Foreign Government, either as a measure of Imperial finance or in the interests of any particular colony or group of colonies.

As regards the power of the Colonies "to make mutual arrangements for the interchange duty free of their several products and manufactures," I may be permitted to remind you that this Colony has already sought to exercise that power by passing an *Intercolonial Free Trade Bill*, which failed to receive the Royal assent.

Since then, however, two successive Secretaries of State, as quoted in my Circular Letter proposing the Conference, have signified the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to acquiesce in the collective action of the Colonies in the direction of a Customs Union, or otherwise "in furtherance of their wishes and interests."

I have, therefore, aimed in my proposal at the accomplishment of an object which is I believe attainable, and likely to prove largely beneficial to the Colonies embraced in its scope.

I have now to inform you that the meeting of the Conference stands fixed for the 20th June, and I entertain a confident expectation that the Representatives of this Government will meet at that date in Melbourne Delegates from all the Continental Colonies fully empowered, and I trust prepared, to adopt the proposals I shall then have the honor to submit for their collective consideration.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

23.

(CIRCULAR.)

Tasmania,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you that the Government of Tasmania will be represented at the Conference to be held in Melbourne on the 20th proximo by the Hon. Mr. Chapman, Colonial Treasurer, and myself. I beg leave to suggest that the Government of South Australia should be similarly represented at the Conference if possible by two Ministers.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, South Australia.

[Similar to Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Similar to Colonial Secretary, Victoria.

Similar to Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.]

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24.

*South Australia,
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 19th May, 1870.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant, fixing the date of the Conference proposed to be held in Melbourne for the 20th June next, I have the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir James Fergusson, to inform you that, should the state of Parliamentary business permit, South Australia will be represented at the meeting.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Signed) AUG. STOW.

25.

Sydney, 9th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, transmitting Returns of the quantities of certain goods entered for Home Consumption, &c. in Tasmania during the years 1868 and 1869, and requesting similar information as regards this Colony, for the purpose of being laid before the proposed Intercolonial Conference; and to inform you that your communication has been brought under the notice of the Colonial Treasurer.

I have, &c.,

For the Colonial Secretary,

(Signed) HENRY HALLORAN, *Under Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

26.

Sydney, 19th May, 1870.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of the 9th instant, I have now the honor to forward, in compliance with the request contained in your communication of the 30th ultimo, a Return which has been procured from the Collector of Customs of the quantities, which have been given as far as practicable, of certain goods entered for Home Consumption, &c. in this Colony during the years 1868 and 1869.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES COWPER.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.

27.

*South Australia,
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 19th May, 1870.*

SIR,

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 30th ultimo I have the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir James Fergusson, to forward herewith a Return showing the quantities of certain goods entered for Home Consumption in South Australia during the years 1868, 1869, which has been made out in the printed form furnished for the purpose.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. BOOTHBY,

For the Chief Secretary.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

28.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 30th May, 1870.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of 30th of April, I have the honor herewith to enclose the information you require, prepared by the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, showing the quantities of goods on which fixed duties are paid that were entered for Home Consumption in this Colony during the years 1868 and 1869.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,

(Signed) W. H. ODGERS.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

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29.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 1st June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of April last, transmitting form of Return to be filled in for the information of the forthcoming Conference, showing the principal articles entered for Home Consumption in this Colony for the years 1868 and 1869 upon which fixed duties of Customs are levied, and the actual total Customs' Revenue and estimated Population of the Colony for the same years.

I have now the honor to forward to you the Return in question duly completed, and shall esteem it a favour if you will forward me a similar return, embracing the whole of the information sought, which you have now doubtless received from the other Australian Colonies.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Signed) A. H. PALMER.

30.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Adelaide, 4th June, 1870.

THIS Government will instruct their Delegates, at the approaching Conference to be held at Melbourne on the 20th instant, to solicit the co-operation of those of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania for construction and working a direct line of telegraph from a point to be mutually agreed upon near Wentworth to Port Darwin, to join the European line proposed to be landed there. I shall be glad if your Delegates are instructed in this matter. Please reply by telegraph.

The Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary, Adelaide.

31.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Adelaide, 6th June, 1870.

SINCE communicating with you on Saturday important telegram from Agent-General of South Australia, stating that British Australian Telegraph Company agree to terms proposed by this Government to land Cable at Port Darwin, but require an understanding that Overland Line shall be constructed by end of next year. Desirous of receiving your reply to former telegram, which if favourable, we propose taking immediate action.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary, Adelaide.

32.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Tasmania, 7th June, 1870.

THE Delegates of this Government will be prepared to consider at the Conference such proposals in reference to a direct Line of Telegraph to connect Wentworth with Port Darwin as the Delegates of your Government may submit, but cannot pledge Tasmania to any course of action decided upon in the meantime by South Australia.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Adelaide.

J. M. WILSON, *Colonial Secretary.*

33.

Sydney, 7th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular Letter of the 27th ultimo, intimating that the Government of Tasmania would be represented at the Conference to be held in Melbourne on the 20th instant by the Honorable Mr. Chapman, Colonial Treasurer, and yourself, and suggesting that the Government of New South Wales should be similarly represented at the Conference, if possible, by two Ministers.

2. In reply I have the honor to inform you that it is the present intention of the Treasurer of this Colony and myself to attend on the occasion referred to.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.

For the Colonial Secretary,
(Signed) HENRY HALLORAN.

34.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 31st May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th of May instant, relative to the Conference proposed in your Circular of the 18th February last, which had unavoidably been postponed, and suggesting that the first meeting of Delegates should take place on 20th June next.

I am directed to inform you in reply, that, in consequence of a change of Ministry since the date of a former communication of 8th April last from this Office, Parliament was prorogued until the 28th of June next, when it will again meet for the despatch of business.

As the duration of the Session is very uncertain, the Colonial Secretary, without giving any expression of opinion upon the object of the Conference, regrets that he is not in a position to fix any time during the present year in which it would be probable that any Members of the Government or Legislative body would be able to attend as Delegates in connection therewith.

I have, &c.;

(Signed) H. S. MASSIE, *Under Colonial Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

35.

*South Australia,
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 14th June, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir James Fergusson, to acquaint you that the Government of South Australia will be represented at the Intercolonial Conference to be held in Melbourne on the 20th instant by the Hon. Mr. Hart, C.M.G., Treasurer of the Province, the Hon. Mr. Barrow, Member of the Legislative Council, and Mr. Townsend, Member of the House of Assembly.

I have, &c.;

(Signed) WILLIAM MILNE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

36.

INSTRUCTIONS to the Delegates from TASMANIA to the INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1870, appointed and accredited by His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

1. THE primary object of the Intercolonial Conference of 1870 is stated, in the Circular Despatch of the Colonial Secretary proposing the Conference, to be "to consider and decide upon the advisability of establishing an Australian Commercial Federation on the basis of a Customs Union with a Common Tariff, and a free interchange of products and commodities."

It will be the duty of the Delegates from Tasmania to devote their strenuous exertions at the Conference to the accomplishment of this object in such a shape as shall, if possible, secure "the establishment"—(in the words of the Duke of Buckingham's Despatch to Lord Belmore, 7th January, 1868)—"of a Customs Union comprising all the adjacent Australian Colonies, and providing for an equitable division of the Customs Duties, and for a uniform Tariff as between Australia and other countries or places.

2. It is, however, possible that it may not be found practicable to induce the Governments of "all the adjacent Australian Colonies" to acquiesce in such a common arrangement. In that event, the Delegates from Tasmania will endeavour to secure the co-operation of such of the Continental Governments as may be found willing to adopt the principle of a Customs Union on the terms indicated in the Duke of Buckingham's Despatch and the Circular Letter from my Government; leaving the effect of example, the operation of time, and the success of the experiment to work their natural influence upon the Colonies which may now prefer to stand aloof from a Commercial Federation.

3. Tasmania and any two Continental Colonies might be safely and profitably combined in a Customs Union with a common or uniform Tariff, free interchange of products and commodities, and an equitable division of Customs Revenue. And in whatever arrangement may be agreed upon with this object, provision should be made for the future admission to the Union of any other Australian Colony that may desire to enter the Federation on the terms and principles adopted by the Conference.

4. The proposal to make another serious effort for the promotion of an object of such vast present commercial interest and future political importance, not only to Tasmania but to the whole group of Australian Colonies, having emanated from my Government, it is unnecessary to instruct the Delegates from Tasmania (themselves my Responsible Ministers) more particularly on the subject of the principal object of the Conference—the Commercial Federation of the Australias.

5. But it is not improbable that some other subjects of Australasian concern may be proposed for deliberation and agreement at the Conference, such as Ocean and Intercolonial Steam Postal Service, Legal Comity, an Australian Court of Appeal, Extradition of Colonial Offenders, Immigration, Intercolonial and Indo-European Telegraph Extension, General Defences, and cognate topics. On these questions the Delegates from Tasmania will hold themselves at liberty to adopt such conclusions as they may deem most likely to prove practically advantageous to this community, with a due consideration for the common interests of the other Governments represented at the Conference.

6. But the Delegates from Tasmania will bear in mind that “the special object of the Conference is to bring about Commercial Federation and Intercolonial Free Trade,” and that the discussion of all other questions should be subordinate to the paramount consideration of that object, with a view to the all-important results hoped for from the proposed meeting of the Representatives of the Tasmanian and Continental Governments.

7. The Delegates from Tasmania, as the representatives of my Government and the authors of the Conference, will occupy a position in its counsels of grave but honorable responsibility to the Legislature and people of Tasmania, and to the Delegates from other Governments.

I entertain a confident reliance on their anxiety and ability to maintain the character and advance the interests of this community in a spirit of liberal recognition of the rights and claims and requirements of the collective group of Australian Colonies.

C. DU CANE.

Government House, Hobart Town, 13th June, 1870.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. M. WILSON, *Colonial Secretary.*

37.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 9th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 9th ultimo, on the subject of the Intercolonial Conference.

Although the Government cannot agree that it is desirable for New Zealand to enter into the proposed Customs Union, it is possible the other Colonies concerned may consider that the restraints under which such a Union would place them would be compensated by some corresponding advantage, and the Government will watch the proceedings with great interest.

The Government cannot agree that the Colonies should submit to being prevented from entering into convenient commercial relations with each other. It cannot be said that the difficulty in respect to treaties is insuperable, seeing that the British-American Colonies did for a long time before the creation of the Dominion enter into reciprocal arrangements.

It is the intention of the Government of New Zealand to submit to the Assembly a proposal to authorise the payment of bonuses on intercolonial imports. By this plan the technical difficulty may be surmounted. I enclose you a printed copy of the Opinion of the Attorney-General of this Colony on the subject of Intercolonial reciprocity.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. GISBORNE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Copy.)

OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON COLONIAL RECIPROCITY.

By certain provisions of the Legislatures of Canada and other British North American Colonies, certain specified goods, as grain, salted meats, butter, cheese, poultry, and some others, may, if of the growth or produce of any other of the British North American Provinces, be imported into the legislating Province free of duty; and any other articles besides those specially mentioned may, if of such growth or produce, be exempted, by Order of the Governor in Council, from payment of Customs duty. (See Statutes of Canada, 1859, chap. 17, sec. 3; also, Statutes of Canada, 1866, chap. 6, secs. 5 and 6; also, Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, sec. 8, chap. 8, part 1.) This has been the legislation of British North American Colonies.

In Australasia, however, there does not appear on the Statute Books of the several Colonies any Acts permitting such reciprocity; and the question naturally suggests itself, how is it that this is so? Bearing in mind the differences in climate, soil, and other natural advantages which exist, rendering, as such differences do, an interchange of products certain unless prevented by injudicious legislation; and further, the facts that these districts which now form the several Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand were not long since under one Government, and formed one Colony; and also, that by reason of the close proximity of these Colonies to one another, and from the fact that each of these Colonies possessing gold-fields of considerable extent, there is such an intercourse between, and a going to and fro of the populations as to make them, if not one people, at least to give them in most matters an identity of interests;—bearing in mind these matters, the absence of reciprocity in commerce can only be accounted for by the existence of some unnatural obstruction. That unnatural obstruction is found in the Constitutions which the Imperial Parliament has imposed on the several Australian Colonies. In each of them is found the same prohibition—the prohibition having its immediate origin in the 31st section of the 59th of 13th and 14th Victoria.

An attempt on the part of Tasmania to enter into an arrangement with others of the Australasian Colonies for the importation of products and goods on terms of reciprocity was stopped by the disallowance by the Imperial Government of the Bill passed by the Colonial Legislature authorising such an arrangement. No doubt the Bill was invalid as being contrary to the 13th and 14th Victoria, c. 59, sec. 31, and would have been invalid even if not disallowed. The proper course for Tasmania and any other of the Australasian Colonies desiring to authorise the establishment of such reciprocity is to procure the repeal of those provisions on the Imperial Statute Book which prevent the Colonial Legislatures from passing Acts giving the necessary authority.

It will not be sufficient to procure this repeal as to New Zealand alone, should it be wished that such reciprocity should be established here with regard to any other of the Australasian Colonies; but each of the Australasian Colonies with which it is proposed that New Zealand should establish such reciprocity must procure the repeal of the prohibition which prevents legislation by its Parliament.

If in answer to any request made to the Imperial Parliament for such repeal it be said that the prohibition is created not only by provisions of the Imperial Statutes, but also by the treaties entered into by the Imperial Government with foreign countries, and that the provisions of such treaties cannot be disregarded or abrogated without the consent of each of those foreign countries with which the treaties have been made. But assuming that any treaty entered into by the Imperial Government is capable of such a construction as would prohibit one part of the British Dominions from entering into terms of reciprocity with another, how is it that such a construction does not apply to the British North American Colonies equally with the Australasian Colonies?

It is true that in the Imperial Statutes in force before the constitution of the Dominion giving or regulating the constitution of the North American Colonies there is not contained a prohibition similar to that which has been created by Imperial legislation with regard to the Australasian Colonies, but nevertheless there are the same treaties, and those treaties contain no reservation or exception of the North American Colonies.

It would appear, therefore, that if the Imperial Parliament should remove the express prohibition, the provisions of the treaties would present no obstacle. However, if from want of sufficient information on the subject the position of the North American Colonies with regard to Imperial Government treaties with foreign countries has not been correctly put; if there be some reservation or exception of the North American Colonies from the operation of foreign commercial treaties; then the same reasons which have induced the Imperial Government to stipulate for such exceptions equally bind it to procure the relaxation of these treaties, so far as they can be construed as applying to the Australasian Colonies.

But there are provisions in the Imperial Statute Book which have been passed for the purpose of declaring that goods, the produce of one part of the British Dominions, when imported into other parts of the British Dominions, shall not be treated as foreign. By some such provision for the purpose of enabling the Australasian Colonies to establish a system of reciprocity, each of these Colonies could for such purpose be declared to be so,—not to be separated or foreign to one another.

It may be observed that, in the Act constituting the Dominion of Canada, the Imperial Parliament, though providing that subject to the provision of that Act the Customs Duties leviable in each Province shall continue leviable till altered by the Parliament of Canada, yet the same Act provides that articles the produce of any one Province shall, after the union, be admitted free into each of the other Colonies.

No doubt the provision is quite consistent, because all the Provinces, though each has a separate Legislature for some purposes, are formed into one country or dominion subject to a General Legislature.

It would be too great a labour to go through all or the principal of the Commercial Treaties now existing between foreign countries and the Imperial Government, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of them are capable of receiving such a construction as to prevent the Australasian Colonies from following the example of the British North American Colonies, and establishing a system of reciprocity. It may be that in treaties, by a strict construction, provisions will be found which may appear to prohibit the establishment of such system.

It is submitted, however, that where, in a treaty with a foreign country, it is stipulated that no other duties shall be imposed on the importation into British territories of any articles, the growth, &c. of such foreign country, such stipulation does not apply to the importation from one Colony to another. The context shows that the word "foreign" must be construed in its proper sense of alien.

It is clear that the "most favoured nations" clauses do not apply as between one part of the British Dominions and another.

The 13th clause of the Belgium Treaty of 1862, though it would prevent reciprocity between the Colonies and Great Britain as against Belgium, does not, nor does any stipulation in the treaty, prevent reciprocity between any two British Colonies.

It is also submitted that where, as in the treaty with Italy, the words "other country" are used and the word "foreign" is not expressed, that the meaning is the same, "other country" meaning "other foreign country."

Should the Imperial Government not be disposed to ask Parliament to repeal the prohibitory legislation referred to, it would be well that it should be asked to point specifically what treaty stipulations there are existing which prevent the establishment of the proposed reciprocity.

This is more important with regard to New Zealand, since by the Constitution Act the only prohibition is against imposing restrictions, exemptions, &c. contrary to or at variance with treaties concluded by Her Majesty with any Foreign Power; while the provision in the Constitution Acts of Victoria and New South Wales is, that no new duty shall be imposed upon the importation of any article the produce of any particular "*place*," which shall not equally be imposed upon the importation of articles imported from all other places.

However, inasmuch as it is with these Colonies that reciprocity is desired, any restriction on legislation by those Colonies acts as a restriction on New Zealand.

J. PRENDERGAST.

QUANTITIES of the under-mentioned Goods entered for Home Consumption during the Years 1868 and 1869.

	TASMANIA.		VICTORIA.		NEW SOUTH WALES.		SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		QUEENSLAND.	
	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.
Spirits	66,899	69,935	708,321	890,851	640,850	644,846	127,948	124,362	241,811	222,198
Ditto, Colonial Distilled, galls.	..	..	151,107	138,655						
Queensland made Rum... galls.	..	..							10,861	20,842
Wine	17,367	22,219	268,788	252,060	183,247	156,660	36,515	46,231	57,571	51,762
Ale and Beer	45,836	58,388	1,137,747	1,125,865	1,509,640	1,707,599			524,864	433,953
Cider	Nil.	Nil.								
Perry	137	56	1620	2136	..	..	310,063	309,126	182	12
Vinegar	14,838	18,925	78,894	92,264	..	..	41,990	43,289	36,613	25,523
Oil, excepting Whale	63,584	39,621	981,924	1,039,922	..	..	195,854	158,963		
Tea	611,364	544,123	5,630,512	5,175,443	5,053,680	4,913,520	1,117,835	1,387,244	1,023,862	1,035,972
Hops	139,484	109,078	898,331	1,191,388	213,720	201,120	254,633	230,816		
Malt	725	68	195,600	239,056	31,800	37,760	52,000	37,480		
Sugar, Raw										
Ditto, Refined	67,024	58,269	477,096	523,157	227,389	227,890	93,415	115,335	67,798	54,483
Molasses	203	261	5046	8323	39	121	321	871	565	642
Dried Fruits	371,115	227,469	4,817,538	4,325,064	3,289,664	2,970,096	1,202,218	883,481	797,528	705,084
Rice	337,177	212,077	18,555,299	17,190,848	7,912,800	5,287,520	550,928	475,664	1,449,280	1,291,641
Sago	25,334	14,028	582,549	146,998						
Coffee	120,298	134,421	1,139,382	1,180,027						
Chicory	66,442	81,816	309,232	255,472	772,440	775,200	516,275	374,676	184,398	166,808
Cocoa	5093	12,170	141,391	220,265	..	..	64,840	66,384		
Chocolate	5847	8978	49,291	63,439	..	..	41,685	70,633	408	444
Tobacco	158,257	156,542	1,379,497	1,368,764	*539,430	*530,954				
Unmanufactured .....	..	..	68,185	106,712	168,987	167,109	273,195	334,989	319,530	311,579
Ditto, Sheepwash	18,335	25,628	191,108	127,253	..	..	15,100	20,894		
Cigars	4450	6024	46,765	53,877	38,424	39,375	14,747	18,933	9984	8436
Snuff	1269	1140	2032	1492	..	..	2933	3608	414	132
Candles	60,087	45,211	3,625,213	3,814,592	..	..	506,304	460,594		
Gunpowder	12,754	10,450	783,710	1,327,872	..	..	118,656	178,615		
Shot	61,719	94,431	295,904	632,240	..	..		
Soap	67,603	102,827	120,884	124,871	..	..	296,800	156,688		
Soda Crystals	181,513	349,767	1,923,376	3,942,288						
Salt .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51,660	42,306
Ad Valorem Duty, 7½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£77,923	73,320
<i>Total Amount of Revenue derived from Customs Duties upon all Imported Goods ...</i>	£131,459	£137,621	£1,164,499	£1,336,747	£785,736	£838,964	£196,315	£221,235	£331,520	306,577
<i>Estimated Population of the above-named Colonies at the close of the Years 1868 and 1869</i>	100,700	101,000	634,316	710,284	466,765	500,000	176,298	181,143	107,500	110,000

* Tobacco and Snuff.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

DESPATCH from Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of New South Wales relative to "Customs Union."

Downing-street, 7th January, 1868.

SIR,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration Sir John Young's Despatch, No. 87, of 21st December, 1866, inclosing a Minute of the Executive Council of New South Wales, in which they recommend that the Imperial Parliament should be invited to pass a measure for the purpose of repealing the provisions of the Constitution Acts of the Australian Colonies, which prohibit the imposition of discriminating duties, so far as to allow the importation, by land or otherwise, of the produce of any one of them duty free. By acceding to this request Her Majesty's Government would recognise the principle that any group of neighbouring Colonies, or perhaps that any number of Colonies not neighbouring, might make arrangements for the admission, duty free, of each other's produce, and thus constitute Differential Duties as against foreign nations, or even against this country. Her Majesty's Government would gladly aid in the establishment of a Customs Union, comprising all the adjacent Australian Colonies, and providing for the importation of goods from Colony to Colony, for an equitable division of the Customs Duties, and for a Uniform Tariff as between Australia and other "countries or places," and they are not unwilling to take into consideration any particular relaxation of the existing rule which might be justified or necessitated by particular circumstances; but they cannot propose to Parliament a measure which could not well stop short of the virtual repeal in favour of the Colonies of that clause in the Australian Government Act which prohibits the imposition of Differential Duties, and might seriously embarrass the action of this Government in their commercial relations with other countries. The Act which has been passed by the New South Wales Legislature to give effect to the agreement with Victoria for the free importation of the goods across the River Murray is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

*The Officer Administering the Government of
New South Wales.*

APPENDIX B.

TARIFFS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Accoutrements	For Volunteers free. Others, 4s. cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Unknown
Agricultural Implements.	Free	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto, unless <i>bonâ fide</i> for making sugar	Free
Ale	In wood, 6d. per gall.; in glass, 2s. per doz. quarts	6d. per gall.	In wood, 3d. per gall.; in bottle, 6d. per gall.	In wood, 6d. per gall.; qrt. bottles, 1s. per doz.	6d. per gall.	In wood, 1s. per gall.; in bottle, 1s. 3d. per gall.
Almonds	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	10s. per cwt.	10s. per cwt.	1d. per lb.	In shell, 1d. per lb.; unshelled, 3d.
Alum	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	3s. per cube foot
Apparel and Slops.....	4s. per cube foot	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Apples, Dried.....	1½d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	10s. per cwt.	10s. per cwt.	1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.
Arms	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	5s. each firearm; 5s. each sword
Arrowroot	2d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	In bulk, ½d. per lb.; in jars or tins, 2s. 6d. p. cube foot
Arsenic	4s. per cwt.	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Asphalte	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free.
Axe Handles and other Handles	5s. per cwt. gross	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Axles, Arms, and Boxes..	Free	5 and 10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. ditto
Bacon	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Bagging	8s. 4d. per 1000 yds.	Free	ditto	Free	ditto	1s. 6d. per cube foot
Bags (Gunny).....	½d. each	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Baking Powder	½d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Barcelona Nuts	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Bark for tanning	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	For building, free; other, 5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	Free
Basket and Wickerware..	1s. per cube foot	10 ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Beer.....	See Ale	See Ale	See Ale	See Ale	See Ale	See Ale
Bellows	Blacksmith's, free; Household, 5s. cwt. gross	5 per cent. ad val. 10 ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Benzole	1s. per gall.	3d. per gall.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. ditto
Bicarbonate and Carbon- ate Soda	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Bird Seed	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Biscuits	Fancy, 1s. per cube foot; ship, free	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Fancy, 1s. per cube foot; plain, 3s. cwt.
Bitters.....	12s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	12s. per gall.
Blacking	2s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Blacklead	5s. ditto	5 ditto, under Iron- mongery	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Blankets	2s. ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Blue.....	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Bluestone	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Boards, planed & tongued and grooved	6d. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per 40 cube feet	ditto	1s. per 100 super- ficial feet
Boats	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Free
Boilers.....	Steam, free; others, 5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bonnets and Hats	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	5s. per cube foot, trimmed; 3s. per cube foot untrimmed
Boots and Shoes.....	5s. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot; common water- tights, lace-up, and digger's long, 3s. per cube foot; vamps and uppers, 5s. per cube foot
Bottled Fruits.....	3s. ditto	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Bran	Free	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Brandy	12s. per gall. proof	10s. per gall. proof	10s. per gall. proof	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	12s. per gall. proof
Brassware	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	4s. per cwt.
Bricks	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Bath.....	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Fire.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Broom and Broom Handles	5s. per cwt. gross	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Brushes	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Buckets	3s. per dozen	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Wood 2s. per doz.; iron 4s. per cwt.
Building Materials	See Nails, Timber, &c.; others Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Butter	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1d. per lb.
Camphine Oil.....	1s. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Camp Ovens and Cast-iron Pots, &c. gross	2s. 6d. per cwt.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Canary Seeds	½d. per lb.	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Candied Peel	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Candles	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Tallow, ½d. per lb. Other 1d. per lb.
Capers	3s. per doz. quarts; 2s. per doz. pints	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Caps (women's)	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Caps (detonating)	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per 1000
Cards (playing)	ditto	10 per cent. ad val., under Stationery	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per pack
Carpet Bags	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Carpeting	2s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Woollen, 2s. per cube foot; Hemp or Jute 1s. per cube foot
Carriages	£5 two wheels £10 four wheels	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val. also or carts and drays; Wheels, 5s. per pair
Casks (empty)	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Cassia	4d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Cast-iron fencing and rough castings	6d. per cwt. gross	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Castor Oil (in bulk)	6d. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Catsup.....	3s. per dozen pints	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Caustic Soda	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Cedar	In bulk, free; under 3in. thick, 8s. per 50 cubic feet	Under 12 inch square, 5 per cent. ad val.; over 12 inch square, free	ditto	5s. per 40 cube feet	ditto	1s. per 100 superfi- cial feet
Chaff	Not named	5 per cent.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Free
Chain Cables	Free	Under ¾ inch, 5 per cent ad val.; over ¾ inch, free	ditto	ditto	ditto	Under ¾ inch, 2s. per cwt.; over ¾ inch, free
Cheese	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Chicory	3d. per lb.	2d. ditto	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	4d. per lb.	3d. ditto
Chinaware	£1 per package; if under 5 cube feet, 3s. per foot per package	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Chinese Oil.....	6d. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Chocolate	3d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	ditto	1d. per lb.	4d. per lb.	3d. per lb.
Chutney	3s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Cider	4d. per gall. ad val.	6d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon	In wood, 1s. per gallon; in bottle, 1s. 3d. per gallon
Cigars	4s. per lb.	5s. per lb.	3s. per lb.	4s. per lb.	4s. per lb.	5s. per lb.
Cinnamon	4d. ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	3d. per lb.
Clocks	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.
Cloves	4d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Coal.....	Free	Free	ditto	Free	ditto	Free
Cocoa	3d. per lb.	2d. per lb., and cocoa nibs, 5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1d. per lb.	4d. per lb.; raw cocoa, 2d. per lb.	3d. per lb.
Cod-liver Oil	4s. per cube foot	3d. per gall. in bulk, & 5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Coffee	Green, 3d. per lb.; roasted, 4d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	4d. per lb.	Green, 3d. per lb.; roasted, 5d. per lb.
Coir Matting	6d. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	6d. per cube foot
Collars and Cuffs (paper)	4s. ditto	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Colza Oil.....	6d. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Combs.....	4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Confectionery	3s. ditto	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Copperas.....	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot (Druggists' ware)
Copperware.....	5s. per cwt.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Copying Presses.....	5s. per cwt. gross	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Cordage	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cwt. 3 inch and under
„ Unserviceable ..	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cwt.
Cordials	12s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	12s. per gallon
Corks	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Corn Sacks.....	½d. each	ditto	ditto	Free	ditto	1s. 6d. per cube ft.
Cotton Counterpanes and Sheets	2s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	3s. ditto
Cotton Manufactures not otherwise described	4s. ditto	In the piece, free; otherwise, 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Cream of Tartar.....	4d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Crystallised Soda	½d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Currants (dried).....	1½d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	10s. per cwt.	10s. per cwt.	1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.
Curry Powder and Paste	3s. per cube foot (Oilmen's Stores)	10 per cent. ad val.	5 percent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Custard Powder.....	3s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. ditto
Cutlery.....	2d. per lb. gross	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Deals.....	8s. per 50 cube feet, if under 3-inch thick	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per 40 cube feet	ditto	1s. per 100 superfi- cial feet
Doors.....	6d. per cube foot	1s. each	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. each
Drapery (piece goods) ..	4s. ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Drapery (not otherwise described)	ditto	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Dried Fruits.....	1½d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	10s. per cwt.	10s. per cwt.	1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.
Druggeting.....	2s. per cube foot (under Carpets)	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. per lb.
Druggist's Ware (not otherwise described)	4s. per. per foot	5 and 10 per cent.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Dye (wood).....	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Earthenware.....	£1 per package, or if under 5 cube feet, 3s. per cb. ft.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per cube foot
Egg Powder.....	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	} No means of ascertaining
Eggs.....	ditto	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto		1s. per cube foot
Engravings.....	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. ditto
Essences (Flavoring)....	3s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val. (if spirit, 10s. gall.)	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. ditto, if not otherwise de- scribed
Fancy Goods.....	4s. per cube foot, except toys and articles other- wise specified	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	
Felt.....	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Fibre, Cocoa.....	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Fireworks.....	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot, under Fancy Goods
Fish—						
Dried.....	½d. per lb.	5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Pickled in kegs.....	1s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Potted and preserved ..	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Paste.....	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Flocks.....	2s. ditto, under Woollens	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot, under Furniture
Floor Cloth.....	4s. per cube foot	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Flour.....	Free	1s. per cwt.	Free	Free	Free	Free
Forfar Cloth.....	4s. per cube foot under Schedule 2, Linen, &c.	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Ditto, Sheeting, un- bleached.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. ditto
Fruit, Green.....	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	Free	Free	Free	Free
Furniture & Cabinetware	3s. per cube foot	10 ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	6d. per cube foot
Furs—						
Unmanufactured	4s. ditto	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Manufactured.....	ditto	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Fuse.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Galvanized Ironware....	5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Gelatine.....	3s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot, under Druggists' Ware
Geneva and Gin.....	12s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gall.	12s. per gall.
Ginger.....	2d. per lb.	Green, 5 per cent. ad val.; dried, 10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	3d. per lb.
Glass—Bottles.....	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Plate.....	6s. per 100 sup. feet.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Sheet.....	3s. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per 100 sup. ft.
Glassware.....	£1 per pkg., or 3s. per cube foot if under 5 cube feet	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot; looking glasses, 2s. 6d. per cub. ft.
Globes and Chimneys for Lamps.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Gloves.....	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Glue.....	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Gold and Silver Watches, Jewellery and Plate, wholly or in part of gold or silver	1s. per oz.	Watches, 10 per cent. ad val.; gold plate, 8s. per oz. troy; silver plate, 1s. per oz. troy	ditto	ditto	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.
Gold Leaf.....	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Grain—						
Barley.....	Free	9d. per cwt.	ditto	Free	ditto	Free
Beans and Pease	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Maize.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Oats.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Gram.....	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Rice.....	½d. per lb.	2s. per cwt.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	£2 per ton	2s. per cwt.
Wheat.....	Free	9d. per cwt.	Free	Free	Free	Free

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Gravestones	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Grease	Lard, 2d. per lb.	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Grindery	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot.
Grindstones	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Groats (Prepared)	1s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot.
Guano & other Manures	Free	Free	Free	Free	ditto	Free
Gum	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto
Gunnies	¼d. each	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. 6d. per cube foot
Gunpowder	Sporting, 4d. per lb. Blasting, 1d.	ditto ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Sporting, 6d. per lb.; blasting, free
Gutta Percha Manufacture (not Apparel)	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Haberdashery	ditto	Free; 5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. ditto
Hairdressers' Materials	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. ditto, under Perfumery
Hair Seating	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Hams	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Harness	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cube foot
Hardware and Holloware	5s. per cwt.	5 and 10 per cent. ad val. as per list	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Hats, Men's	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Hay	Free	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Herrings (Preserved)	In tins, 3s. per cube foot; in kegs, 1s. per cube foot	1d. per lb. in tins; 5s. per cwt. salted	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Hides	Free	Free	Free	Free	ditto	Free
Honey	Under Oilmen's Stores, 3s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Hops	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	ditto	1d. per lb.
Horse Shoes	5s. per cwt.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Hosiery	4s. per cube foot	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Houses (Iron)	In frame, 5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. ditto
India Rubber	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Goods	ditto	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Ink—		ad val.				
Writing	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Printing	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Instruments—						
Musical	Pianos and Harmoniums, £5; Organs £10; other goods, 4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot; church purposes, free
Optical	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Scientific	Free	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Surgical	Cutting, 2d. per lb.; other, 5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Iron—						
Bar, Rod, &c.	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Castings	6d. per cwt.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Fencing (wrought)	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Galvanized and Wire	Free, except wire, which pays 5s. per cwt.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Gates and Gate-posts	Free	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Ironmongery	5s. per cwt.	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Isinglass	3s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Jams	ditto	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Japanned Ware	5s. per cwt.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Kerosene Oil	1s. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Lamp Black	¼d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Lamps	5s. per cwt.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cubic foot
Lard	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Lasts and Shoemakers' Pegs	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.; pegs are free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cubic foot
Laths	8s. per 50 cube feet	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	6d. per 1000	ditto	1s. per 1000
Lead—						
Sheet	¼d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Pipe	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Pig	¼d. per lb.	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Leather	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Sole, ¼d. per lb.; other kinds, 1d. per lb.
Leatherware	ditto	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Leggings and Bags, 5s. per cube ft.; other kinds, 1s. per cube foot

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Lime	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Lime Juice.....	ditto	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Linen Piece Goods	4s. per cube foot	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Linseed Oil.....	6d. per gallon	3d. per gallon	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Liqueurs.....	12s. ditto	10s. ditto	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	12s. per gallon
Liquorice	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Lithographic Goods	Free	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Loaf Sugar.....	6s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.	6s. 8d. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.	6s. 8d. per cwt.	1d. per lb.
Lobsters in Tins.....	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Macaroni and Vermicelli	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Machinery	If not in list of exemptions, 5s. per cwt.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val., except for manufacturing Sugar	Free
Maizena	1s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Malt	1s. per bushel	6d. per bushel	6d. per bushel.	ditto	ditto	6d. per bushel
Marble—						
Wrought.....	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	Mantel-pieces, 1s. per cube foot
Unwrought.....	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Matches and Vestas	Matches, 1s. per cube foot; Vestas, 2s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Mats and Rugs	Mats, 6d. per cube foot; Rugs, 2s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Matting	6d. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Meal—						
Barley.....	3s. ditto (?)	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Corn	1s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Linseed	½d. per lb.	1s. per cwt. and 5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Oat	Free	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Meat, Preserved.....	Beef, Mutton, and Pork, free; other, 4s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Metal (yellow), castings and other articles made therefrom	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Methylated Spirits.....	3s. per gallon	5 ditto	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Millinery.....	4s. per cube foot	10 ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	5s. per cube foot
Mixed Metalware	Cutlery & Plated-ware, 2d. per lb. gross	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Molasses	3s. 6d. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.	3s. 4d. per cwt.	2s. per cwt.	3s. 4d. per cwt.	1d. per lb.
Mouldings (Gilt)	3s. ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Mustard	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Nails and Screws	Nails, 2s. 6d. per cwt.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Nails, 1s. per cwt.; Screws, free
Nets (Fishing)	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Nutmegs.....	4d. per lb.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Nuts	2d. ditto	1d. per lb. (Cocoa Nuts excepted)	ditto	10s. per cwt.	ditto (?)	1d. ditto
Oakum	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Free
Oars.....	ditto	10 per cent. ditto	ditto	2s. per 100 feet	ditto	ditto
Oilcloth	2s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Oilmen's Stores	3s. per cube foot, except Pickles, Sauces, and Oils	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	See Special Articles
Oils—Kerosine and Paraffine	1s. per gallon	3d. per gall. in bulk	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Oils—Other, except Medicinal, Perfumed, and Whale	6d. ditto	3d. per gall. in bulk; oil, produce of whales caught by Victorian ships, free	ditto	ditto	ditto	Perfumed Oil, 2s. 6d. per cube ft.; Olive and Fish Oil in bulk, and Palm, free; all others, 6d. per gallon
Old Tom Gin	12s. ditto	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	10s. per gallon	12s. per gallon
Olives	See Oilmen's Stores	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Onions.....	Free	5 ditto	Free	Free	Free	Free
Opium.....	4s. per cubic foot, under Drugs	10s. per lb.	20s. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	20s. per lb.	20s. per lb.
Oysters (Preserved)	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Paintings.....	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Paints—						
Mixed, and Red and White Lead.....	½d. per lb.	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Paints (Dry)	½d. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Palings	See Timber	ditto	ditto	6d. per 100	ditto	1s. per 100
Paper Bags	Free	ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Paper—						
Writing	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Printing and Wrapping	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Paperhangings	1s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot
Papier Maché Ware ...	4s. ditto	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Pearl Barley	¼d. per lb.	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Pepper	2d. ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.; Cayenne, 2s. 6d. per cube foot
Perambulators	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Perfumery	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	If not otherwise described, 2s. 6d. per cube foot
Perfumed Spirits	12s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	12s. per gall.
Perry and Cider	4d. ditto	6d. per gall.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	6d. ditto	1s. per gall. in bulk, 1s. 3d. per gall. in bottle
Photographic Goods ...	Lenses exempt; Chemicals, some 3s. and 12s. per gall.; all other goods, 4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Pickets	Not known	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	2s. 6d. per load	ditto	Not known
Pickles, Quarts	3s. per doz.	10 ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube foot
Ditto, Pints	2s. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Picture Frames	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Pimento	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Pipes, Drain	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Ditto, Tobacco	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cube foot
Pitch	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per barrel
Planks	See Deals	5 per cent.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per 100 sup. ft.
Platedware	2d. per lb. gross	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Plumbersware	Not otherwise described, 4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Mostly free
Pomade	See Perfumery	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	See Perfumery
Porcelain	£1 per package, or 3s. per cube foot if under 5 cube ft.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Portmanteaus	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Posts and Rails	See Timber	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1s. 6d. per 100	ditto	Posts, 4s. per 100; Rails, 2s. per 100
Preserves	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Provisions—						
Preserved	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Salt Beef	Free	5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Salt Pork	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Putty	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Rape Seed	¼d. per lb.	ditto	Free	Free	ditto	ditto
Raspberry Vinegar ...	4d. per gall.	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Rice	¼d. per lb.	2s. per cwt.	2s. per cwt.	ditto	2s. per cwt.	2s. per cwt.
Rice, Ground	ditto	ditto	Not stated	ditto	Not stated	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Rugs, Woollen, Cotton, or Opossum	2s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	3s. ditto
Rum	12s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	12s. per gall.
Saddlery	4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. per cube foot
Saddlery (minor articles used in making up) ..	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sad Irons	5s. per cwt.	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Safes, Iron	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. ditto
Sago	2d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	In bulk, 2s. per cwt.; in bottle and canister, 2s. 6d. per cube foot
Salad Oil	6d. per gall.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Salmon, Preserved	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Salt	Free	20s. per ton	ditto	ditto	40s. per ton	Free
Saltpetre	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. per cwt.
Sardines	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Sashes, Window	6d. ditto	1s. per pair	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per pair
Sauces (pints)	3s. per dozen	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Sauces (half-pints)	2s. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sausage Skins	Exempt	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Scrim Cloth	4s. per cube foot	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Sewing Machines	If iron, 5s per cwt.; wood, 4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. ditto
Sheepwash	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Shingles	Free	ditto	ditto	6d. per 1000	ditto	1s. per 1000
Shipchandlery	Free. (See List)	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Free
Shirts, Navy, Serge, and Scotch Twill	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Shirts, White, Regatta, and Crimean	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Shot	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	10s. per cwt.
Silk and all manufac- tures containing silk ..	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Slate and Slate Slabs....	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Snuff	4s. per lb.	2s. per lb.	2s. per lb.	4s. per lb.	2s. 6d. per lb.	5s. per lb.
Soap.....	1d. ditto	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Common, 2s. 6d. per cwt.; Fancy, 2s. 6d. per cube foot; Soap Pow- der and Washing Powder, 6d. per cube foot
Soda Crystals	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Soda Water Bottles	Free	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot under glassware
Spars	Free if over 3 inches	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free
Spices (mixed), and all kinds not otherwise described.....	4d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3d. per lb.
Spirits of Tar	6d. per gallon	5 per cent. ad val., under Druggists' ware	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Split Peas	Free	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Sponge	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. per cube foot
Spruce Beer	6d. per gallon	6d. per gallon	In wood, 3d. p. gall.; in bottle, 6d.	6d. per gallon	6d. per gallon	1s. per gallon in wood
Starch	1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. per cwt.
Stationery	3s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Steel.....	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Stone (paving)	ditto	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Stoneware	£1 per pkg.; if under 5 feet, 3s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Straw	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Succades	3s. per cube foot	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	See Confectionery
Suet.....	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Sugar, Raw.....	6s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.	5s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.	5s. per cwt.	1d. per lb.
Sugar, Refined	ditto	ditto	6s. 8d. per cwt.	ditto	6s. 8d. per cwt.	ditto
Sulphur	½d. per lb.	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cwt.
Syrups.....	Treacle, 2s. 6d. per cwt.	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Tacks	2s. 6d. per cwt.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Tapioca	2d. per lb.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	In bulk, 2s. per cwt.; in bottle or jar, 2s. 6d. per cube foot
Tar	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per barrel
Tartaric Acid.....	4d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1d. per lb.
Tea	6d. per lb.	3d. per lb.	3d. per lb.	3d. per lb.	6d. per lb.	6d. ditto
Timber	Under 3 inch thick 8s. per load of 50 cubic feet; over 3 in. free; dressed boards, 6d. per cube foot	All 5 per cent. ad val. except logs over 12 in. square, and shooks and staves, which are free	5 per cent. ad val.	Sawn, hewn, or split, 2s. 6d. per load; cedar, 5s. per load; shooks and staves are free	7½ per cent. ad val.	Sawn, 1s. per 100 super. feet. See Laths & Shingles
Tin foil.....	4s. per cube foot	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Tinware (bright).....	ditto	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Tobacco— Manufactured.....	2s. 6d. per lb.	2s. per lb.	2s. per lb.	1s. 6d. per lb.	2s. 6d. per lb.	2s. 6d. per lb.
Unmanufactured	ditto	1s. ditto	1s. per lb.	Not stated	ditto	ditto
Destroyed for Sheep- wash	3d. per lb.	3d. ditto	Not stated	3d. per lb.	Not stated	3d. per lb.
Tobacconists' Ware	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per cube foot under Fancy Goods
Tools (Carpenters', &c.) ..	5s. per cwt.	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Toys.....	1s. per cube foot	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Trousers (mole and cord)	4s. ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	3s. ditto
Tubs and Buckets	3s. per dozen	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Tubs, 2s. per nest; buckets, 2s. per dozen
Turnery	4s. per cube foot	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per cube foot
Turpentine	1s. per gall.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Twine	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Umbrellas and Parasols ..	4s. per cube foot	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	5s. per cube foot
Upholstery	3s. and 4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. ditto
Varnish	1s. per gall.	2s. per gall.	ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. per gallon
Vegetables— Fresh	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Preserved	3s. per cube foot, (Oilmen's Stores)	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Vermicelli	2d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. 6d. per cube ft.
Vinegar.....	4d. per gall.	6d. per gall.	ditto	ditto	6d. per gall.	6d. per gall.

ARTICLES.	TASMANIA.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Watchmakers' Materials.	4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	Free.
Weighing Machines	5s. per cwt.	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. per cwt.
Whips & Walking Sticks.	4s. per cube foot	5 and 10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cube foot
Whiskey	12s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	10s. per gall.	12s. per gall.
White Lead	½d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	2s. per cwt.
Whiting and Chalk	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. ditto
Wine	2s. per gall. in wood; 8s. per doz. re- puted quarts	3s. per gall.	3s. per gall.	2s. per gall. in wood; 6s. per doz. quarts	6s. per gall.	4s. per gall. or ½- doz. quarts
Woolen Piece Goods	4s. per cube foot	Free	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	5s. per cube foot
Woolpacks	2½d. each	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. 6d. ditto
Works of Art	Free	5 and 10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Zinc, sheet, ridging, gut- ter, pipe, and roll	ditto	Zinc unmanufac- tured free	ditto	ditto	ditto	1s. per cwt.
Zinc, manufactures not otherwise enumerated	5s. per cwt.	10 per cent ad val. on man. articles	ditto	ditto	ditto	4s. ditto

[ENCLOSURE No. 1 TO B.]

STATEMENT of the RATES of DUTY at which the under-mentioned Articles of Tasmanian Produce are admitted into the various Australian Colonies up to the 1st January, 1870.

ARTICLES.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	QUEENSLAND.	NEW ZEALAND.
Ale	6d. per gallon	In wood 3d. per gallon, in bottle 6d. per gallon	In wood 6d. per gallon, in bottle 1s. per gallon	6d. per gallon	In wood 1s. per gallon, in bottle 1s. 3d. per gall.
Bacon	1d. per lb.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1d. per lb.
Butter	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bottled Fruits	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cubic ft.
Bark for tanning	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Boats	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Boots	10 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Common water- tights, lace-ups, and diggers' longes, 3s. per cubic foot; vamps and uppers, 5s. per cubic foot; other kinds, 5s. per cubic foot
Cheese	1d. per lb.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	1d. per lb.
Casks (empty)	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Fish (dried)	5s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cwt.
Fruit (green)	5 per cent. ad val.	Free	Free	Free	Free
Flour	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Grain—					
Barley	9d. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	7½ per cent. ad val.	ditto
Beans and Peas	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Oats	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Wheat	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free	ditto
Grindstones	10 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	ditto
Hops	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	ditto	1d. per lb.
Hams	1d. ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto
Harness	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. per cubic foot
Hay	5 ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Honey	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	2s. 6d. per cubic ft.
Jams	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Laths	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	6d. per 1000	ditto	1s. per 1000
Leather	ditto	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Sole, ½d. per lb.; other kinds, 1d. per lb.
Malt	6d. per bushel	6d. per bushel	ditto	ditto	6d. per bushel
Onions	5 per cent. ad val.	Free	Free	Free	Free
Palings	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	1s. per 100
Posts and Rails	ditto	ditto	1s. 6d. per 100	ditto	Posts, 4s. per 100; rails, 2s. per 100
Shingles	ditto	ditto	6d. per 1000	ditto	1s. per 1000
Staves	Free	ditto	Free	ditto	Free
Soap	1d. per lb.	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	Common, 2s. 6d. per cwt.
Stone (paving)	10 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Timber	5 per cent. ad val., except logs over 12 inch square	ditto	ditto	ditto	Sawn, 1s. per 100- superficial feet
Vegetables (fresh)	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free

[ENCLOSURE No. 2 TO B.]

[EXTRACT of Minutes of Evidence on New Zealand Tariff, taken at Wellington on 26th August, 1868.]

STATEMENT of the RATES of DUTY at which the under-mentioned Articles of New Zealand Produce are admitted into the various Australian Colonies.

ARTICLES.	VICTORIA.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	QUEENSLAND.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	TASMANIA.
Bark	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	7 per cent. ad val.	Free
Bones	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bran	1s. per cwt.	ditto	ditto	Free	ditto
Butter	1d. per lb.	ditto	ditto	7 per cent. ad val.	2d. per lb.
Cheese	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Flax	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	Free
Flour	1s. per cwt.	Free	Free	Free	ditto
Grain—Barley	9d. ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto
Beans & Peas	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Maize	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Oats	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Wheat	ditto	Free	Free	ditto	ditto
Gum, Kauri	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	7½ per cent. ad val.	7 per cent. ad val.	ditto
Hides	Free	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto
Horns and Hoofs	ditto	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto
Leather	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Onions	ditto	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto
Potatoes	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sheepskins	Free	Free	7½ per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto
Tallow	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Timber	5 per cent. ad val.	5 per cent. ad val.	ditto	ditto	ditto
Whalebone	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Wool	ditto	Free	ditto	ditto	ditto
Beer—Bottled	6d. per gallon	6d. per gallon	6d. per gallon	4d. per gallon.	1s. per gallon.
Bulk	ditto	3d. ditto	ditto	ditto	6d. ditto

[ENCLOSURE No. 3 TO B.]

ARTICLES EXEMPT FROM DUTY IN THE DIFFERENT COLONIES.

TASMANIA.

AGRICULTURAL and horticultural tools and implements, guano, bones and other manures of every description, wheat, oats, barley, maize, hay, bran, beans, peas, oranges, lemons, pine apples, cocoanuts, grapes, green fruit and vegetables of every description, salt and saltpetre, wheaten flour and oatmeal, trees, plants, shrubs, bulbs and seeds for agricultural and horticultural purposes, horses, pigs, poultry, dogs, sheep, cattle, and living animals, empty casks, cases and boxes of wood, empty bottles and corks, lead piping, galvanized iron sheet or piping, zinc sheet or piping, anchors and cables of every description, copper or yellow metal, rod, bolts or sheathing, and copper and yellow metal nails, felt for sheathing, oakum and junk, sail canvas, rope and twine, pitch, tar, and resin, whalebone, whalefins, and oil from the whale fisheries, boats, whaling implements and gear of every description, ships' blocks, binnacle lamps, signal lamps, compasses, shackles, sheaves, dead-eyes, rings and thimbles, dead lights, boat oars, beef, mutton, pork, and lime juice, printed books, printed paper, mill-board, card-board (except playing cards), paste-board, books and paper of every description excepting room paper, ink, printing presses, printing type and other printing materials, maps, charts and globes, organs specially imported for the Town Hall, Hobart Town or Launceston, passengers' baggage and cabin furniture arriving in the Colony at any time not being more than twenty-one days before or after the owner thereof, upon special application, and proof to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs that the articles sought to be exempt from duty are *bonâ fide* passengers' baggage; tablets, memorial windows, harmoniums, organs and bells specially imported for churches or chapels, logwood and dye woods, railway plant, rolling stock, and all materials which may be imported solely for the purpose of the construction of railways and tramways only, traction engines and their carriages, mineral cements and plaster of Paris, coke, coals, hides and skins, raw and unmanufactured of every description, timber of all kinds except as in Schedule (2), veneers of every description, rattens split and unsplit, biscuit for ship use, chaff-cutters and machinery for agricultural purposes, cart and carriage axles, arms and boxes, carriage shafts, spokes, navies, and felloes, iron pipes, iron tanks, school slates and pencils, slates for roofing, and slates and stones for flagging, marble, granite, slate or stone in block, tallow, soda ash, caustic soda, whiting, chalk, cotton waste, woollen waste, cotton, candle cotton, wool, flax, hemp, tow, unmanufactured, works of art, viz., statues, busts of marble, bronze, iron, alabaster, or plaster of Paris, paintings, drawings, prints, engravings, lithographs, photographs, specimens of sculpture, cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities, specimens of natural history, mineralogy, or botany, ores of all kinds of metals, gold dust, gold bars, bullion and coin, philosophical instruments and apparatus for scientific purposes only, glass retorts and glass apparatus imported for manufacturing purposes, fire-engines, steam-engines, pumps and other apparatus for raising water, coir, bristles, and hair unmanufactured, broom heads and stocks partly manufactured for brush-making purposes, fire clay, fire bricks, kiln tiles, iron bridges, iron fencing, draining tiles, draining pipes and earthenware chimney pots, jars for jam, unmanufactured tin, tin plates, millstones and machinery for mills worked by wind, steam, water, or horse-power, bath bricks, grindstones, blacksmiths' bellows and anvils; rod, bar, hoop, sheet, plate, and pig iron; share moulds, and

mould boards, unmanufactured steel of all kinds, ice, lime, bark and firewood, epsom salts, citric acid, sulphuric and muriatic acids and chloride of lime, hair-cloth for hop-kilns, all bags certified by ship's manifest as returned to the Colony empty after having been used in the export of colonial produce, all goods imported for the use of Her Majesty's Government, and wines and spirits for the use of Her Majesty's military officers serving on full pay in this Colony under such regulations as the Governor in Council may from time to time cause to be published in the *Gazette*.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Animals, living; fresh fruits and garden produce, fresh meat, gold dust, bullion, coin, guano and manures, hides and skins, military and naval stores, ores unsmelted, passengers' baggage, plants, trees, and shrubs, printed books, seeds and esculent roots, including bulbs, specimens of natural history, tallow and wood, vine stakes and bark for building purposes, wheat and flour.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Animals, living; baggage of passengers, all bags or sacks used for grain or the exportation of our produce, viz., corn sacks; ore bags, wool packs, printed books, bullion and coin, coals, coke, and other fuel, corn and flour, manures, plants and trees, green fruit, seeds, roots, potatoes, garden seeds, viz., lucerne, clover, tares, sainfoin, rye and rye-grass, grass seeds; skins and hides (raw), specimens of natural history, tallow, wool, unsmelted ores, shooks and staves, and vegetables.

VICTORIA.

anchors, animals and birds; apparel, minor articles of mixed or undescribed materials used in the making up of; bagging, in the piece; books, printed; canvas, in the piece; card and millboard, carriages and other vehicles used in the conveyance of passengers and goods across the frontier, chain cables and shackles over $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, coin and bullion, coal and coke, cocoanut fibre; copper in ore, ingot, and sheet; cordage, unserviceable; cotton, raw, wick, and waste; cottons in the piece; fish, fresh; flax, guano and other manures, hair and bristles, hatters' felt hoods and silk plush, hemp, hides and skins, hogskins and minor articles used in making saddlery, horns and hoofs; iron in the ore and in scrap, pig, bar, rod, or plain sheet, hoop iron, iron pipes, and railway iron rails; jute, kerosene shale; lead in ore, pig, and scrap; linens in the piece; marble, unwrought; meat, fresh; metal, yellow, bolts and nails, and sheathing felt; millstones, newspapers; oil, cocoanut and palm; packages in which goods are ordinarily imported; paper, printing and wrapping; passengers' luggage, cabin and other furniture of personal effects which have been in use and are not imported for sale; pianofortes, metal work and minor articles used in manufacturing; pitch, plants, printing materials and ink, quartz, quicksilver, rags, resin, saltpetre, sewing machines, shooks and staves; silk-mixed doeskins or tweed trouserings and coatings not containing more than two per cent. of silk; soda ash and caustic soda, silicate of soda and potash; specimens of natural history and curiosities, steel; stone, unwrought; sulphur, tallow, tar, and telegraphic materials; timber in logs 12 inches square and upwards; tin, block and sheet; whalebone and whale oil, the produce of whales caught from vessels registered and exclusively owned in and fitted out in Victorian ports; wire, No. 12 upwards; wool, woollens in the piece, zinc.

By the Customs Act, 18 Vict. No. 9, a drawback is allowed on wine intended for the consumption of Her Majesty's navy or troops; and all goods, wares, and merchandise imported for the supply of Her Majesty's Land or Sea Forces, and for the use of Her Majesty's Government, are exempted from duty.

QUEENSLAND.

Animals, living; fresh fruits, garden seeds and garden produce, fresh meat, gold and silver coin, gold dust and bullion, military and naval stores, passengers' baggage or personal effects which have been in use and are not imported for sale, plants, trees, and shrubs, printed books, periodicals and newspapers, specimens of natural history, wheat and flour, machinery *bona fide* imported for manufacturing sugar.

NEW ZEALAND.

anchors, anvils, blacksmith's bellows, bottles of all kinds (empty), blasting powder, cabin furniture and effects which have been in use and not imported for sale, carriage springs, mountings and trimmings, chain cables and shackles over $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, churns, cotton waste, copper and composition, rod, bolts, sheathing and nails, corn sieves and riddles, crab winches, cranes, capstans and windlasses, drainage pipes and tiles, felt for sheathing, filters, fire engines and hose, fish oil in bulk, forges, gas pipes and machinery, and all materials which may be specially imported for the construction of gas works, iron bridges, and all materials which may be specially imported for the construction of bridges, wharves, jetties, or patent slips; iron, rod, bolt, bar, hoop, and pig, lamp posts, tanks, plates, rivets, bolts, nuts, screws, and castings for ships, and weigh-bridges for carts, machinery for agricultural purposes, boring, brick, and tile making, planing, punching, sawing, shearing, turning and quartz crushing, for wool and hay pressing, for mills and looms, for steam vessels, machine saws, maps and charts, organs, harmoniums, bells and furniture specially imported for places of public worship, olive oil in bulk, palm oil, passengers' luggage, printing machinery, presses, type, and materials, printing ink and paper, printed books, paper and music, ploughs and harrows, pumps and other apparatus for raising water, railway plant and other materials which may be specially imported for the construction of railways and tramways, rope above three inches in circumference, resin, sail cloth, sewing machines, ships' blocks, ship-chandlery not otherwise described, school-books, slates and apparatus, soda ash and caustic soda, soda-water machines, steam-engines and parts of steam-engines, tarpaulins, water pipes not otherwise described, and all materials which may be specially imported for constructing waterworks, and all other articles not otherwise described.

APPENDIX C.

I AM of opinion that Victoria can agree to proposal No. 1, altering the word "demand" to "necessitate;" but, as at present informed, I think the five following notices by Mr. Wilson are open to objection, because—

First. The Parliament of Victoria is unlikely to yield the present policy of a Tariff of discriminating duties, or its right to amend its own Tariff as circumstances may from time to time require.

Secondly. Because, without federal or legislative union, any Tariff now agreed upon would be virtually inalterable without the unanimous consent of all parties to the Conference.

Thirdly. Because it seems to me to give advantage to some communities, without relative benefit to others comprehended in the agreement.

For instance, the special advantages to Tasmania and South Australia (for the purposes of my argument) would be the admission into Victoria of their products without duty—say, flour, wheat, oats, wine, timber, jam, beer, fruit, &c.—while, on the other hand, Victoria has no present equivalent produce or

manufacture to export as "duty free" into those Colonies in exchange, inasmuch as the produce or manufactures of Victoria are not yet equal to our own requirements, and consist mainly of goods which are made up wholly or in part from imported materials, and hence would probably be liable to duty intercolonially as not strictly Victorian produce.

Fourthly. The sugar, the rum, the wine, and the colonial made spirits proposed to be imported duty free (even though subject to excise in producing Colony), would very probably before long greatly prejudice the Customs Revenue of this Colony.

On the other hand, to facilitate the commerce between the Colonies, and to commence a system of uniform Tariff, equal rates might be agreed upon for the following items, which constitute about three-fourths of the Customs Revenue of all the Colonies; viz.—Spirits, tobacco, and snuff, tea, sugar, rice, wine, beer, opium, dried fruits, coffee, &c., silks, jewellery, and probably other items. Excise rates might be assimilated, and lighthouse dues and all port charges might be made identical, with mutual concessions in favour of colonial voyages.

APPENDIX D.

VICTORIA.

COMPARATIVE Statement of TELEGRAPH BUSINESS for corresponding Periods of 1869 and 1870.

VICTORIAN BUSINESS. (Messages transmitted to Victorian Stations only.)										
	JANUARY.		FEBRUARY.		MARCH.		APRIL.		MAY.	
	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.
	Old Rates.	Reduced Rates.	Old Rates.	Reduced Rates.	Old Rates.	Reduced Rates.	Old Rates.	Reduced Rates.	Old Rates.	Reduced Rates.
No. of Messages transmitted ..	21,133	32,454	19,088	34,634	23,952	37,998	21,703	34,421	19,046	32,895
Revenue	£ s. d. 1985 17 4	£ s. d. 1748 13 9	£ s. d. 1871 11 6	£ s. d. 1912 7 1	£ s. d. 2286 9 5	£ s. d. 2088 8 6	£ s. d. 2241 5 9	£ s. d. 1825 7 7	£ s. d. 1942 15 5	£ s. d. 1727 3 8
INTERCOLONIAL BUSINESS (Messages transmitted from Victoria to other Colonies.)										
No. of Messages transmitted ..	1796	2127	1572	2006	1712	2397	2009	2035	2044	2204
Revenue	£ s. d. 763 3 2	£ s. d. 831 3 6	£ s. d. 650 6 1	£ s. d. 748 17 10	£ s. d. 710 1 5	£ s. d. 964 11 8	£ s. d. 836 5 0	£ s. d. 838 8 8	£ s. d. 810 9 8	£ s. d. 930 15 7

VICTORIAN AND INTERCOLONIAL BUSINESS.

	VICTORIAN.		INTER-COLONIAL.			VICTORIAN.		INTER-COLONIAL.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.					
Average Monthly Revenue for 1869	2021	7 11	827	3 9	Average Monthly Number of Telegrams transmitted during 1869 ..	23,013		2064	
Average Monthly Revenue from 1st January to 31st May, 1870	1860	8 6	862	15 5	Average Monthly Number of Telegrams transmitted from 1st January to 31st May, 1870	34,480		2154	

The slight increase in the Intercolonial business may be ascribed to the newly-opened communication with Tasmania; but or this there would have been a decrease.

W. TURNER.

APPENDIX E.

36, Temple Court, 22nd June, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES,

WHILE the Representatives of the Australian Colonies are in Melbourne, it would be desirable that their attention be called to the subjects referred for consideration and report by the Legislative Assembly to a Select Committee of which I have the honor to be Chairman. I refer to the Select Committee on Intercolonial Legislation. It has been appointed "to consider and report upon the expediency of inviting the co-operation of the several Colonies of Australasia for the following purposes:"—

- (1.) To provide for the extradition of offenders from one Colony to another.
- (2.) To provide means whereby the effect of Insolvency or granting of Probate or Letters of Administration in one Colony shall extend to all.
- (3.) The adoption of a system whereby execution may issue in any Colony upon the registration of the Judgment of the Supreme Court of any other Colony.
- (4.) The establishment of a Court of Appeal.

With reference to the question that arises under the first head, *To provide for the extradition of offenders from one Colony to another*, I may mention that an amendment of the law in reference to this subject has received the consideration of a previous Conference. The laws in force regulating the extradition of criminals from any part of Her Majesty's dominions to the place where the offence was committed will be found in the 6 & 7 Victoria ch. 34, as amended by the 16 & 17 Victoria ch. 118. These Acts only refer to felonies, and the machinery provided is cumbersome and almost unworkable. They were passed by the Imperial Legislature, and are framed on the principles of the extradition treaties, with all the precautions that are required by European States to guard against the possibility of yielding up a political refugee. There are no means of obtaining the extradition of offenders who have committed indictable misdemeanors, such as fraudulent insolvency or offences under the Trustee Act. Between the Australian Colonies there need be no fear of returning a political offender, for the obvious reason that whoever commits treason in any part of Her Majesty's dominions may be apprehended under the 6 & 7 Victoria, ch. 34, s. 10, and sent to that part of the empire where it may be alleged the treason was committed. Whoever, therefore, is guilty of a political offence in one Colony cannot obtain an asylum in another. Under these circumstances, as it is not necessary to consider the question so far as the extradition of political offenders is concerned, and as there can be no objection to the yielding up of offenders against the criminal law, a simple and expeditious system may without any loss of dignity to any Colony be adopted by all, which would embrace not only felonies but certain indictable misdemeanors. As the Colonies become more settled, and population gathers near the boundaries, the absence of some law providing for the extradition of offenders has been found to seriously impede the due administration of justice. If any person committed a crime not amounting to a felony on one side of the Murray, he is free from all molestation as soon as he can reach the other side. The boundary between this Colony and South Australia, as between New South Wales and Queensland, is not so marked as the Murray. On the contrary, in some places the actual boundary is not known, and a conflict of jurisdiction frequently arises, and when it does justice is paralysed and the offender goes free. On the eastern frontier of Victoria, close to the boundary of New South Wales, there is a large and thriving population (mining) settled at a place called Bendock. Whenever disputes as to a rich claim arise, the question of jurisdiction is raised, and the Warden has sometimes been undecided how to act. So far that difficulty will soon be removed, as I understand the boundary is being surveyed and marked out; but even when that shall be done the means of extradition will not be improved, unless the Colonies unite by legislation to make due provision for such a purpose.

5 Victorian Statutes, 265.

(2.) The next question, *To provide means whereby the effect of Insolvency or the granting of Probate or Letters of Administration in one Colony shall be extended to all.*

First, with respect to Insolvency :

The same laws as regards Insolvency exist in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. It may be so in other Colonies; but of the three I have named there can be no doubt, as Victoria and Queensland carried with them, when they separated from New South Wales, the Insolvency laws of the latter Colony. Although the laws are the same, they are administered by each Colony with reference to each other as if they were each independent states. Considering the vast interests held by, say the residents of Melbourne in other Colonies, and no doubt by the residents of Sydney and Adelaide in Victoria, the Insolvency laws ought to be framed and administered recognising these facts. If a person becomes insolvent in one Colony he has to yield up all his property wherever situated to the official assignee of that Colony; yet, when he obtains his certificate, he will not be allowed in certain cases to plead that certificate in bar of an action instituted by a creditor in another Colony for a debt incurred prior to his insolvency. Subject to providing suitable machinery, it is proposed that when a person becomes insolvent in one Colony he shall be insolvent in all, and when he obtains a certificate in one it shall and may be pleadable in all. I may mention that suitable machinery has been suggested, and is under consideration.

As to Probate and Letters of Administration :

The general principle regulating the succession to property is, that real property is administered according to the law of the country where it is situated, while personal property is dealt with according to the law of the domicile of the deceased. I need not point out the conflict that necessarily arises as to title to property, and the cost attending administering the estates obtaining Probate and Letters of Administration

of deceased persons when the property is situated in several Colonies. It is suggested that a system should be adopted whereby, upon registration of the Probate granted in one Colony in the Supreme Court of another, it will have the same effect as if granted by the latter Colony. And the same with respect to administration.

(3.) *The adoption of a system whereby execution may issue in any Colony upon registration of the judgment of the Supreme Court of any other Colony.*

To a certain extent such a system exists in this Colony and some of the others. But the system is imperfect, and only extends to judgments of a Court of Law—not to a decree of a Court of Equity. It is very desirable that decrees of Courts of Equity should have the same privilege extended to them as now exists with respect to judgments, and that the procedure should be simple and ready.

(4.) *The establishment of a Court of Appeal.*

This is by far the most important subject under the consideration of the Committee. The cost and delay in obtaining the opinion of the Privy Council upon questions decided by colonial courts of law have been considered to be a practical barrier against all appeals, unless indeed where the question in dispute involves a considerable sum of money or a great deal of property. Besides, the questions that are peculiar to Australia, such as our mining and squatting disputes, it is deemed could be more satisfactorily decided by a colonial Court of Appeal than the Privy Council. Several propositions have been made as to the constitution of such a court:—

- (1.) As to its members: Some suggest that the court be formed from the Chief Justices; others say that a Judge should be annually selected by each Government to represent that Colony in the Court of Appeal; and a third opinion proposes that the members of the court should be permanent.
- (2.) As to where the court should sit: The various propositions are, that it should sit successively in each Colony; or altogether in one; or in Sydney and Melbourne alternately.

Perhaps the better plan, and one that commends it to my mind as the best, is one that has been suggested by the Honorable Mr. Fellows: "That the court should sit in each Colony successively, hear all the appeals there, decide them, and then go on to the next Colony; and so on during the year. That each Colony should appoint a judge, who would attend exclusively to the Court of Appeal." I would add that such judge be one of the Supreme Court judges, and that he be appointed every year for that year. By that means we would familiarise all our judges with the laws of the various Colonies. This would have a powerful effect in promoting the assimilation of our laws, by each Colony taking and adopting what is good in the other, and thus pave the way for a federal union upon political subjects.

Whatever difference of opinion exists as to a political federation of the Colonies, there can be little objection to adopting a common system dealing with the subjects I have referred to by the various Australasian governments. The proposal does not attempt to diminish the power of any of the Colonies, or to create any authority superior to them; it merely suggests a common understanding providing for intercolonial comity upon these important legal matters.

The Committee have, through His Excellency, asked for the views of their Honors the Judges of the Supreme Court of the several Colonies, and are in immediate communication with their Honors the Judges of the Supreme Court of this Colony. Until replies can be had the Committee will be unable to bring up a report. The presence, however, of the delegates from the other Colonies in Melbourne induces me to ask you to be good enough to mention these subjects to them, and, if possible, obtain a promise that each will bring them under the consideration of the Government of the Colony each severally represents.

I may add that it has been considered, should the Colonies agree to unite upon these subjects, whether the means to be adopted should be by an Imperial Act, or by each Colony passing an Act providing for these matters. With the exception of the extradition of offenders, the Colonies could deal effectually with all the other subjects. But whether an Imperial Act shall or shall not be asked for has been, although considered, not yet determined upon.

I am, my dear Sir James,
Very faithfully yours,

J. J. CASEY.

The Hon. Sir JAMES M'CULLOCH, K.M.G., Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX F.

OPINIONS OF LAW OFFICERS OF CROWN AND JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT,
NEW SOUTH WALES, UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE EXTRADITION OF
OFFENDERS, ETC.*Attorney-General's Office, Sydney, 25th August, 1869.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to forward letters from the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Hargrave on the subject of the Despatches of the Duke of Buckingham and Earl Granville, dated respectively the 4th and 19th July, 1867, and 26th February, 1869, which, by your Lordship's directions, I submitted to their Honors the Judges of our Supreme Court.

The letter of Mr. Justice Hargrave was received by me soon after its date, but that of Sir Alfred Stephen, though dated on 26th ultimo, did not reach me till a few days since, when it came accompanied by a letter to myself, of which a copy is enclosed. His Honor I believe withheld his letter in order that it might be seen by his colleagues, and in the hope that the judges might upon conference arrive at one common conclusion; but the letter of Mr. Justice Hargrave was, as I understand, written independently, and was not seen by the Chief Justice.

It is to be regretted that the recommendations of the judges will not have the weight which a joint consideration and unanimity of opinion (complete or partial) would have given to them.

Your Lordship will learn from Sir Alfred Stephen's letter to myself that the two remaining judges will probably send in letters expressing substantially a concurrence in his views.

I may perhaps be permitted to state that my own conviction is that such a state of severance as now exists in relation to the apprehension of criminals between the Colonies of this group of Her Majesty's possessions ought not to continue, and that some legislation is greatly to be desired by which the inconveniences of this system would be removed, both in respect of the higher and the lower degrees of crime. I consider also that such legislation would be far more effectual if it emanated from the Imperial Parliament, inasmuch as it would impose uniformity upon the several Colonies, and would, much more completely than could be done by colonial legislation, meet the difficulty arising from the fact that the removals of prisoners from Colony to Colony are, and are likely to be, almost exclusively by sea. The objection suggested by Mr. Justice Hargrave, that such legislation might not be regarded as consistent with the authority conceded to the Colonial Parliaments, would be met by resolutions of those bodies inviting Her Majesty's Government to propose an Act embracing certain general principles on the subject in question. Such resolutions would be more likely to be agreed to with unanimity by the local Parliaments than any form of Bill containing the necessary provisions in detail, and requiring to pass through the many stages to which it would be subject in both Houses; and it is not improbable that the superior advantages of Imperial legislation would be readily recognised if plainly set forth by the terms of such resolutions.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

W. M. MANNING, A.G.

His Excellency the Right Hon. the Earl of Belmore.

(Copy.)

Supreme Court, 18th August, 1869.

SIR,

THE accompanying letter was sent by me on the 28th ultimo to my colleagues, although they did not all then receive it, requesting their opinions, to be transmitted direct to yourself, or through me to you, as they thought fit.

I do not collect what is the opinion of Mr. Justice Hargrave on the points discussed in that letter, but I believe that substantially Mr. Justice Cheeke and Mr. Justice Faucett concur or will concur with me.

You will observe that I wholly object to the English extradition statutes as models for intercolonial arrests. A good illustration of the difficulties imposed by them, as I understand the matter, is afforded at this moment by the case of Makinlay and his real or supposed confederates, who have just been arrested in Melbourne.

Here is, by whomsoever committed, a gigantic scheme of fraud, equally on the public revenue and the insurers of the transhipped goods. But the complications are such that some weeks may elapse ere the case can be completed against the conspirators and their agents. Yet until completed (so far at least as to justify a committal) the absconded offenders cannot under those statutes be detained.

If, however, every judge in the Australian Colonies is to express his opinion before the introduction of any legislative measure—and the particular remedy must be one universally approved of—the result is easily predicted, we shall have no remedial law introduced at all.

I am, yours obediently,

(Signed) ALFRED STEPHEN, C.J.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

Supreme Court, 26th July, 1869.

MY LORD,

THE Despatches of the Duke of Buckingham to Sir Henry Manners Sutton of 4th July, 1867, and to Sir John Young of the 19th of the same month, and from Lord Granville to your Excellency of the 26th February last, having been by your Lordship's directions transmitted to me, with a request that my brother judges and myself would state our views with respect to a suggested measure for extending the provisions of the Imperial Statute 6 & 7 Victoria, c. 34, as amended by the 16 & 17 Victoria, c. 118, to all misdemeanors—those provisions embracing felonies only—I have the honor to report on the subject for myself as follows:—

2. I would observe, in the first place, that whether the proposed power of arrest in one colony, for an offence committed in another, be limited as at present or extended to misdemeanors of every kind, or of certain specified kinds only, the existing Imperial enactments are (as it appears to me) exceedingly defective, and therefore by no means desirable for us as a precedent or model for further legislation. They have been framed on that of the extradition statutes, with all the cumbersome precautions which were not unreasonably required between one state and another, on political grounds, when a refugee from a foreign country is sought to be delivered up to the tribunals of another. Thus, not merely is the intervention of a judge of some superior court, and eventually of the Governor, required in the Colony where the arrest takes place, but the offender must be taken before a magistrate there after arrest, and his committal by the latter can only be "upon such evidence of criminality as would justify the offender's *committal* (not his apprehension merely) *in the Colony of the arrest*"—sections 2 and 3 of the 6 & 7 Victoria; so that, in order to procure the detention of an offender of whatever degree, who may have crossed the River Murray (for example) from this Colony into Victoria, or the ideal boundary which separates us from Queensland, it becomes necessary to complete the case against him in his absence, and even then such detention will not be legal unless the evidence be sufficient according to the laws of the Colony to which the man has escaped.

3. The evils of such a state of things require no illustration. Apply this law to the case of a bush-ranger—who, mounted on a stolen racehorse, traversing a wild and sparsely peopled country, enters, as he easily may, either of the adjacent Colonies—and observe that no case for his arrest can be made out until the entire facts of some felony have been established against him, the man being absent, and the proof therefore of his identity with the person sought to be apprehended being almost impossible.

4. But by Sir John Jervis's Statute regulating Proceedings before Justices in England for Indictable Offences (of all kinds), 11 & 12 Victoria, c. 42, Sections 12 to 16, every warrant to apprehend an offender issued in any part of the United Kingdom or in the Channel Islands, may, by the simple process of *indorsement*, be executed in any other part of the United Kingdom; and the power of indorsing such a warrant is vested, not in a Judge, but (as it ought to be) in any Justice of the Peace.

5. This is the kind of enactment required for the similar case of offenders escaping from one of the Australian Colonies to another of the same group, and I can discover no reason why it should not have been adopted instead of the system prescribed for cases of extradition. In the greater number of instances, if not in all, an offender absconding hence into Victoria, or from the latter Colony or Queensland into New South Wales, would easily effect a final escape long before a Supreme Court Judge, residing probably 200 (or in this Colony 300) miles distant, could be applied to.

6. It may be objected that a removal from one of these Colonies to another—one of the most distant from it—is a more serious thing than the mere taking of an offender from (for instance) Ireland into England, or conversely. In some cases, no doubt, it might be so; but precautions could be devised by the statute for the protection of the apprehended person from the accidents of an improper arrest, without subjecting criminal justice to the certainty of defeat, by such provisions as those contained in the 6 & 7 Victoria, c. 34.

7. In the law which I had the honor of drawing in 1850 (the 14 Victoria, No. 43, still in force in this Colony), the provision in Sir John Jervis's Statute to which I have adverted, for the indorsing or backing of warrants, will be found extended to *all apprehending warrants issued in other Colonies*, and consequently such warrants, *whether for felony or misdemeanor*, can to this day be indorsed and acted on in New South Wales as a warrant issued in Scotland or Ireland can be in England. And I am of opinion that the Victorian Legislature, in 1865, by Section 63 of the 28 Victoria, No. 267, intended to pass an enactment having the like operation with respect to the arrest of offenders in that Colony escaped from this; but it seems that the present Attorney-General of Victoria, on a reference to him in 1867, has advised the Magistracy there that the Section cannot be so construed.

8. Even if all the Colonies, however, were to pass enactments similar to our own, some embarrassing questions might arise as to the legality of the offender's detention, so soon as he should have got out to sea

(if so conveyed) beyond the jurisdiction of the Colony where the arrest occurred, and before coming within that of the Colony from which the warrant emanated. Practically, perhaps, no difficulty would be felt; and where the person is merely taken across the boundary between those two Colonies—a constable of the one immediately delivering him over to a constable of the other—no question could be made occasioning any difficulty whatever. I am of opinion, nevertheless, that for the avoiding of all ground for doubt, and for the sake of uniformity in the system throughout, an Act of the Imperial Parliament ought to be solicited; and I venture to suggest that such an Act might beneficially be made to apply to all Colonies, and to offenders escaping from any of them to the United Kingdom.

9. It would be desirable, I conceive, to introduce clauses enabling the Justice before whom the arrested person is taken (or, by order of a Judge, any other Justice in the receiving Colony) to take evidence both for and against the party, and to admit him to bail as in any ordinary case, and also to direct, if the offender's removal to the Colony where the offence was committed be thought unnecessary for the ends of justice, that he shall be tried in the Colony where he is arrested. These provisions would afford no small protection against the possible abuse of the criminal process, or possible mistakes as to identity or the like. To give effect to the last-mentioned clause, it will of course be necessary to enact that all persons liable to arrest under the Act should, where any such direction is given, be triable in the Colony of arrest. It will be perceived that this provision differs from the one suggested in Lord Granville's despatch in two particulars:—First, it is not proposed by me as an *alternative* to the measure asked for in the memorandum, but as incidental to the power of arrest; secondly, no option is proposed to be given to the *prosecutor*, as it practically is by the English statutes, but the decision in which of the two jurisdictions the offender shall be tried will rest, after hearing both parties, with the committing Justice. I would allow an appeal from that decision in a summary way to a Judge, or, without any appeal, confer the power of direction on two Justices only, one to be a Police Magistrate.

10. With the protecting clauses thus suggested, I do not see why the Act should not be made to apply to every case whatever, whether of felony or misdemeanor. If the offence be of so serious a character that it is thought worth while to seek for the offender in another Colony, and incur the expense of bringing him thence for trial, it may be safely taken for granted that the interests of criminal justice (the Crown being really the prosecutor in most cases, and in all exercising practically a control in extradition cases) require the removal. It would be a task of very great difficulty to enumerate all the misdemeanors which ought to be within the proposed law, and some, although apparently of a minor degree of criminality, are attended or necessarily followed by circumstances of distress to the injured parties and evil to the community far greater than any which ordinarily flow from the commission of a felony. Take the case, so common, of men abandoning their wives and children for the goldfields of some neighbouring Colony, and heartlessly leaving the latter to starve and the former to become prostitutes for a livelihood; or the case of dishonest insolvents escaping with property from their duped creditors.

11. I have always thought, indeed, that writs for arrest of debt, whether before or after judgment, where the debtor can be shown to have absconded to avoid payment or the process to compel it, should be reciprocally enforced, whencesoever he may have come, in every one of these Australian settlements.

12. The subject of Your Excellency's reference has led me to a consideration, in connection with it, of two others on which Imperial legislation appears to me to be called for, affecting our criminal law; but I will make these, with your permission, the subject of a separate letter.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,
Your very faithful Servant,

ALFRED STEPHEN.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Belmore.

Supreme Court, Sydney, 9th August, 1869.

MY LORD,

IN obedience to Your Excellency's commands, as communicated to me through the Attorney-General, I have perused and considered the points mentioned in the Despatches from the Duke of Buckingham, dated respectively the 4th and 19th July, 1867, and the Despatch from Earl Granville, dated 26th February, 1869, with reference to the extension of the Imperial Statute 6 & 7 Vict. c. 34 (1842), as slightly amended by 16 & 17 Vict. c. 118, to misdemeanors, and I offer the following observations:—

1. So far as any such proposed extensions to misdemeanors should mutually refer only to the United Kingdom and the Colonies, I am clearly of opinion that the Colonies ought to adopt, and will readily adopt, whatever extensions may be thought advisable by the Imperial Legislature as to any grave misdemeanors where arrests and punishment may be thought as necessary as for any "treason and felony," and to be quite irrespective of all distance and time.

2. So far as any such proposed extensions to misdemeanors should mutually relate only to the six Australian Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand, it seems to me very probable that the provisions of this Imperial Statute may also be advantageously extended to a few other colonial misdemeanors. But all these colonial extensions, both mutually with the United Kingdom and among ourselves-as-Colonies,—should be considered and settled (at least primarily) by the Legislatures of these Colonies, they being now expressly authorised, as under our own

Constitution Act (18 & 19 Vict. c. 54), "to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of this Colony in all cases whatsoever." The Imperial authorities ought not, in my opinion, to be invoked except for the jurisdiction over our high seas, or where Imperial interests are concerned.

3. With reference to the minor topic of the place of trial, I am clearly of opinion that no person ought to be tried except within the jurisdiction whose laws he is accused of having broken. The anomalies and difficulties of any other course are too manifest to require mentioning.

4. I am also of opinion that the power of sending any prisoner out of the Colony in which he is arrested should be most strictly guarded against abuse, by the wise provisions of the Imperial Act under consideration; and these provisions will be so much the more necessary for any extensions of that Act to misdemeanors. I think that no Justice of the Peace should have any more power than as given by the 4th Section of our 14 Vict. No. 43 (adopting Sir John Jervis's Acts), which expressly and very properly limits the "validity of the endorsements to the extent of the jurisdiction of the Justice endorsing the same." It would be most dangerous to allow any Colonial Justice of the Peace any additional powers as to sending accused persons out of one Colony into another Colony or to the United Kingdom.

5. Referring to the expression in the Duke of Buckingham's Despatch, as to "drawing the different members of the Australian group into closer union," and to the recommendation in Earl Granville's Despatch that all the Australian Colonies should "enact a common criminal code based on the Imperial law," or should "prepare a draft Bill" for Imperial sanction, I would most respectfully state that the necessary delays and uncertainties of such a course will only render the mischiefs of our present condition more apparent every day, and in every branch of our administration of justice, especially with the present increasing and rapid steam communication by sea between all the six Colonies, together with electric telegraph lines between Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Hobart Town—*i.e.*, between five out of our six Colonies.

6. I think, under these circumstances, and have long thought, that the only proper and effectual remedy for the present difficulty, and for the numerous other difficulties of an Intercolonial nature, arising necessarily from the growth of the Australian Colonies and their almost daily intercourse with each other, is to be found in the early federation of all the six Colonies having responsible Governments, and upon the sound principles established by the recent "Canadian Dominion" statute.

7. I am satisfied, from long experience as a former Member of both Houses of Legislature in this Colony, as well as from my official experience as a Minister of the Crown and Attorney-General and Solicitor-General during the greater portion of the years between 1859 and 1865, and now from my judicial experience since 1865, that not only will the administration of justice, but all our other interests, both with the United Kingdom and among ourselves intercolonially, be largely benefited by any consolidation granted by the Imperial authorities; but that it is quite impossible to apply any effectual remedy to the present difficulties as to Intercolonial arrests, and the other numerous difficulties constantly arising among the Australian group, except through the medium I have ventured very respectfully to suggest, and which is, in truth, only the natural result of the Constitutional Government of the Australian Colonies ever since the Canadian Constitution Act of 1840.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient faithful Servant,

JOHN F. HARGRAVE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Belmore.

Supreme Court, 1st September, 1869.

MY LORD,

IN compliance with Your Excellency's request that I would report on the Despatches from the Home Government on the subject of misdemeanors, in reply, I have the honor to state that, having read the letters of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Hargrave, it appears to me only necessary to say that the remarks of both their Honors, although different, seem to my mind sufficiently suggestive of the necessity of such an Act applicable to a certain class of misdemeanors; the only question being, what can be considered the most preferable course—whether the powers of the Imperial Parliament should be invoked, or whether the matters should be left to the local Legislature of each Colony, to frame such enactments applicable to themselves.

I certainly feel some difficulty in the matter; still I think that the preferable suggestion is for the local legislatures of each Colony to pass such enactments, specifying the class of misdemeanors they may deem advisable, leaving to the Imperial authorities jurisdiction over the high seas and where Imperial interests are concerned.

I have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

ALFRED CHEEKE.

The Right Honorable Earl Belmore.

MEMORANDUM FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I HAVE read Earl Granville's despatch of the 26th February, 1869, to His Excellency the Earl of Belmore, and the previous despatches of the Secretary of State to Sir John Young and the Governor of Victoria, together with the papers accompanying them. I have also read the letter of the Chief Justice, Sir Alfred Stephen, to His Excellency on the subject of these despatches.

2. I concur in the views expressed by the Chief Justice as to the advisability of altering the existing law with respect to the mode of proceeding in reference to the apprehension of offenders who may have escaped from one of the Australian Colonies into another of the Australian Colonies. Considering the extensive and constant intercommunication that exists between these Colonies, and the increasing facilities for such intercommunication, I can see no advantage in treating them in this particular as independent states or nations, as the Imperial Acts 6 & 7 Vict. c. 34, and 16 & 17 Vict. c. 118, by adopting the course of proceeding usual in international treaties, virtually do; on the contrary, I think that the Colonies might advantageously be placed, in respect to this matter, in the same position, relatively to one another, as the several counties in England, or as England, Ireland, and Scotland are placed, relatively to one another, under Jervis's Act, 11 & 12 Vict. c. 42.

3. If the alteration suggested were made, it appears to me that the power of apprehending offenders in a Colony other than that in which the offence has been committed might be extended—as in Jervis's Act—to all "indictable offences," that is, to all offences indictable in the Colony from which the warrant might issue. If the power were so extended, it might, in my opinion, be safely left to the authorities of the respective Colonies themselves to determine what particular cases would be of so serious a nature as to require or justify its exercise. In such a case the warrant might state on the face of it that the offence was indictable in the Colony from which it issued, and such a statement should be conclusive for the purpose of apprehension in any of the other Colonies. This, as the Chief Justice has pointed out, might—at all events to a large extent—be practically effected by the legislative action of the Colonies amongst themselves; but I do not think it could be fully accomplished without Imperial legislation.

4. I do not think, however, that it would be advisable to extend the alteration suggested by the Chief Justice beyond the Colonies of the Australian group. To remove the checks, such as they are, which exist in the present state of the law in reference to the apprehension of supposed offenders in Colonies remote from the place where the offence is alleged to have been committed, might, in my opinion, occasionally lead to great hardship and great wrong. For this reason I doubt whether it would be advisable to extend the suggested alteration even to New Zealand.

5. I think that in some instances, although probably not very many, there might be an advantage in giving the Magistrates of the Colony where an offender may be apprehended the power of determining whether he should be tried in such Colony, or remitted to the Colony from which the warrant may have issued. Such a provision would probably be useful in reference to offences committed on the borders of a Colony. I agree with the Chief Justice in thinking that, if such a power were given to the magistrates, their determination should be subject to the revision of the Supreme Court, or of one of the judges of the Supreme Court, of the Colony in which the apprehension might take place. I see, however, some difficulty in this matter, so long as the judicial as well as the legislative jurisdictions of the several Colonies remain distinct and independent of one another, as they now are. And I confess I do not attach much importance one way or the other to the suggestion.

6. I am of opinion that it would be of considerable advantage if the Australian Colonies proposed a common criminal code based on the Imperial law. Of course local circumstances will occasionally call for special legislation; but it appears to me that throughout the Australian Colonies the general body of the criminal law ought to be as nearly as possible the same, and ought to be also as nearly as possible identical with the Imperial law. To a large extent this is the case in these Colonies, but I think the assimilation might advantageously be carried out to a much greater degree. Any change, however, in this respect should, I think, be left to the colonial legislatures; as to impose a common code upon the Colonies by Imperial authority might, in some degree, fetter the action of colonial legislatures, and would probably be deemed too great an interference with the independence secured to them by their Constitution Acts.

P. FAUCETT.

*Supreme Court, 31st August, 1869.**Crown Law Offices, Sydney, 1st September, 1869.*

SIR,

REFERRING to your B.C. Memos. of 30th September, 1868, ¹⁹²⁹_B, and 18th May last, M²²²⁴_B, upon despatches from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to extension of provisions of certain Imperial acts to all cases of misdemeanor committed in any of the Australian Colonies, I am directed by the Honorable the Attorney-General to inform you that the opinions of their Honors the Judges of the Supreme Court have gone direct to His Excellency the Governor. The other papers received under B.C. of 30th September, 1868, were transmitted with the Honorable the Attorney-General's letter of 25th ultimo to Lord Belmore.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. E. PLUNKETT.

The Under-Secretary, Colonial Secretary's Department.

Despatches, 4th July, 1867, No. 43; 19th July, 1867, No. 33; 26th February, 1869, No. 22, herewith returned. Letter from Commissioner of Police, Victoria, to I. G. P., Sydney, 1st October, 1867. Ditto, from Commissioner of Police, Brisbane, to I. G. P., Sydney, 26th August, 1868, also returned herewith.

APPENDIX G.

1870.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

SILVER CURRENCY OF THE COLONY.

(Correspondence.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6th April, 1870.

No. 1.

*The Colonial Treasurer to the Earl of Belmore.**The Treasury, Sydney, 27th August, 1869.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to inform your Excellency that complaint has been made to me by the Commercial Banking Company of this city in reference to the state of the silver currency in this Colony; the coins at present in circulation being represented as to a considerable extent worn out and defective.

I take leave to enclose herewith specimens left with me by the secretary of the bank, together with others taken from the Treasury chest; and I am given to understand that the shopkeepers and others find it difficult to pass silver coin similarly worn out and defaced, which it is stated bears a large proportion to that of legible impressions and recent dates.

Having regard to the fact that the renovation by the Mint authorities of the *copper* currency has already been attended with the best results; and inasmuch as the condition of the *silver* currency seems to warrant the complaints that have been made with reference to it, it would appear that the time has arrived when the same might be improved with advantage, by the introduction of a supply of new coin of the respective denominations.

The ready acquiescence of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in the application of this Government in the former case leads me to trust that in the latter equally satisfactory arrangements might be made. By such means the Imperial silver currency in this, and eventually in the adjacent Colonies, would be restored to a sounder footing, and acquire a more uniform character.

Before, however, entering upon details, I would, if your Excellency approve, suggest that reference might be made to the Deputy Master of the Mint upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

SAUL SAMUEL.

MEMORANDA UPON THE FOREGOING.

(No. 1.—Minute of His Excellency the Governor.)

THE Deputy Master of the Mint will please to report upon this letter.—27 | 8 | 69, B.

(No. 2.—Minute of the Deputy Master of the Mint in reply.)

The silver currency at home is maintained in a healthy condition though the agency of the Bank of England, which withdraws from circulation the worn and defaced coins, and sends them into the Mint for recoinage, receiving also and sending into circulation the new coin. It is possible, as suggested by the Colonial Treasurer, that the Imperial Government might be induced to extend similar benefits to this Colony, in which case the presence of a branch of the Royal Mint might perhaps be considered to afford facilities such as are obtained in London through the Bank of England.—C.E., 28 | 8 | 69.

(No. 3.—Lord Belmore's Minute upon the same.)

The Colonial Treasurer.—Shall I make any application home?—B., 28 | 8 | 69.

(No. 4.—The Colonial Treasurer's reply.)

I shall be glad if His Excellency will make an application to the Imperial Government to send to the Colony sufficient silver coin to replace that now in circulation which is worn and defaced.—S.S., 31 | 8 | 69.

Five-shilling
piece.
Half-crown
piece.
A shilling.
A sixpence.

No. 2.

The Earl of Belmore to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 129.)

Government House, Sydney, 3rd September, 1869.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to inform your Lordship that, in a communication dated the 27th ultimo, the Colonial Treasurer informed me that complaint has been made to him, by the Commercial Banking Company of this city, in reference to the state of the silver currency in this Colony, "coins at present in circulation being represented as to a considerable extent worn out and defective."

2. Mr. Samuel at the same time enclosed (forwarded herewith) specimens left with him by the secretary of the bank, together with others taken from the Treasury chest; and he was given to understand that "shopkeepers and others find it difficult to pass silver coin similarly worn out and defaced, which it is stated bears a large proportion to that of legible impressions and recent dates."

Five-shilling
piece.
Half-crown
piece.
A shilling piece.
A sixpence.

3. Mr. Samuel further observes that "the renovation by the Mint authorities of the copper currency has already been attended with the best results; and inasmuch as the condition of the silver currency seems to warrant the complaints that have been made with reference to it, it would appear that the time has arrived when the same might be improved with advantage by the introduction of a supply of new coin of the respective denominations."

4. Upon the receipt of this letter I drew the attention of the Deputy Master of the Mint to it, who has furnished me with the following Report:—

"The silver currency at home is maintained in a healthy condition through the agency of the Bank of England, which withdraws from circulation the worn and defaced coins, and sends them into the Mint for re-coinage, receiving also and sending into circulation the new coin. It is possible, as suggested by the Colonial Treasurer, that the Imperial Government might be induced to extend similar benefits to this Colony, in which case the presence of a branch of the Royal Mint might perhaps be considered to afford facilities such as are obtained in London through the Bank of England."

5. I have communicated the Deputy Master's Report to the Colonial Treasurer, who has now requested me "to make application to the Imperial Government to send to the Colony sufficient silver coin to replace that now in circulation which is worn and defaced."

I have, &c.,

BELMORE.

No. 3.

The Earl of Belmore to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 160.)

Government House, Sydney, 18th October, 1869.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 129, of 3rd September, 1869, I have the honor to enclose a paragraph extracted from the *Empire* newspaper of the 14th instant, showing the public inconvenience experienced here by the present defaced and worn state of the silver coinage.

I have, &c.,

BELMORE.

[Enclosure in No. 3.]

EXTRACT from Empire, 14th October, 1869.

"MUCH inconvenience has already been felt at the refusal on the part of some of our public institutions to accept shillings, half-crowns, and sixpences that have become smooth through constant use. At the Post Office the officials object to the coinage to a greater extent than anywhere else; but at some of the Banks and other public places of business the silver is strictly scrutinised, and objections are often taken to what is tendered. The places of worship have perhaps been the greatest sufferers as yet by the halt in the circulation of silver. At St. Andrew's cathedral, we are informed, the churchwardens are in possession of many pounds' worth of silver, received upon the plate, which cannot be put into circulation; and other churches and chapels have in all likelihood been similarly enriched. There is no doubt that something should be at once done to prevent the inconvenience which the stoppage of a large amount of the silver circulation will otherwise be productive of. The directors of public institutions and others who refuse to take current coin because it is much worn, act, in our opinion, in a most unwise and censurable manner. There can be no doubt means will be taken at no distant date to retire the overused coins without loss to the holders; and until arrangements are made for that purpose all ordinary coin ought to pass current.

"We believe that much of the present inconvenience is occasioned by a number of designing persons who offer to take the worn shillings at ninepence each, and other coins at a proportionate value. If this kind of thing is promoted by the over-scrupulousness of the Banks in taking worn coin, much fraud will eventuate from it. Those unscrupulous individuals who buy at ninepence will ever be attempting to quit at twelvepence, and thus the unwary will be victimised. All respectable business people ought to discountenance these things, and continue to take as usual all coins not clipped or defaced purposely, but reduced by ordinary wear. The Government Offices in particular should not set an example which may serve the ends of dishonest people and lead to much public inconvenience."

No. 4.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Earl of Belmore.

(No. 6.)

Downing-street, 24th January, 1870.

MY LORD,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatches, No. 129, of 3rd September, and No. 160, of 18th October, representing the inconvenience caused in New South Wales by the defaced state of the silver coinage.

I directed your Despatches to be referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; and I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a Report which their Lordships have communicated to this Department from the Deputy Master of the Mint, with a copy of the instructions which they have addressed to the Bank of England.

I have, &c.,

GRANVILLE.

[Enclosures in No. 4.]

*Mr. FREEMANTLE to the Secretary to the Treasury.**Royal Mint, 3rd December, 1869.*

SIR,

IN returning the letters from the Bank of England and the Colonial Office referred to this Department by your orders of the 20th and 26th ultimo, I have the honor to make the following observations:—

Both the Commercial Bank of Sydney and the Governor of New South Wales prefer a request that the Imperial Government will supply that Colony with silver coins in exchange for the existing silver currency, which has become much worn by use; and I would submit that, as no authority has been given to the branch of the Royal Mint at Sydney to coin silver, a supply of silver money from this country offers the only means of reintegrating the silver currency of the Colony, and that the Bank of England should be authorised therefore to receive silver coin on the application of the Agents for the Government of New South Wales, on the same conditions as those under which it receives it from persons resident in this country.

The result of this arrangement will no doubt be to increase the loss incurred by the Imperial Government on the receipt of worn silver, which now amounts to £15,000 a year.

One point of difference is to be noticed between the application of the Government of New South Wales and that of the Commercial Bank of Sydney. The former requests that sufficient silver coin may be "sent to the Colony to replace that which is now in circulation," whereas the latter suggests that "as it would not be worth the trouble and expense of shipping the worn coinage from the Colony, merely to exchange it for the current silver circulation of this country, two or three thousand pounds monthly in new silver should be supplied" for the use of the Colony.

Upon this point I would remark that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Bank of England to guarantee that new coin shall in all cases be given in exchange for worn silver; and I submit that, while granting the Colony the same privileges as those enjoyed by the home community, the Imperial Government should not restrict the discretion of the Bank of England as to whether the silver issued by them for transmission to Sydney should or should not consist entirely of new coins.

I am, &c.,

C. W. FREEMANTLE.

Mr. LAW to the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

20,089.

Treasury Chambers, 10th January, 1870.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them your letter of the 30th October last, enclosing a copy of a communication received from the London Manager of the Commercial Bank of Sydney, enquiring whether the Bank of England would receive £1000 or £2000 monthly in worn silver coins to be withdrawn from circulation in New South Wales, and give in exchange an equal amount in new silver coin.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that it appears to their Lordships to be desirable that the usual facilities for the exchange of worn and light silver coins should be afforded to the agents of the Australian Banks who may present at the Bank of England such worn or light silver for exchange (the Bank or the Colonial Government undertaking the cost of its transport to and from the Colony), but that their Lordships must leave it to your convenience to supply the applicants with new coin, or with old coin legally current.

I am, &c.,

WM. LAW.

No. 5.

Minute of the Colonial Treasurer.

REFERRING to the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, No. 6, of 24th January last, and its enclosures, on the subject of replacing defaced coin in this Colony, I desire to call attention to the fact that it is not therein stated that the request made by the Government of this Colony, through me, on the 27th August, 1869, will be complied with; and I would again respectfully urge the necessity of some steps being taken to obviate the serious inconvenience felt by the public here, owing to the depreciated condition of the silver coins in circulation. What really is required is that, as in the case of the copper coinage, a supply of perfect coins should be sent to replace those in circulation, which cannot be otherwise withdrawn.

The application of the Commercial Bank of Sydney, mentioned in the Despatch, was not made with my knowledge.

I shall feel obliged if His Excellency the Governor will renew my request of August last, to the Imperial authorities by the outgoing mail.

SAUL SAMUEL.

25th March, 1870.

No. 6.

The Earl of Belmore to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 45.)

Government House, Sydney, 25th March, 1870.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, No. 6, of 24th January, 1870, in reply to my application, at the instance of the Colonial Treasurer, to the Imperial Government for a supply of silver coin to be sent out to this Colony.

2. Mr. Samuel does not consider that the arrangements proposed by Mr. Freemanle would meet the necessities of the case, and has forwarded to me a minute paper, which I beg to enclose, in which he renews the request made by him in the first instance.

I have, &c.,

BELMORE.

APPENDIX H.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the Postal Communication with England via Batavia and Torres Straits, also via New Zealand and San Francisco; and Telegraphic Communication with Great Britain via Java.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

(177.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 30th August, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, as soon as practicable after my return from your Colony, I brought under the consideration of my colleagues the particulars of my conference with you on the subject of the adoption of a postal line of communication with England via Batavia, per Torres Straits; and I now beg to forward to you the copy of Resolutions on the subject, which it is suggested you should submit to your Parliament.

2. Should your Parliament adopt these Resolutions, it is the intention of this Government to submit similar Resolutions to the Parliament of this Colony.

3. It has, as you will observe, been deemed advisable that the Resolutions should be comparatively open in their terms, in order that the arrangements to be adopted thereunder may be capable of modification, to meet future contingencies.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

[Enclosure.]

(M. 16,796.)

THAT this House is of opinion that it is desirable that the Government of this Colony should forthwith enter into negotiations to obtain the establishment of a monthly line of mail communication with England via Batavia, by the Torres Straits route, on the following basis, namely:—

- 1st. That the dates of arrival and departure be so arranged—having regard to those of the Suez line—as that the two lines practically ensure fortnightly communication.
- 2nd. That mails be delivered off Bowen, and off Gladstone, and at the Pilot Station at Cape Moreton; off the two former places, however, only when boats are ready to receive the mails without causing delay.
- 3rd. That the Australian terminus of the line be at Sydney.

- 4th. That the cost of the service be paid by New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, in the proportion of three-sixths by New South Wales, two-sixths by Queensland, and one-sixth by New Zealand; and that the whole cost to Queensland do not exceed £20,000 per annum.
- 5th. That the expense of a coaling station at Cape York be a charge on the service.
- 6th. That New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand be released from any payment, in the way of subsidy or otherwise, in connection with the Suez line; and that an amicable arrangement be made between New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, on the one part, and Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, on the other, to the effect that New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand bear the expense of the Northern line, and Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, that of the Suez line; and that they mutually aid in working the two lines as a fortnightly service for Australia generally.
- 7th. That New Zealand have the option of taking and delivering its mails either at Sydney or at Cape Moreton, as may prove most convenient.

25th August, 1869.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 28th September, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for the information and consideration of your Government, copies of a correspondence which has passed on the subject of a proposed arrangement between New South Wales and Queensland, in which also the participation of your Colony is invited, with respect to postal communication with England *via* Batavia, by way of Torres Straits.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Colonial Secretary, New Zealand, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 20th October, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. M. 16,796, of the 28th ultimo, enclosing copies of a correspondence with the Government of Queensland as to postal communication with England *via* Batavia, by way of Torres Straits: and in reply to state that, as the ocean postal service between Australasia and Europe is one of the subjects to be discussed at the approaching Conference, your letter will be communicated to the New Zealand delegates.

I have, &c.,

W. GISBORNE.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Treasurer and Commissioner of Customs, New Zealand,—Melbourne.

4th November, 1869.

I REGRET that we have been disappointed in our hope of having representatives of other Colonies here, but that there are, I think, matters of sufficient importance in which New Zealand and New South Wales are mutually interested, to make it quite worth your while, and that of Dr. Knight, to come on to Sydney.

Telegram from the Colonial Treasurer, New Zealand, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 18th November, 1869.

EXPLANATION concerning delay in answering your telegram, have forwarded in letter to you by mail to-day. We purpose leaving for Sydney next week.

Delegates of the New Zealand Government to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Melbourne, 18th November, 1869.

SIR,

WE have delayed replying to your telegram, in which you invited us to proceed to Sydney, as we considered that it was desirable to again request the Government of Victoria to take a part in the Conference. They delayed coming to a decision for nearly a fortnight.

It was only two days since that the decision was announced to us in a letter, copy of which we attach. We also send you copy of memorandum with which we furnished the Government here. You will observe that we suggested some new subjects, but which we venture to think you will consider important.

We propose to proceed to Sydney next week, say after the arrival of the English mail, if it will be convenient to you to confer with us then. We believe, concerning several of the subjects set forth in the memorandum, that New South Wales and New Zealand may take joint action with great advantage, and we shall be glad to cement the friendly relations between the two Colonies. You may think it desirable to invite the attendance of representatives from Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia, or any one or more of them, but we would rather not express an opinion on this point, leaving it entirely to your discretion.

We have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL.
CHARLES KNIGHT.

[ENCLOSURES.]

The Chief Secretary, Victoria, to the Delegates of the New Zealand Government.

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 16th November, 1869.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum, setting forth the subjects it is proposed to discuss at the Intercolonial Conference.

After due consideration, I have the honor to inform you the Cabinet does not think it desirable to send a delegate to the Conference, as it is doubtful whether any advantage could result from it; but we shall be happy to join in any correspondence regarding matters of interest to the Colonies generally.

I have, &c.,

JOHN M'PHERSON.

MEMORANDUM.

Intercolonial Free Trade.

There should be no reason why the Colonies should be prevented from entering into arrangements for the interchange duty free, of various articles produced or manufactured within their limits. For a long while the Canadian Parliament has passed Acts authorising the Governor in Council to remit the duties on articles the growth, production, and manufacture of other British American Colonies, also to do the same with respect to certain goods from the United States. The first is a case precisely analogous to the proposal to allow the Australasian group of Colonies to make similar provision for mutual interchange; the second points to the feasibility of the original purpose of the Conference.

The making an arrangement with the United States for the free admission of wool the production of the Australasian Colonies.

It is not necessary to point out the advantages to the Colonies which would arise from such an arrangement. It would equally suit the United States, the manufactories of which frequently languish on account of the difficulty of obtaining suitable wool. A reciprocity treaty is now being arranged between America and Canada. Why should not Australia participate, or have power to make one on her own account? To show that Canada's right to enter into reciprocal arrangements has been recognised, it may be mentioned that when, at the instance of the United States, the former reciprocity treaty with Canada came to an end, delegates from the British American Colonies, at the instance of the Imperial Government, and in some cases with the aid of one of Her Majesty's vessels, visited various countries, British and foreign, for the purpose of ascertaining what, if any, reciprocal arrangements for the benefit of trade might be made to replace the loss of trade which it was anticipated would follow the termination of the treaty with the States. Probably the Australasian Colonies might from time to time find it beneficial to enter into reciprocal arrangements with other countries, such for instance as the South American States, California, New Caledonia, and the South Sea Islands, and India, as also with some of the older countries. At any rate the Colonies should not have less power in the matter than Canada has hitherto possessed, and, it is believed, still possesses.

Ocean Postal Services.

It is impossible to surmise how far the Colonies are prepared to come to an understanding on this question. New Zealand is very anxious to see a connection with California established.

Telegraphic Communication with Europe.

This subject demands immediate attention. The Colonies, whatever is done, should act promptly. The telegraph lines in the Colonies are in the hands of the respective Governments. The Imperial country has lately seen the wisdom of following the same course. Why should the line to connect Great Britain, India, and Australasia be permitted to pass into private hands? Essentially the line is one concerning which it is unwise to grant a monopoly. It is undesirable that the cost of inter-communication should be taxed with the profits of a private undertaking. Why should not the Imperial country, India, and the Australian Colonies jointly construct the line? The cost to them would be comparatively trifling. Great Britain could raise the money, and an annual charge might be made, exclusive or inclusive of a redemption or sinking fund. The arrangement would not be more difficult in its details than the settlement of the annual subsidy to the Suez line.

Telegraphic Union between the Colonies.

Experience shows that a uniform rate of telegraphic charge is highly advantageous. If the Colonies would agree to a uniform rate, it would be easy, desirable, and profitable for them to determine that telegrams from any one Colony should run through the others without extra cost. A similar arrangement prevails in respect to letters, although the carriage of letters from the sea-coast inland is really a costly matter. But the transmission of a message costs comparatively nothing. A union, such as is suggested, would infallibly enormously increase the telegraphic business in all the Colonies.

Investment of English Trust Funds in Colonial Securities.

When trustees act under instruments which do not expressly exclude or include certain securities, their discretion as to investment is still limited. They may invest in securities guaranteed by Parliament, in securities authorised by general order of Court of Chancery, in Parliamentary stocks, or public funds, or Government securities. Recently authority has been given to invest in Indian unguaranteed stocks. Proposed that representations should be made to enable trustees at their option to invest in colonial securities. There are immense amounts of trust funds at home, awaiting investment. The permission would raise the value of colonial securities, and in numerous cases be highly advantageous to trustees and the interests they represent.

Admission of barristers and solicitors of any Colony to practise in other Colonies, and an Australasian Court of Appeal, and comity of laws. Subjects worthy of discussion, though for the present probably little can be done concerning them.

Apprehension of Offenders.

Immediate measures are required to facilitate the apprehension of offenders when they pass from the Colony which is the scene of their offences to some other Colony. In connection with this subject, it is worthy of consideration whether it might not be well for the Colonies jointly to maintain a small detective force, say of from ten to twelve, to keep a watch on the criminal population floating from Colony to Colony; and to afford information concerning the same.

Uniformity of Statistics.

A great deal of the usefulness of the elaborate statistics of the various Colonies is impaired through the want of uniformity as to the mode of their preparation. Proposed that a uniform system be adopted.

Prohibition of Export of Arms and Ammunition to South Sea Islands.

There is reason to think that arms and ammunition exported from the different Colonies to South Sea Islands find their way to New Zealand. In the interest of civilised humanity, even though in some quarters inconvenience might be the result, a check should be interposed to indiscriminate exportation.

Relief of Distressed Seamen.

A subject arising from a circular despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Naval Defence.

A suggestion of Mr. Fitzherbert's (late Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand) that some understanding should be come to between the mother country and the Colonies for the maintenance, at joint expense, of a naval force.

The general subject of the relations between the mother country and the Colonies will crop up in the consideration of many of the questions already referred to, but it would be well to make it also the subject of special and separate discussion.

JULIUS VOGEL.
CHARLES KNIGHT.

Melbourne, 10th November, 1869.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Delegates of the New Zealand Government, Melbourne.

25th November, 1869.

SHALL be glad if you will come on, but have no hope of any other Colony being represented than New Zealand and New South Wales.

C. KNIGHT, Esq., *Delegate of the New Zealand Government, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.*

Sydney, 14th December, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the more important papers on some of the subjects which it is proposed to bring under the consideration of the Government of New South Wales.

I and Mr. Vogel will be much obliged if you would appoint an early day to consider the whole of the matters which were to have been brought under discussion at a Conference for the mutual benefit of the group of Australian Colonies and New Zealand.

We have also to request that you would forward to us any papers on the above matters which you may think it desirable to submit for our information.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES KNIGHT.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to C. KNIGHT, Esq., Delegate of the New Zealand Government, Sydney.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10th January, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to return herewith, in compliance with your personal request, the papers transmitted in your letter of the 14th ultimo having reference to certain subjects which you proposed to bring under the consideration of this Government.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

(6.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales, 7th January, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the accompanying Memorandum of Agreement, with enclosures, in reference to telegraphic communication between the Australian Colonies and Great Britain *via* Java, and a submarine cable to connect the Colony of New South Wales with New Zealand, determined upon by me with the Postmaster-General of New Zealand and yourself, which is now complete.

2. It will be observed that great advantage has been gained by the introduction of the Colony of New Zealand into the telegraphic scheme for connecting Australia with Europe, *via* Queensland, not only by reducing the responsibility of New South Wales and Queensland by one-third, or, in round numbers, £6000 per annum, but by bringing the New Zealand telegraphic business over the land lines of New South Wales and Queensland; in consideration of which it is proposed to divide the annual liability chargeable on the New Zealand submarine cable in the following proportions, viz. :—

New Zealand	5-tenths.
New South Wales	3-tenths.
Queensland	2-tenths.

3. This, of course, if adopted, will involve a modification of the arrangement agreed upon in the Memorandum dated 6th October, 1869.

4. When approved by your Cabinet, I shall be glad to be informed thereof without delay.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

P.S.—I am glad to say that, at a meeting of the Cabinet, held this day, the enclosed Memorandum was approved.—JOHN R.

MEMORANDUM concerning Telegraphic Communication between Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain.

1st. That it is desirable that New Zealand should co-operate with New South Wales and Queensland to promote the establishment of Telegraphic Communication between Australia and Great Britain, *via* Java, and between New Zealand and Australia.

2nd. That New Zealand join New South Wales and Queensland in their provincial arrangement for Telegraphic Communication with Java, bearing date 6th October, 1869, and annexed hereto, each Colony agreeing to bear equal proportions of the guarantee therein mentioned.

3rd. That the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland jointly undertake to guarantee a subsidy of eighteen thousand pounds annually for the construction of a Cable between the Colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand, in the proportion of New Zealand five-tenths, New South Wales three-tenths, and Queensland two-tenths.

4th. In the event of any of the other Colonies being admitted into these arrangements, that their contributions shall be appropriated in diminution of the liabilities of the three Colonies herein mentioned.

5th. That Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania be invited to join in these proposals; but should they, or any of them decline to do so, New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland pledge themselves to carry them out.

6th. The scale of charges over the land lines of the various Colonies not to exceed the present rates, as per schedule attached. There being no fixed rate from the southern boundary of Queensland to the proposed Cable at the Gulf of Carpentaria, it is agreed that the price shall not exceed ten (10) shillings for ten (10) words—signature and address free—provided that in no case in any of the Colonies shall the charge be greater than the current rates for the time being.

7th. Each contracting Colony to enjoy equally with other contracting Colonies all rights with respect to fixing or altering the Tariff, precedence of Government and urgent messages, and all other rights, powers, and privileges enjoyed by the contracting Colonies; and it is hereby expressly stipulated that the interpretation to be put upon any doubtful point in this Memorandum shall be in the direction of overcoming all obstacles in the way of bringing the Colonies into close and friendly relations with each other.

8th. That copies of this Memorandum be transmitted to the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, in the hope that they will become parties to it.

9th. This Memorandum to be considered provisional, and subject to the approval of Parliament in each contracting Colony; and in the event of Parliament not sanctioning it, the arrangement to be null and void.

10th. The views embodied in this Memorandum it is agreed by the Honorable John Robertson, of New South Wales, the Honorable Julius Vogel, of New Zealand, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, of Queensland, shall be submitted to their respective Cabinets for approval.

JOHN ROBERTSON:

JULIUS VOGEL.

CHARLES KNIGHT.

For CHARLES LILLEY,

(By his authority—JOHN ROBERTSON.)

Sydney, 6th January, 1870.

NEW ZEALAND TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.

From any Station to any Station.

For the first Ten words.....	s. d.
For every additional Five words, or fraction of Five words	2 6
	0 6

PRESS TELEGRAMS.

From any Station to any Station.

For the first Ten words.....	1 6
For every additional Ten words, or fraction of Ten words	0 6

TELEGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

SYDNEY OFFICE.

Open to 9 o'clock P.M. Messages sent after 6 o'clock P.M. charged 50 per cent. extra.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

Miles.	From Sydney to—	Ten words.		Every extra word.		Miles.	From Sydney to—	Ten words.		Every extra word.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.			s.	d.	s.	d.
285	Adelong.....	4	0	0	3	515	Moama	4	0	0	0
380	Albury	4	0	0	3	141	Morpeth.....	3	0	0	0
200	Araluen	3	6	0	3	198	Moruya	4	0	0	3
367	Armidale	4	0	0	3	518	Moulamein	4	0	0	3
554	Balranald	4	0	0	3	76	Mount Victoria.....	2	6	0	2
122	Bathurst.....	3	0	0	3	216	Mudgee	3	6	0	3
255	Bega	4	0	0	3	200	Muswellbrook.....	3	0	0	3
325	Bendemeer	4	0	0	3	240	Murrurundi	3	6	0	3
88	Berrima	2	6	0	2	78	Nattai	2	6	0	2
331	Bombala	4	0	0	3	162	Newcastle	3	0	0	3
185	Braidwood.....	3	6	0	3	160	Orange	3	0	0	3
231	Burrowa.....	3	6	0	3	14	Parramatta	1	0	0	1
34	Campbelltown	2	0	0	2	33	Penrith	2	0	0	2
221	Cassilis	4	0	0	3	56	Pictou	2	6	0	2
296	Cooma	4	0	0	3	118	Port Stephens	3	0	0	3
472	Deniliquin	4	0	0	3	190	Queanbeyan	3	6	0	3
165	Denman.....	3	0	0	3	92	Raymond Terrace	3	0	0	3
251	Dubbo	4	0	0	3	37	Richmond	2	0	0	2
283	Eden	4	0	0	3	215	Scone	3	0	0	3
613	Euston	5	0	0	3	166	Singleton	3	0	0	3
240	Forbes	3	6	0	3	152	Sofala	3	0	0	3
432	Glen Innes.....	4	0	0	3	7	South Head	1	0	0	1
125	Goulburn	3	0	0	3	175	Tambaroora	3	6	0	3
612	Grafton	4	0	0	3	297	Tamworth	4	0	0	3
360	Grenfell	4	0	0	3	487	Tenterfield.....	4	0	0	3
265	Gundagai.....	4	0	0	3	299	Tumut	4	0	0	3
80	Hartley	2	6	0	2	386	Urana	4	0	0	3
520	Hay	4	0	0	3	357	Uralla	4	0	0	3
383	Inverell	4	0	0	3	310	Wagga Wagga	4	0	0	3
89	Kiama	3	0	0	3	198	Wellington	4	0	0	3
359	Kiandra	4	0	0	3	835	Wentworth	5	0	0	3
320	Kyamba.....	4	0	0	3	33	Windsor.....	2	0	0	2
22	Liverpool	2	0	0	2	55	Wiseman's Ferry	2	6	0	2
142	Maitland, East	3	6	0	3	101	Wollombi	2	6	0	2
140	Maitland, West.....	3	0	0	3	64	Wollongong	2	6	0	2
115	Marulan.....	3	0	0	3	200	Yass	3	6	0	3
196	Merriwa.....	3	6	0	3	330	Young	4	0	0	3
272	Merimbula.....	4	0	0	3						

Postmasters at places in the Colony of New South Wales at which there are no Telegraph Stations, are authorised to receive and to forward messages by post to the nearest Telegraph Stations, and to collect a fee of 10d. on each message so transmitted, in addition to the ordinary telegraph charges, such fee being levied in order to defray the cost of postage, remuneration to postmasters, &c.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

QUEENSLAND.

STATION.	Brisbane.		Lytton.		Cleveland.		Dunwich.		Pilot Station.		Cape Moreton.		Goodna.		Ipswich.		Helidon.		Toowoomba.		Drayton.		Warwick.	
	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.
Brisbane	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.
Lytton	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Cleveland	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Dunwich	1 6	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Pilot Station	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Cape Moreton	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Goodna	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Ipswich	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 0	1
Helidon	1 6	1	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1
Toowoomba	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1
Drayton	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1
Warwick	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2
Dalby	2 0	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2
Condamine	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3
Roma	3 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Durah	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3
Caboolture	1 0	1	1 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	2 0	1	2 0	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1	1 6	1
Gympie	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2
Maryborough	2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2
Woody Island	2 6	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2	3 0	2
Gayndah	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3
Hawkwood	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Taroom	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Camboom	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Banana	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Rockhampton	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Keppel Bay	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Gladstone	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	5 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Marlborough	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
St. Lawrence	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Nebo	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Clermont	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Mackay	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Bloomsbury	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Bowen	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Inkermann	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Townsville	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4

SCALE OF CHARGES.

QUEENSLAND—continued.

STATION.	Dalby.		Condamine.		Roma.		Durah.		Caboolture.		Gympie.		Maryborough.		Woody Island.		Gayndah.		Hawkwood.		Taroom.		Banana.	
	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.						
Brisbane	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 0	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Lytton	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Cleveland	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Dunwich	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Pilot Station	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Cape Moreton	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Goodna	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Ipswich	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Helidon	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Toowoomba	2 0	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Drayton	2 0	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Warwick	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Dalby	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Condamine	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Roma	3 0	3	2 0	2	2 0	2	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Durah	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Caboolture	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	2 0	2	2 0	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Gympie	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	4 0	3
Maryborough	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	2 0	2	3 0	3
Woody Island	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Gayndah	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 6	3
Hawkwood	3 0	3	3 0	3	4 0	3	2 6	2	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3
Taroom	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3
Banana	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3
Rockhampton	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Keppel Bay	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Gladstone	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Marlborough	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
St. Lawrence	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Nebo	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4
Clermont	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Mackay	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Bloomsbury	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Bowen	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Inkermann	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Townsville	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4

SCALE OF CHARGES.

QUEENSLAND—continued.

STATION.	Rockhampton.		Keppel Bay.		Gladstone.		Marlborough.		St. Lawrence.		Nebo.		Clermont.		Mackay.		Bloomsbury.		Bowen.		Inkerman.		Townsville.	
	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.	Ten words.	Each extra word.
Brisbane	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.
Lytton	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Cleveland	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Dunwich	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Pilot Station	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Cape Moreton	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Goodna	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Ipswich	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Helidon	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
T Gowomba	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Drayton	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Warwick	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Dalby	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Condamine	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Roma	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Durah	3 6	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Caboolture	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Gympie	4 0	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Maryborough	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Woody Island	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Gayndah	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	7 0	4	7 0	4
Hawkwood	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Taroom	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4	6 0	4
Banana	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	6 0	4	6 0	4
Rockhampton			2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4
Keppel Bay	2 6	2			2 6	2	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4
Gladstone	2 6	2	2 6	2			3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	5 0	4	5 0	4
Marlborough	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3			2 6	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
St. Lawrence	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	2 6	2			2 6	2	3 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Nebo	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2			3 0	3	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Clermont	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3			3 6	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	4 0	3	4 0	3
Mackay	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	3 6	3			2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3
Bloomsbury	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 6	3	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3
Bowen	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 6	3	3 6	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2	2 6	2	2 6	2	3 0	3	3 0	3
Inkerman	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3
Townsville	5 0	4	5 0	4	5 0	4	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	4 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	3 0	3	2 6	2	2 6	2

Memo.

Telegraphic communication between Great Britain and Australia must now be shortly accomplished.

The Telegraphic Maintenance and Construction Company, having successfully laid three cables across the Atlantic, are now engaged in connecting Suez with Aden and Bombay.

Captain Sherard Osborn has lately been in correspondence with Mr. Verdon, and advocates alternate routes based upon subsidies, to be borne entirely by the Australian Colonies, and varying in amount from £55,000 to £47,000 per annum.

Mr. Fraser, of Batavia, has also addressed the Governments of the Australian Colonies on the same subject, and has furnished them with detailed information in connection with this project.

His scheme involves an outlay of half a million; and for the purpose of obtaining this money it is proposed that a guarantee should be granted, to be equally divided between the Dutch Government and the Governments of the Australian Colonies.

Mr. Fraser is at present in London, and anticipates that the Dutch Government will grant him the concession he requires, which has been recommended by the Government of Netherlands, India.

The views entertained by the Governments of the Southern Australian Colonies, in reference to the respective merits of the rival schemes, are at present not quite in accordance with those held by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland; but it is believed an examination of the conditions attached to both will result in the conviction that the proposed line *vid* Queensland and Java recommends itself as at present the most practical and economical.

To remove, however, any hesitation which may be felt by the Southern Colonies, and as a recognition of the confidence which the Governments of the Colonies of Queensland and New South Wales have in Mr. Fraser's scheme, it is suggested that these two Colonies should, if necessary, undertake the joint responsibility required, such guarantee not to exceed £17,500 per annum.

This should be done, not for the purpose of securing any exclusive benefit, but for the purpose of facilitating the arrangements subsequently to be entered into with Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, with a view to the establishment of a rateable and proportionate guarantee to be borne by them, on a scale graduated in accordance with the business transacted on their behalf.

It is agreed that the Government of Queensland undertake the construction of the land line to Normantown, or some other point on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, to be afterwards determined on.

It will of course be necessary that the guarantors should have a voice in fixing the scale of charges payable on the section between Australia and Java, to be from time to time subject to revision.

The views embodied in this memorandum, it is agreed by Mr. Robertson and Mr. Douglass shall be submitted to their respective Cabinets.

JOHN ROBERTSON.
J. DOUGLASS.

Sydney, 6th October, 1869.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 3rd February, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th January 1870, enclosing the memorandum of agreement between the representatives of the three Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, with regard to telegraphic communication between New Zealand, New South Wales, Queensland, and Europe.

The Government of this Colony approves of the terms of the memorandum, on condition that it shall form part of the contract with the Telegraphic Company that the subsidy shall be payable only during such time as the cable may be in working order. I understood that this, or some like stipulation, would be made on behalf of the three Colonies.

It may not be necessary, but this Government deems it advisable, to draw your attention to that portion of the memorandum which relates to an agreement being entered into between the Dutch Government and the three Colonies on this matter, and to point out that, as this might in some degree concern Imperial interests, it may be necessary to consult or advise the British Government thereon.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LILLEY.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

(7.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
7th January, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit, for the information of your Government, the accompanying memorandum, which has been drawn up by me, in concert with the Honorable Julius Vogel, acting on behalf of New Zealand, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, on behalf of your Colony, on the subject of the relations of the Australasian Colonies with each other, and with foreign countries. I shall be glad to be informed, at your earliest convenience, of the decision at which your Government may arrive.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

P.S.—I am glad to say that, at the meeting of our Cabinet, held this day, the enclosed memorandum was approved.—JOHN R.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Memorandum agreed between the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland.

1st. To address an earnest representation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the disadvantage under which the Australasian Colonies labour in regard to the doubts which exist as to their power to make mutual arrangements for the interchange, duty free, of their several products and manufactures, as also in respect of the doubts which exist as to their powers to enter into conventions with foreign countries; to point out that Canada for a lengthened period has been placed on a more favourable footing; to urge that all doubts as to the rights to exercise such powers be removed, and that in entering into arrangements with foreign countries the Imperial Government should aid the Colonies. That such aid should be immediately granted in respect to endeavouring to negotiate with the United States for the introduction into that country, duty free, of wool the product of the Australasian Colonies.

2nd. That direct representations be made to the United States, with the object of inducing that country to admit wool, the product of the Australasian Colonies, duty free.

3rd. That a representation be made to the Imperial Government, urging the desirability of legislative provision to enable trustees to invest in the Government securities of the Australasian Colonies.

4th. That the Crown Law Officers of the Colonies should be moved to enter into correspondence, with the view of determining the means best calculated to facilitate the apprehension of offenders when they pass from one Colony to another.

5th. That copies of this agreement be transmitted to the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, in the hope that they will aid in promoting the several objects it embraces.

6th. It is agreed by the Honorable John Robertson, of New South Wales, the Honorable Julius Vogel, of New Zealand, and the Honorable Charles Lilley of Queensland, that the views embodied in this memorandum shall be submitted to their respective Cabinets for approval.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
JULIUS VOGEL,
CHARLES KNIGHT.
For CHARLES LILLEY,
(By his authority—JOHN ROBERTSON.)

Sydney, 6th January, 1870.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
3rd February, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 7, of the 7th January, 1870, respecting the relations of the Australian Colonies to each other and to foreign countries, in matters of trade, commerce, and others of importance therein mentioned, and to inform you that the Government of this Colony agrees to the terms of the memorandum enclosed therein.

It does not clearly appear whether the several representations to the Imperial Government and United States are to be made jointly by the three Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, or otherwise.

I assume, though it is not stated in the memorandum, that your Colony will communicate with Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, on these subjects, with the view of obtaining their aid.

It seems to this Government, also, that it may be advisable in the first instance, in respect of the proposed communication with foreign Governments; to consult the Imperial Government, in order to obtain its sanction.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LILLEY.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

(7-2.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
7th January, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the Memorandum of Agreement concerning postal service by way of Torres Straits and San Francisco, entered into by me with the Postmaster-General of New Zealand, and yourself, and to request that you will have the goodness to submit the same for the approval of your Cabinet, as therein agreed.

2. It will be at once observed that, with regard to the projected Californian service, it is not provided in the agreement that your Colony is to possess a controlling power in the arrangement or conduct of the service, as we are unable to obtain the concurrence of the New Zealand Delegates to such a stipulation. The Government of this Colony will not, however, take any action in reference to this service, without your approval of any arrangement that may be proposed, and will in all respects consider that, as between these two colonies, Queensland shall possess equal rights and privileges with New South Wales.

3. It will be also observed that, by joining in the Californian line, New South Wales and Queensland obtain the advantage of the assistance of New Zealand in the Torres Straits line to the amount of £10,000 per annum, whilst the maximum amount agreed to be contributed by New South Wales and Queensland is but £6250 each.

4. My colleagues have this day in Cabinet approved of the agreement, and I shall be glad to be informed, without delay, when your Cabinet does likewise.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

[ENCLOSURE.]

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICE.

Torres Straits Service.

THE Government of New Zealand to submit to the General Assembly of that Colony the proposal of the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, that it (the New Zealand Government) should bear one-sixth of the cost (such sixth not to exceed £10,000 per annum) of the service proposed to be started between Sydney and England *via* Batavia by the Torres Straits route.

The cost of the service for carrying the mails between Sydney and such port of New Zealand as may be agreed upon, to be paid by New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, in the proportion of one-half by New Zealand, and one-half by New South Wales and Queensland,—the whole cost of the service not to exceed £5000 per annum.

Californian Service.

In the event of New Zealand being able to contract for a service between San Francisco, Auckland, and Sydney, New South Wales and Queensland to contribute to the cost in the proportion of three-fifths by New Zealand and two-fifths by New South Wales and Queensland, provided that the cost to New South Wales and Queensland shall not exceed £10,000 per annum; provided also that it shall be a condition of the contract that the time between Sydney and Auckland, and Auckland and Sydney, shall not exceed six days, and that neither in going or returning shall the steamer be detained at Auckland longer than thirty hours.

New Zealand to make arrangements with the other Colonies for the conveyance of their mails, and pending the completion of such arrangements, the mails of those Colonies are not to be forwarded by the New South Wales Government.

If this service be commenced before the Government of New South Wales has submitted the proposal to the Parliament of that Colony, the proposal when submitted to Parliament shall involve, for any term not exceeding five years, payment from the commencement of the service; and, pending the decision of Parliament, such payment to be made for carriage of mails as may be agreed upon; but nothing contained in this memorandum shall be held to bind New Zealand to carry the mails of New South Wales free of charge until effect is given to the proposals contained in this memorandum.

In the event of New South Wales joining in the contract for the Californian service, it is understood that such Colony shall possess, equally with New Zealand, all discretionary powers, rights, and privileges enjoyed by the last-named Colony under the contract; and, in like manner, if New Zealand joined New South Wales and Queensland in contracting for the Torres Straits service, that New Zealand shall possess equally with New South Wales and Queensland all discretionary powers, rights, and privileges enjoyed by those Colonies; and if it engages to join in the contract before the contract is resolved on, that it shall possess an equal voice in determining the terms of such contract.

This memorandum to be considered provisional, and subject to the approval of the Parliament in each Colony named above; and in the event of Parliament not sanctioning it, the arrangement to be null and void.

It is agreed by the Honorable John Robertson, of New South Wales, the Honorable Julius Vogel, of New Zealand, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, of Queensland, that the views embodied in this memorandum shall be submitted to their respective Cabinets for approval.

JOHN ROBERTSON.
JULIUS VOGEL.
CHARLES KNIGHT.
For CHARLES LILLEY,
(By his authority—JOHN ROBERTSON.)

Sydney, 6th January, 1870.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Sydney, 14th January, 1870.

THE New Zealand Delegates are leaving immediately. Can you permit me to say that your Government accepts the arrangement entered into, intimated by my letter of the 7th instant? Please reply at once.

Telegram from the Colonial Treasurer, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Brisbane, 25th January, 1870.

THE telegraphic memoranda are approved on condition that the subsidy towards the New Zealand cable be payable only whilst the cable is in working order. The memoranda as to trade, &c., with foreign countries, are approved in their entirety. The memo. as to Torres Straits and Californian mails, approved on condition that the delivery of the Queensland portion of the mail *viâ* California be a charge on the service. Letter by mail.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
3rd February, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the copy of the memorandum of agreement between myself and the representatives of your Colony and of New Zealand, respecting the Torres Straits and San Francisco postal services, together with the appended notification of the assent of your Cabinet thereto.

2. Having submitted the same to my colleagues, I am enabled to communicate to you their assent to the agreement in its entirety, so far as regards the Torres Straits service.

3. With respect to the service *viâ* California, our Cabinet feels that Queensland should be placed in the same position as New Zealand will be on the Torres Straits line; viz., that a provision should be made for sending on to Brisbane the Queensland mails delivered in Sydney from San Francisco.

You will observe that Queensland is to contribute to the cost of carrying to New Zealand the mails delivered in Sydney *viâ* Torres Straits. The further provision proposed seems therefore so manifestly required to equalize the bargain, that I do not doubt your Colony, and probably New Zealand, will at once concede it. On behalf of Queensland, we think that the delivery of the mails *viâ* San Francisco should be a charge on the service, and our assent to this portion of the agreement is founded on the last-mentioned condition becoming part of the contract.

With the modification above suggested, and relying on the assurance in your Despatch, No. 7, of the 8th January—that the Government of your Colony will not take any action in reference to the Californian service without the approval by this Government of any arrangements that may be proposed, and that Queensland shall possess equal rights and privileges with New South Wales—I am requested to intimate to you the adhesion of this Government to the contract, until the views of our Parliament can be ascertained. In the meantime we shall be glad to be favoured with the opinion of yourself and your colleagues on the proposed addition to the terms of the agreement.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LILLEY.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Treasurer, New Zealand,—Sydney.

(13.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
7th January, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith the memorandum drawn up by me, in concert with yourself and Mr. Lilley, on the subject of the relations of the Australasian Colonies with each other, and with foreign countries, together with a copy of the memorandum concerning the Torres Straits and Californian postal services, which have been both this day agreed to by the Cabinet.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

P.S.—I have the honor to request that you will have the kindness to acknowledge the receipt of the papers herein enclosed, as also of the other documents forwarded to you under blank cover on Friday last.

The Colonial Treasurer, New Zealand, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Sydney, 12th January, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, in which you forward the memorandum (signed by the parties agreeing to the same) on the subject of the relations of the Australian Colonies with each other and with foreign countries, together with a copy of the memorandum concerning the Torres Straits and Californian postal services, both of which documents you inform me have been duly agreed to by your Cabinet.

I beg also to acknowledge receipt, under blank cover, on Friday last, of the under-mentioned documents:—

Memorandum concerning telegraphic communication between Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain, with four enclosures.

Memorandum concerning Torres Straits and Californian postal services.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Delegates of the New Zealand Government,—Sydney.

(14.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
10th January, 1870.*

GENTLEMEN,

WITH reference to the arrangements which I had the honor to make with yourselves and with Mr. Lilley, the Delegate of Queensland, in connection with the proposed establishment of telegraphic communication with Europe *via* Java, I have now the honor to point out that it is quite possible, though not probable, that Mr. Fraser may not succeed in his negotiations with the Netherlands Government, and that that Government may prefer dealing directly with the Australasian Colonies. It should, therefore, of course be understood that it is the line proposed by Mr. Fraser that we are pledged to take up, and not necessarily that we should arrange with Mr. Fraser himself, who, however, it is hoped, will not be objected to by the Netherlands Government.

2. So soon as the Cabinets of New Zealand and Queensland shall have intimated their approval of the memorandum already agreed to by the Delegates, it will be desirable that this Government should address a letter to the Dutch authorities, to enquire in what position the negotiation between them and Mr. Fraser stands; to enclose for their information a copy of the arrangement made between New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, the papers received from Mr. Fraser, &c.; and to intimate that, in the event of any insuperable objection on their part to treat with Mr. Fraser arising, an arrangement might be made so as to admit of an agreement being entered into between the Dutch Government and the Governments of the three Colonies, without Mr. Fraser's intervention.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

(15.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
10th January, 1870.*

SIR,

WITH reference to the arrangements made by me with Mr. Lilley, acting on behalf of your Government, and with Messrs Vogel and Knight, the Delegates of New Zealand, in connection with the proposed establishment of telegraphic communication with Europe *via* Java, I have now the honor to point out that it is quite possible, though not probable, that Mr. Fraser may not succeed in his negotiations with the Netherlands Government, and that that Government may prefer dealing directly with the Australasian

See enclosure to
Colonial Secretary's letter
No. 7.
See enclosure to
Colonial Secretary's letter
No. 7-2.

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2. So soon as your Cabinet and that of New Zealand shall have intimated their approval of the memorandum already agreed to by the Delegates, it will be desirable that this Government should address a letter to the Dutch authorities, to enquire in what position the negotiation between them and Mr. Fraser stands; to enclose for their information a copy of the arrangement made between New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, the papers received from Mr. Fraser, &c.; and to intimate that, in the event of any insuperable objection on their part to treat with Mr. Fraser arising, an arrangement might be made so as to admit of an agreement being entered into between the Dutch Government and the Governments of the three Colonies, without Mr. Fraser's intervention.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 3rd February, 1870.

SIR,

IN further reference to your Despatches of the 7th, 8th, and 10th ultimo, respectively, and to the memoranda which accompanied them, upon the subject of the proposed postal and telegraphic services with Europe, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me more definitely whether the necessary action thereon will be taken by the three Governments of New Zealand, New South Wales, and Queensland jointly, or by the Government of one of them only; and if so, by which.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LILLEY.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Hon. Julius Vogel, Esq., Sydney.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10th January, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will favour me with a copy of the postal contract entered into by you with Mr. Hall, the United States Commercial Agent at this port.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Hon. Julius Vogel, Esq., to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Sydney, 12th January, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's* date, asking for a copy of the agreement entered into between myself, on behalf of the New Zealand Government, and Mr. H. H. Hall, for a mail service between San Francisco, New Zealand, and Sydney; and, in reply, to inform you that a copy of that document has been forwarded to you under cover of a letter of even date herewith.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL.

* This refers to letter of 10th January.

The Hon. Julius Vogel, Esq., to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Sydney, 12th January, 1870.

SIR,

IT will take some time before any effect can be given to the proposal that New South Wales and New Zealand should mutually aid in subsidising the proposed Torres Straits and Californian services; in the meantime the latter will I hope be started. I trust therefore you will see it is only right that, pending any permanent arrangement, New South Wales should contribute, month by month, at the rate agreed on, namely £10,000 for twelve services to and from San Francisco. I shall be glad to learn that you will do so. You will observe by the contract, copy of which I forward to you, that New South Wales' contribution is to cover that of Queensland, with which Colony you will be able to make such arrangement as you may agree on for the carriage of its mails.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL, *Postmaster-General.*

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made the eleventh day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy between the Honorable Julius Vogel the Postmaster-General of the Colony of New Zealand and a Member of the Executive Council of the said Colony acting as Agent for and on behalf of the Government of the said Colony hereinafter called the Postmaster-General of the one part and Hayden Hezekiah Hall of twenty-one Bridge-street Sydney in the Colony of New South Wales Esquire United States Consul hereinafter called "the Contractor" of the other part witnesseth that the said Contractor doth hereby for himself his heirs executors and administrators covenant and agree with the said Postmaster-General his successors and assigns. And the said Postmaster-General for himself as Postmaster-General his successors and assigns and for the said Government of New Zealand doth hereby covenant and agree with the said Contractor his executors and administrators in manner following that is to say:—

Contractor to provide steam vessels to convey mails monthly from and to Sydney and San Francisco *via* Auckland and Honolulu.

That the said Contractor shall every month during this agreement at the times hereinafter mentioned run a full power steam-vessel efficient in all respects from Sydney to Auckland in New Zealand and thence to Honolulu direct without touching at any intermediate port or place except with the consent in writing of the said Postmaster-General and shall thereby convey Her Majesty's mails. And also shall at his own cost convey or provide for the conveyance of such mails from Honolulu to San Francisco by proper and efficient steam-vessels and shall in like manner provide for the conveyance of such mails from San Francisco to Honolulu aforesaid. And shall also every month in like manner run a full-power steam-vessel as aforesaid from Honolulu to Auckland aforesaid direct and thence to Sydney and shall thereby convey Her Majesty's mails.

To convey all mails, &c.

That the said Contractor shall at all times during the continuance of this agreement as hereinafter provided put on board and carry by such steam-vessel all Her Majesty's mails which shall at any time by the said Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents be required to be conveyed by the said steam-vessels respectively whether the said mails shall belong to New Zealand or to any other Colony place or country. But no mails other than those belonging to New Zealand shall be received on board or carried in the said steam-vessels without the written consent or directions of the said Postmaster-General or of some officer or agent acting under his directions or in his behalf.

Name of mail line.

That the steam-vessels engaged in carrying out this agreement shall be called "The Californian, New Zealand, and Australian Mail Line of Steam Packets" and shall be so described in all advertisements and public announcements referring to them.

Steamers liable to be surveyed, &c.

That nothing in this agreement contained shall exempt the steam-vessels engaged in carrying out this agreement from being subject to all the laws and regulations in force for the time being in New Zealand relative to the survey and inspection of passenger steamers.

Time in which mails to be delivered.

That the times within which the said Contractor shall convey or cause to be conveyed the said mails by the said steam-vessels between Sydney and San Francisco and deliver the same shall be as follows:—

From the time of leaving Sydney to the time of arriving in Auckland and from the time of leaving Auckland to the time of arriving in Sydney each way respectively not to exceed one hundred and forty-four hours.

From the time of leaving Auckland to the time of arriving in San Francisco including stoppage at Honolulu and from the time of leaving San Francisco to the time of arriving in Auckland including stoppage at Honolulu respectively not to exceed six hundred hours each way for the first six voyages and for every subsequent voyage not to exceed five hundred and seventy-six hours each way respectively.

Detention at Auckland not to exceed 30 hours.

That subject to the time-table the said steam-vessels except as hereinafter provided shall not be detained at the port of Auckland beyond thirty hours.

Service between Sydney and Auckland only to be of six months' duration unless New South Wales or Victorian Government contribute to subsidy.

That the provision contained herein respecting the time within which mails are to be carried between Sydney and Auckland and between Auckland and Sydney shall cease at the expiration of six months from the twenty-sixth day of March next unless the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria or either of them within that time shall agree with the said Postmaster-General to pay to him on behalf of the said contractor a sum or sums of money not less than ten thousand pounds per annum from New South Wales and not less than six thousand pounds per annum from Victoria and which the said Postmaster-General is hereby authorised to accept on behalf of the said contractor by such payments and in such manner as the said Postmaster-General may think fit. Provided that in case the Government of New South Wales should decline to contribute it shall be optional with the said Postmaster-General and the said contractor to agree to substitute Melbourne for Sydney as the port of departure. And provided also that if the Government of New South Wales shall contribute ten thousand pounds as aforesaid the same shall include Queensland and the carriage of the mails of that Colony which shall for the purposes of this agreement be in such case considered as part of the mails of New South Wales and the Government of New South Wales shall in such case be at liberty to arrange with the Government of Queensland in the matter in such way as they may think fit.

All contributions received by New Zealand Government from other countries to be paid over to contractor.

That all money which shall be received by the New Zealand Government from other Countries or Colonies by way of contribution or subsidy to the said mail service shall be paid to the said contractor. Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the said Postmaster-General from entering into any arrangement with Great Britain or the United States of America or any Foreign Country or Colony thereof for the carriage of mails on such terms as he may agree upon.

Time-table.

That the said steam-vessels shall on such days and at such hours as are mentioned in the table hereto annexed (until and unless any other days and hours shall under the power herein in that behalf contained be substituted in lieu thereof) put to sea from and arrive at the ports or places respectively mentioned in such table.

Time-table may be altered by Postmaster-General.

That if at any time the said Postmaster-General shall desire to alter the particular days times and hours of departure from and arrival at any ports or places specified in the table above referred to he shall be at liberty to do so on giving reasonable notice to the said contractor and the time so altered shall be observed and kept as if the same had been originally named in the table hereto annexed.

Bonus for quick delivery of mails between Auckland and San Francisco.

That the said Postmaster-General shall pay to the said contractor for every complete period of twenty-four hours by which the said mails shall be delivered either way between Auckland and San Francisco within the time hereby covenanted for delivery of the same a premium of thirty pounds.

Penalty for late delivery of mails.

That if on any of the first six voyages the said contractor shall fail to deliver the said mails either at Auckland or San Francisco in six hundred hours from the time of departure from the other of those ports or on any subsequent voyage within five hundred and seventy-six hours he shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty her heirs and successors on behalf and for the benefit of the postal revenue of the Colony of New Zealand a sum of thirty pounds for every complete period of twenty-four hours beyond the periods at which such mails should be delivered under this agreement as aforesaid.

That if the said contractor shall fail to deliver such mails as he may under this agreement be required to carry between Auckland and Sydney either at Auckland or Sydney in one hundred and forty-four hours from the time of departure from the other of those ports he shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty her heirs and successors on behalf of the Postmaster-General or his successors a sum of thirty pounds for every complete period of twenty-four hours beyond the periods at which such mails should be delivered under this agreement. But after the first six months' payment of such last mentioned sum is to be enforced only in case the New South Wales Government and Victorian Government or either of them make payment as herein provided to the said Postmaster-General on behalf of the said contractor for the conveyance of their mails and in any case the penalty above mentioned shall only be enforced by the said Postmaster-General at the instance of the Government of New South Wales or Victoria.

Penalty for late delivery of mails between Auckland and Sydney.

That the said contractor or his agents shall receive and allow to remain on board or procure to be allowed to remain on board of each of the said steam-vessels while employed in carrying out this agreement and also while remaining at any of the ports or places named in the table appended hereto whether with or without mails on board an officer in the service of the said Postmaster-General to have charge of the said mails and in case of the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria or either of them contributing toward the cost of the said mail service then one or both of them to be allowed to have a mail agent on board on the same terms and conditions as in the case of the officer in charge of the New Zealand mails. Provided that one such mail agent or officer may be employed by and represent all or any of the Governments whose mails shall be conveyed under this agreement.

Passage to be provided for mail agent.

That suitable first-class accommodation shall be provided by the said contractor for every such mail officer or agent and that the passage money for each such mail officer or agent shall be at the lowest current rates for return passages not to exceed thirty-five pounds between Sydney and San Francisco and thirty pounds between Auckland and San Francisco and *vice versa* and that every such mail officer or agent shall be recognised and considered by the said contractor his officers agent and seamen as the agent of the said Postmaster-General in charge of mails and as having full authority in all cases to require a due and strict performance of this agreement on the part of the said contractor his officers servants and agents and to determine so far as relates to the levying of penalties every question whenever arising relative to the time of proceeding to sea or putting into harbour or the necessity of stopping to assist any vessel in distress or to save human life. Provided however that the words "to determine every question" shall not confer upon such officer the power of control over the commander of the steam-vessel conveying the said mails. And provided that in case at any time there shall be more than one such mail officer or agent as aforesaid the authority as aforesaid of such one only shall be paramount as the said Postmaster-General shall notify to the said commander as having paramount authority.

To provide suitable accommodation for mail agent.

That in this agreement the term "mails" shall be taken to comprehend all letters boxes bags or packets of letters newspapers books or printed papers sent by the post to whatever country or place they may be addressed or in whatever country or place they may have originated and all empty bags and other stores used or to be used in carrying on the post office service which shall be sent by or to or from any post office.

Interpretation of term "mails."

That the whole of the postage of all mails conveyed in the vessels employed under this agreement whether carried from or out of Her Majesty's dominions or otherwise shall belong to Her Majesty and shall be at the disposal of the said Postmaster-General.

Postage to belong to Her Majesty.

That the said contractor shall not assign underlet or dispose of this agreement or any part thereof without the consent of the Postmaster-General signified in writing under his hand or under the hand of the Secretary of the Post Office of New Zealand and that in case of the same or any part thereof being assigned underlet or otherwise disposed of or of any gross or habitual breach of this agreement or any covenant matter or thing herein contained on the part of the said contractor or his agents or servants and whether there be or be not any penalty or sum of money payable by the said contractor for any breach it shall be lawful for the said Postmaster-General if he shall think fit (and notwithstanding there may or may not have been any former breach of this agreement) by writing under his hand or under the hand of the Secretary of the Post Office in New Zealand to determine this agreement without any previous notice to the said contractor or his agents nor shall the said contractor be entitled to any compensation in respect of such determination.

Contract not to be assigned or underlet.

Contract may be terminated without notice for gross breaches of agreement or habitual neglect.

That in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereby entered into by the said contractor and of the due performance thereof by him there shall be paid to him during the continuance of this agreement in respect of the services specified herein the sum of fifteen thousand pounds for twelve complete services to and from San Francisco and Sydney or the sum of one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds for each complete service to and from Sydney and San Francisco payment for each complete service as aforesaid to be made on the return of each vessel from San Francisco to Sydney. Provided that on the written request of the said contractor the said Postmaster-General may at his option and on such conditions as he may think fit make payments in advance on account of sums becoming due for such services but such payments shall not in any way affect the liability of the said contractor to carry out the provisions of this agreement.

Payment for services.

That during the continuance of this agreement and so long as the same shall be faithfully carried out by the said contractor no charges for pilotage lighthouse dues or wharfage shall be made at the Port of Auckland for any of the steam-vessels carrying the mails referred to herein.

Port charges at Auckland to be remitted.

That all payments of premiums for the delivery of mails in less than contract time and of sums of money by way of penalty for delay in the delivery of mails for other breaches of this agreement shall be made every six months.

Penalties and bonuses to be settled half-yearly.

That this agreement is to continue for twelve months from the 26th day of March next (that is to say) until the completion of twelve services to and from Sydney and San Francisco. Provided that at the option of the said contractor notice of which must be given to the said Postmaster-General in writing within six months from the date of the first steamer leaving Sydney this agreement may be continued for a further term of four years.

Duration of agreement.

That if the said contractor shall at any day or hour appointed in the time-table hereto annexed and at any of the ports or places appointed or named in the said time-table or at any of the several ports or places at which an efficient vessel ought to be provided as aforesaid fail to put or cause to be put an efficient steam-vessel to sea in accordance with the terms of this agreement then and so often as the same shall happen the said contractor shall forfeit and pay unto Her Majesty her heirs and successors for the benefit of the postal revenue of the Colony of New Zealand the sum of two pounds per hour for the first twenty-four hours and a further sum of thirty shillings per hour for every hour after the first twenty-four hours which shall elapse until such a vessel actually proceeds to sea on her voyage in performance of this agreement. Provided that the payment of any such sum shall not be enforced against the said contractor if it be shown by him to the satisfaction of the said Postmaster-General that the default has arisen from causes over which he had not and could not have control.

Penalty for not providing vessels.

To provide safe place for mails, &c.

That the said contractor shall provide or cause to be provided on board all steam-vessels to be employed or used under this agreement between Sydney and San Francisco a proper safe and convenient place of deposit for the mails with secure fastenings lock and key and to the satisfaction of the said Postmaster-General. And also that the said contractor shall provide on board each of the steam-vessels to be employed under this agreement in the service between Sydney New Zealand and Honolulu all necessary and suitable accommodation including lighting to the satisfaction of the said Postmaster-General for the purpose of sorting and making up the mails thereby conveyed. And on being required by such Postmaster-General so to do will at his own cost erect on each of such vessels a separate and convenient room for such purpose. And that the crew of each of the said vessels shall assist in conveying the mails between the mail-room and the sorting-room (if any) to be erected as aforesaid or other separate sorting-room used as such for the time being.]

Masters, &c. to take due care of mails, &c.

That as often as the said Postmaster-General during the continuance of this agreement shall think fit to entrust the charge or custody of the mails to the master or commander of any vessel to be employed for the time being in the performance of this agreement and in all cases where the officer or other person appointed to have charge of the mails shall be absent the master or commander of such vessel shall without any charge other than that herein provided to be paid to the said contractor take due care of and the said contractor shall be responsible for the receipt safe custody and delivery of the said mails. And each of such masters or commanders shall make the usual oath or declaration or declarations required or which may hereafter be required by such Postmaster-General in such and similar cases and furnish such journals returns and information and perform such services as such Postmaster-General or his agents may require. And every such master or commander or officer duly authorised by him having the charge of mails shall himself immediately on the arrival of any such vessel at any of the said ports or places deliver from the vessel's side at such time and place as the postmaster or other person as next after mentioned shall require all mails for such port or place into the hands of such postmaster or such other person at the said port or place as the said Postmaster-General shall authorise to receive the same receiving in like manner all the return or other mails to be forwarded in due course.

To attend to orders, &c. in landing mails, &c.

That the said contractor and all commanding and other officers of the vessels employed in the performance of this agreement and all agents seamen and servants of the said contractor shall at all times punctually attend to the orders and directions of the said Postmaster-General his officers or agents as to the mode time and place of landing delivering and receiving of mails subject as herein mentioned.

Penalties to be considered as stipulated damages.

That all and every the sums of money hereby stipulated to be paid to the said contractor unto Her Majesty her heirs and successors shall be considered as stipulated or ascertained damages whether any damage or loss have or have not been sustained and shall and may be retained by the said Postmaster-General out of any moneys payable or which may thereafter become payable to the said contractor or the payment may be enforced as a debt due to Her Majesty with full costs of suit at the discretion of the said Postmaster-General. Provided however that the payment by the said contractor of any sums of money (by way of penalties) shall not in any manner prejudice the right of the said Postmaster-General to treat the failure (if any) on the part of the said contractor to put to sea with a proper vessel or to perform any voyage at or within the times in the said table respectively mentioned as a breach of this agreement.

Detention of mail steamers by Government.

That should it be deemed by the said Postmaster-General his officers or agents requisite for the public service that any vessel to be employed under this agreement should at any time or times delay her departure from any port from which the mails are to be conveyed under this agreement beyond the period appointed for her departure therefrom the said Postmaster-General his officers or agents shall have power to order such delay (not however exceeding twelve hours) by letter addressed by him or them to and delivered to the master of any such vessel or the person acting as such or left for him on board the vessel not less than six hours before the period appointed for her departure and such letter shall be deemed a sufficient authority for such detention but if by reason of such detention the steamer so detained should fail to deliver the mail at the appointed time and place then the penalties herein provided for such failure shall not be enforced.

Postmaster-General may delegate his powers.

Security for fulfilment of agreement.

That it shall be lawful for the said Postmaster-General at any time and from time to time to delegate any of the powers vested in him by virtue of these presents to such person or persons as he shall think fit.

That for the purpose of ensuring the due fulfilment of this agreement by the said contractor or his agents he shall lodge the sum of one thousand pounds with the Oriental Banking Corporation in Sydney to the credit of the Postmaster-General of New Zealand. And that of this sum five hundred pounds shall be returned on the departure from Sydney of the first steam-vessel in pursuance of this contract and the remaining five hundred pounds shall be returned on the completion to the satisfaction of the said Postmaster-General of this agreement. Provided that if this agreement should be continued beyond the first term of twelve months the said Postmaster-General may on the commencement of the extended agreement and on receipt of other satisfactory security to the extent of one thousand pounds return the balance of five hundred pounds aforesaid.

Postmaster-General to be sole judge as to breaches, &c.

That the said Postmaster-General shall be the sole judge as to whether any breaches of this contract have arisen from causes beyond the control of the said contractor or his agents and whether any or what amount of penalty shall be deducted from the said sum of one thousand pounds deposited as aforesaid.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written.

TIME-TABLE for the Mail Service by the Californian, New Zealand, and Australian Mail Line of Packets.

OUTWARDS.

To leave Sydney on the 26th March, 1870.	To leave Auckland 2nd April, 1870.
" " 27th April, "	" " 4th May, "
" " 28th May, "	" " 4th June, "
" " 30th June, "	" " 7th July, "

and each month following to leave Sydney on the last day of the month, and to leave Auckland on the 7th of the following month.

The steamers to leave Sydney at 4 o'clock p.m., and Auckland at 2 o'clock p.m. respectively, on the above-appointed days.

INWARDS.

To leave San Francisco on the 10th day of each month, commencing on the 10th day of April next.

For and on behalf of the Government of New Zealand,

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said Julius } (L.S.) JULIUS VOGEL,
Vogel, in the presence of— } Postmaster-General.
CHARLES KNIGHT, Auditor-General, New Zealand.
WILLIAM SEED, Inspector of Customs, New Zealand.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said Hayden } (L.S.) H. H. HALL.
Hezekiah Hall, in the presence of— }
CHARLES KNIGHT, Auditor-General, New Zealand.
WILLIAM SEED, Inspector of Customs, New Zealand.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made the 11th day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy between the Corporation of the Australasian Steam Navigation Company carrying on business in Sydney and elsewhere in the Australasian Colonies and hereinafter designated "owners" of the one part and Hayden Hezekiah Hall of Sydney aforesaid merchant Consul for the United States of America and hereinafter designated "charterer" of the other part whereby it is agreed as follows:—

1. That the said owners will let and the said charterer will hire the steamships "Balclutha" and "Rangatira" or two other vessels of a like class accommodation and tonnage at the option of the said owners and that the said vessels shall be seaworthy and be furnished with all such equipments tackle apparel and furniture as are and have been ordinarily used by them as seagoing passenger vessels and shall be provided with the usual certificate for such vessels from the Steam Navigation Board of New South Wales required by the laws of the said Colony and that the first of such vessels in such condition and with such certificate shall be handed over to the said charterer on or before the twenty-sixth day of March next and the other in like manner on or before the twenty-seventh day of April next.

2. That such charter shall continue for the term of five years from the date when the first of such steam-ships shall be handed over to the said charterer but after the expiration of three calendar months from such date shall be determinable upon either party giving three calendar months' notice in writing of intention to determine the same it being agreed between the said parties that this charter is for six calendar months certain at the least.

3. The charterer shall provide and pay for the masters engineers and crew of the said vessels and all port charges wages provisions and fuel and all other ordinary necessities expenses of working and navigating the chartered vessels but the board of directors or manager of the said company shall have the approval of the masters and engineers of the same and if any master or engineer shall be appointed without such approval he shall be forthwith removed if his removal be requested by such board of directors or manager of the said company. The master engineers and crew to be the servants of the charterer and not of the owners the said charterer being responsible for all their actions.

4. That an inventory of the said ships shall be made and shall at the time of handing the same over be signed by the charterer together with a receipt for the articles named therein and that all articles contained in the said inventory shall be returned in good order and condition reasonable wear and tear excepted by the charterer on the said ships being respectively returned to the said owners.

5. That all repairs required for the said ships shall be executed by the owners at their own expense while such ships may be in the port of Sydney but any repairs which may be effected by the charterer while such ships shall be absent from Sydney shall be done at his own costs and the said owners shall not be bound to reimburse him such costs.

6. That to prevent the said ships from being arrested at any port or charged or made liable for the payment of wages or any other expenses the said charterer agrees to pay the masters engineers and crew one month's pay in advance before the said vessels leave Sydney on each voyage by advance notes payable at the offices of the owners three days after ships' leaving Auckland for such seamen as are certified as having sailed in the ship balance if any to be handed to charterer the amount of such advances to be deposited with the manager by the charterer before the commencement of the voyage and to give an order on the New Zealand Government to hold at the disposal of the said owners such balance of subsidy payable to the charterer on each voyage or may remain in their hands such order to be returned so soon as the owners shall have ascertained after the termination of such voyage that the conditions of these presents have been complied with by the said charterer and that there are no claims affecting the said vessels.

7. The vessels hereby chartered shall not be run or employed by the said charterer except between the ports of Sydney in New South Wales Auckland in New Zealand and Honolulu in the Sandwich Islands.

8. That the said charterer shall not carry any passengers or cargo between the port of Sydney and any port or ports in New Zealand to be landed at such port or ports or *vice versa* and for every passenger so carried in contravention of this article shall pay to the said owners twenty-five pounds and for every ton or part of a ton of cargo five pounds as and for liquidated damages.

9. For the use of the said vessels respectively the said charterer shall pay to the said owners the sum of five hundred pounds in respect of each vessel upon her being handed over and a further sum of five hundred pounds in respect of each vessel every thirty days after the same has been handed over so long as this charter shall continue all such payments to be made in Sydney.

10. The said charterer shall re-deliver the said vessels to the owners in Sydney and shall pay a rateable proportion of the charter money for any time during which such vessels respectively shall be detained after the determination of the charter by effluxion of time or by such notice as aforesaid.

In witness whereof the seal of the said Australasian Steam Navigation Company has been affixed and the said Hayden Hezekiah Hall has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Postmaster-General, New Zealand.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales, 13th January, 1870.*

(16.)
SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, transmitting copy of the contract entered into between yourself and Mr. H. H. Hall, for the proposed Californian postal service, and suggesting that, pending any permanent arrangement for subsidizing the same, New South Wales should contribute, month by month; at the rate agreed on, namely—£10,000 for twelve services to and from San Francisco.

2. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that this Government is not in possession of authority from Parliament admitting of a compliance with the above suggestion, at any rate as submitted in your letter under acknowledgment.

3. In asking Parliament to sanction the arrangements already provisionally made between the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, this Government will include provision for the whole period, from the date on which the service may commence; and in the meantime the Postmaster-General will be asked to give, by departmental arrangement, whatever allowance he can fairly and legally make for the transmission of the mails.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Principal Under-Secretary to the Secretary to the General Post Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 13th January, 1870.

SIR,

WITH reference to the arrangements provisionally made with the Colonies of New Zealand and Queensland, for the establishment of postal communication with California, I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to state that, in asking Parliament to sanction those arrangements, it is intended to include provision for the whole period from the date on which the service may have commenced, and to request that you will invite the Postmaster-General to have the goodness to give in the meantime, by departmental arrangement, whatever allowance can be fairly and legally made for the transmission of the mails by the line referred to.

I have, &c.,

HENRY HALLORAN.

MEMORANDUM.

As I am about to leave the Government, I think it desirable that I should say that, with regard to the postal service *viâ* Torres Straits, it seems to me desirable the Governments interested in it should obtain, if possible, a contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. That company has already the Suez Line, so called, but which, for my purpose in this paper, I will call the Southern Line. If they could be induced to take up also the Torres Straits Line, five first-class ships could perform the duty for both lines, while if another company is introduced each would require *three* ships. The difference of cost must be at once obvious.

I have already spoken to Mr. Moore, the agent for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, on the matter, and he has addressed (I understand) his principals favourably on the subject. It would be well therefore to keep this phase of the matter in mind. It may be, however, that the Australasian Steam Navigation Company and Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company may arrange for the services, as I am aware that some negotiation is going on between them in connection with the Line *viâ* New Zealand to California; and, if not, the business at present engaged in by the Australasian Steam Navigation Company, of *direct* communication to Townsville, might facilitate their taking up the Torres Straits Line.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

13th January, 1870.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales, 28th January, 1870.*

(28.)
SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith, for the information of your Government, copy of a telegram which I have received from the Colonial Treasurer of Queensland, intimating the approval, by the Government of that Colony, on certain conditions, of the propositions submitted to it relative to telegraphic communication, trade with foreign countries, and the Torres Straits and Californian mail services.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

Telegram from the Colonial Treasurer, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Brisbane, 25th January, 1870.

THE telegraphic memoranda are approved, on condition that the subsidy towards the New Zealand cable be payable only whilst the cable is in working order. The memoranda as to trade, &c. with foreign countries are approved in their entirety. The memo. as to Torres Straits and Californian mails approved, on condition that the delivery of the Queensland portion of the mail *via* California be a charge on the service. Letter by mail.

The Colonial Secretary, New Zealand, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

(39.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 14th February, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 28, of the 28th ultimo, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Colonial Treasurer, Queensland, intimating the approval of the Government of that Colony, on certain conditions, of the propositions submitted to it, relative to telegraphic communication, trade with foreign countries, and the Torres Straits and Californian mail services; and, in reply, to point out to you that Queensland's conditional assent is to some extent tantamount to opening up the whole question afresh. I hope, however, this will not be necessary, as on examining the two points raised I am inclined to expect that, on reconsideration, the Government of Queensland will see fit to affix that unconditional approval to the memoranda which is necessary, according to the terms therein contained, to enable them to be forwarded to the other Colonies.

The first point, about the guarantee being payable only whilst the cable is in working order, is undoubtedly a question to be dealt with when the guarantee is given. Provision will have to be made to guard against failure of cable and to preserve it in working order; but the Colonies guaranteeing will be parties to the agreement, and this and other points will have to be dealt with by them jointly. At present there seems no object to be gained by loading the memorandum with conditions.

The second point, about the cost of service between Queensland and New South Wales, is one with which the two Colonies will have to deal. By the agreement you will observe that New South Wales and Queensland are together to contribute ten thousand pounds, it being between them a matter of arrangement what amount each shall pay. The whole money goes to the contractors, with whom the contract is already made. Similarly Victoria is asked for six thousand pounds, she having to make her own arrangements for connecting with New South Wales. When you consider that Sydney is to be the terminus of the Californian service, I am sure you will agree to make such an arrangement with Queensland as will remove the objection raised. £10,000; £6000.

I have, &c.,

W. GISBORNE.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales, 14th March, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, respecting the conditional assent of the Queensland Government to the propositions submitted to it, relative to telegraphic communication, trade with foreign countries, and the Torres Straits and Californian mail services; and, in reply, to refer you to my communication of this day's date (in answer to Mr. Fox's letter of the 19th ultimo), in which will be found an explanation of the present necessary suspension of arrangements in connection with the subject referred to.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

W. Fox, Esq., to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

General Government Offices, Auckland, 19th February, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to signify the approval of the New Zealand Cabinet of the memorandum agreed to by the Honorable J. Robertson, the Honorable J. Vogel, Dr. Knight, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, on various subjects, including mail and telegraphic communication and commercial treaties.

I presume you will communicate copies to the other Governments in the terms of the memoranda.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM FOX.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 14th March, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Fox's letter, dated Auckland, 19th February, 1870, and intimating the approval by the New Zealand Government of the memorandum agreed to by the Honorable J. Robertson, the Honorable J. Vogel, Dr. Knight, and the Honorable Charles Lilley, on various subjects, including mail and telegraphic communication and commercial treaties.

2. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that, having intimated to the Queensland Government the substance of Mr. Vogel's letter to my predecessor on the above subject, I am now in receipt of a telegram from that Government, announcing that it withdraws entirely and conclusively from all Conference arrangements, and promising an explanation by letter, which has not yet been received.

3. On the receipt of the expected explanation, a further communication will be immediately made to you. In the meantime, however, further action as regards communication with other Governments would not be prudent.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Sydney, 18th February, 1870.

ROBERTSON has a letter from Vogel, advising against any change of arrangement lest the whole goes by the board. If you will look at the memo. of agreement, you will see that allowance cannot be made from the service for the expense to and from Brisbane. Your Colony and ours are to find £10,000; New Zealand will do no more for you than is agreed. The only course open will be for New South Wales and Queensland to divide the cost of the New South Wales and Queensland service; and Robertson has ascertained that the Australasian Steam Navigation Company will do it both ways for £200 the round voyage; condition, however, that the Company is not to be bound to start the mail sooner than thirty-six hours after arrival in Sydney. Of course, whenever consistent with their work, they will start it as quickly as possible, and even detain their steamer should the Auckland mail be in sight. They insist on port dues being remitted for the voyage for ships with these mails. The rate they ask is very moderate, and to get the whole matter concluded we are willing to agree to it. Telegraph reply.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Brisbane, 23rd February, 1870.

YOUR telegram received. Queensland withdraws entirely and conclusively from all the Conference arrangements. Explanatory letter by next mail.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Sydney, 11th March, 1870.

EXPLANATORY letter, promised in your telegram of 23rd ultimo, not yet received. The omission is embarrassing as regards communications with New Zealand.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

Brisbane, 14th March, 1870.

EXPLANATORY letter, referred to in your telegram of 11th March, posted on that day.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

(70-68.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 10th March, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your telegram of the 18th of February ultimo, to which I replied by the same medium, on the 23rd of that month, that the Government of Queensland withdrew entirely and conclusively from all the postal and telegraph arrangements. As the conditions on which the adhesion of Queensland was based were not conceded, this Colony had no hesitation in so withdrawing.

It is not improbable that at some future time, not far distant, the whole of the Australian Colonies will be enabled to meet in Conference on all subjects of mutual concernment.

The Government of Queensland cannot acknowledge the terms of your telegram, that New Zealand in the proposed arrangements, "did anything for Queensland," but on the contrary, this Colony, by the preliminary memoranda, was required to bear its full proportion of the cost of the services.

I am instructed, on behalf of our Government, to state that we are willing to submit to Parliament the provisional arrangement between us and Mr. Robertson entered into in August, 1869, for the Torres Straits route.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LILLEY.

The Colonial Secretary, New Zealand, to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

General Government Offices, Auckland, 5th April, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to remind you that you have not yet informed me whether you have made provision for contributing, month by month, pending other arrangements as suggested in my letter to you of the 10th January, 1870, for the carriage of the New South Wales mails to California at the rate of Ten thousand pounds a year, being the sum agreed on by the contract as that which should be asked from New South Wales. That Colony to make with Queensland such arrangement as the two Colonies might mutually agree on.

I understood that either the Postmaster-General would arrange to make the payments out of ordinary services, or that, on Parliament meeting, special provision would be sought for the purpose.

I beg you will believe that I am not actuated by any desire to hasten your arrangements, but by the wish which you also I believe share, to do everything calculated to make a success of the new mail service from which so much benefit may result. I need not remind you that the moneys you pay will go to the contractor—not to the Government of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL,
Pro Colonial Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 27th April, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to express my regret that, owing to the great pressure of Parliamentary business and the withdrawal of Mr. Robertson from the Ministry, it has not been in my power to give such attention to the question of the Californian postal service as would enable me to do more at this moment than to acknowledge your Despatch.

2. At the request, however, of the Postmaster-General, and that an understanding for the present transport of mails may exist, I have the honor to state, for the information of your Government, that this Colony is willing to pay to New Zealand the sum of twenty shillings per pound (being the same amount as was charged to the non-contracting Colonies during the existence of the Panama mail contract) on the weight of all New South Wales correspondence conveyed by the San Francisco mail route. It is of course to be understood that this rate of payment will only apply to correspondence received from and despatched to places beyond your Colony, and not to correspondence received from or addressed to the Colony of New Zealand.

3. With reference to the correspondence last alluded to, it should perhaps be observed that under the postal laws of this Colony the master of the steam-packet would be *compelled* to convey it on payment of the usual gratuity of one penny per letter being tendered to him. This gratuity, however, was not offered to the master of the *Wonga Wonga*, which left on the 26th ultimo; and it is considered advisable that it should not be offered to the masters of any of the steamers engaged in this service, pending the receipt of an intimation from your Government on the subject,—as it is understood that under the contract the master of the steamer is prohibited from receiving any payment otherwise than direct from the Government of New Zealand.

4. I have the honor to add that, in anticipation of the acquiescence of your Government in the above arrangement, this Colony will continue to despatch mails by the steamers employed in this mail service.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

The Secretary, General Post Office, to the Principal Under Secretary.

General Post Office, Sydney, 25th April, 1870.

SIR,

I AM directed to request that you will be so good as to move the Colonial Secretary to cause a communication, with reference to previous correspondence on the subject, to be addressed to the Chief Secretary of New Zealand, intimating the willingness of the Government of this Colony to pay to New Zealand the sum of twenty shillings per pound (being the same amount as was charged to the non-contracting Colonies during the existence of the Panama mail contract) on the weight of all correspondence conveyed by the San Francisco mail route.

2. I am to state that it will of course be understood that such payment will only apply to correspondence received from and despatched to places beyond New Zealand, and not to correspondence received from or addressed to the Colony of New Zealand.

3. With reference to the last-mentioned correspondence, it should perhaps be observed that under the postal laws of this Colony the master of the steam-packet would be *compelled* to convey it on payment of the usual gratuity of one penny per letter being tendered to him; but that this gratuity was not offered to the master of the *Wonga Wonga*, which left on the 26th ultimo, and the Postmaster-General is of opinion that the gratuity should not be offered to the masters of any of the steamers until instructions are received from New Zealand, as it is understood that under the contract (of which, however, the Postmaster-General has no copy), the master of the steamer is prohibited from receiving any payment otherwise than direct from the Government of New Zealand.

4. I am to add that, in anticipation of the acquiescence of the New Zealand Government in this arrangement, this Colony will continue to despatch mails by the steamers employed in this mail service.

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON.

The Colonial Secretary New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 5th May, 1870.

SIR,

IN your letter of the 5th ultimo—the receipt of which I was able, for the reasons stated, only hastily to acknowledge in my letter of the 27th of the same month, by the then outgoing mail—you remind me that I have not yet informed you whether I have made provision for contributing, month by month, pending other arrangements, as suggested in your letter of the 10th of January last, for the carriage of New South Wales mails to California, at the rate of £10,000 a year, being the sum agreed on as that which should be asked from New South Wales, that Colony making with Queensland such arrangement as the two Colonies might mutually agree upon; and you add, that it was understood that the Postmaster-General would arrange to make the payments out of ordinary services, or that, on Parliament meeting, special provision would be sought for the purpose.

2. If I refer to the terms of the memorandum of agreement relating to the Californian postal service, it is to provide that no misapprehension shall arise from the expressions which I have quoted in the first paragraph of this letter from yours of the 5th ultimo.

3. It is stated in the memorandum of agreement that, in the event of New Zealand being able to contract for a service between San Francisco, Auckland, and Sydney, New South Wales and Queensland shall contribute to the cost in the proportion of three-fifths by New Zealand, and two-fifths by New South Wales and Queensland, provided that the cost to New South Wales and Queensland shall not exceed £10,000 per annum.

4. From this it will be seen that the liability in these proposed arrangements was the liability of New South Wales and Queensland equally, and not of New South Wales on behalf of Queensland, to whose Government she should be supposed to look for her share of the expenditure.

5. With this brief preliminary explanation, I have now the honor to say, in reference to my letter intimating to you the course taken by the Queensland Government in their withdrawal from the arrangements provisionally concurred in by them, that I have, notwithstanding such expressed determination on their part, re-opened correspondence in the hope of inducing them to abide by arrangements provisionally entered into by them, approved of in the main by the Cabinet, and to be left to the approval or disapproval of their Legislature; and it is not without a hope that such communications may lead to a favourable issue.

6. The Government of Mr. Lilley has, as you are doubtless aware, after being in considerable difficulty for a length of time, succumbed; but I will take an early opportunity of renewing negotiations with the present Ministry, and I trust that the expressed determination of withdrawal may not be ultimately persevered in.

7. In the meantime the papers will be laid before Parliament; but as it is about proroguing, nothing further is likely to take place in the matter until after its re-assembling early in August next.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 6th May, 1870.

SIR,

CIRCUMSTANCES connected with the change in this Government, not less than the great pressure of Parliamentary and public business, have, I regret to say, prevented my fully considering until now your predecessor's letter of the 10th March last, confirming the decision conveyed in his telegram of the 23rd February, that the Government of Queensland withdrew entirely and conclusively from all the postal and telegraph arrangements, and adding that, as the conditions on which the adhesion of Queensland was based were not conceded, your Government had no hesitation in so withdrawing.

2. The proposal contained in your letter of the 3rd February last, that provision should be made for sending on to Brisbane the Queensland mails delivered in Sydney from San Francisco, was certainly not acceded to in my telegram of the 18th of the same month, nor could it be claimed under the terms of the memorandum of provisional arrangements.

3. I am unable to find that this Government hesitated to abide by the conditions on which the adhesion of Queensland was based. Your Cabinet approved in the main of the proposed arrangements; and I had therefore hoped that, as provided for in the understood action to be taken, the approval or disapproval of the Parliament of your Colony would have been sought; and it is possible therefore that a misconception, on the part of your predecessor, may have led to the unexpected decision of total and conclusive withdrawal from the proposed arrangements.

4. In this light, therefore, and with the hope of a better understanding, to which mutual explanations may conduct, I desire to re-open the correspondence on a subject of so much interest to the Australasian Colonies.

5. In my telegram of the 18th February I wrote—"Robertson has a letter from Vogel, *advising against any change of arrangements,*" and referred you to the terms of the *memorandum of agreement*, that you might see that a certain allowance desired by your Government could not be claimed thereunder; and I added that New Zealand would do *no more for you than was agreed upon*.

6. In view, however, of the great importance of the successful completion of the proposed arrangements, to which your Government became a party, I would invite them to reconsider the grounds on which their determination of withdrawal was arrived at, and to state more fully in what manner the conditions of their adhesion to the arrangements in question have not been complied with, and further and more fully, what is desired by your Government to induce them to carry through the arrangements to which, within the consent of your Legislature, it was hoped they would have considered themselves substantially committed.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COWPER.

APPENDIX I.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Hon. Chief Secretary and the British Australian Telegraph Company relative to the Completion of Direct Telegraphic Communication with England, together with Report by C. Todd, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, on Telegraph Line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin in connection with same.

*Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, Limited and Reduced, Offices,
38, Old Broad-street, London, 22nd January, 1870. E.C.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honor herewith to enclose you a prospectus of the British-Australian Telegraph Company, the capital of which has been raised, and we have to-day received the order for the manufacture of the cable and land lines between Burketown in Northern Australia and Singapore, in continuation of the direct submarine telegraph communication between that place and Great Britain.

The board of directors of this company, observing that the portion of the land line to be constructed between Burketown in Queensland and Port Darwin lies across territory within the jurisdiction of the South Australian Government, beg to request the sanction of Your Excellency's Government for the execution of these works.

We should also feel obliged by Your Excellency affording to our agent, Commander Noel Osborn, of the Royal Navy, all facilities in the power of the South Australian Government towards the successful execution of this undertaking, and that gentleman, who will leave for Adelaide by the next mail in February, has instructions to wait personally upon Your Excellency for the necessary authority.

I feel sure that Your Excellency's Government will fully appreciate the importance to the community in South Australia of the telegraphic facilities with Great Britain and Europe which we are endeavouring to supply, and that we may count on every aid and support being given to us.

I have the honor, &c.,

SHERARD OSBORN, *Captain R.N., Managing Director.*

To His Excellency the Governor of South Australia.

South Australia, Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 29th March, 1870.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received your letter of the 22nd January last, on the subject of the construction of a telegraph line between Port Darwin and Burketown, and to state, in reply, that this Government will recommend Parliament to grant to the British-Australian Telegraph Company such powers as may be necessary for the erection and maintenance of the line of telegraph proposed by that company within the South Australian territory, and will be happy to afford Commander Noel Osborn, R.N., on his arrival, every facility for the successful execution of the object of his visit.

This Government, however, would much prefer the construction of a line from Port Darwin to our northernmost telegraph station, viz., Port Augusta; and I am to intimate that they will be prepared to submit to the Legislature a measure to authorise the entering into an arrangement with the company for direct telegraphic communication across the continent to Port Augusta, by a line erected under a Government guarantee, or by a line constructed and worked by this Government.

I have the honor, &c.,

J. BOOTHBY, *Under Secretary.*

*Captain SHERARD OSBORN, R.N., Managing Director,
Telegraph Construction Company, 38, Old Broad-street, London.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 23rd April, 1870.

SIR,

WITH reference to conversations between yourself and members of the Ministry on the subject of telegraphic communication with Great Britain, as proposed by the British-Australian Telegraph Company, I have the honor, by the Chief Secretary's directions, to enclose for your information copy of my reply, of the 29th ultimo, to Captain Sherard Osborn's letter of the 22nd January last, from which you will observe that this Government have already intimated their desire to give every facility for the construction of a line from Port Darwin to Burketown; but that, preferring the erection of a direct line to Port Augusta, it was further stated that they would be prepared to submit a measure to the Legislature upon the subject.

I am now directed to intimate to you that, with further information before them, and after consideration of the report of Mr. Todd, F.R.A.S., the Superintendent of Telegraphs [copy of which is enclosed], it is the intention of this Government, on Parliament reassembling, to submit a Bill to authorize them to construct a line of telegraph to connect Port Augusta with Port Darwin, such construction to be contingent on the British-Australian Telegraph Company guaranteeing to land their submarine cable at the latter Port. The Government of Queensland will be allowed to join such line at or near the Roper.

The Government trust that the action now proposed will induce the British-Australian Telegraph Company to adhere to their decision to terminate the cable at Port Darwin, as they believe the greatest advantage will thereby be secured to the Australian Colonies and to the projectors of the undertaking.

A telegram embodying the above will be transmitted to the Secretary of State, with a request that a copy may be forwarded for the information of your company.

I have the honor, &c.,

J. BOOTHBY, *Under Secretary.*

Commander NOEL OSBORN, R.N., Adelaide.

F. 248 [70.]

Electric Telegraph Department, Adelaide, 18th April, 1870.

SIR,

HAVING had several interviews with Commander Noel Osborne, R.N., at which the objects of his mission were discussed, I have now the honor to submit the following remarks and suggestions for the early consideration of the Government, it being desirable that some decision should be arrived at before the next outgoing mail.

Commander Osborn represents the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, who have entered into contracts for the construction of the line projected by the British-Australian Telegraph Company, a copy of whose prospectus was lately received from the Agent-General, and is herewith appended.

Every offer hitherto has involved the payment of large subsidies; but so far as appears, the proposition now submitted requires no such responsibility, but relies wholly on the traffic for payment. We have a scheme, well considered, and supported by an experienced and powerful company, capable of carrying out the work to a successful completion. All that is asked of us are the necessary facilities for bringing the cable to our shores; land for stations; and that we should assist by defining a track for the land section.

It is no unimportant consideration that the cable to be laid will actually form a portion of an integral through line, practically under one management; free, therefore, from the complications and delays incidental to divided control and foreign operators.

Such are the altered and favourable conditions under which the scheme is now placed before us. I would, therefore, in view of the importance of telegraphic communication with our northern territory, and the desirability of opening up an overland route, strongly advise that every effort should be made before Commander Osborn leaves us to secure the landing of the cable at Port Darwin; for, although that place is named in the prospectus, I understand it is by no means certain that it will be actually taken there, unless South Australia take some steps to secure it. English capitalists have very naturally great reluctance to encounter unknown obstacles and dangers—even though the dangers may be more imaginary than real—in erecting and maintaining a land line through an unsettled country. They feel—and correctly too—that the local Governments are in a far better position for carrying out this part of the work; and it would, consequently, require very little argument on the part of Queensland to induce the company to abandon all idea of a land line, and carry their cable instead direct to the shores of Carpentaria, thus excluding our northern territory from all participation in the advantages to be derived from telegraphic communication. And I would here respectfully remind you that New South Wales and Queensland mutually agree to subsidize Mr. Frazer's scheme to the extent of £17,500 per annum unaided.

Commander Osborn informs me that if the land line between Port Darwin and Burketown is finally decided on, it will take Stuart's track as far as the Roper River, where it meets Gregory's, which will then be followed to Burketown, connecting there with the Queensland system.

The question for South Australia to consider (and fortunately it is a question in which the other Colonies as well as the company are all equally interested) is whether we shall be content to depend on so great a length of single line necessarily exposed to frequent interruption, or whether it will not be for our own interests to carry a line across the continent, either direct to Port Darwin or to some point on the company's line.

If we went direct to Port Darwin, the company would, no doubt, abandon their land section, and terminate there.

It is some eleven or twelve years since I first drew the attention of the Government to the practicability of erecting a land line from Port Augusta to the northern coast, and every addition to our knowledge of the interior since acquired has confirmed the views I then advanced.

We have then two plans to consider—First, to undertake the responsibility of a line right through from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, to be completed simultaneously, or as nearly so as possible, with the landing of the cable, *i.e.*, by the end of 1871, the company pledging themselves to terminate the cable there; or, second, to let the company construct their proposed land line to Burketown, but reserve the right to connect with them at some intermediate point, either on the Roper or Nicholson.

The distances are as follows :—From Port Augusta to Port Darwin, 1550, or say 1600 miles; to the Roper, say 1400; to the Nicholson, say 1100.

The first plan, if Stuart's track were followed, would secure the whole of the traffic to South Australia, but there would be the disadvantage of depending on a single line, which would be obviated by going to the Nicholson, or by letting Queensland connect with us at either the Nicholson or Roper, according to the route taken.

If the second plan is adopted, we shall have to arrive at some arrangement as to the division of traffic what messages shall go *via* South Australia, and what *via* Queensland. The simplest and, perhaps, the most equitable arrangement would be a fixed tariff common to both routes, and an equal division of receipts between South Australia and Queensland.

A careful consideration of the whole question induces me to recommend that the Government should undertake to introduce a measure, immediately after the new Parliament meets, for providing, by means of a loan, for the construction at once of a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin—Commander Osborn guaranteeing on the part of the company to terminate the cable there. This, I understand, Commander Osborn would be quite willing to do, or at least to recommend to the British-Australian Company, with whom he would communicate, to save time, by the Indo-European Telegraph next mail.

To remove all cause for jealousy, as well as to provide an alternative line, Queensland should be invited to connect with us at some convenient point, and this, in my opinion, would be far better than a central station at Cooper's Creek, with radiating lines to each Capital, as has been suggested, but which I have shown to involve a useless expenditure of money. The company would, no doubt, readily fall in with this plan, as their connection with two independent routes would make them secure from interruption—an advantage of equal importance to the Colonies.

With regard to cost it will much depend on timber being found along the route. Much of the country is, I believe, destitute of serviceable trees, and transport will therefore form a serious item. I propose, however, to use only fifteen or twenty poles to the mile, and in some places stone cairns, and by this means keep the expenditure down. It would not be safe to estimate the cost at less than £80 per mile, or say £120,000, which is the sum I would recommend should be provided by loan.

We might recoup ourselves for a portion—say one-fourth or one-third—by the sale of land in the northern territory, which the telegraph would do so much to open up.

Next, as regards maintenance—having two lines to depend upon, it would not be necessary to have stations so close together. Stations at the Blinman and Yudanamutana Mines, on the projected line of railway of 200 miles, would be supported by local traffic. As far as pastoral stations extend, we should not require an extensive staff, as we could easily arrange with the settlers to assist in keeping the line in order—*i.e.* to repair casualties. Three or four stations, with four men at each, would be sufficient to bridge over the interior to the Nicholson or Roper. The annual maintenance would probably not exceed £8000.

Revenue—The company reckon sixty-five messages each way, per diem, for 330 working days. My estimate, in previous reports, was only twenty-five each way, or fifty per diem; and this moderate calculation at 10s. a message, would yield £8250, or a little more than the cost of maintenance, leaving the interest on first outlay unprovided for. That is all our existing lines do: they barely pay their working expenses, but no one doubts that they indirectly more than repay the Colony, by the facilities they afford to the commerce of the country. It should be borne in mind that the business will yearly increase with the growth of the Colonies; and further, that the line will promote more than anything else the development of the north. There can be no doubt of its being remunerative in a few years.

We might effect an actual saving on the completion of the line by discontinuing the branch mail service to King George's Sound, which, with direct telegraphic communication with England, would no longer be so necessary. If the second plan is adopted, and we connect with the company's line at the Nicholson, £100,000 will be sufficient; but we should, in that case, have to divide receipts with Queensland. In the one case we have the control of a main line through, with a branch to Queensland; in the other we have simply a branch line, connecting with the main, to Queensland.

Should the Government concur in the views I have expressed, I would suggest that immediate steps should be taken for obtaining from the Surveyor-General a report as to the best route which his extensive knowledge of the country will enable him to furnish. He has, I think, a party of surveyors well advanced on the eastern boundary, who might perhaps be made useful as a flying expedition, with a view to discover the route offering the greatest facilities. As the cable will be laid by the end of 1871 we have no time to lose; whatever is done must be done quickly.

In conclusion, I would observe that it is next to impossible for more favourable terms to be offered to us; and if we fail to accept them we must be prepared to leave to Queensland the exclusive honor of having, through her own unaided enterprise and energy, afforded to the Australian Colonies the immense advantages of telegraphic communication with the whole civilized world. Our geographical position and our intelligence alike prohibit this.

I have the honor, &c.,

CHARLES TODD, *Superintendent of Telegraphs.*

The Hon. the Treasurer.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 23rd April, 1870.

SIR,

IN reply to your inquiries having reference to my letter of this date, I am instructed by the Chief Secretary to inform you, that if the Government construct a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, they will work such line as a part of the general telegraphic system of this province, arranging, if necessary, with the British-Australian Company for the transmission of all cable messages.

I am further to state, that if the sanction of Parliament for the construction of the line be obtained, the Government will commence the work immediately on receiving a satisfactory assurance that your cable will be landed at Port Darwin; and in that case will have such line open for traffic by 1st January, 1872.

I have, &c.,

J. BOOTHBY, *Under Secretary.*

Commander NOEL OSBORN, R.N., Adelaide.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 23rd April, 1870.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of 29th ultimo, I have the honor, by the Chief Secretary's directions, to enclose, for your information, copy of correspondence with Commander Noel Osborn, R.N., on the subject of a direct line of Telegraph between Port Augusta and Port Darwin.

I have the honor, &c.,

J. BOOTHBY, *Under Secretary.*

Captain SHERARD OSBORN, R.N., *Managing Director*
Telegraph Construction, &c., Company, London.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE.

(Ordered by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly to be printed, 8th June, 1870.)

Copy of Telegram from Agent-General.

BRITISH-Australian Telegraph Company will relinquish Burketown line if South Australia guarantee to connect and maintain line between Ports Darwin and Augusta free of cost to company, and to be open for traffic first December, seventy-one; rates for cable message not exceeding average of Australian rates for time being. Your formal and binding acceptance of this offer must be sent by June mail for approval of shareholders. Pending negotiations with you the company will not conclude arrangements with other Australian Governments. Send me telegram in advance of June mail in reply.

AGENT-GENERAL.

London, 9th May.

York Hotel, Adelaide, Saturday, 4th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have this day received a telegram from Captain Sherard Osborn, C.B., Managing Director of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, in answer to the proposal made by the South Australian Government on the 23rd April last, in a letter addressed to me.

I am now in a position to state that the cable will be landed at Port Darwin if the South Australian Government will pledge themselves to have a land line open for traffic by the 1st January, 1872, connecting that port with the present system of colonial telegraphs.

I must beg to represent, that to carry out the proposed scheme by the above-mentioned date no time should be lost. If the work is commenced at once it will be only by the most strenuous exertions that the enterprise can be accomplished within the given time; and a delay of a few weeks at the present moment, when we have such favourable news from the north, would probably necessitate the postponement of the undertaking for a whole season.

I must further beg to remind you that the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company are bound by their contract with the British-Australian Telegraph Company to have their line complete by 1st January, 1872.

I therefore should not feel justified in advising them to accept the proposal of this Government, unless I feel fully satisfied that the present system of Australian telegraphs will be connected with Port Darwin by that date.

I have, &c.,

NOEL OSBORN, *Commander.*

The Honorable W. MILNE, Chief Secretary, South Australia.

1870.

A BILL for an Act to make provision for the raising of Funds for the Construction of a Line of Telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin.

Preamble. WHEREAS it is expedient to authorise the Government to raise the sum of One hundred and twenty thousand pounds for purpose of constructing a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the said Province in this present Parliament assembled, as follows:—

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the *Port Augusta and Port Darwin Telegraph Act*, 1870.

Treasurer to raise £120,000. 2. It shall be lawful for the Treasurer for the time being of the said Province, from time to time, to issue bonds not exceeding in the whole the sum of One hundred and twenty thousand pounds for such amounts as he may deem expedient, and such bonds shall be in the form following, that is to say—

No.	£	No.	£
South Australian Government Revenue Securities, Port Augusta and Port Darwin Telegraph.			

I, the Treasurer of the Province of South Australia, in consideration of the sum of pounds, paid to me for the construction of a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, do hereby bind myself to pay to the holder for the time being of this present obligation the sum of pounds, and interest thereon after the rate of Six pounds per centum per annum; and such interest to be payable on the first day of January and the first day of July in every year, the principal to be paid on the first day of in the year One thousand eight hundred and Sealed with my seal. Dated the day of One thousand eight hundred and

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of

NOTE.—*Interest* payable at the Treasury in Adelaide, South Australia [or in London or in any other agreed place to be declared at the time of issue], at such place as may be appointed by notice to be given in the *South Australian Government Gazette* [and in the *London Gazette*].

Principal payable at the Treasury in Adelaide, or at the option of the holder [in London or other agreed place], if six months' notice of desire to that effect be given to the Treasurer, in South Australia.

Interest. 3. The said bonds shall bear interest at the rate of Six pounds per centum per annum, and the interest and principal upon such bonds shall be payable and paid to the holder thereof, at such place and time as may be specified or provided therein: Provided that the principal shall not be payable or paid before the expiration of twenty-five years, and the time appointed for payment thereof shall not extend beyond fifty years from the time of the passing of this Act.

Bonds to be sold. 4. The Treasurer shall cause every bond issued under this Act to be sold for the best price, not being below par, that can be obtained for the same.

Application of moneys. 5. All sums of money raised and received by the Treasurer upon the security of the said bonds shall be carried by him to a separate and distinct account, to be applied for the purpose of carrying out the construction of a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin; and such sums of money shall be paid by the said Treasurer in such amounts and manner as the Governor by any warrant under his hand may, from time to time, authorise and direct.

Payment of principal and interest. 6. The said Treasurer shall, and he is hereby required, in each and every year from the first raising of any sums of money under the authority hereof, until the whole of the amount so raised, and all interest thereon, shall have been duly paid, to set apart such a sum as shall suffice to pay the amount of bonds redeemable during such year, together with interest upon all bonds which shall then bear interest; and shall apply such sum in payment of such bonds and interest as aforesaid, in manner specified in such bonds.

Governor may authorise advance. 7. The Governor may, from time to time, by warrant under his hand authorise the Treasurer to advance and pay for the purposes of this Act any sums of money not exceeding in the whole the sum hereby authorised to be raised, and any sums of money so advanced and paid shall be retained by the Treasurer out of any moneys raised by him under the authority hereof.

Annual account. Yearly return of receipts and expenditure. 8. The Treasurer shall in each year cause an account in abstract to be prepared of the whole receipts and of the expenditure of all moneys advanced to him for the purposes of this Act for the year preceding, under the several distinct heads of receipts and expenditure, with a statement of the balance of such account duly audited and certified by the Auditor-General; and a copy of such account shall on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year following be published in the *Government Gazette*.

APPENDIX J.

RETURN showing the Apparent Loss to Victoria of a "Customs Union" between the Colonies of Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, based on the Average Customs Receipts in Victoria for the Years 1867-8-9 (excluding Goods "Warehoused" and for the latter year for Melbourne only.)

TASMANIA.		£	s.	d.
Mean of population 1868-9 = 100,850.				
Customs Revenue, as per statement, calculated on basis of Victorian Receipts, viz.,				
£1 14s. 1d. per head (100,850)		171,865	4	2
Customs Revenue on basis of Tasmanian Receipts, viz., £1 6s. 8d. per head (100,850)		134,466	13	4
	Difference			£37,398 10 10
<i>Add the Average Annual Duty on Imports of the Native Products of Tasmania into</i>				
Victoria				13,853 3 6
	Apparent Loss to Victoria			£51,251 14 4

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		£	s.	d.
Mean of Population 1868-9 = 178,720.				
Customs Revenue, as per statement, calculated on basis of Victorian Receipts, viz.,				
£1 14s. 1d. per head (178,720)		304,568	13	4
Customs Revenue on the basis of South Australian Receipts, viz., £1 3s. 4d. per head		208,506	13	4
	Difference			£96,062 0 0
<i>Add the Duty upon South Australian goods imported into Victoria, as per Customs</i>				
statement				9269 14 4
	Apparent Loss to Victoria			£105,331 14 4

[Enclosure No. 1 to Appendix J.]

DUTIES.

RETURN showing the Amount of Duties received on the under-mentioned Articles imported from South Australia and Tasmania, the produce of these Colonies respectively, during the Years 1868 and 1869. (The Returns for 1869 are for the Port of Melbourne only.)

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty.	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bark	1868.	6 6 0	6 6 0	8 13 0	8 13 0
	1869.	15 11 0	15 11 0	5 3 0	5 3 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	21 17 0	..	13 16 0
Beer, Draught	1868.	..	..	57 3 0	57 3 0
	1869.	..	..	121 18 0	121 18 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	179 1 0
Bones	1868.	4 0 0	4 0 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
	1869.	1 8 0	1 8 0	..	..
Total .. .. .	..	..	5 8 0	..	0 5 0
Bran	1868	780 8 0	..	683 12 0	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	2 14 3	..	6 5 0	..
	1869	1097 2 0	783 2 3	395 0 0	689 17 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	1097 2 0	..	395 0 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	1880 4 3	..	1084 17 0

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty.	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Building Materials	1868	..	..	0 8 0	0 8 0
Butter	1868 <i>Exc</i> Warehouse	20 14 9	..	265 5 1	358 10 7
		12 11 7	..	93 5 6	
	1869 <i>Exc</i> Warehouse	231 2 6	..	1041 3 10	1176 12 9
		..	..	135 8 11	
Total ..	..	..	264 8 10	..	1535 3 4
Carriage and Cart Materials	1868	..	..	4 18 0	4 18 0
	1869	0 16 0	..	2 16 0	2 16 0
	Total ..	..	0 16 0	..	7 14 0
Cheese.. ..	1868	0 10 2	..	94 11 4	94 11 4
	1869	3 0 1	..	398 17 7	398 17 7
	Total ..	..	3 10 3	..	493 8 11
Flour	1868. <i>Exc</i> Warehouse	73 0 0	..	67 2 0	297 18 0
		182 7 8	..	230 16 0	
	1869. <i>Exc</i> Warehouse	1386 17 0	..	674 15 0	675 5 0
		489 14 0	..	0 10 0	
Total ..	..	..	1876 11 0	..	973 3 0
Fish—Salted	1868. <i>Exc</i> Warehouse	116 7 6	..	105 3 9	105 3 9
		6 5 0	..	..
	1869.	196 16 3	..	35 2 6	35 2 6
Total ..	..	..	196 16 3	..	140 6 3
Fruit—Green ..	1868.	67 15 6	..	1028 4 10	1028 4 10
	1869.	167 15 6	..	1075 4 6	1075 4 6
	Total ..	..	235 11 0	..	2103 9 4
Other ..	1868.	0 2 0	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	0 2 0	..	..
Eggs	1868.	121 15 0	..	5 10 6	5 10 6
	1869.	209 17 0	..	1 5 0	1 5 0
	Total ..	..	331 12 0	..	6 15 6

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty.	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grain—Barley	1868	62 1 3	..	206 2 9	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	3 13 6	..
			62 1 3		209 16 3
	1869	599 3 6	..	107 3 6	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	1 3 3	..	3 6 9	..
			600 6 9		110 10 3
Total .. .. .		..	662 8 0	..	320 6 6
„ Beans and Peas ..	1868	..	..	95 6 6	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	4 3 3	..
					99 9 9
	1869	22 19 9	..	86 5 9	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	2 11 0	..
			22 19 9		88 16 9
Total .. .. .		..	22 19 9	..	188 6 6
„ Malt	1868	5 3 0	..	136 0 0	..
			5 3 0		136 0 0
	1869	23 14 0	..	169 6 6	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	0 17 0	..
			23 14 0		170 3 6
Total .. .. .		..	28 17 0	..	306 3 6
„ Oats	1868	35 2 0	..	3951 16 11	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	15 5 3	..	971 10 3	..
			50 7 3		4923 7 2
	1869	21 15 9	..	2868 16 6	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	1314 14 3	..
			21 15 9		4183 10 9
Total .. .. .		..	72 3 0	..	9106 17 11
„ Rye	1868	..	..	11 3 6	..
					11 3 6
	1869	39 0 0	..	5 16 3	..
			39 0 0		5 16 3
Total .. .. .		..	39 0 0	..	16 19 9
„ Tares	1868	..	..	17 8 9	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	0 4 6	..
					17 13 3
	1869	..	..	3 16 6	..
					3 16 6
Total .. .. .		..	..	..	21 9 9
„ Wheat	1868	1241 17 9	..	765 13 6	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	716 5 9	..	95 5 0	..
			1958 3 6		860 18 6
	1869	5893 10 0	..	1988 4 3	..
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	1023 5 3	..	407 13 3	..
			6916 15 3		2395 17 6
Total .. .. .		..	8874 18 9	..	3256 16 0
„ Other	1868	..	..	0 7 6	..
Total .. .. .		..	..	..	0 7 6

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grease	1868	..	..	9 0 0	9 0 0
	1869	..	..	2 10 0	2 10 0
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	11 10 0
Hay	1868	7 15 0	7 15 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
	1869	0 1 0	0 1 0	..	..
	Total .. .. .	..	7 16 0	..	0 8 0
Honey	1868	5 6 0	5 6 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
	1869	58 14 0	58 14 0	0 15 6	0 15 6
	Total .. .. .	..	64 0 0	..	2 3 6
Hops	1868 <i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	1052 11 10 252 16 4	1305 8 2
	1869 <i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	1091 6 8 388 15 6	1480 2 2
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	2785 10 4
Lard	1868	0 11 8	0 11 8	..	..
	1869	..	..	3 4 5	3 4 5
	Total .. .. .	..	0 11 8	..	3 4 5
Leather	1868	3 1 0	3 1 0	51 9 0	51 9 0
	1869	3 0 0	3 0 0	86 4 0	86 4 0
	Total .. .. .	..	6 1 0	..	137 13 0
Leather, Fancy	1868	1 2 0	1 2 0	8 17 0	8 17 0
	1869	..	..	25 14 0	25 14 0
	Total .. .. .	..	1 2 0	..	34 11 0
Meal, Oat	1868	2 18 0	2 18 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
	1869	3 11 0	3 11 0	..	..
	Total .. .. .	..	6 9 0	..	0 10 0
Nuts—Almonds	1868	93 14 4	93 14 4	..	..
	1869	101 0 8	101 0 8	..	..
	Total .. .. .	..	194 15 0	..	..
Oil—Black	1868	..	..	41 5 0	41 5 0

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty.	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Onions	1868	12 9 0	12 9 0	12 11 0	12 11 0
	1869	5 15 0	5 15 0	21 13 0	21 13 0
	Total .. .. .	..	18 4 0	..	34 4 0
Potatoes .. .	1868	..	..	256 19 0	256 19 0
	1869	..	..	645 7 0	645 7 0
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	902 6 0
Preserves .. .	1868	14 10 0	..	934 17 0	1059 18 0
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	19 1 0	..	125 1 0	
	1869	105 8 7	33 11 4	1141 4 10	
<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	..	105 8 7	43 5 0	1184 9 10
	Total .. .. .	..	138 19 11	..	2244 7 10
	Provisions, Preserved .. .	1869	7 0 3
<i>Ex Warehouse</i>		1 7 11	..	..
..		..	8 8 2	..	
Total .. .. .	..	..	8 8 2	..	..
" Salted .. .	1868	25 0 0	25 0 0	39 5 0	39 5 0
	1869	..	..	..	..
	Total .. .. .	..	25 0 0	..	39 5 0
" Salted Bacon ..	1868	0 9 7	..	17 1 2	17 1 2
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	11 16 9	12 6 4	..	
	1869	16 19 10	16 19 10	99 11 8		99 11 8
Total .. .. .	..	..	29 6 2	..	116 12 10
" Salted Hams....	1868	3 2 2	..	1 0 0	1 0 0
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	0 19 5	4 1 7	..	
	1869	18 15 10	..	9 15 0		9 15 0
<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	4 16 10	23 12 8	..	..
	Total .. .. .	..	27 14 3	..	10 15 0
	" Pork .. .	1868	0 12 6	0 12 6	16 16 3
1869		..	..	44 18 9	44 18 9
Total .. .. .		..	0 12 6	..	61 15 9
Seeds	1868	0 18 0	0 18 0	94 1 0	94 1 0
	1869	12 9 0	..	24 9 0	24 17 0
	<i>Ex Warehouse</i>	..	12 9 0	0 8 0	
Total .. .. .	..	13 7 0	..	118 18 0	

ARTICLES.	DATE.	PRODUCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		PRODUCE OF TASMANIA.	
		Duty.	Total Duty.	Duty.	Total Duty.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Timber—Palings	1868	..	..	761 3 3	761 3 3
	1869	0 2 0	0 2 0	301 1 0	301 1 0
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	0 2 0	.....	1062 4 3
„ Posts and Rails	1868	..	..	3 10 0	3 10 0
	1869	..	..	0 4 0	0 4 0
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	3 14 0
„ Sawn	1868	123 8 0	123 8 0	210 10 0	210 10 0
	1869	13 15 0	13 15 0	74 4 0	74 4 0
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	137 3 0	.. ..	284 14 0
„ Shingles	1868	..	..	6 1 0	6 1 0
	1869	..	..	2 19 0	2 19 0
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	9 0 0
„ Miscellaneous	1868	3 6 0	3 6 0	24 5 0	24 5 0
	1869	0 7 0	0 7 0	21 16 0	21 16 0
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	3 13 0	.. ..	46 1 0
Wine	1868 <i>Ex Warehouse</i>	1134 18 5 720 1 2	1854 19 7		
	1869 <i>Ex Warehouse</i>	755 0 6 351 0 7	1106 1 1		
Total .. . . .	..	.. ..	2961 0 8		
			18,539 8 7		27,706 6 11

QUANTITIES of the under-mentioned Goods entered for Home Consumption during the Years 1868 and 1869.

	TASMANIA.			VICTORIA.			NEW SOUTH WALES.			SOUTH AUSTRALIA.			QUEENSLAND.		
	1868.	1869.		1868.	1869.		1868.	1869.		1868.	1869.		1868.	1869.	
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Consumption per Head.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Consumption per Head.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Consumption per Head.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Consumption per Head.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Consumption per Head.
Spirits	66,899	69,935	$\frac{7}{10}$	708,321	890,851	$1\frac{1}{4}$	640,850	644,846	$1\frac{1}{10}$	127,948	124,362	$\frac{7}{10}$	241,811	222,198	2
Ditto, Colonial Distilled, galls.	..	..	..	151,107	198,655	$\frac{1}{11}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,861	20,842	$\frac{1}{3}$
Queensland made Rum... galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57,571	51,762	$\frac{1}{3}$
Wine	17,367	22,219	$\frac{2}{9}$	268,788	252,060	$\frac{1}{3}$	183,247	156,660	$\frac{1}{3}$	36,515	46,231	$\frac{1}{4}$	524,864	433,953	$3\frac{1}{11}$
Ale and Beer	45,836	58,388	$\frac{7}{12}$	1,137,747	1,125,865	$1\frac{7}{12}$	1,509,640	1,707,599	$3\frac{2}{3}$	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cider	Nil.	Nil.	..	1620	2136	..	..	..	..	310,063	309,126	$1\frac{2}{3}$	182	12	..
Perry	137	56	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{339}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vinegar	14,838	18,925	$\frac{1}{3}$	78,894	92,264	$\frac{1}{8}$	..	..	..	41,990	43,289	$\frac{1}{4}$	36,613	25,523	$\frac{1}{4}$
Oil, excepting Whale	63,584	39,621	$\frac{5}{8}$	981,924	1,039,922	$1\frac{1}{8}$	..	..	..	195,854	158,963	$\frac{1}{11}$	..	..	..
Tea	611,364	544,123	$\frac{5}{8}$	5,630,512	5,175,443	$7\frac{7}{8}$	5,053,680	4,913,520	$9\frac{1}{8}$	1,117,835	1,387,244	$7\frac{2}{3}$	1,023,862	1,035,972	$9\frac{1}{11}$
Hops	139,484	109,078	$1\frac{1}{11}$	898,331	1,191,388	$1\frac{3}{8}$	213,720	201,120	$\frac{5}{8}$	254,633	230,816	$1\frac{1}{4}$	..	..	..
Malt	725	68	..	195,600	239,056	$\frac{1}{3}$	31,800	37,760	$\frac{1}{14}$	52,000	37,480	$\frac{1}{3}$	..	..	..
Sugar, Raw	67,024	58,269	$\frac{7}{12}$	477,096	523,157	$\frac{2}{3}$	227,389	227,890	$\frac{20}{20}$	93,415	115,335	$\frac{2}{3}$	67,798	54,483	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, Refined .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Molasses	203	261	$\frac{1}{100}$	5046	8323	$\frac{1}{83}$	39	121	..	321	871	$\frac{2}{10}$	565	642	$\frac{1}{11}$
Dried Fruits	371,115	227,469	$2\frac{1}{4}$	4,817,538	4,325,064	$6\frac{1}{11}$	3,289,664	2,970,096	6	1,202,218	883,481	$\frac{4}{5}$	797,528	765,084	$6\frac{1}{11}$
Rice	337,177	212,077	$2\frac{1}{10}$	18,555,299	17,190,848	$24\frac{1}{14}$	7,912,800	5,287,520	$10\frac{2}{3}$	550,928	475,664	$2\frac{2}{3}$	1,449,280	1,291,641	$11\frac{2}{3}$
Sago	25,334	14,028	$1\frac{1}{2}$	582,549	146,998	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coffee	120,298	134,421	$1\frac{1}{3}$	1,139,382	1,180,027	$1\frac{3}{8}$	772,440	775,200	$1\frac{5}{8}$	516,275	374,676	$2\frac{1}{11}$	184,398	166,808	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Chicory	66,442	81,816	$\frac{5}{14}$	309,232	255,472	$\frac{1}{14}$	..	..	..	64,840	66,384	$\frac{2}{3}$	..	..	..
Cocoa	5093	12,170	$\frac{1}{3}$	141,391	220,265	$\frac{1}{7}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	408	444	$\frac{1}{10}$
Chocolate	5847	8978	$\frac{1}{11}$	49,291	63,439	$\frac{1}{11}$	..	..	..	41,685	70,633	$\frac{1}{3}$	14,158	25,128	$\frac{1}{4}$
Tobacco	158,257	156,542	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1,379,497	1,368,764	$1\frac{1}{14}$	†539,430	†530,954	$1\frac{1}{17}$	273,195	334,989	$1\frac{5}{8}$	..	..	..
Unmanufactured .....	..	..	..	68,185	106,712	$\frac{1}{14}$	168,987	167,109	$\frac{1}{3}$	..	..	..	319,530	311,579	$2\frac{2}{11}$
Ditto, Sheepwash	18,335	25,628	$\frac{1}{4}$	191,108	127,253	$\frac{1}{8}$	..	..	..	15,100	20,894	$\frac{1}{9}$	..	..	..
Cigars	4450	6024	$\frac{1}{17}$	46,765	53,877	$\frac{1}{11}$	38,424	39,375	$\frac{1}{13}$	14,747	18,933	$\frac{1}{10}$	9984	8436	$\frac{1}{13}$
Snuff	1269	1140	$\frac{1}{100}$	2032	1492	$\frac{1}{100}$	..	..	..	2933	3608	$\frac{1}{35}$	414	132	..
Candles	60,087	45,211	$\frac{2}{10}$	3,625,213	3,814,592	$\frac{5}{7}$	..	..	..	506,304	460,594	$2\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..
Gunpowder	12,754	10,450	$\frac{1}{10}$	783,710	1,327,872	$1\frac{5}{8}$	..	..	..	118,656	178,615	1	..	..	..
Shot	61,719	94,431	$\frac{1}{10}$	295,904	632,240	$\frac{6}{7}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Soap	67,603	102,827	1	120,884	124,371	$\frac{1}{6}$	..	..	..	296,800	156,688	$\frac{5}{8}$	..	..	..
Soda Crystals	181,513	349,767	$3\frac{1}{2}$	1,923,376	3,942,288	$5\frac{5}{8}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	51,660	42,306	$\frac{1}{11}$
Salt .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£77,923	£73,320	$\frac{1}{3}$
Ad Valorem Duty, 7½ per cent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Amount of Revenue derived from Customs Duties upon all Imported Goods ...	£131,459	£137,621	..	£1,164,499	£1,336,747	..	£785,736	£838,964	..	£196,315	£221,235	..	£331,520	306,577	..
Mean of each year	£1 6s. 1d.	£1 7s. 3d.	..	£1 14s. 0d.	£1 17s. 7d.	..	£1 13s. 8d.	£1 13s. 7d.	..	£1 2s. 3d.	£1 4s. 5d.	..	£3 1s. 8d.	£2 15s. 9d.	..
Estimated Population of the above-named Colonies at the close of the Years 1868 & 1869.	100,700	101,000	..	684,316	710,284	..	466,765	500,000	..	176,298	181,143	..	107,500	110,000	..
Mean of both years	£1 6s. 8d.	..	..	£1 15s. 9d.	£1 14s. 1d.*	..	£1 13s. 7d.	..	..	£1 3s. 4d.	..	..	£2 18s. 8d.	..	..

* Mean after deducting £60,000 paid to New South Wales Government on account of Murray River Duties.

† Tobacco and Snuff.

APPENDIX K.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[CIRCULAR.]
70 | 1468.

118.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 10th June, 1870.

SIR,

ADVERTING to my circular letter, No. 74, of the 31st March last, I have the honor to enclose for your information copy of a further letter which I have addressed to the Government of Tasmania on the subject of the approaching Conference to be held in Melbourne.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,

W. GISBORNE.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

No. 37, 9th
June, 1870.
See ante, p. 17.

APPENDIX L.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

WE, your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Delegates appointed by the respective Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania to consider matters of common interest, in Conference assembled, beg leave to approach your Majesty with assurances of our attachment to your Majesty's person and Government.

We humbly desire to assure your Majesty that the appearance of an Imperial military force in your Australian Colonies has supplied a visible and substantial emblem of Imperial power and Imperial protection from foreign aggression.

We regret that the policy of your Majesty's Government contemplates the withdrawal of the Imperial troops; and that the despatches received from your Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of military protection in Australia show that the Imperial troops can only be permitted to remain in the Colonies upon terms and conditions which cannot be accepted, and lead to the conclusion that the Imperial troops will be speedily withdrawn, thus throwing the Colonies entirely upon their own resources for their internal defence.

We are unwilling to believe that the proposed removal of the troops indicates a desire, on the part of your Majesty's Government, to precipitate any material change in the subsisting relations between the mother country and the Colonies; and trust that the due provision for the naval defence and protection of the coast line of Australia, and of the British commerce in its various ports, will at all times, but especially in time of war, continue to be recognised by your Majesty's Government as a paramount Imperial obligation.

Impressed with these views, we earnestly hope that the colonists of Australia may be enabled to recognise in your Majesty's Government a desire to consult their wishes, and to strengthen their loyalty to the Crown and attachment to the British empire.

APPENDIX M.

MR. FRANCIS—

I AM of opinion that Victoria can agree to proposal No. 1, altering the word "demand" to "necessitate;" but, as at present informed, I think the five following notices by Mr. Wilson are open to objection, because—

First. The Parliament of Victoria is unlikely to yield the present policy of a Tariff of discriminating duties, or its right to amend its own Tariff as circumstances may from time to time require.

Secondly. Because, without Federal or Legislative Union, any Tariff now agreed upon would be virtually unalterable without the unanimous consent of all parties to the Conference.

Thirdly. Because it seems to me to give advantage to some communities, without relative benefit to others comprehended in the agreement.

For instance, the special advantages to Tasmania and South Australia (for the purposes of my argument) would be the admission into Victoria of their products without duty—say flour, wheat, oats, wine, timber, jams, beer, fruit, &c.—while, on the other hand, Victoria has no present equivalent produce or manufacture to export as "duty free" into those Colonies in exchange, inasmuch as the produce or manufactures of Victoria are not yet equal to our own requirements, and consist mainly of goods which are made up wholly or in part from imported materials, and hence would probably be liable to duty inter-colonially as not strictly Victorian produce.

Fourthly. The sugar, the rum, the wine, and the colonial made spirits proposed to be imported duty free (even though subject to excise in producing colony), would very probably before long greatly prejudice the customs revenue of this colony.

On the other hand, to facilitate the commerce between the Colonies, and to commence a system of uniform Tariff, equal rates might be agreed upon for the following items, which constitute about three-fourths of the Customs revenue of all the Colonies, viz.:—Spirits, tobacco and snuff, tea, sugar, rice, wine, beer, opium, dried fruits, coffee, &c., silks, jewellery, and probably other items. Excise rates might be assimilated, and lighthouse dues and all port charges might be made identical, with mutual concessions in favour of colonial voyages.

APPENDIX N.

MEMORANDUM.

MR. HART—

REFERRING to the return placed before Conference by the Honorable the Treasurer, showing the apparent loss to Victoria of a Customs Union, so far as South Australia and Tasmania is concerned, I consider it is inconclusive for the purpose intended.

To take the average customs revenue per head of the population, with a dissimilar Tariff, is useless for the purpose of comparison, when the first principle of the proposed union is that the Tariff shall be uniform; and whilst it is admitted that, in one instance (on spirits) where the duties are similar, there is a smaller amount of duty per head collected in South Australia, this does not result from a smaller consumption, but from a local Distillation Act, which, in the event of a Customs Union, would be repealed. Again, the average of revenue for 1867-8-9 is taken during a period of unexampled depression in South Australia. In 1865, the revenue per head (with the existing Tariff) of population was 30s.; in '66, 27s. 2d.

Then, as to the estimated population for 1868-9, the document is evidently unreliable. No census has been taken since 1866, and as the estimate has been arrived at by taking the natural increase and the difference of the numbers as shown by the Immigration and Emigration returns of Port Adelaide, without taking into account the extensive emigration by land over the border, many thousands have passed from South Australia to become consumers in Victoria, thereby proving the error of the comparison in a twofold degree, because the population is overrated for South Australia, and to an equal measure underrated for Victoria. But it is only reasonable to suppose that a population consisting of people of the same race, with wages on the average equal, which it is safe to calculate will be the case in the future, whatever it may have been in the past, will be equal contributors to the revenue under a uniform Tariff, while on the other hand it is clear that Melbourne will, in the event of the system proposed being adopted, enjoy a large portion of the import trade that now centres in Adelaide.

There is also another error in the estimated loss in the document referred to. It is notorious that Victoria is in receipt of revenue derived from dutiable goods that are consumed in the Colonies of New South Wales and South Australia, for which no allowance is made.

It is also inaccurate in the loss it is presumed Victoria will sustain by the proposed admittance of South Australian and Tasmanian produce duty free.

The object the Victorian Government had in imposing a protective duty on cereals was to foster the agricultural interest in their Colony, and their policy has been so far justified that, by the latest statistical return, it is shown that the produce of the last harvest, after providing for the supply of the entire population, leaves a surplus for export of 21,445 tons; and the customs returns for the first five months of this year show that the duty on South Australian breadstuffs during that period is nil. But what greater proof can be required of the fallacy of the supposition that duty will be paid on imported breadstuffs for home consumption in Victoria than the fact that flour is, and has been from the date of the last harvest, upwards of 10 per cent. dearer in South Australia than that produced from their own wheat in Victoria?

APPENDIX O.

MR. COWPER—

THE Representatives of New South Wales express their willingness to agree to a Customs Union and Intercolonial free trade, provided a uniform Tariff, framed as nearly as possible in accordance with the principles of free trade and a due regard to the fiscal requirements of the Colonies, could be adopted.

APPENDIX P.

Tabled by MR. FRANCIS, 30 | 6 | 70.

THE Representatives of the Government of Victoria express their willingness to consider and submit to their Parliament, and support by every means in their power, propositions to effect a "Customs Union" and intercolonial "Free Trade" between the Colonies parties to this Conference.

Provided, That the four Colonies can agree upon any uniform Tariff which shall not substantially reverse or abandon the present fiscal policy of Victoria, and which favours "discriminating duties" on raw materials for manufactures.

Further, Victoria would, if necessary, concur in alterations in her Tariff, the main objects of which were—to simplify it; to exclude from duty unproductive and unimportant items; to substitute some other for the *ad valorem* principle; to alter the excise impost and make new regulations therefor; and to make the Tariff inalterable, except by mutual consent of all parties to the agreement; and also to agree generally in commercial regulations for the government of commerce and making all port and lighthouse charges as nearly identical as possible.

But inasmuch as it has appeared in the progress of this Conference that the consent of the Colony of New South Wales to an agreement on the foregoing basis is for the present unobtainable, the balance of influences and advantages in the contract is so materially altered thereby, that Victoria would require in any treaty as between that Colony, South Australia, and Tasmania to consider the larger right which her proportion of contribution to any common stock suggests, and which being (the mean of 1868-69)—

Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,190,623
South Australia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	208,775
Tasmania	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134,540
								£1,533,938
								£1,533,938

Victoria would expect that her present Tariff should be accepted as the common Tariff of the Federation, and that there should be a general interchange of goods between the agreeing Colonies, being duty-paid in or the produce of any of these Colonies.

That the Parliament of Victoria should exercise the right to amend the Tariff as circumstances might from time to time require.

That the measure of payments into the common fund by the different Colonies *pro rata* to population (or its other adjustment) should govern the subsequent distribution thereof.

That the basis for division should be the census of 1871, and the net receipts from duties of customs in each Colony for 1868-9, as published (excluding wharfages, &c.).

That the agreement be for five years.

That these preliminaries being agreed to, such other measures shall be at once proceeded with as may be requisite to obtain the legislative confirmation of the different Colonies, and the concurrence of the Imperial authorities.

 APPENDIX Q.

 1870.

 QUEENSLAND.

 PROPOSED SUBMARINE AND LAND TELEGRAPH BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

(Despatch, &c., relative to.)

Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Queensland.

(Queensland, No. 7.)

(Copy.)

Downing-street, 27th January, 1870.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter from Captain Sherard Osborn, relative to the proposed construction of a submarine and land telegraph between Singapore and the Australian Colonies.

I do not doubt that a project which, if successful, will be of so much advantage to the Colony, will receive the attention of your Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GRANVILLE.

Governor BLACKALL.

(Copy.)

*Captain S. OSBORN to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.**Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company (Limited and Reduced),
Offices, 38, Old Broad-street, E.C., 25th January, 1870.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that this company has entered into a contract, and received the order, for constructing a system of submarine and land telegraphs for connecting Singapore, in the Malay Peninsula, with our Australian Colonies, over the route indicated in the accompanying prospectus and map.

The land lines in Australia will be carried out in extension of the Queensland colonial lines, which terminate at Burketown, at the bottom of the Gulf of Carpentaria, to Port Darwin, on the north-west extreme of the territory which is said to be provisionally placed under the jurisdiction of the South Australian Government.

I have, on behalf of this company, to request your Lordship will be pleased to move the Governments of Queensland and South Australia to grant us all necessary permission and countenance in the execution of this undertaking.

Copies of two letters addressed to the Governors of these two Colonies are herewith enclosed; and we shall feel much obliged if the communication from Her Majesty's Colonial Office on the subject could be forwarded by the mail which leaves on Saturday next, the 28th instant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SHERARD OSBORN, *Captain Royal Navy,
Managing Director.**The Right Honorable Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.*

(Copy.)

*Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company (Limited and Reduced),
Offices, 38, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., 25th January, 1870.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY.

I HAVE the honor herewith to enclose the prospectus of the British Australian Telegraph Company, the capital of which has been raised, and the order given for the manufacture of cables and land lines, to be laid between Singapore, in the Malay Peninsula, and Burketown, in Northern Australia.

We are informed by Mr. Douglas, the Postmaster of Queensland, that your Government is extending its lines to the said township of Burketown, and we trust that no time will be lost by the Queensland Government in completing that section.

With reference to that portion of the line which we have contracted to erect between Burketown and Port Darwin, lying within the jurisdiction of your Excellency's Government, I have the honor, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to request the sanction for the erection of the said land lines, and to ask that every countenance and support may be given to Commander Noel Osborn, of the Royal Navy, who is proceeding to Queensland to act as this company's representative, and to superintend the carrying out of the necessary works.

Commander Osborn has been instructed to wait personally upon your Excellency directly he arrives in Brisbane, where he may be expected about May next.

I feel sure that the Government of Queensland will fully appreciate the importance to their community of the telegraphic facilities with Great Britain and Europe which we are endeavouring to supply, and that we may count on every aid and assistance being given to us.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SHERARD OSBORN, *Captain Royal Navy,
Managing Director.**To His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Brisbane.*

*The Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs to the Honorable the Postmaster-General.**Electric Telegraph Department, Superintendent's Office,
Brisbane, 10th May, 1870.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that copies of certain correspondence between Commander Noel Osborn, now in Adelaide, agent for the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, London, the Superintendent of Telegraphs, South Australia, and the Chief Secretary of South Australia, relative to the proposed extension of the electric telegraph to this continent by the British-Australian Telegraph Company, have been published, and as the matter is of great importance as regards the telegraphs of this Colony, I do not hesitate in reporting on the subject.

On 19th April, I received from your office copy of letters, dated January last, from Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., Managing Director of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, forwarded under cover of despatch to His Excellency the Governor, and from Captain Sherard Osborn to His Excellency the Governor, stating that the British-Australian Telegraph Company had been formed, and contracts entered into for landing a cable at Port Darwin, and constructing a land line thence direct to Burketown, requesting that every countenance and support might be given to Commander Noel Osborn, R.N., the agent of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, to enable him to carry out the land lines, and urging that the Queensland Government lose no time in completing their portion of the work as far as Burketown.

Accordingly, this department is now vigorously pushing on its works to Normanton, which will be completed early in 1871. The additional 110 miles to Burketown might be carried on simultaneously with the works of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, from Port Darwin to Burketown, a distance of 750 miles.

Commander Noel Osborn arrived in Adelaide, by the April mail, to treat with the Government of South Australia for permission to erect the land line through their territory from Port Darwin to our western boundary.

The Superintendent of Telegraphs, South Australia, has since recommended, in a report to his Government, that they should undertake to introduce a measure, immediately after the new Parliament meets, for providing, by means of a loan, for the construction at once of a line of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin. This report has been adopted by the Government, and the company communicated with, urging the termination of their line at Port Darwin, on the northern coast of South Australia.

The estimated length of the proposed line is sixteen hundred miles, and the cost of construction £120,000; annual cost of maintenance £8000.

With regard to distance, I observe that little or no allowance has been made for deviations necessary to avoid natural obstacles, such as broken and flooded country, swamps, &c., and to secure permanent water: ten per cent. may be safely added for this purpose. The description given by Stuart, in his journal of a journey across the continent during 1861 and 1862, would seem to show that the route proposed offers few facilities for the construction of a line; the country for the most part being described as intensely hot, devoid of necessary timber, and, owing to its sandy nature, permanent water is exceedingly scarce. Under these circumstances it is not at all improbable that the work would cost considerably more than the amount estimated; and experience obtained in this colony would show that, owing to the many unforeseen difficulties to be surmounted in constructing long lines through unsettled districts, it is hardly possible to frame a reliable estimate of the cost of construction until the country has been examined and its nature thoroughly ascertained.

It is proposed to finish the line by the end of 1871, in order to be in readiness to meet the company's cable on its being landed at Port Darwin. When the nature of the country is duly considered, it may be anticipated that, under the most favourable circumstances, the work would occupy three years, and perhaps a longer period. Only four stations are considered necessary. In this Colony it has been found that a line cannot be depended upon for constant communication, unless repairing stations are placed at distances not exceeding eighty miles. In the event of an interruption occurring during a rainy season on a line with stations so distant as proposed, and no assistance being obtainable, the necessary repairs could not be effected, perhaps, for weeks or months. In the settled districts, it is proposed to depend upon the settlers to make the necessary repairs: this arrangement would never answer, as, not being employed working the line, they might remain weeks unaware of an interruption. With a proper number of stations, the cost of transit of provisions and stores would be considerable. If it were intended to make this line the means of carrying the whole Australian business, it should be in the highest state of efficiency, and always workable. Altogether, the estimate for maintenance may be considered too low.

The mere fact of the telegraph line passing through unsettled districts, would do little or nothing to promote settlement. Up to the present date, I am not aware that South Australia has any line extending into unsettled districts, or a greater distance from her capital than three hundred miles; and Port Augusta, the present northern terminus, is not two hundred miles distant from Adelaide.

It is a question of little moment to Queensland whether the South Australian proposal is carried out or not, provided they do not interfere with the existing arrangements as regards this Colony. This would

seem to be their purpose by attempting to induce the British-Australian Telegraph Company to terminate their works at Port Darwin. The proposed line, if constructed, could not successfully compete with the line now in operation by the eastern route, which is already self-supporting.

I think that the importance of Port Darwin has been greatly over-estimated with regard to this work, and have always advocated, as a means of communication more reliable and less expensive to maintain, that the cable should be brought direct to one of our settlements on the Gulf of Carpentaria. Port Darwin might then be provided for by a branch line from the nearest cable station, say Melville Island. By this means, the heavy cost of constructing and maintaining a land line from Burketown to Port Darwin might be avoided; and the cable, when once laid, would require but little attention.

The action lately taken by the South Australian Government will, I fear, tend to delay the completion of this great work; and I would therefore respectfully urge the desirability of at once communicating with the British-Australian Company, and taking such steps as may be deemed necessary to secure to this Colony the advantages which the present position of our telegraph lines in the north would warrant.

I have &c.,

W. J. CRACKNELL, *Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs.*

The Hon. the Postmaster-General.

TELEGRAM.

From W. J. CRACKNELL, *Superintendent of Electric Telegraph, Brisbane*, to E. C. CRACKNELL, *Esq., Superintendent of Electric Telegraph, Sydney.*

Brisbane, 8th June, 1870.

THIS Government will guarantee the amount, and communicate by mail; also message from Galle, which we will get you to forward.

Colonial Secretary, Brisbane, to DOUGLAS, London.

11th June, 1870.

GOVERNMENT guarantee, subject to approval of Parliament, 5 per cent. on cost of additional cable, the guarantee to commence from the time the cable is laid and continue while in working order. Press this matter and secure cable for Queensland. New South Wales joins us in guarantee.

TELEGRAM FOR COLONIAL SECRETARY, BRISBANE.

(Through Reuter, Galle.)

Adelaide, 4th June, 1870.

TELEGRAPH Company will lay Cable to Normantown if Queensland will guarantee five (5) per cent. on additional cable company. Must know by 7th August, otherwise will probably accept offer from South Australia.

DOUGLAS, *London.*

APPENDIX R.

TELEGRAM.

Treasurer, South Australia, to F. S. DUTTON, Agent-General.

ACT for construction of telegraph from Port Augusta to Port Darwin passed both Houses, and assented to by Governor. Large supply of stores purchased, and Superintendent of Telegraphs organizing parties to commence the works at both ends and various intermediate points immediately. Been instructed to press it forward with all despatch, and have the line open for traffic by 1st January, 1872.

Line will be maintained and worked by this Government free of all cost to Telegraph Company.

Letter and copy of Act by mail.

Dated the 20th June, 1870.

J. HART, *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX S.

WE, the Representatives of the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania, desire to place on record our opinion that a general customs union, a uniform tariff, and an equal distribution of the revenue therefrom, on the basis of population, together with a free interchange of colonial products and manufactures amongst the contracting parties, would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of the several Colonies.

That, in our anxiety to give effect to such an arrangement, we have in this Conference declared our willingness to make large concessions where our tariffs have differed from those of the other Colonies, in order to arrive at one common conclusion; and, thus far, the Treasurer of Victoria (the Hon. Mr. Francis), in his paper dated 30 | 6 | 70, agrees; but only on the condition that New South Wales should be a contracting party, which condition is immediately afterwards stated, in the same document, to have been previously ascertained to be impracticable.

That, failing the concurrence of New South Wales, the paper submitted by the Hon. Mr. Francis proceeds to lay down new terms and conditions, placing the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania in a position not only highly detrimental to their interests, but also contemplating the surrender by these Colonies of their common right to a co-ordinate voice with Victoria in any re-adjustment of the tariff. We are, therefore, unable to acquiesce in such a proposition, or to recommend it to our respective Governments.

With reference to the statements of revenue for the years 1867-8-9, upon which the Hon. Mr. Francis bases the claim of Victoria to an unequal distribution per head of the population in favour of that Colony, we would remark that they are unreliable for so grave a purpose. For instance, no deduction is made for drawbacks upon the gross customs revenue of Victoria; and the fact is ignored that, on the part of South Australia—with a uniform tariff and excise regulations—an addition of 6s. 6d. per head of the population would be obtained on spirits and tobacco alone.

It is impossible that we can advise our Governments to legislate upon the basis of a proposal which binds South Australia and Tasmania to maintain a common tariff for the period of five years (as proposed in the paper already referred to), whilst Victoria claims the right to alter this "inalterable" tariff from time to time, as circumstances or inclination may prompt. We regard it as a first principle of common justice that an agreement between contracting parties should be equally binding upon all concerned, and, consequently, view this stipulation on the part of Victoria as fatal to the project of a Customs Union, even if no other objection existed.

JOHN HART,
JOHN H. BARROW.

J. M. WILSON,
THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

1st July, 1870.

APPENDIX T.

Tabled by VICTORIAN DELEGATES, 1 | 9 | 70.

IN regard to differences of opinion as to the basis for the distribution of revenue to be derived from the respective Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania—

Contingent upon the other points of the previous minute being agreed to, Victoria is willing, in order to afford an opportunity to the other two Colonies to prepare requisite statistics from their own records, to enter on a correspondence, with a view to consider the proportion in which the aggregate revenues shall be divided.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE REPORT.

THE following Memo. is circulated with the request that it may be appended to the "Report of the Proceedings of the Intercolonial Conference," as forming portion of Appendix J., p. 73, having accidentally been omitted therefrom.

IN reference to the preceding Return, showing the apparent loss to Victoria by the adoption of a "Customs Union" as between Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, I remark that the Victorian tariff does not give an exact basis for such an estimate, as the receipts are computed from different tariffs; but inasmuch as the duties from spirits and tobacco alone (calculated on the *consumption* in the respective colonies) account, to a certain extent, for the difference in revenue, no material alteration or allowance is necessary.

As regards the interchange of "*native*" products or manufactures "duty free," it is probable that the "apparent loss" therefrom is more likely to be *under* than *over estimated*, as the natural consequence of the relinquishment of "*charges*" on these items of import will result in increased importations into Victoria, and possibly displace similar articles of home production.

An estimate of results as regards New South Wales is not made, because, in the first place, the customs receipts as between that colony and Victoria approximate, and because the delegates from New South Wales decline to consider any proposition to alter or amend their tariff in the direction of the principle admitted by all the other colonies, namely, a "discriminating duty" with respect to raw materials for manufacture and on manufactured goods. Perseverance in the attempt to agree, therefore, as between New South Wales and the other colonies represented, has been limited to the effort to concur in rates of duty on imports liable to a "fixed" duty, such as "spirits," "tobacco," "tea," "sugar," "wines," "beer," &c.; and, with the exception of the duty on sugar, an accord seems practicable to the extent of items constituting the groundwork of the receipts for fully three parts of the total respective revenues.

The very great convenience and many advantages of one common tariff for *all Australia* are so patent, that Victoria would probably sacrifice much to effect it; but the delegates deem it inexpedient to consider any proposition desirable which would reverse or abandon the policy disclosed in her present tariff of "discriminating duties."

As regards a "Customs Union"—to be effective it is mainly necessary that it should comprise *all* the adjacent colonies, and especially those on the mainland, and in which case, on agreed conditions, all duties collected could be paid into one fund for division "*pro rata*" to population; the duty paid imports into, and the produce or manufactures of either of the said colonies, passing "free" from one into the other respectively.

But as this arrangement, as above shown, is at present impracticable, it is doubtless desirable to make an effort to arrange a uniform tariff between Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, preliminary to the consideration of other relations; as before a "Customs Union" could be satisfactory (even between these three colonies) it would be necessary to show that advantages were mutual, and that the interchange "free of duty" of raw products or manufactures as between these colonies was respectively beneficial. Further, as the relative population in the three colonies does not equally represent the comparative consumption of "dutiable" goods, it seems necessary that the measure of payments into a common treasury should control the subsequent distribution; for although an amendment and "levelling up" of the excise laws in South Australia would probably better proportion her revenue from "spirits" to that of Victoria, at present the differences in a revenue point of view (*viz.*, Victoria £1 14s. 1d., and, estimated for 1870, £1 16s. 3d., South Australia, £1 3s. 4d., and Tasmania, £1 6s. 8d.) are too serious not to be taken into account in distribution.

It is also very probable that in any appeal to the Imperial authorities to give effect to a "Customs Union," the limitation of the application to these three colonies would be cause of grave doubts, if not to occasion its being denied, as a system of differential duties would thus be in active operation as between the contiguous colonies on the mainland of Australia, as well as against foreign nations and Great Britain.

Melbourne, 29th June, 1870.

(Signed) J. G. FRANCIS.