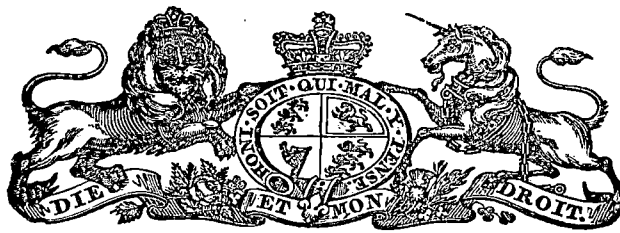


(No. 90.)



1883.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIL SERVICE:

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 18, 1883.



Tasmania,
General Post Office, Hobart, 12th October, 1881.

SIR,

THE Postmaster-General has received a communication from the Chairman of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce with reference to fixing certain days throughout the year for the conveyance of the Mails between Launceston and Melbourne bi-weekly each way, the English Mail Inwards not to interfere with the regular despatch of the steamer from Melbourne, unless it could be brought on by a detention of only twenty-four hours.

It has been proposed that the steamers should leave Launceston on every Tuesday and Friday, and Melbourne on every Monday and Thursday. The Members of the Chamber are unanimously of opinion, in which the Members of the Launceston Chamber agree, that a punctual and regular despatch and receipt of the Melbourne and Intercolonial Mails is of the utmost importance.

In bringing the matter under your notice I am directed by the Postmaster-General to say that he will be glad to receive the views of your Directors thereon at an early date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*

EDWARD J. FREEMAN, *Esq.,*
Manager T.S.N. Company.

Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, Hobart, 12th October, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date.

I will take the first opportunity of laying your letter before the Board of Directors of this Company, and in the meantime I may say that I receive with satisfaction the proposal for a regular bi-weekly Intercolonial Service, as I feel sure, if such can be arranged between the Government and this Company, it will be greatly appreciated by the public generally.

I have, &c.

EDWARD J. FREEMAN, *Manager.*

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Esq., Secretary Post Office,*
Hobart.

10th April, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will favour me with an interview at the Treasury at an early date with reference to the Contract for the conveyance of Mails between Tasmania and Victoria.

I have, &c.

J. S. DODDS.

E. J. FREEMAN, *Esq.,*
Manager T.S.N. Company.

Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, Hobart, 11th April, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, asking me to favour you with an interview *re* the Contract for the Conveyance of Mails between Tasmania and Victoria.

Would you name a day next week? I shall be happy in such event to meet you on any day named. I would suggest an earlier date, but that I am very busily engaged for the remainder of the present week with the Marine and Victualling Superintendents.

I have, &c.

EDWARD J. FREEMAN, *Manager.*

The Hon. J. S. DODDS, Treasurer.

TUESDAY next, 17th, at 11 o'clock, appointed.—11. 4. 83.

Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, Hobart, 17th April, 1883.

MY DEAR PACKER.

WILL you kindly inform the Treasurer that Mr. Justin Browne will accompany me when I fulfil my appointment this morning?

Yours very truly,

JOHN E. PACKER, *Esq.*

EDWARD J. FREEMAN.

19th April, 1883.

SIR,

REFERRING to a former communication of the 12th October last, and to my interview with yourself and one of the Directors, Mr. J. M'Carthy Browne, on the 17th instant, relative to the establishment of a bi-weekly Mail Service between Launceston and Melbourne, and at which interview alternative proposals were fully discussed, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me, at your earliest convenience, on what terms your Company will be prepared to perform the following services:—

1. To carry Mails bi-weekly between Launceston and Melbourne, leaving Launceston on Tuesday and Friday, and Melbourne on Monday and Thursday, in each week.
2. To perform similar service as in No. 1, but leaving Launceston on Monday and Thursday, and Melbourne on Tuesday and Friday, in each week.
3. To perform similar service as in No. 1, but leaving Launceston and Melbourne on Tuesday and Friday in each week.

The usual conditions of a Mail Contract would be required; but the detention of a steamer on account of English Mail is in no case to exceed twenty-four hours.

I have, &c.

J. S. DODDS.

E. J. FREEMAN, *Esq., Manager T.S.N. Co., Hobart.*

Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, Hobart, 26th April, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, relative to the establishment of a bi-weekly Mail Service between Launceston and Melbourne.

The several proposals contained therein have had the careful consideration of the Directors, who are of opinion that the mutual interests of the Company and the public can be better served by the adoption of Wednesdays and Saturdays, subject to certain provisions which I have to explain.

You are aware that the English Mail steamers leave Melbourne during six months of the year on alternate Tuesdays, at 7 A.M., and during the other six months on Thursdays, at 1 P.M.; the Company's steamers, to meet these, leaving Launceston on Sundays and Wednesdays respectively.

Apart from the desirability of avoiding Sunday trading as much as possible, it is almost certain that regular departures from Melbourne on that day would not be permitted; Saturday, therefore, must be taken instead.

For reasons which have been verbally explained to you, the Company find it all but imperative that their steamers leave each port on the same day.

Saturday departures from Launceston, of course, involve the closing of the English Mails in Hobart on Fridays; possibly, however, this would not be objected to by the public, as the inward English Mails are very rarely delivered here as late even as the morning of that day.

The absence of any railway train service from Launceston on Sundays, however, renders Sunday arrivals there highly inconvenient. Mails and passengers arriving on that day, perhaps early in the morning to suit the tide in the River Tamar, cannot reach Hobart before Monday evening,—a delay which would be intolerable. Unless, therefore, the Government will undertake to arrange for the necessary Sunday trains, regular arrivals on that day would be so prejudicial to the Company's interests as to be inadmissible.

I may point out that if the difficulties referred to can be obviated, and trains were to run both ways on Sunday, an incidental advantage would accrue. During part of the summer, when steamers are sometimes run tri-weekly, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday would then be an equal and convenient division of the week.

If the Government agree with the views of the Directors, and will provide the train service required to carry them out, the Directors are prepared to treat for a new Contract for a fixed term of years upon the "usual conditions of a Mail Contract," and with the understanding that the "detention of a steamer on account of English Mail is in no case to exceed twenty-four hours."

I have, &c.

EDWARD J. FREEMAN, *Manager.*

The Hon. J. S. DODDS, Treasurer and Postmaster-General.