

(No. 94.)



1864.

T A S M A N I A.

FORTNIGHTLY MAIL.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH VICTORIA.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 2 September, 1864.



(Copy.)

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 16th August, 1864.

SIR,

MR. SPARKES, the Melbourne Agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, has undertaken, on behalf of the Company he represents, to establish Fortnightly Steam Communication between the Australian Colonies and Point de Galle for the Sum of Fifty thousand Pounds in addition to the amount already paid for the Service once a month.

1. The extension of the Telegraphic Wires from England to Point de Galle, which will shortly be effected, will give additional value to increased Postal Communication with Great Britain and the East; and it appears to this Government that the terms are favorable, and such as might be accepted with great advantage by the Colonies interested in the question.

2. These views have been stated in a Minute which was forwarded by Sir Charles Darling, Governor of the Colony, by the last Homeward Mail, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3. As this Paper sets forth the extent to which the Government of Victoria would be prepared to go in support of increased Mail Communication with Great Britain, I have the honor to hand you a copy for your perusal; and to express a hope that, in the event of the Imperial Authorities consenting to an enlargement of the Contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company as proposed, your Government may feel in a position to join with this Colony in an arrangement for guaranteeing the payment of One Moiety of the additional Subsidy, on the basis laid down in the Treasury Minute of the 25th April, 1861.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES M'CULLOCH.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Copy.)

MEMO.

WHAT would the amount Tasmania would be called on to contribute be, based on the present mode of distribution, for a Fortnightly Mail?

(Signed) CHARLES MEREDITH.
26th August, 1864.

S. T. HARDINGE, *Esq.*

I ESTIMATE the extra cost to this Colony to be about £1400 per annum, if the Home Government concur in the proposed arrangement.

(Signed) S. T. HARDINGE, *Secretary General Post Office.*
29th August, 1864.

The Hon. CHARLES MEREDITH, Esq., Colonial Treasurer.