

(No. 26.)



1877.

SESSION II.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DUPLICATE TELEGRAPH CABLE:

REPORT OF CONFERENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
April 24, 1877.

1877.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT,
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS, &c.
OF THE
CABLE CONFERENCE,
HELD IN
SYDNEY,
IN
JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 1877.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
6 February, 1877.



SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1877.

LIST OF PAPERS.

- 1. Report of the Proceedings of the Conference.**
- 2. Minutes of the Conference.**
- 3. Papers laid before the Conference.**
- 4. Evidence of Professional Gentlemen in attendance on the Conference.**

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

REPORT of the PROCEEDINGS of the Conference on Duplication of the Cable between Australasia and Europe, held in Sydney in January, 1877.

THE Conference on the subject of Duplication of the Telegraph Cable between Australasia and Europe assembled in Sydney, and held their first meeting on the 25th January, 1877.

The whole of the Australasian Colonies were represented, as follows, viz. :—

New South Wales : THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON, Colonial Secretary.

THE HONORABLE ALEXANDER STUART, Colonial Treasurer.

THE HONORABLE J. F. BURNS, Postmaster General.

New Zealand : THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN, Postmaster General and Commissioner of Telegraphs, and Commissioner of Customs.

Queensland : THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, Q.C., Attorney General, and Secretary for Public Instruction.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN, Postmaster General.

South Australia : THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary.

THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD, Minister of Agriculture and Education.

Tasmania : THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE, Member of the Executive Council.

Victoria : THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON, Commissioner of Customs.

THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY, Minister of Public Instruction and Postmaster General.

Western Australia : THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER, Surveyor General, and Member of the Executive Council.

At the first meeting of the Conference, The Honorable JOHN ROBERTSON was unanimously elected Chairman, and Mr. ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Executive Council, was appointed Secretary.

The Conference unanimously agreed to the following Resolution :—

That the Representatives of each Colony shall undertake to recommend to the Governments and Parliaments of the Colonies which they represent the adoption of measures to carry out the Resolutions of the Conference to which they may have given their assent.

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The Conference then proceeded to discuss the whole question of duplication of the Cable; and the various routes proposed; when, after mature deliberation, the following Resolutions were adopted:—

1. That it is desirable to extend and improve the means of Telegraphic Communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication, where necessary, of the Cables or Lines connecting the same.
2. That any subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe shall be borne by the several Australian Colonies assenting thereto, in proportion to population.
3. That the loss (if any) on competing Colonial Lines, to connect the Cables with the main telegraphic system of each Colony, should in like manner be borne by all the Colonies concerned.

NOTE.—Tasmania voted against this resolution,—New Zealand, Victoria, and Western Australia did not vote.

4. That inasmuch as it has been decided that it is desirable to extend and improve the means of telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication, where necessary, of the Cables or lines connecting the same, and that the subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe be borne by the several Colonies assenting thereto in proportion to population:
 - (1.) The several Governments of South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia be invited to open negotiations for the construction of Cables connecting their several Colonies with Singapore or Ceylon; and the Government of New Zealand for the construction of a Cable from that Colony to the United States of America.
 - (2.) That in such negotiations the Government of New Zealand enter into communication with the Government of the United States, for the purpose of procuring their consent to contribute to the payment of any subsidy that may be payable in respect of the same; and further, that in all the negotiations of the several Governments the necessity of procuring a reduction of the present tariff rates be especially kept in view, the maximum rate being six shillings per word.
 - (3.) That in the meantime the South Australian Government be requested, on behalf of the several Colonies, to urge upon the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company the necessity of keeping a repairing steamer between Banjoewangi and Port Darwin, to repair any accident to that portion of Cable.
5. That having in view the serious annoyance and loss occasioned by the mutilation of messages in transmission through Java, the President of this Conference be requested, on behalf of the Australasian Colonies represented, to communicate with the Secretary of State, for the purpose of obtaining permission from the Government of Netherlands-India to employ English operators on the land lines in Java.
6. That the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales be empowered to make arrangements with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for a reduction of message tariff to six shillings per word, at a subsidy not exceeding £20,000 per annum, terminable at one year's notice; and that such subsidy be borne by the respective Colonies in proportion to population—any Colony to be at liberty to withdraw on like notice.

The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia refrained from voting on this resolution.

7. That the several Colonies agree to allow the necessary official telegrams of H.M. Ships to pass over their respective lines free of charge.
8. That the Governments of Queensland and South Australia be requested to circulate among the respective Governments the draft Bills referred to in the Resolutions of the Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney, passed on the 10th February, 1873, for removing the defects in the law relating to the extradition of criminals, and the absconding of debtors, with a view to the same being submitted to the respective Legislatures as early as practicable.

(The following are the resolutions referred to:—

“That the present state of the law in regard to the Extradition of Criminals escaping from one Colony into another is defective. That the Government of Queensland be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the Representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavour to pass into law.”

“That the present state of the law in regard to remedies to be had against absconding Debtors is defective.”

“That the Government of South Australia be requested to prepare a Bill to remedy the defects, and, subject to the approval of their respective Law Officers, the Members of this Conference will endeavour to procure the passing of a similar Bill in their respective Legislatures.”)

9. That, in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that a uniform telegraphic code should be adopted by the several Australasian Colonies.

A motion proposed by the Representatives of Queensland, "That any duplicate system should be by a distinct route throughout from that now in use," was negatived. The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia refrained from voting.

A motion proposed by the Representatives of South Australia, "That this Conference approves of the construction of a duplicate line from Singapore to Banjoewangi," was also negatived,—those in favour of the motion being New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria.

A motion was also proposed by the Representative of Western Australia, "That any duplicate of the present Cables start from the North-west coast of Western Australia, provided it is shown that by such the best communication with Europe and Asia is secured at a moderate cost as compared with other and alternative routes which have been advanced;" but after some discussion the motion, with the concurrence of the Conference, was withdrawn.

A motion, proposed by the Representatives of Queensland, "That it is desirable that a Submarine Cable should be laid from Singapore to Cape York in Queensland, the Government of that Colony undertaking, in the event of such Cable being laid, to connect their existing land lines therewith," was negatived. Tasmania did not vote.

The Conference discussed several other questions on which no definitive action was taken.

Attention is called to the Appendix of Minutes of Proceedings, Report of Evidence taken, and Documents laid before the Conference.

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| JOHN ROBERTSON, ALEX. STUART, J. F. BURNS, | } New South Wales. |
| GEO. McLEAN, | New Zealand. |
| S. W. GRIFFITH, CHARLES STUART MEIN, | } Queensland. |
| HENRY AYERS, EBENEZER WARD, | } South Australia. |
| JAMES WHYTE, | Tasmania. |
| ROBERT RAMSAY, | Victoria. |
| MALCOLM FRASER, | Western Australia. |

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

The Treasury, Sydney, 2nd February, 1877.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CABLE CONFERENCE,

HELD IN SYDNEY, IN 1877.

At the Treasury, Sydney.

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY, 1877.

THE undermentioned gentlemen, Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria, were present :—

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| <i>New South Wales :</i> | THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON. THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART. THE HONORABLE J. F. BURNS. |
| <i>New Zealand :</i> | THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN. |
| <i>Queensland :</i> | THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH. THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN. |
| <i>South Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G. THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD. |
| <i>Tasmania :</i> | THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE. |
| <i>Victoria :</i> | THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON. THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY. |

The Honorable John Robertson was, on the motion of Sir Henry Ayers, seconded by the Honorable R. Anderson, unanimously elected to the Chair.

Mr. Alex. C. Budge was appointed Secretary.

The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS then proposed,—

“That in the event of any division upon a motion the votes of the Colonies shall be taken in lieu of the individual votes of the Representatives of the said Colonies.”

The Conference agreed to the same.

The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS also proposed, and the Honorable G. McLEAN seconded, the following motion, which the Conference unanimously adopted :—

“That the proceedings of the Conference, during its sitting, shall not be made public, except with the sanction of the Conference.”

It was then resolved :—

“That the Representatives of each Colony shall undertake to recommend to the Governments and Parliaments of the Colonies which they represent, the adoption of measures to carry out all the resolutions of the Conference to which they may have given their assent.”

It was further resolved :—

“That the Secretary be required to prepare minutes of each day's proceedings, which shall be read over and confirmed at the next sitting previous to any new business being entered upon.”

MR. STUART gave notice of the following Motions :—

- (1.) That it is desirable to extend and improve the means of Telegraphic Communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication where necessary of the cables or lines connecting the same.
- (2.) That the subsidy on ocean cables, to connect Australia with Europe, be borne by the several Australian Colonies in proportion to population.
- (3.) That the loss (if any) on Colonial lines, to connect the cables with the main telegraphic systems, should, in like manner, be borne by all the Colonies concerned.
- (4.) That if New Zealand contribute to the subsidy and loss referred to in the foregoing Resolutions, the subsidy on the New Zealand Cable should be a common charge to be borne by all in a similar manner.

MR. GRIFFITH gave notice of the following Motions :—

- (1.) That it is, in the opinion of this Conference, essential that a complete duplicate system of telegraphic communication should be forthwith established between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies.
- (2.) That such duplicate system should be entirely independent of the lines of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and of the South Australian line between Port Darwin and Adelaide.
- (3.) That the point of connection between the duplicate Cable line and the Continent of Australia should be Thursday Island, near Cape York, in the Colony of Queensland.
- (4.) That the Colony of Queensland should forthwith proceed with the construction of a line of telegraph to connect their existing lines with Thursday Island.
- (5.) That any subsidy which may be required for the construction or maintenance of the ocean cable lines should be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies, in amounts proportionate to their population.
- (6.) That the losses (if any) which may be sustained from time to time by the Government of South Australia in maintaining and working the line of telegraph between Port Augusta and Port Darwin, and by the Government of Queensland in maintaining and working the line of telegraph between Cardwell and Kimberley, and between Cardwell and the point of departure of the ocean cable, should be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies in amounts proportionate to their populations.
- (7.) That, in the event of the Colony of New Zealand uniting with the Colonies of Australia in the agreement embodied in the foregoing resolutions, the subsidy payable in respect of the cable connecting New Zealand and New South Wales shall be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies, in amounts proportionate to their populations.

The Council then adjourned until Saturday, the 27th instant, at half past 10 o'clock.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

At the Treasury, Sydney,
SATURDAY, 27 JANUARY, 1877.

Present :

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| <i>New South Wales :</i> | THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON. THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART. THE HONORABLE J. F. BURNS. |
| <i>New Zealand :</i> | THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN. |
| <i>Queensland :</i> | THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH. THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN. |
| <i>South Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G. THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD. |
| <i>Tasmania :</i> | THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE. |
| <i>Victoria :</i> | THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON. THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY. |

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock A.M., the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 25th instant were read and confirmed.

Sir HENRY AYERS then proposed, and the Honorable EBENEZER WARD seconded the following motion, which the Conference unanimously adopted, viz. :—

“That the order of debate be the same as is observed in consideration of questions in a Committee of the Whole House of Parliament, but that the Chairman have the same right as any other member of the Conference to take part in the discussion of all questions.”

The Honorable CHARLES STUART MEIN proposed, and The Honorable JAMES WHYTE seconded, the following motion, which the Conference agreed to, viz. :—

“That in referring to the several Colonies represented in any proceedings of the Conference, the names be placed in alphabetical order.”

The Honorable JOHN ROBERTSON (Chairman) laid before the Conference the undermentioned papers, which were read by the Clerk, and ordered by the Conference to be printed, viz. :—

- (1.) Précis prepared by the Chairman of the correspondence on the subject of a Duplicate Telegraph Cable to connect the Australasian Colonies with the rest of the World.
- (2.) A communication from the Commodore to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales on the subject of—
 1. Rewards for the arrest of deserters from the Navy.
 2. Free telegraphic messages on Naval service.
- (3.) A Report from the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, dated 11th October, 1876.
- (4.) A letter from J. E. Stewart, Secretary to the Victorian Humane Society, on the subject of Life-saving Apparatus at Sea.
- (5.) A letter from Captain Audley Coote, dated the 23rd January, and a supplementary letter, dated the 25th January, on the subject of a Duplicate Cable.
- (6.) A letter from Messrs. Knevett and Taylor, on behalf of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, notifying that they are prepared to afford the Conference any information required.

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The Honorable ALEX. STUART then proposed the motions of which notice was given on the 25th instant, and having moved the adoption of No. 1, viz. :—

“(1.) That it is desirable to extend and improve the means of Telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication where necessary of the cables or lines connecting the same”,—

The Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH proposed that all the words after the word “is” in the first line be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words :—

“(1.) [That it is] in the opinion of this Conference, essential that a complete duplicate system of Telegraphic communication should be forthwith established between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies.”

And the same having been fully discussed, the Chairman put the question,—“That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.”

| Ayes. | No. |
|------------------|-------------|
| New South Wales. | Queensland. |
| New Zealand. | |
| South Australia. | |
| Tasmania. | |
| Victoria. | |

The question was then put,—“That the motion proposed by Mr. Stuart be adopted,” which was unanimously agreed to.

SIR HENRY AYERS laid before the Conference two Returns on the subject of—

- (1.) Port Darwin Telegraph Line Interruptions,
- (2.) Cable Interruptions,—

Which were ordered to be printed; also a chart showing the Telegraph line from Adelaide to Port Darwin, which was ordered to be lithographed and appended to the proceedings.

The Conference, on the motion of the Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, seconded by the Honorable CHARLES STUART MEIN, directed—

“That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Conference be printed confidentially, for the use of the Members only, and that each day’s proceedings be printed after being confirmed by the Conference.”

The Conference, shortly after 1 o’clock, adjourned until Monday, the 29th instant, at half-past 10 o’clock.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

At the Treasury, Sydney,

MONDAY, 29 JANUARY, 1877.

Present :

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|----------------------------|--|
| <i>New South Wales :</i> | THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON. THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART. THE HONORABLE JOHN F. BURNS. |
| <i>New Zealand :</i> | THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN. |
| <i>Queensland :</i> | THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH. THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN. |
| <i>South Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G. THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD. |
| <i>Tasmania :</i> | THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE. |
| <i>Victoria :</i> | THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON. THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY. |
| <i>Western Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER. |

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o’clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 27th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable ALEX. STUART then proposed the following motion :—

“That the subsidy on Ocean cables to connect Australia with Europe, be borne by the several Australian Colonies in proportion to population,” and the same having been discussed by the Conference, and verbally amended, was unanimously adopted.

The motion as passed is as follows :—

“That any subsidy on Ocean cables to connect Australia with Europe, shall be borne by the several Australian Colonies assenting thereto, in proportion to population.”

The Honorable ALEX. STUART then proposed the following motion :—

“That the loss, if any, on Colonial lines, to connect the Cables with the main Telegraphic system of each Colony, shall in like manner be borne by all the Colonies concerned.”

The Honorable R. S. ANDERSON then moved an amendment, that after the word “lines,” the words “that it may be found necessary to construct,” be inserted.

After discussion the Conference unanimously agreed that the further consideration of the motion should be postponed until to-morrow.

The Honorable ALEX. STUART then moved, that the motion (No. 4) on the Paper should stand over until No. 3 shall have been disposed of.

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The Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH then moved—

“That any duplicate system should be by a distinct route throughout, from that now in use.”

After discussion, the Conference resolved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until the next meeting.

The Honorable EBENEZER WARD then gave notice of the following motion for to-morrow:—

“That this Conference approves of the construction of duplicate cables from Singapore to Bangoe-wangi, and from Banjoewangi to Port Darwin, and that it is advisable offers should be invited from persons or Companies willing to construct and maintain such cables.”

The Honorable MALCOLM FRASER gave notice of the following motion for to-morrow:—

“That any duplication of the present cables start from the north-west coast of Western Australia.”

The Council then adjourned at a quarter to 2 o'clock until next day at half-past 10 o'clock.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

At the Treasury, Sydney,

TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY, 1877.

Present:

New South Wales: THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON.
THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART.
THE HONORABLE JOHN F. BURNS.
New Zealand: THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN.
Queensland: THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH.
THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN.
South Australia: THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G.
THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD.
Tasmania: THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE.
Victoria: THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON.
THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY.
Western Australia: THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 29th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable JOHN F. BURNS laid before the Conference a Report from the Acting Superintendent of Telegraphs on the subject of a duplicate Cable, which was read by the Secretary.

The consideration of the following resolution, moved by the Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, was resumed, viz. :—

“That any duplicate system should be by a distinct route throughout from that now in use.”

And after discussion, the Conference, on the motion of the Honorable R. RAMSAY, resolved to examine such of the professional and other gentlemen in attendance, as they might consider to be necessary.

Messrs. Taylor, Knevitt, and Audley Coote were then separately examined. (*For Evidence see Appendix.*)

The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS, on behalf of The Honorable EBENEZER WARD, moved the resolution of which notice was given yesterday, as an amendment on the resolution of the Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH,—That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words:—

“[That] this Conference approves of the construction of duplicate Cables from Singapore to Banjoewangie, and from Banjoewangi to Port Darwin, and that it is advisable offers should be invited from persons or Companies willing to construct and maintain such Cables.”

The Honorable JAMES WHYTE moved as a further amendment,—

“That the further consideration of the resolution and amendment be postponed until resolution No. 3 (moved by the Honorable ALEX. STUART), and the amendment thereon (moved by the Honorable R. S. ANDERSON), shall have been disposed of.”

After discussion, the amendment proposed by the Honorable JAMES WHYTE was put and negatived the following division:—

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|--------------------|------------------|
| Ayes. | Noes. |
| New Zealand. | New South Wales. |
| Tasmania. | Queensland. |
| Western Australia. | South Australia. |
| | Victoria. |

The

The question was then put, That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question :—

| Aye. | Noes. |
|-------------|------------------|
| Queensland. | New South Wales. |
| | South Australia. |
| | Victoria. |

The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia, did not vote.

The Honorable EBENEZER WARD having obtained leave to amend his original motion, proposed that after the word 'that' the following words be inserted :—

"[That] this Conference approves of the construction of a duplicate line from Singapore to Banjoewangi."

The Conference having fully discussed the subject, the motion was put by the Chairman, and negatived on the following division :—

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|------------------|--------------------|
| New South Wales. | New Zealand. |
| South Australia. | Queensland. |
| Victoria. | Tasmania. |
| | Western Australia. |

The Conference, on the motion of the Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS, adjourned at a quarter past 4 o'clock until next day at half-past 10 a.m.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

At the Treasury, Sydney,
WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY, 1877.

Present :

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|----------------------------|--|
| <i>New South Wales :</i> | THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON. THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART. THE HONORABLE JOHN F. BURNS. |
| <i>New Zealand :</i> | THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN. |
| <i>Queensland :</i> | THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH. THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN. |
| <i>South Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G. THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD. |
| <i>Tasmania :</i> | THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE. |
| <i>Victoria :</i> | THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY. |
| <i>Western Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER. |

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the proceedings on the 30th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable MALCOLM FRASER then proposed the following Resolution,—That after the word "That" the following words be added, being the motion of which notice was given by him on the 29th instant :—

"[That] any duplicate of the present Cables start from the North-west Coast of Western Australia," and that in addition thereto, the following words be added, "provided it is shown that by such the best communication with Europe and Asia is secured, at a moderate cost as compared with other and alternative routes, which have been advanced."

After discussion, the Honorable MALCOLM FRASER, with the consent of the Conference, withdrew his Resolution.

The Honorable R. RAMSAY laid before the Conference a "Memorandum to Hugh George, Esq., General Manager, of 'the Argus,' on the subject of delays in transmission of Cable Telegrams, &c.," which, having been read, the Conference directed should be printed.

The Chairman also laid before the Conference a telegram from John Pender, Esq., Chairman of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, on the subject of a duplicate cable, which was ordered to be printed.

The Honorable S. W. GRIFFITH proposed the insertion of the following words after the word "That,"—"it is desirable that a Submarine Cable should be laid from Singapore to Cape York, in Queensland, the Government of that Colony undertaking, in the event of such cable being made, to connect their existing land lines therewith.

The Chairman then put the question—"That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted."

The Conference divided.

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Queensland. | New South Wales. |
| | New Zealand. |
| | South Australia. |
| | Victoria. |
| | Western Australia. |

Tasmania did not vote.

The

The Honorable G. McLEAN then proposed the Resolutions (with certain alterations), of which notice was given yesterday, viz. :—

That inasmuch as it has been decided that it is desirable to extend and improve the means of telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe by the duplication where necessary of the Cables or lines connecting the same, and that the subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe be borne by the several Colonies assenting thereto in proportion to population,—

- (1.) The several Governments of South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia be invited to open negotiations for the construction of Cables connecting their several Colonies with Singapore or Ceylon; and the Government of New Zealand for the construction of a Cable from that Colony to the United States of America.
- (2.) That, in negotiating for the construction of the last-mentioned Cable, the Government of New Zealand enter into communication with the Government of the United States for the purpose of procuring their consent to contribute to the payment of any subsidy that may be payable in respect of the same; and further, that in all the negotiations of the several Governments the necessity of procuring a reduction of the present tariff rates be especially kept in view, the maximum rate being 6s. per word.
- (3.) That in the meantime the South Australian Government be requested on behalf of the several Colonies to urge upon the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company the necessity of keeping a repairing steamer between Banjoewangi and Port Darwin, to repair any accident to that portion of Cable.

After discussion it was proposed, and carried on the following division, that the further consideration of the Resolutions be postponed, until the Honorable ALEX. STUART's motion No. 3, and the Honorable R. S. ANDERSON's amendment thereon, postponed on the 29th instant, should be disposed of :—

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|------------------|--------------------|
| New South Wales. | New Zealand. |
| Queensland. | Victoria. |
| South Australia. | Western Australia. |
| Tasmania. | |

The Conference resumed consideration of the motion and amendment referred to.

After discussion the amendment proposed by the Honorable R. S. ANDERSON was put and negatived without division.

The motion to insert the word "competing" after the word "on" in the first line of Mr. Stuart's resolution was then put and carried.

The original motion, as amended, was then put and carried upon the following division :—

| Ayes. | No. |
|------------------|-----------|
| New South Wales. | Tasmania. |
| Queensland. | |
| South Australia. | |

New Zealand, Victoria, and Western Australia did not vote.

The resolution, as amended and passed, will read as follows :—

"That the loss (if any) on competing Colonial lines to connect the Cables with the main Telegraphic system should in like manner be borne by all the Colonies concerned."

The Honorable ALEX. STUART, with permission of the Conference, withdrew motion No. 4.

The Honorable SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, with permission of the Conference, withdrew the several notices of motion given by him on the 27th instant.

The Conference proceeded to the further discussion of the resolutions proposed by the Honorable G. McLEAN, and it having been decided to put them separately—

No. 1 was proposed, as amended, and agreed to.

No. 2 was proposed and agreed to.

No. 3 was proposed, as amended, and agreed to (Western Australia refrained from voting).

The Honorable J. F. BURNS proposed the following resolution, which the Conference unanimously adopted :—

"That the several Colonies agree to allow the necessary official telegrams of H. M. Ships to pass over their respective lines free of charge."

The Honorable R. RAMSAY gave notice of the following resolution :—

"That having in view the serious annoyance and loss occasioned by the mutilation of messages in transmission through Java, the President of this Conference be requested, on behalf of the Australasian Colonies represented, to communicate with the Secretary of State, for the purpose of obtaining permission from the Government of Netherlands-India to employ English operators on the land lines in Java."

The Honorable ALEX. STUART gave notice of the following resolution :—

"That the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales be empowered to make arrangements with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for a reduction of Message Tariff to six shillings per word, at a subsidy not exceeding £20,000 per annum, terminable at one year's notice, and that such subsidy be borne by the respective Colonies, in proportion to population—any Colony to be at liberty to withdraw on like notice."

The Honorable EBENEZER WARD gave notice of the following Resolution :—

That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing, if possible, united action in future arrangements."

The

The Honorable J. F. BURNS laid before the Conference a letter from Eldred & Company on behalf of the Netherlands-India S. N. Co., offering to run a steamer between Banjoewangi and Port Darwin in the event of a break in cable; which was ordered to be printed.

(The Conference adjourned at a quarter past 1 until 2 o'clock.)

On resuming the Honorable R. RAMSAY proposed the following Resolution:—

“That having in view the serious annoyance and loss occasioned by the mutilation of messages in transmission through Java, the President of this Conference be requested, on behalf of the Australasian Colonies represented, to communicate with the Secretary of State, for the purpose of obtaining permission from the Government of Netherlands-India to employ English operators on the land lines in Java.”

The Conference unanimously agreed to the same.

The Honorable ALEX. STUART proposed the following Resolution:—

“That the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales be empowered to make arrangements with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for a reduction of Message Tariff to six shillings per word, at a subsidy not exceeding £20,000 per annum, terminable at one year's notice, and that such subsidy be borne by the respective Colonies in proportion to population—any Colony to be at liberty to withdraw on like notice.”

After discussion, the Conference agreed to the resolution.

The Colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria voted for.

The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia refrained from voting.

The Honorable EBENEZER WARD proposed the following Resolution:—

“That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing if possible, united action in future arrangements.”

After discussion, the Honorable CHARLES STUART MEIN proposed that the further consideration of the Resolution be postponed until Friday next, which the Conference agreed to.

The Chairman laid before the Conference a communication from M. Ed. Nutt, Director of the Interior, Noumea, New Caledonia, on the subject of a Mail Service *via* Noumea to San Francisco, which after being read, was ordered to be printed.

The Honorable SIR HENRY AYERS then proposed that the Secretary be instructed to prepare a Draft Report for the consideration of the Conference, which was agreed to.

The Conference adjourned at a quarter to 4 o'clock until Friday next at half-past 10.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

At the Treasury, Sydney,
FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY, 1877.

PRESENT :

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>New South Wales :</i> | THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON. THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART. THE HONORABLE JOHN F. BURNS. |
| <i>New Zealand :</i> | THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN. |
| <i>Queensland :</i> | THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH. THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN. |
| <i>South Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G. THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD. |
| <i>Tasmania :</i> | THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE. |
| <i>Victoria :</i> | THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY. |
| <i>Western Australia :</i> | THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER. |

The Conference having met at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'clock the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 31st ultimo were read and confirmed.

The Conference resumed consideration of the motion of the Honorable EBENEZER WARD,—“That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing if possible united action in future arrangements.”

After considerable discussion, the Honorable EBENEZER WARD, with the consent of the Conference, withdrew his motion.

The Honorable Sir HENRY AYERS, with leave of the Conference, proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

“That the Government of Queensland and South Australia be requested to circulate among the respective Governments the draft Bills referred to in the Resolutions of the Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney, passed on the 10th February, 1873, for removing the defects in the law relating to the extradition of criminals and the absconding of debtors, with a view to the same being submitted to the respective Legislatures as early as practicable.

“The

"The following are the resolutions referred to :—

- "That the present state of the law in regard to the extradition of criminals escaping from one Colony into another is defective. That the Government of Queensland be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the Representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavour to pass into law.
- "That the present state of the law in regard to remedies to be had against absconding debtors is defective.
- "That the Government of South Australia be requested to prepare a Bill to remedy the defects, and, subject to the approval of their respective Law Officers, the Members of this Conference will endeavour to procure the passing of a similar Bill in their respective Legislatures."

The Honorable R. RAMSAY, with the consent of the Conference, moved the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to :—

- "That in the opinion of the Conference it is desirable that a uniform Telegraphic Code should be adopted by the several Australasian Colonies."

The Report of the Proceedings of the Conference having been carefully considered and amended in certain particulars, was finally adopted.

On the motion of the Honorable CHARLES STUART MEIN the following resolutions were unanimously passed by the Conference :—

- "1. That the thanks of the Conference be given to the Honorable John Robertson for the valuable services rendered by him as Chairman of the Conference."
- "2. That the Chairman be requested to convey the thanks of the Conference to Alex. C. Budge, Esq., for the efficient services rendered by him as Secretary to the Conference."

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,
Secretary.

1877.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CONFERENCE ON CABLE DUPLICATION.

(PAPERS LAID BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.)

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No. 1.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before the Conference by the Chairman.]

PROPOSALS for a Duplicate Telegraph Cable to connect the Australasian Colonies with the rest of the World.

- M. 17,605.
18 May. THE Colonial Secretary's letter on this subject was addressed to Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, and South Australia. The following are the four routes indicated in it:—
1. Sydney to New Zealand, thence by the Sandwich Islands to San Francisco.
 2. From Normanton by cable, the line ultimately taking the same course as 3 and 4.
 3. From Port Darwin by cable, by the side of present cable, passing by land through Sumatra and *viâ* Malacca, instead of by cable to Singapore.
 4. From Port Darwin by cable, touching at Copang.
76. 3,676.
20 May. The French Consul's letter concerning the co-operation of New Caledonia, was communicated to the same Colonies.
76. 3,966. There is a letter from Mr. Audley Coote, dated June 5, in which he suggests three routes as preferable, for certain reasons, to those above mentioned—two of them by way of North-west Cape (Western Australia) and Singapore; the third by Perth and Ceylon.
76. 4,242.
5 June. This project of taking the line by way of Western Australia is also set forth in a letter from Mr. J. Hogan to the Postmaster General. It also finds favour with Sir Julius Vogel and with the Governments of Western Australia and South Australia.
- 76/4140.
6 June. From all the Colonies replies have been received to Mr. Robertson's letter.
- 76/4694.
24 June. The Chief Secretary of *Victoria* says that the matter shall receive the earnest attention of his Government.
- 76/4350.
16 June. South Australia could not entertain 1 or 2, as too costly. It would be most advantageous to adopt 3 or 4, the selection being left to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company; but if line be taken through Java the Company must have an independent land wire. But 2, other routes are suggested as worthy of consideration; (a) from North West Cape, or Roeburne, by Java to Singapore; (b) from the west coast direct to Galle. A duplicate cable from Port Darwin would however be the readiest and cheapest. In any circumstances they ought not to be required to contribute to the cable subsidy. The overland telegraph line ought to be regarded as an intercolonial undertaking, and the cost should be borne by the Colonies using it. The E.E. Telegraph Company ought to be required to keep a steamer always near Port Darwin, and a continued interruption for a given time should entail deductions from the subsidy.
- 76/4551. As to *Queensland*, the Postmaster General stated that she was prepared to contribute to a subsidy for a cable from Kimberley (Norman Mouth) to Singapore, contributions being based on population. Telegram of 26 June says that without defined proposition from the other Colonies she cannot at present do anything.
- 76/4546. The Colonial Secretary of *New Zealand* sends copies of a memorandum of the Commissioner of Telegraphs (Sir Julius Vogel). He is in favour of a cable from the West Coast, and proposes three lines, which are the same as those suggested by Mr. Audley Coote. (See above). There are so many details that correspondence will not settle the matter; and for this reason, as well as for the discussion of many questions connected with cable communication, a Conference is desirable. With regard to Mr. Coote, Sir Julius Vogel points out that "his principals were not willing or not able to carry out the arrangements he formerly made."
- 76/3,944.
76/4,595,
10 June. From Tasmania there is only an acknowledgment.
- Western Australia (not addressed by Mr. Robertson) sends a copy of a letter sent to New Zealand (in continuation of correspondence between the two Colonies), enclosing a minute of Executive Council on Sir Julius Vogel's memo. already mentioned. This Colony is favourable to the holding of a Conference, at which it is thought the Government of India ought to be represented. She is in favour of a cable from her west coast to Ceylon by way of the Cocos Islands. 20 July, 1876.
- Later correspondence on this subject is noted below.
- Mr. Cracknell, in his telegram of 9th September, from London, expresses the opinion that the cheapest and only necessary (for the present) duplication is one between Singapore and Banjowangie. He thinks that later a cable might be laid from Banjowangie to North-west Cape. (See his letter of 29th September, 1876.)
- M. 3323/B.
2 June, 1876. The Secretary of State sends a communication from the Chairman of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company setting forth a proposal for a cable from Penang to Rangoon, as supplementary to the line from Madras to Penang.
- 76-5474.
6922. Mr. Audley Coote gives the Governments the choice of several projects so far as concerns terms; a guarantee of interest, a subsidy, or the direct purchase of a cable.
8072. The Consul of France sends a letter from the Governor of New Caledonia, with enclosure, setting forth the advantages of a line of telegraph between Australia and America. This is a project which is admitted to be too expensive without the assistance of the United States.
- 76-7199.
14 Sep., 1876. The Agent General encloses a communication from the Chairman of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. That Company being made aware of the correspondence that had passed in Australia, had considered the subject and now desired to offer certain proposals, which are set forth at length in the printed paper. They have in view two routes—one from Port Darwin to Banjoewangie, the other from North-west Cape to the same place—with a direct cable between Banjoewangie and Singapore. The cost would be for these respective lines £540,000 and £500,000, and on either amount the Company would require a subsidy of 6 per cent., and 3 per cent. for a reserve fund for repairing and replacing the cable. The annual payments would be thus for the respective routes £48,600 and £45,000.
- 76-9098
19 Oct., 1876. 5 January, 1876.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

No. 2.

Commodore Hoskins to His Excellency the Governor, on subject of Rewards for apprehension of Deserters from the Navy and Free Telegraph Messages on Naval Service.

Sir,

H. M. Ship "Wolverene," at Sydney,
23 January, 1877.

The approaching Intercolonial Conference about to assemble here at your suggestion appears to me to afford an opportunity of arriving at an harmonious arrangement respecting two matters affecting our naval interests, and I would ask your Excellency, should you see no objection thereto, to direct the attention of the Conference to them.

The first is the payment of a reward of five pounds by the Governments of the several Colonies for the apprehension of deserters from the Navy, as a stimulus to activity on the part of the Police. The second is the payment for telegrams on purely Naval Service matters.

2. With respect to the first, the Government of New Zealand has for many years made such a payment, and with the best result; and though the practice has been suspended of late in the Australian Colonies, the order to make them appears never to have been rescinded, and I have received from yourself and the Governors of Victoria and Tasmania an intimation that your Governments are willing to renew it.

3. I attach great importance to it, as I have already explained to your Excellency in my letters of the 16th August and 21st November, 1876, as one means of checking the great loss of men by desertion which our ships now suffer on this station, a loss which bears hardly on our resources in men at home, and which must prevent not only an increase to the Force now on the station, but also any hopes of visits from the squadron which is kept up for the purpose of instruction and of periodically visiting our Foreign stations.

4. With respect to the telegraph question, it seems so obvious that the necessary official telegrams of a squadron maintained here for the benefit and protection of the Colonies should pass, like their own official telegrams, free of charge, that I am sure it is only necessary that it should be mentioned for the concession to be made; and I only consider it desirable to bring it forward in order to have the principle authoritatively established and recorded with the general consent of all the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

A. H. HOSKINS,
Commodore.

No. 3.

Report of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited.

DIRECTORS.

John Pender, Esq., M.P., *Chairman*.

The Right Honorable W. N. Massey, M.P.,
Vice-Chairman.

Sir James Anderson.

Francis Augustus Bevan, Esq.

Baron Emile D'Erlanger.

Charles William Earle, Esq.

Sir Thomas Fairbairn, Bart.

Lord William Montagu Hay.

The Right Honorable Viscount Monck.

William M'Arthur, Esq., M.P.

George Garden Nicol, Esq.

Philip Rawson, Esq.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Colonel T. G. Glover, R.E.

ACTING SECRETARY.

Mr. F. E. Hessey.

The Directors submit the annexed half-yearly report and balance sheet to the 30th June last.

The gross earnings for the half-year have amounted to £98,542 3s. 0d. The working expenses, cost of repairs, payment of income tax, interest on debentures, &c., amount to £43,910 19s. 3d. The sum of £581 3s. 2d. mentioned in the last half-yearly report as the expenses incidental to the issue of debentures and laying of the New Zealand cable has, with a small additional amount of £10 0s. 10d., been charged against the revenue of the half-year under review. The balance of profit amounts to £54,631 3s. 9d.

One interim dividend of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., amounting to £24,968 15s. 0d., has been paid, and another of similar amount is payable on the 16th instant, leaving the sum of £4,693 13s. 9d. to be carried forward.

The Directors regret that the Penang-Madras section of the Company's cables, which broke near the Nicobar Islands on the 27th March last, has not yet been repaired, owing to the continuance of the monsoon since that date. The repairing ship "Agnes" has been almost constantly on the site of the interruption, but the weather has been so severe as to frustrate all attempts at repair. The termination of the monsoon may now be daily expected, when there will be no difficulty in restoring the communication, the fault being in shallow water.

The Port Darwin section of the cable broke on the 24th April, and was repaired on the 7th August by the Company's S.S. "Edinburgh," which left her station for that purpose by permission of the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales.

The duplicate cable to be laid between Penang and Rangoon, which was sanctioned at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 16th December, 1875, is in course of manufacture, and will be laid early next year.

Out of the total authorized issue of £320,000 6 per cent. Debentures, £278,500 were allotted up to the 30th June last. The balance has since been issued.

The

The South Australian land lines have been worked almost without interruption during the six months under review, and the Directors have great pleasure in making this public recognition of the energy of Mr. Todd, the Postmaster General of South Australia, and his staff.

JOHN PENDER,
Chairman.

66, Old Broad-street,
London, E.C., 11th October, 1876.

THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY (LIMITED).

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the half-year ending 30th June, 1876.

| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|--|--------|----|----|--------|----|---------|-------------------------------|--------|----|----|---------|----|----|
| To General Expenses in London | 3,293 | 3 | 4 | | | | By Messages, &c. | 93,384 | 14 | 3 | | | |
| (See Abstract A.) | | | | | | | " New Zealand Cable Subsidies | 2,717 | 9 | 3 | | | |
| " General Expenses at Stations | 19,130 | 11 | 2 | | | | " Tasmanian Cable Subsidy | 2,100 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| (See Abstract B.) | | | | | | | " Interest on Loans, &c. | 283 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| " Electrician's Retaining Fees | 140 | 0 | 0 | | | | " Transfer Fees | 56 | 17 | 6 | | | |
| " Use of Patents | 385 | 19 | 2 | | | | | | | | 98,542 | 3 | 0 |
| " Directors' Remuneration | 1,875 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Auditors' Fees | 50 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Expenses relating to Debenture Issue and laying of New Zealand Cable | 591 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Repairs to Cables | 9,822 | 14 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 35,288 | 12 | 5 | | | | | | | |
| To Income Tax | 823 | 13 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Interest on Mortgage Debenture Bonds | 34 | 14 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Interest on Debenture Bonds | 7,763 | 19 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 8,622 | 6 | 10 | | | | | |
| " Balance | | | | 54,631 | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | £98,542 | 3 | 0 | | | | | |
| To 1st Interim Dividend for 1876— | | | | | | | | | | | £98,542 | 3 | 0 |
| 2s. 6d. per Share, paid 15th July, 1876 | | | | 24,968 | 15 | 0 | By Balance | | | | 54,631 | 3 | 9 |
| " 2nd Interim Dividend for 1876— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2s. 6d. per Share payable 16th October, 1876 | | | | | | 24,968 | 15 | 0 | | | | | |
| " Balance carried forward to next Account | | | | 4,693 | 13 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | £54,631 | 3 | 9 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | £54,631 | 3 | 9 |

ABSTRACT A.

ABSTRACT B.

| STATEMENT OF GENERAL EXPENSES IN LONDON. | | | | STATEMENT OF WORKING EXPENSES AT STATIONS. | | | |
|--|--------|----|----|--|---------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
| Salaries and Wages | 2,143 | 12 | 5 | Salaries and Wages | 9,775 | 13 | 10 |
| Office Expenses | 399 | 15 | 1 | Travelling Expenses | 837 | 17 | 4 |
| Rent and Taxes | 332 | 13 | 5 | Rent, Taxes, House Allowances, &c. | 1,323 | 3 | 6 |
| Stationery and Printing | 149 | 12 | 1 | Provision and Ration Allowances | 192 | 0 | 0 |
| Postage and other Stamps | 111 | 9 | 7 | Maintenance of Land Lines and Electrical Instruments | 1,491 | 1 | 2 |
| Advertising | 2 | 15 | 6 | Repairs and renewals to Furniture and Buildings | 539 | 16 | 5 |
| Repairs and renewals to Furniture | 88 | 5 | 3 | Expenses of Maintenance ship "Agnes" | 1,776 | 8 | 10 |
| Agencies | 65 | 0 | 0 | " " "Edinburgh" | 1,613 | 10 | 5 |
| | | | | Expenses of Cable Stores | 109 | 19 | 4 |
| | | | | Stationery and Printing | 335 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | Office and Message Postages | 120 | 16 | 3 |
| | | | | Office and Petty Expenses | 433 | 11 | 3 |
| | | | | Medical Attendance, &c. | 193 | 15 | 0 |
| | | | | Insurance at Stations | 102 | 15 | 5 |
| | | | | Service Messages | 87 | 2 | 5 |
| | | | | Freights and Insurance | 77 | 18 | 0 |
| | | | | Expenses of Porthcurno School | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Legal Expenses | 19 | 12 | 0 |
| | £3,293 | 3 | 4 | | £19,130 | 11 | 2 |

RESERVE FUND, 30th June, 1876.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----------|----|----|--|----------|----|----|
| To Loss on realization of Russian Government 5 per cent. Loan (£10,000) | 509 | 7 | 6 | By Balance, as per Account, 31st December, 1875 | 117,916 | 0 | 8 |
| " Balance carried down | 119,393 | 3 | 0 | " Profit on realization of \$93,000 of United States 5 per cent. Funded Loan | 232 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | " Interest Received on Investments to date | 1,753 | 19 | 10 |
| | | | | | £119,902 | 10 | 6 |
| | £119,902 | 10 | 6 | By Balance brought down | 119,393 | 3 | 0 |

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1876.

| To Capital— | £ | s. | d. |
|---|------------|----|----|
| 300,000 Shares of £10 each £3,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Less 100,250 Shares of £10 unissued 1,002,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 199,750 Shares of £10 each. | 1,997,500 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Mortgage Debenture Bonds— As per last Account | 3,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Less redeemed during the half-year, 32 Bonds of £100 each | 3,200 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Debenture Bonds— 3,200 Bonds of £100 each at 6 o/o Less 415 unissued | | | |
| 2,785 Bonds of £100 each | 278,500 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Reserve Fund, as above | 119,393 | 3 | 0 |
| „ Traffic and other Credit Balances | 14,831 | 18 | 1 |
| „ Bills Payable | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Proprietors for Debenture Interest | 6,960 | 17 | 7 |
| „ Proprietors for Dividends— Unclaimed Dividends | 135 | 1 | 6 |
| First Interim Dividend, 2/6 per share, paid 15th July, 1876 | 24,968 | 15 | 0 |
| Second Interim Divi- dend, 2/6 per share, payable 16th October, 1876 | 24,968 | 15 | 0 |
| „ Revenue Account Balance | 50,072 | 11 | 6 |
| | 4,693 | 13 | 9 |
| | £2,472,252 | 3 | 11 |

| By Capital Expenditure— | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----------|----|----|------------|----|----|
| As per last Account | 2,208,034 | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Add final payments under New Zealand Cable Contract | 60,050 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| „ Cost of furniture, and sundry expenses in opening Sydney and Nelson stations | 3,263 | 5 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | 2,271,347 | 8 | 5 |
| „ First payment under Rangoon and Penang Cable Contract | | | | 17,000 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Cost of S.S. Edinburgh and stores | | | | 15,000 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Spare Cable and other stores | | | | 10,359 | 11 | 2 |
| „ Bills receivable | | | | 40,034 | 15 | 1 |
| „ Remittances in transit | | | | 11,210 | 3 | 7 |
| „ Investments on account of Reserve Fund— United States 5 o/o Funded Loan | | | | 51,331 | 5 | 0 |
| Portuguese Government 3 o/o bonds | | | | 4,992 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 56,323 | 5 | 0 |
| „ Traffic and other debit balances | | | | 18,613 | 19 | 0 |
| „ Cash balances— At stations | | | | 3,750 | 5 | 8 |
| In London :— Current accounts | | | | 8,599 | 1 | 4 |
| On deposit | | | | 20,000 | 0 | 0 |
| In hand | | | | 13 | 14 | 8 |
| | | | | 32,363 | 1 | 8 |
| | | | | £2,472,252 | 3 | 11 |

LONDON, 4th October, 1876.

Audited and found correct,

JOHN BALL,
HENRY DEVER, } Auditors.

The Hon. Secretary, Victorian Humane Society, to The Chairman of the
Intercolonial Conference.

On the subject of Life Saving Apparatus at Sea.

Sir,

Victorian Humane Society,
62, Collins-street East, Melbourne, 19 January, 1877.

1. I have the honor to state, for the information of yourself and the members of the Intercolonial Conference, that the Directors of the Victorian Humane Society have lately had under their consideration the subject of Life-saving Apparatus to be used at sea, and the very inadequate law at present in force relating to shipowners providing the same.

2. It is hoped that although the Conference is to be held for a special purpose, yet the great importance of this subject may have sufficient weight with yourself and colleagues, so that consideration may be given to it, with a view to the different Governments in Australia and New Zealand introducing an Act in their respective Legislatures that shall be uniform in its purpose, and by which ship-owners and others may be compelled to provide the most efficient and approved life-saving appliances on board all vessels registered in Australasia and New Zealand.

3. The Directors being sensible of the unsatisfactory state of the law in Victoria relating to this subject, which only requires that a limited number of life-boats and two (2) life-buoys shall be provided, irrespective of the number of passengers or crew, have presented a petition to the Government, praying that the existing law may be amended and a more stringent and comprehensive Act introduced and passed if possible, so that all sea-going vessels may be compelled to carry a supply of life-saving apparatus, in proportion to the number of persons on board.

4. The Premier of Victoria (the Hon. Sir Jas. M'Culloch) has promised that the petition of the Directors shall have the careful consideration of the Government, with a view to legislating on this most important matter during the next session of Parliament.

5. The efforts of the Society, and any legislation arising therefrom, will but imperfectly attain the desired object, unless the whole of the Colonies unite and agree to pass an Act that shall be uniform in its provisions, and which, in the interest of humanity, is so urgently required.

6. The numerous disastrous shipwrecks, accompanied by loss of life, that have occurred in Australian waters have unfortunately "too clearly proved" how very imperfect are the arrangements made for the protection and possible preservation of human life at sea.

7. It is clearly the duty of ship-owners to take every precaution, in order that the lives of those entrusted to their care, are protected by every means that science and ingenuity can devise, and a serious responsibility must rest on those who neglect to do so.

8. The attention of the shipowners in Victoria has been directed to this most important question, and it has been suggested for their consideration that, after the successful experiments made in the English Channel in July last, for the purpose of testing various inventions of life-saving appliances, it is advisable that every steamer and other vessel (especially those carrying passengers) should be provided with a sufficient number of cork life-jackets, to permit the use of one by every person on board in case of accident.

9. It is gratifying to mention that Capt. Wm. Howard Smith, steamship proprietor of this city, has adopted the suggestions of the Directors.

10. In suggesting the use of the life-jacket, the directors are impressed with the fact that it can be hung in every cabin, can be easily adjusted, and ready for use on every emergency.

11. The "Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Act," passed during the last session of the Imperial Parliament, contains several provisions which might be adopted with advantage by the Colonial Legislatures when dealing with the desired amendment of the existing law relating to shipping passenger accommodation, &c., &c.

12. Any amendment of the present law should be with the object of preventing the over crowding of either passengers or cargo, which not unfrequently occurs at the present time, a practice that is reprehensible in the extreme, and which cannot be too severely condemned and punished if persisted in.

13. The boat accommodation is also very imperfect, requiring stringent regulations respecting the class and capabilities of all boats carried, and the means for lowering the same.

14. As it is impossible that a more favourable opportunity can be desired for having this subject brought under the consideration of the representatives of the various Governments, I respectfully beg that an earnest attention may be given to it, and that a determined course of action may be jointly agreed upon, so that we may hope to have an uniform Act passed with the least possible delay, having for its object the better preservation of life at sea.

I have, &c.,
J. ELLIS STEWART,
Honorary Secretary, V.H.S.

Audley

Audley Coote, Esq., to The Postmaster General, Sydney.

Petty's Hotel, Sydney, 23 January, 1877.

Sir,

Re Duplicate Cable to London.

Permit me to inform you that I reached here on the 19th instant, for the purpose of laying before your Government and the Representatives of the other Australian Governments attending the Duplicate Cable Conference in this City, an offer to connect Australia with London by a complete duplicate telegraph cable and wires.

I have now the honor to submit, on behalf of the Messrs. Siemens Brothers, of London, and of the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company, the following proposals, viz. :—

- 1st.—By cable to be supplied from Normanton, or some other point in Queensland to be agreed upon, to Banjoewangi, for a subsidy of £40,000 a year for 20 years.
- 2nd.—By cable from Queensland to Singapore *via* Timor and Sourabaya, for a subsidy of £50,000.
- 3rd.—By cable from Queensland to False Point in India, touching at Timor, Sourabaya, Singapore, Penang, and Andaman Islands, £65,000. If allowed to go by cable from Penang to Rangoon, *via* Pak-chan River instead of False Point, £60,000.
- 4th.—By cable to be supplied from a point in Western Australia to be agreed upon, to Singapore, 45,000.
- 5th.—By cable from Western Australia to Rangoon, *via* Singapore and Penang, £55,000.
- 6th.—By cable from Western Australia to False Point in India, *via* Singapore, £60,000.
- 7th.—By cable from Western Australia to Ceylon, *via* Anjer, £60,000.

Permit me also to inform you that I have the above proposals with the subsidies and routes marked and laid down on an Admiralty Chart, which clearly shows each proposal and route; and as I have been in correspondence with all the Australian Governments on this important undertaking, I shall be glad if the Conference will grant me an interview, and so enable me to explain or answer any questions the delegates may think proper to ask.

In conclusion, permit me to add, that in all the proposals I have had the honor of submitting, a complete duplicate system to London is guaranteed.

I have, &c.,

AUDLEY COOTE.

No. 5.

Audley Coote, Esq., to the Postmaster General, Sydney.

Re Duplicate Cable to London.

Sir,

Petty's Hotel, Sydney, 25 January, 1877.

Permit me to confirm my letter to you of the 23rd instant, and allow me to add thereto, and I shall be glad if you will read therewith, in explanation to a point that has been named in the negotiations by the competing Company, viz. :—

"That in the event of a war in Europe the lines of the Company I represent might become interrupted."

In answer to this, permit me to say that our lines do not pass through Turkey, but traverse far to the north of any likely outbreak of war; and you will please note by the maps that where interruptions might take place, cables duplicating these wires have been laid all through the Persian Gulf, and during the Franco-Prussian war these lines were not interrupted for a single day, and therefore not likely to be interfered with now, making my principals to hope that this is one of the strongest points in their favour. "On the other hand" the competing Company who have raised this point would most assuredly have its cables cut directly war was declared, which could not be repaired for months, and then only to be cut again, which, in my humble opinion, will make it impossible to keep up communication without a complete duplicate line.

I have, &c.,

AUDLEY COOTE.

No. 6.

Messrs. Knevett and Taylor to President of Conference.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company (Limited),
Sydney, 26 January, 1877.

Sir,

We have the honor most respectfully to state, that the Chairman of this Company has desired us to place ourselves at the disposal of the Australasian Government Delegates in Conference assembled in Sydney.

We have been directed to supply them with any information in our power that may assist them in deciding upon the question of the Duplication of International Cables.

In pursuance thereof we shall have great pleasure in waiting upon the Honorable Delegates; and in the event of any further information being required, we shall be happy to obtain it direct and express from London.

We have, &c.,

SAMUEL KNEVETT,

Agent to the Company.

W. GRIGOR TAYLOR,

Superintendent and Electrician, New Zealand Cable.

No. 7.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

RETURNS laid before the Conference by the Hon. Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G.

PORT DARWIN LINE INTERRUPTIONS.

| When Interrupted. | When Restored. | Where Between. |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1872. | | |
| 27 August | 30 August | Peake and Charlotte Waters. |
| 18 November | 21 November | " " |
| 1873. | | |
| 28 January | 1 February | Beltana and Strangway's Springs. |
| 6 March | 10 March | Peake and Charlotte Waters. |
| 8 April | 10 April | Katherine and Yam Creek. |
| 28 May | 31 May | Alice Springs and Barrow's Creek. |
| 24 August | 26 August | Daly Waters and Katherine. |
| 16 September | 18 September | Tenant's Creek and Powell's Creek. |
| 4 December | 7 December | Daly Waters and Katherine. |
| 1874. | | |
| 17 January | 20 January | Powell's Creek and Daly Waters. |
| 23 March | 25 March | Daly Waters and Katherine. |
| 25 March | 27 March | Port Augusta and Beltana. |
| 21 May | 28 May | Daly "Waters and "Katherine. |
| 4 July | 7 July | |
| 14 August | 16 August | Charlotte Waters and Alice Springs. |
| 25 September | 27 September | |
| 9 October | 13 October | Yam Creek and Southport. |
| 1875. | | |
| 30 January | 31 January | Charlotte Waters and Alice Springs. |
| 18 March | 21 March | Daly Waters and Katherine. |
| 29 May | 31 May | Beltana and Strangway's Springs. |
| 10 June | 12 June | Powell's Creek and Daly Waters. |
| 15 August | 17 August | Yam Creek and Southport. |
| 3 September | 5 September | Powell's Creek and Daly Waters. |
| 18 October | 21 October | Peake and Charlotte Waters. |
| 10 December | 12 December | Charlotte Waters and Alice Spring. |
| 1876. | | |
| 26 February | 28 February | Tennant's Creek and Powell's Creek. |
| 15 March | 17 March | Powell's Creek and Daly Waters. |
| 26 April | 29 April | Beltana and Strangway's Springs. |
| 8 May | 14 May | Port Augusta and Beltana. |
| 29 May | 31 May | Barrow's Creek and Tennant's Creek. |
| 30 May | 3 June | Peake and Charlotte Waters. |
| 11 September | 15 September | Beltana and Strangway's Springs. |
| 12 September | 15 September | Port Augusta and Beltana. |
| 10 November | 13 November | Beltana and Strangway's Springs. |
| 27 December | 30 December | Powell's Creek and Daly Waters. |

No. 8.

CABLE INTERRUPTIONS.

| When Interrupted. | When Restored. | Where between. |
|--|--------------------|--|
| 1872. 22 June | 20 October | Port Darwin and Banjoewangie. |
| 1873. 21 February | 24 February | Land-line between Boezki and Banjoewangie. |
| 31 March | 2 April | Batavia and Singapore. |
| 12 May | 26 May | Penang and Madras. |
| 11 July | 13 July | Land-line 30 miles from Banjoewangie. |
| 20 November | 23 November | Singapore and Penang. |
| 1874. 20 May | 31 May | Batavia and Singapore. |
| 13 August | 15 August | " " |
| 16 August | 23 August | " " |
| 10 December | 29 December | " " |
| Floating Station was established 16 miles from Batavia, with daily steam communication to Singapore, on the 18th December. | | |
| 1875. 2 September | 16 September | Batavia and Singapore. |
| 5 November | 8 November | " " |
| 15 November | 24 December | Penang and Madras. |
| 1876. 28 March | 24 August | Penang and Madras. |
| 24 April | 7 August | Port Darwin and Java. |
| 22 October | 30 November | Batavia and Singapore. |

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before the Conference.]

STATEMENT showing the several proposals and suggestions in regard to the Duplicate Cable to connect Europe with the Australasian Colonies.

| By whom proposed or suggested. | Route. | Estimated Len gth. | Estimated Amount of Subsidy per annum. | Remarks. |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|--|
| Sir Julius Vogel..... | <i>Via</i> India and Suez | Miles. .... | ..... | Route would not be through any Foreign country—See memo. of 4th April—fo. 1. |
| Colonial Secretary, New South Wales { | Port Darwin, Malacca, and Sumatra. .... | ..... | ..... | See Colonial Secretary's letter of 18th May, 1876—fos. 3 and 4. |
| | Port Darwin, Copang, Java, &c. .... | ..... | ..... | See Colonial Secretary's letter of 18th May, 1876—fos. 3 and 4. Estimated cost £750,000. |
| Mr. S. W. M'Gowan | Point de Galle and Western Australia. .... | ..... | ..... | See memo of 26th May, 1876,—fos. 4 and 5. |
| Captain Coote | Normantown, Timor, Batavia, India. .... | ..... | £40,000 | See letter of 6th June—fo. 6, and letter of 19th June—fos. 6, 7, and 8. Will also reduce rates to £3 per message, and 6s. per word over ten words. |
| | Normantown, Timor, Sourabaya, India. .... | ..... | £55,000 | |
| | Normantown, Penang, Port Blair, India. .... | ..... | £65,000 | In further letter of 18th July—See fos. 8 and 9. Geraldton is suggested as starting point in Western Australia instead of Exmouth Gulf. |
| | Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, Banjoewangie, Batavia, India. .... | ..... | £30,000 | |
| | Exmouth Gulf to Anger and India. .... | ..... | £35,000 | |
| | Perth to Ceylon ..... | ..... | £55,000 | |
| Eastern Extension Company..... | Establishment of Line between Rangoon and Penang. .... | ..... | ..... | See letter and enclosures forwarded with dispatch from Secretary of State, dated 2nd June—fos. 12, 13, 14, and 15. |
| | Singapore to Australia ..... | ..... | 6 per cent. on outlay, and 5 per cent. as a reserve fund. | See papers accompanying dispatch from Secretary of State of 7th July—fos. 15, 16, and 17. |
| | Darwin to Banjoewangie | 2,151 | 6 per cent. on outlay, and 3 per cent. as a reserve fund. | Outlay estimated to cost £540,000. See papers accompanying letter from Agent-General (Victoria), dated 27th October—fo. 18. |
| | N.W. Cape Western Australia to Banjoewangie, with direct cable to Singapore. | 1,973 | 6 per cent. on outlay, and 3 per cent. as a reserve fund. | |
| Mr. Cracknell..... | Singapore to Banjoewangie | 900 | ..... | Outlay estimated to cost £500,000. Will also reduce present Tariff, if such reduction does not reduce present income. |
| Mr. Todd | Singapore to Banjoewangie | 900 | ..... | See letter from Mr. Cracknell, dated 23rd August—fo. 11, also telegrams of 12th September and 11 October—fos. 11 and 17. |
| Mr. F. Gisborne ... | Calcutta or Rangoon to Singapore and thence to Queensland. .... | ..... | ..... | See papers accompanying letter from Chief Secretary, South Australia, dated 14th November—fo. 18. |
| Mr. T. R. James ... | N.W. Cape Western Australia to Aden, <i>via</i> Mauritius. .... | ..... | ..... | See letter from Mr. Gisborne, accompanying Mr. M'Gowan's letter of 25th November—fo. 19. |
| | | | | See Mr. James' memo. of 17th June—fo. 19. |

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before the Conference.]

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company (Limited),
66, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

3 October, 1876.

A CORRESPONDENCE that has taken place between the different Australasian Colonies on the subject of additional Cable Telegraphic Communication having lately been officially published by the Government of South Australia, and the name of this Company having been prominently mentioned as the most fitting body to carry out the views therein expressed, the Directors have had the matter under their most serious consideration, and they offer the following proposals as the result of their deliberations:—

The present amount of traffic and the income derivable from it would not justify this Company in undertaking this large extension, which involves a very considerable outlay of money, without assistance on the part of the Colonies. The number of messages between Australia and all parts of the world during the year 1875 was 11,075, of twenty words each, averaging thirty-two messages daily, the transmission of which does not afford occupation for the present cable for more than two hours a day. There has been no marked growth in the traffic since the opening of the line in 1872; the number of messages in 1873 being 11,047, and in 1874, 11,513, so that there would appear to be no great hope of any large extension in the future. During the year 1875 the income derived by the Company from Australian messages amounted to £62,172, but when from this is deducted the cost of working and of the maintenance and repair of the cable, it will be seen that a very small return remains on the capital of £600,000 which was originally invested in the scheme.

The duplication, as is above shown, not being necessary on account of the traffic, it is evident that if carried out it will be entirely in the interests of the Colonies, as an insurance against interruptions to which submarine cables are from time to time liable. Under these circumstances, it is but right that the Governments should bear the expense involved.

In order to lay down this cable it will be necessary that the money be raised by the Company on the security of its property in the public market. When laying down the New Zealand cable, the Company had to raise money at the rate of 6 per cent., nor does it see any reason for supposing that it will be able to obtain the large sum requisite for this scheme on more favourable terms. The Governments of Australia, however, might, by assisting the Company with a guarantee for the raising of this money, enable them to do so at a more favourable rate, in which case, of course, this advantage would be credited to those Governments. The Company would, therefore, require the Governments to subsidise them to the amount of the interest that would be payable on the capital obtained; and moreover, as cables are of a perishable nature, and it is necessary to renew them from time to time, it becomes imperative, in order to secure permanency of communication, that a reserve fund should be laid by annually, which by its accumulation would enable a new cable to be put down after a certain period. Experience does not exist as to the actual life of a cable, and indeed it must vary according to the surrounding circumstances; but taking into consideration the warm shallow seas in which the greater part of this cable is to be laid, teeming as they do with animal life, which has hitherto proved very destructive to the cables already submerged, it would not be fair in the present instance to estimate it at too long duration.

There will doubtless be other Companies offering to provide a new cable; but this Company cannot see how, in the face of the present traffic, an independent Company could exist. Contractors for their own personal gain may endeavour to get up an opposition cable, but it would only be at a loss to the shareholders who might take the property off their hands. The result, therefore, of another and second independent line would be that there would be two struggling Companies, each trying to procure a livelihood from an insufficient traffic, which would prove so unremunerative that in case of accident to either of them it would become a question with the shareholders whether it would be worth their while to repair the line by further outlay. The consequence would be that the Colonies would be again reduced to a single line, and the object of the attempted duplication would be defeated.

The only hope of duplication is in the present Company, which already possesses one line, and which, with a subsidy and the amount of its present traffic, would be in a position to maintain the two lines in fair and efficient order.

It may also be noted that the duplication now under consideration extends only as far as Singapore, so that any new Company that might undertake it would have to continue the extension to India, in which case the expense would be so great that any subsidy, unless very large, would be inadequate. This Company however, already possesses one line between Singapore and India, and has entered into a contract for a second, which will be laid down by the end of the present year. The Colonies, therefore, would be in possession of a duplicate line the whole way between India and Australia, should they complete negotiations with this Company.

With regard to the reduction of the tariff which is also mooted, this question is entirely separate from the foregoing.

The present cable derives an income of £62,172 per annum, which, as has already been observed, is very inadequate for the service performed and the risky nature of the property. Should the Colonies require any reduction of the present tariff the Company will be happy to meet their views, but they cannot assent to any proposal that would diminish their present income. The negotiations, therefore, will have to be based upon a calculation which would make up to the Company the sum that they would lose by the reduction of the tariff that might be agreed upon.

While

While on this subject it may, however, be worth observation that the cry against the present tariff is not altogether just. The telegraph is employed almost exclusively for commercial purposes, and every mercantile house possesses a code of its own, which by the use of one word conveys the meaning of a sentence. The Company charges for this one word only; but if the sender of the message were to divide the cost of this word over the words whose meaning it secretly conveys, it would be found that the expense is not so very great. Again, admitting that a reduction may be feasible to the extent of one-half of the present rate, it would still be found that the tariff would be so high that no very great extension of traffic would follow, certainly not in proportion to the ratio of decrease of cost, and the result would consequently be a loss to the Company. At the recent Convention at St. Petersburg it was the unanimous opinion of all Submarine Companies that the expansion of communication was very disappointing, and that at the existing rates the business was not remunerative.

It appears to the Company that the shortest route for the new cable would be the best, as requiring the least expenditure of capital, and therefore the most advantageous to the Colonies.

There are two routes which in this view suggest themselves—the one going from Port Darwin and following the line of the present cable to Banjoewangie, and the other starting from North-west Cape, in Western Australia, and going to the same point. Whichever of these schemes may be adopted, the Company would propose to carry on the communication to Singapore by a cable laid direct between there and Banjoewangie, in place of taking the messages over the lines of the Java Government.

In case of the cable from Port Darwin to Singapore touching at Banjoewangie, the distance would be 2,151 miles, and its cost £540,000; in case of the cable going from North-west Cape, also touching at Banjoewangie, the distance would be 1,973 miles, costing about £500,000.

The Company would require a subsidy of 6 per cent. on these sums, according to whichever route may be adopted. This amount is necessary in order to pay the interest on the capital that would have to be raised in the open market. In addition to this, the Company would require a sum of 3 per cent. to be laid by as a reserve to meet any repairs that might be necessary to the cable, and also to provide a sum for replacing it as it may become worn out. This sum would have to be guaranteed for a term of twenty-two years, in which time it is calculated that if 3 per cent. on any sum is laid by annually and invested at 4 per cent., the original capital will be reproduced. The sums, therefore, required would be, if the cable went from Port Darwin, £48,600, or, if from North-west Cape, £45,000 per annum.

JOHN PENDER, Chairman,
Eastern Extension Australasia and China
Telegraph Company.

No. 11.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before the Conference by the Chairman.]

Telegram from John Pender, Esq., M.P., on the subject of Duplication of Telegraph Cables.

PRESIDENT Telegraphic Conference, Sydney. The Conference being about to meet, we have instructed our agents, Messrs. Taylor and Knevett, to place themselves at your disposal, and in the event of you wishing to communicate direct with Company our telegraphic system is at your service free of charge. We shall be happy to telegraph you every information you may desire, being anxious to meet wishes and give every facility for carrying out object of Conference. With respect to route for duplicate cable, we find that from North-west Cape to Galle full of danger, repairs in deep water almost impossible on account of prevailing trade-winds.

No. 12.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before the Conference by the Honorable R. Ramsay.]

Respecting delays in the transmission of Cable Telegrams.

Absence of official information as to interruption on Lines.

Mutilation of Messages.

Memorandum for Hugh George, Esq., General Manager.

"THE ARGUS."

As a conference of representatives from the several Colonies is about to assemble in Sydney for the discussion of Telegraph Cable matters, I accept this as a favourable opportunity of bringing under your notice the various complaints which have from time to time arisen, and continue to arise, in connection with the cable messages received by "*The Argus*" on behalf of the Associated Press. These complaints are principally delays in transmission, the absence of official information as to interruptions on the lines and the mutilation of messages; and with these I propose to deal singly.

"*The Argus*" is the only newspaper receiving press telegrams of public news through the cable, and, as representing the Associated Press, all such messages addressed to "*The Argus*" are distributed, over the whole press in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

DELAYS IN TRANSMISSION.

From some cause, at present not sufficiently traceable, "*The Argus*" messages from Singapore and London have not latterly been transmitted over the lines with that despatch formerly employed, and the consequence is that the messages bearing early dates at either or both of these points of departure seldom reach their destination until a very late hour of the night, which apart from being highly inconvenient causes the loss of valuable news to a large section of the country press in all the Colonies. Not unfrequently we obtain advice of a batch of cable messages "coming," and often have to wait an hour or even two, before they actually arrive. In such case the delay must rest with the Telegraph Department of South Australia.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTERRUPTIONS.

We have very frequently had to complain of the absence of all information in regard to interruptions, whether on the cable or land line; and it has very often happened that until the repairs are effected no official information has been given that any interruption has taken place. A number of country stations are nightly kept on hand, in anticipation of cable news, and cannot be released from duty until some notification is received from Adelaide, and therefore early intimation of interruptions on the lines would save much loss of time, trouble, and expense. To the reading public, too, who follow the progress of events in Europe from day to day, some explanation should be afforded for the non-appearance of cable intelligence. If the general rule was followed to give priority to press messages after those of the Government, much inconvenience, I think, would be obviated, and much loss of time saved, as at present, hours are frequently wasted to no purpose. Mr. Todd, in a letter under date 10th January, 1875, and addressed to you, says, "This office (South Australia) shall be advised if there is no message for your newspaper, which advice will be at once repeated to the Melbourne office." This, I regret to say, has not been acted upon.

THE MUTILATION OF MESSAGES.

The messages addressed to the *Argus* are seldom, if ever, correctly interpreted, and the wording is so terribly mutilated in the course of transmission as to render their deciphering an operation of the utmost difficulty. Thus, it often happens that we find different interpretations of the same messages given in all the Colonies, owing, in a great measure, to so much being left to mere guess work. This mutilation is said to have its origin in Java, where the messages pass through the hands of Dutch operators, and this statement is to a great extent confirmed from the fact that nearly all the "repeats of corrections" come from Batavia. The majority of our messages containing general news are sent from Singapore, and it can scarcely be credited that the telegrams could be received in Java from Singapore through only a short line of cable in such a state as we invariably receive them. Although there is some slight difference between the alphabets adopted on the cable and land lines, the errors that would be thereby caused are so simple and few that they could, as a rule, be easily detected. If each newspaper had to find its own interpretation of the originals the results would be simply absurd. The effect of these mutilations is obvious, and as an illustration I append a few specimens of some of the messages received only during the last month, and the sample affords a very fair specimen of the bulk:—

"Singapore, (no date.)

"Depetris declared Italy cannot abandon Treaty Paris. All essays approval, all reftrentum. Gratuiffs proposal despoleres approving their decisions. Kabinck defered resolution occupation Bulgaria pending reference Queen. Propose 6,000 Belgians occupaty. Disraelig Fortress Belgrade fired Australian monitor."

"Singapore, 15th Dec.

"French Ministry remodelled. Simon, Premier. Interior, Martha, Justice. Others remain. This serimous conflict M'Mahon left indeed."

"Singapore, 6th December.

"Kistmaryk Reichstach Russia seekn not great conquests, asks Ris only cooperan conference amelooran Christian's triple alliance subsists, Germany's friendship, England equally traditional, believed difference England and Russia be arranged, Germany's task medcate Powers lokalize war, if efforts fudle, cannot conjecture future."

In other messages "special" was given in place of "speech," at the commencement of a message; "Pow" for population, "collander" for commander, "mountin" for maintain, "revny" for recently; and other errors too numerous to mention.

But such extraordinary contortions often serve to destroy the whole meaning of a sentence. For instance, the word "Costi," in a message relating to the Eastern Question, was quite unintelligible, and had to be omitted. These instances could be multiplied to any extent, and are sometimes most aggravating as well as perplexing. The word "Powers" for "Porte" entirely subverted the whole meaning of a message.

January 15, 1877.

EUGENE C. AMSWICK, R.A.P.

No. 13.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[*Laid before the Conference by the Chairman.*]*Translation.*

Mr. E. Nutt to The Colonial Secretary.

No. 14.
Sir,

Noumea, 23 January, 1877.

I have the honor to inform you that, from information which has lately reached me, and which appears to have a certain consistency, it would seem that the Austral-American Company which at the present time manages the Sydney, Auckland, and San Francisco line is about to annul its contract, and that communication by the large packet-boats and Fiji will also be suppressed.

Should this information be correct, I shall be very much obliged to you if you will be kind enough to let me know whether a new enterprise going to San Francisco would be disposed to call at Noumea, and in that case to tell me what would be the amount of the subsidy which would be required by the Government for serving our Colony.

I should then have to consider what propositions I could make to the Governor of New Caledonia, in relation to our financial resources.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

ED. NUTT,
Director of the Interior.

No. 14.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[*Laid before the Conference by the Chairman.*]

Eldred & Co. (on behalf of Netherlands-India Steam Navigation Co.) to The Colonial Secretary.

Offering to run Steamer with Despatches between Banjoewangie and Port Darwin in the event of another break in Cable.

Sir,

Sydney, 29 January, 1877.

We have the honor to inform you, that we are authorized by the Netherlands-India Steam Navigation Company to contract on their behalf with your Government to run one of their fine steamers with telegraphic despatches between Banjoewangie and Port Darwin, in the event of the service again becoming necessary by another break in the Cable.

The Company will undertake to have at Banjoewangie within eight days, or as much sooner after the breakage is known as possible, a steamer to carry telegraphic messages to Port Darwin and back, and keep the vessel (or her substitute) running at a minimum speed of 8 knots between the two Ports, until the cable be repaired, for the sum of £1,200 for each voyage from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin and back; together with exemption from all Port charges at the latter place.

The Company possesses a large fleet of fine steamers, and any contract entered into would be faithfully carried out.

We have, &c.,
ELDRED & CO.

No. 15.

CABLE CONFERENCE.

[Laid before Conference.]

Agreement relating to Submarine Cable between New Zealand and Australia, &c.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT entered into this twenty-fourth day of June one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five between His Excellency the Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Marquis of Normanby Earl of Mulgrave Viscount Normanby and Baron Mulgrave of Mulgrave in the County of York and in the Peerage of the United Kingdom and Baron Mulgrave of New Ross in the County of Wexford in the Peerage of Ireland a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council and Knight Commander of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George the Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same for and on behalf of the said Colony of the first part His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson a Knight Commander of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George the Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same for and on behalf of the said Colony of the second part and The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company Limited of the third part Witness that for the considerations herein appearing the said George Augustus Constantine Marquis of Normanby for himself separately and his successors in office Governors and Commanders-in-Chief for the time being in and over the said Colony of New Zealand and its dependencies and not for the said Sir Hercules Robinson and his successors in office Doth hereby for and on behalf of the same Colony so far as the agreements hereinafter contained are to be observed and performed on the part of the Governor or the Government of New Zealand And the said Sir Hercules Robinson for himself separately and his successors in office Governors and Commanders-in-Chief for the time being in and over the said Colony of New South Wales and not for the said George Augustus Constantine Marquis of Normanby and his successors in office Doth hereby for and on behalf of the same Colony so far as the agreements hereinafter contained are to be observed and performed on the part of the Governor or the Government of New South Wales agree with the said Company their successors and assigns And the said Company for themselves their successors and assigns do hereby so far as the agreements hereinafter contained are to be observed and performed on their part agree with the Governor or the Government of New Zealand and his successors and the Governor or the Government of New South Wales and his successors and also as a separate agreement with each of the said Governors and his successors for and on behalf of the said respective Colonies separately in manner following that is to say

Testatum.

Interpretation.

1. In the construction of these presents the following words and expressions shall mean and include (unless such meaning shall be inconsistent with the context) as follows "The Governor of New Zealand" means the Governor for the time being of that Colony and includes also the Government for the time being of that Colony "The Governor of New South Wales" means the Governor for the time being of that Colony and includes also the Government for the time being of that Colony "The Governors" mean the Governor of New Zealand and the Governor of New South Wales "The Company" means the said Company of the third part their successors and assigns "The said cable" means the cable hereinafter contracted to be laid and any cable or cables which may be laid in substitution thereof or in addition thereto And whenever it is hereinafter agreed that the Governors shall do any act the meaning is hereby declared to be that the Governor of New Zealand shall be required to do such act so far as such act ought to be done in or in respect of or in relation to New Zealand and the Governor of New South Wales shall be required to do such act so far as such act ought to be done in or in respect of or in relation to New South Wales and that the Governor of New Zealand shall not be liable for the not doing of any act which ought to be done in or in respect of or in relation to New South Wales or by the Governor of New South Wales and that the Governor of New South Wales shall not be liable for the not doing of any act which ought to be done in or in respect of or in relation to New Zealand or by the Governor of New Zealand but that each Governor shall be liable only for his own default and not for the default of the other.

2. The Governors shall permit the Company to lay a submarine telegraph cable between New Zealand and Sydney in the said Colony of New South Wales the terminal point in New Zealand to be on the coast of Blind Bay or Golden Bay and the terminal point at Sydney to be the telegraph station there.

3. The Company shall within fourteen days after the day of the date of these presents or within such further time as shall be approved by the Governors obtain a *bond fide* contract to be entered into with them by some competent and responsible person or persons or Company or Companies to make and construct a suitable submarine cable to be laid between the said terminal points according to such a specification pattern or design as shall have been or shall be approved in writing on behalf of the Governors or one of them and shall as soon as shall be practicable produce the said contract to the solicitors in England of the Governors for inspection.

Governors to authorize submarine cable to be laid between New Zealand and New South Wales.

Company within fourteen days to obtain contract for construction of cable.

4. On or before the thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six the Company shall properly lay the said cable between the said terminal points and erect and provide the stations operators clerks apparatus instruments appliances and materials necessary for the proper and continuous use and effective working of the said cable and shall open and use the said cable for the transmission of messages through the same but if the laying the said cable shall be delayed by causes over which the Company shall have no control the time within which the same is to be laid as aforesaid shall be extended to such further time as the Governors shall in their absolute discretion determine to be just and reasonable.

Company to lay cable with all necessary appliances and to open same for public use before 30th April 1876 or extended time.

5. From time to time and at all times after the said cable shall have been opened for the transmission of messages and while any subsidies or subsidy shall be payable by the said Governments or either of them the Company shall keep open and use the same for such purpose and keep and maintain the same in good working order and condition and properly supplied with all such operators clerks apparatus instruments appliances and materials as shall be requisite or necessary for the proper and regular use and working of the said cable and shall for the purposes in this clause mentioned provide and keep properly equipped and ready for use a suitable steam-vessel which when not in use for the same purposes shall be kept stationed at some port in New Zealand or at some port in Australia not situated nearer to the equator than the Port of Brisbane but if such vessel shall not be in use or required for such purposes the Company shall be at liberty to send the same to repair their Tasmanian cable if necessary.

Company to keep cable &c. in good repair.

And to provide and keep a vessel for such purpose

6. The Governors respectively shall afford to the Company all proper and reasonable facilities to enable the Company to lay the said cable and to keep the same in repair and to acquire any land necessary for their terminal stations in the respective Colonies and in the event of the Governors having at their respective disposal and in possession lands not being land in a town suitable for such purpose the Governors respectively shall and will make a free grant thereof to the Company.

Governors to give facilities for laying cable and land for terminal stations.

7. Before the time hereinbefore appointed for opening the said cable the Governor of New Zealand shall cause to be constructed such land line or lines of telegraph wires as it shall be necessary to construct to enable messages to be transmitted from the said terminal station of the said cable in New Zealand to and over the existing system of telegraph wires in that Colony and the Governor of New South Wales shall afford to the Company the necessary facilities for enabling the Company to carry their wires into the Telegraph Station at Sydney and the Governors respectively shall provide such operators clerks apparatus instruments appliances and materials as shall be requisite or necessary for enabling messages which are to be or have been transmitted through the said cable to be transmitted over the telegraph systems of New Zealand and New South Wales respectively.

Governor of New Zealand to construct necessary land lines &c. and Governor of New South Wales to permit line to be carried into Sydney Office.

8. With a view to the more speedy transfer and transmission of messages the Governors respectively shall until the said subsidy shall cease to be payable and for a period of ten years afterwards and for so long thereafter as the tariff shall not be in excess of the charges mentioned in clause No. 11 of these presents give to the Company accommodation in their Telegraph Stations respectively at the terminal points of the said cable which the Company shall use for the transmission of messages through the said cable.

Governors to give to Company the use of a room in the Government Offices at the terminal points.

9. The Governors respectively shall until the said subsidy shall cease to be payable and for a period of ten years afterwards cause the said cable and the telegraph instruments of the Company and all new screws shafts boilers piston-rods or tanks which the Company may send out to the said Colonies respectively for use in the said steam-vessel to be relieved from Custom duties and the said vessel to be exempt from all port dues in the Colonies respectively when engaged solely in carrying out the purposes mentioned in clause No. 5 of these presents and such vessel shall always be on a not less favourable footing than other vessels.

Governors to cause telegraph instruments &c. to be relieved from Custom duties and vessel to be exempt from port dues.

10. The Company shall at all times hereafter give priority in transmission through the said cable to all messages sent by Her Majesty the Queen or the Governors or the Governors of any Australian Colony respectively or any department or official (as such) of the Government of Her Majesty or of the Colony of New Zealand or of any Australian Colony respectively.

Government messages to have priority.

11. The Company shall not during the continuance of the subsidies hereinafter firstly mentioned respectively make any charge for the transmission of messages through the said cable exceeding seven shillings and sixpence for a message not exceeding ten words and ninepence for every additional word (the names and addresses of the sender and addressee being counted as part of the message) and shall reduce the said charge to a charge not exceeding five shillings for every message not exceeding ten words and sixpence for every additional word in either of the following cases that is to say in case during any period of six calendar months the average number of messages delivered or forwarded for transmission through the said cable shall have amounted to two hundred per day excluding Sundays in which case the said reduction shall commence from and after the expiration of such six calendar months but if the average number of messages after having amounted to such an average of two hundred per day as aforesaid shall again fall for a period of six calendar months below such average then the said reduction shall cease until the said average shall be again reached when the said reduction shall again take place and so on from time to time Or in case the Governors or either of them shall at any time or from time to time deliver any notices or notice whereby they or he shall agree to make payment for the period mentioned in such notices or notice to the Company for the number by which the messages actually delivered or forwarded for transmission through the said cable during such period shall fall short of an average number of two hundred messages per day excluding Sundays during the period mentioned in such notices or notice the Company being nevertheless entitled to the full benefit of the moneys received for transmission of messages through the said cable if the average number of messages per day excluding Sundays shall during such period exceed two hundred.

Tariff.

12. The Governors respectively shall during the continuance of the said subsidies respectively cause all messages for transmission between New South Wales and New Zealand and *vice versa* to be sent through the said cable unless otherwise directed and all messages for transmission beyond the said Colonies not otherwise directed to be sent by the sender to be transmitted over the telegraph system of the Company so far as the same can be used and if the same be in good working order and shall at all times hereafter afford to the Company similar advantages to those (if any) afforded to any other Company of allowing the route of a message to be indicated therein by the words "*via Darwin*" or like words without any charge for the same.

Undirected messages to be sent over the Company's system.

Governors not to make terminal charge or charges beyond ordinary rates.

13. The Governors respectively shall not make any terminal charge or make any charge for any message transmitted over the lines of telegraph belonging to the said Colonies respectively to or from the said cable in excess of the lowest ordinary rates according to the character of the message so long as the said subsidies respectively shall continue to be payable nor after the said subsidies respectively shall have ceased to be payable so long as the Company shall not increase their rates beyond the rates chargeable as hereinbefore mentioned. And so long as the said subsidies respectively shall continue to be payable the Governor of New South Wales shall cause New Zealand messages to or from Darwin to be transmitted from or to Sydney at rates not exceeding the rates charged for messages between Melbourne and Darwin.

Governors to pay subsidies of £7,500 a year.

14. If the Company shall perform their undertaking contained in the 3rd clause of these presents and if the said cable shall be laid and completed and opened for use before the 30th day of April 1876 or within such extended time as aforesaid the Governor of New Zealand shall pay to the Company a subsidy of Five thousand pounds and the Governor of New South Wales shall pay to the Company a subsidy of Two thousand five hundred pounds respectively during a period of ten years to be computed from the day when the said cable shall be completed and shall be actually opened and used for the transmission of messages such subsidies to be respectively payable by equal quarterly payments at the Treasuries of the said Colonies respectively the first quarterly payment whereof respectively shall be made at the expiration of three calendar months after the day from which the said subsidies respectively shall have commenced to be payable the said subsidies nevertheless to be subject to reduction or determination as hereinafter mentioned.

Subsidies to be free of taxes.

15. The Governors respectively shall from time to time pay to the Company in addition to the said subsidies so long as the same shall be payable respectively such sums as will be sufficient to recoup to the Company any taxes parliamentary or otherwise which they shall pay in the said Colonies respectively.

In what case subsidies may be reduced.

16. Provided always that if at any time or from time to time the said cable shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use any day or number of days in excess of an aggregate period of ninety days in any one year computed from the day on which the said subsidies respectively shall commence to be payable as aforesaid the Governors respectively shall and may from time to time deduct from any moneys payable by the Governors respectively to the Company a proportionate part of the said subsidies respectively for and in respect of each and every day so in excess of the said aggregate period of ninety days during which the said cable shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use until the said cable shall be in good working order and condition and open for use or until the said subsidies respectively shall be determined under the next clause of these presents it being nevertheless agreed that if the Company shall be able at any time or from time to time to satisfy the Governors that the repair of the said cable could not have been reasonably effected and completed within the said period of ninety days on account of causes over which the Company shall have had no control the said aggregate of ninety days shall on the occasion in question be extended to such an aggregate period as the Governors shall determine to be just and reasonable. Provided nevertheless that any such extension of time shall not entitle the Company to payment of any subsidy in excess of the said period of ninety days if in consequence of the said cable continuing to be not in good working order and condition and open for use the said subsidies shall cease to be payable as in the next clause of these presents mentioned.

In what case subsidies may be determined.

17. Provided also that if at any time or times the said cable shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use for and during any continuous period of one hundred and eighty-three days or any such extended period as hereinafter mentioned as the case may be it shall be lawful for each or either of the Governors at any time thereafter by notice in writing to be delivered to the Company in London to determine and put an end to the Contract hereby made so far as regards the Colony by whose Governor the notice is given and the subsidy payable by that Colony and the provisions herein contained which are conditional on the subsistence of the Company's right to the same subsidy in which case the said subsidy shall cease to be payable it being hereby agreed and declared that if the Company can satisfy the Chief Justice of either of the said Colonies if both Governors shall so give notice or of the Colony whose Governor shall so give notice that the Company have been and are making all reasonable efforts to repair or replace the said cable without delay and he shall determine that the said period of one hundred and eighty-three days ought under the circumstances to be extended then the said period of one hundred and eighty-three days shall be extended to such a period as the said Chief Justice shall determine and if the Company can satisfy the said Chief Justice that any new cable which the Company may have obtained to replace the said cable has been lost or damaged in transit and the said Chief Justice shall determine that the said period of one hundred and eighty-three days ought in consequence to be further extended then the said period shall be further extended to such a period as the said Chief Justice shall determine. It being nevertheless expressly agreed and declared that the Company shall not be entitled to or allowed under any circumstances any extension of the said period of one hundred and eighty-three days so as to make up in the whole a period in excess of eighteen calendar months. And it being further agreed that in the event of the Contracts hereby made and the said subsidies or either of them being so determined and put an end to as aforesaid the Company shall have and retain their property in New Zealand and New South Wales respectively with all such similar rights of working and using the said cable and repairing the same as they would have had and been entitled to if the Company had laid the said cable with the approval of the Governors without any provision having been made for payment of any subsidy by the Governors or either of them to the Company and that while the Company shall duly observe and perform all the provisions and agreements herein contained on their part to be observed and performed which are not conditional on the subsistence of their right to a subsidy they shall retain all other rights hereby granted to them which are not conditional on the subsistence of their right to a subsidy.

If New Zealand and Australian Governments grant subsidies of £20,000 a year free of income tax existing tariffs to be reduced.

18. The Company shall reduce their charges for messages over their lines and cables as hereinafter mentioned if the Governors and the respective Governors for the time being of the other Australian Colonies or any of them shall enter or be ready and willing and offer to enter into an agreement or agreements with the Company for the payment to the Company in addition to any other subsidy payable under these presents of an aggregate of subsidies amounting to twenty thousand pounds per annum payable quarterly during a period of ten years at the respective Treasuries of the Colonies free of income or property tax (if any payable) in the Colonies respectively such subsidies nevertheless being subject to be reduced (*pro rata* if necessary) by one hundred pounds per annum for or in respect of every one hundred

hundred messages beyond thirty thousand messages which shall be transmitted in any year to be computed from the day from which the said subsidies shall commence to be payable and the said subsidies being also nevertheless subject to suspension or determination as hereinafter mentioned.

19. During the continuance of the subsidies in the last preceding clause mentioned the Company shall not in the event last aforesaid make any charge for the transmission of such messages as hereinafter mentioned in excess of the charges hereinafter mentioned, that is to say—For a message not exceeding ten words to or from Port Darwin from or to London sixty shillings and six shillings for each additional word the names and addresses of the sender and addressee thereof being counted as part of the message For a like message to or from Port Darwin from or to Java twenty shillings and two shillings for each additional word in addition to any terminal or transit charges of the Governments of the respective countries at which the message shall have to be delivered or through which it shall have to be transmitted For a like message to or from Port Darwin from or to Singapore India or Penang thirty shillings and three shillings for each additional word in addition to any such terminal or transit charges as aforesaid And for a like message to or from Port Darwin from or to Hong Kong sixty shillings and six shillings for each additional word in addition to any such terminal or transit charges as aforesaid And in case the rates the Company may have to pay for transmission of a message between Madras and London shall at any time or from time to time be reduced more than one shilling below the rate of one pound seven shillings including the charges made by the Indian Government then during the continuance of such reduction the rate above mentioned for a message to or from Port Darwin from or to London shall be reduced to the extent of such reduction beyond the one shilling and if at any time the rate the Company may have to pay for transmission of a message between Madras and London shall be increased beyond the present rate the Company shall be at liberty to determine and put an end to the arrangement as to reduced rates in this clause mentioned in which case the said subsidies amounting to twenty thousand pounds shall cease to be payable.

How tariff to be reduced.

20. The Company shall in the event mentioned in clause No. 18 of these presents from time to time and at all times after the said last-mentioned subsidy shall commence to be and so long as the same shall be payable keep open and use for the transmission of messages all the lines of cable or telegraph wire belonging to or worked by them between any of the places in the last preceding clause mentioned except between Singapore and Hong Kong and shall keep and maintain the same in good working order and condition and properly supplied with all such operators clerks apparatus instruments appliances and materials as shall be requisite or necessary for the proper and regular use and working of the same.

Company to keep their cables north of Port Darwin in good repair.

21. Provided always that if at any time or from time to time any of the lines of cable or telegraph wire between the places in clause No. 19 of these presents mentioned except between Singapore and Hong Kong shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use so as to enable any of such messages as in the same clause mentioned to be transmitted for any day or number of days in excess of an aggregate period of thirty days in any one year computed from the day on which the said last-mentioned subsidies shall commence to be payable the Governors of the Colonies liable to pay the same or any or either of them shall and may from time to time deduct from any moneys payable by such Governors respectively to the Company a proportionate part of the subsidy payable by such Governors respectively for and in respect of each day or days so in excess of the said aggregate period of thirty days during which any of the same lines of cable or telegraph wire shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use until the said cable shall be in good working order and condition and open for use or until the said subsidy shall be determined under the next clause of these presents.

In what case subsidies of £20,000 may be reduced.

22. Provided also that if at any time or times any of the said lines of cable or telegraph wire between the places in clause No. 19 of these presents mentioned except between Singapore and Hong Kong shall not be in good working order and condition and open for use so as to enable any of such messages as in the same clause mentioned to be transmitted for and during any continuous period of one hundred and eighty-three days or any such extended period as hereinafter mentioned as the case may be it shall and may be lawful for the Governors or either of them or the Governors of the other Australian Colonies or any of them or any of such Governors at any time thereafter or from time to time by notice in writing delivered to the Company in London to determine and put an end to the agreement for the payment of the said last-mentioned subsidies in which case the same shall cease to be payable it being hereby agreed and declared that if the Company can satisfy the Governors or Governor giving the said last-mentioned notice that all reasonable efforts to repair or replace without delay the line of cable or telegraph wire which shall then be out of repair have been and are being made then the said period of one hundred and eighty-three days shall be extended to such a period as the Governors or Governor respectively giving the said last-mentioned notice shall determine it being nevertheless expressly agreed and declared that the Company shall not be entitled to or be allowed under any circumstances any extension of the said last-mentioned period so as to make up in the whole a period in excess of eighteen calendar months.

In what case subsidies of £20,000 may be determinable.

23. Any appointment approval inspection notice or act which may have to be given made or done by the Governors or either of them or by or on behalf of the Governor of any of the Australian Colonies for any of the purposes of these presents may be given made or done by any person or persons from time to time authorized by writing under hand to act on behalf of the Governor or Government or by the Colonial Treasurer or Postmaster General for the time being of the Colony in question or by any person or persons authorized for the purpose under the hand of such Colonial Treasurer or Postmaster General or by the Minister for the time being of the Colony in question having charge of telegraphs in that Colony or by any person or persons authorized for the purpose by the same Minister of New Zealand and New South Wales respectively.

How notices &c. on behalf of the Governors or Australian Governments to be given.

24. The Company shall appoint a person in the said Colonies of New Zealand and New South Wales respectively and also a person in each of the other Australian Colonies the Governor or Governors of which shall agree to pay any subsidy to the Company upon whom any notice which may have to be given to the Company and which is hereby not expressly provided to be given to the Company in London may be served and in default of such appointment and of notice thereof being given to the Government of the Colony any such notice may be served on any operator clerk or officer of the Company in the Colony on behalf of the Governor of which the notice may have to be served and any such service as aforesaid shall be deemed to be a good service upon the Company and take effect accordingly except in cases where service on the Company in London is provided for.

How notices to be served on the Company.

Governors not to
be individually
responsible.

25. No individual personal responsibility shall be incurred by the Governors or by the Honorable Sir Julius Vogel a Knight Commander of the said Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George or by Sir Daniel Cooper Baronet by whom on behalf of the Governor of New Zealand and the Governor of New South Wales respectively it is intended that these presents shall be signed or by any Governor of New Zealand or of any of the Australian Colonies in respect of any of the matters aforesaid.

In testimony whereof the said Sir Julius Vogel has signed the same in the name and on behalf of the said George Augustus Constantine Marquis of Normanby and the said Sir Daniel Cooper has signed these presents in the name and on behalf of the said Sir Hercules Robinson and the Company have hereunto affixed their Common Seal.

NORMANBY,

By JULIUS VOGEL,

Postmaster General of New Zealand.

HERCULES ROBINSON,

By DANIEL COOPER.



Signed by the above-named George Augustus Constantine Marquis of Normanby by the above-named Sir Julius Vogel and by the above-named Sir Hercules Robinson by Sir Daniel Cooper in the presence of—

JNO. MACKBELL,

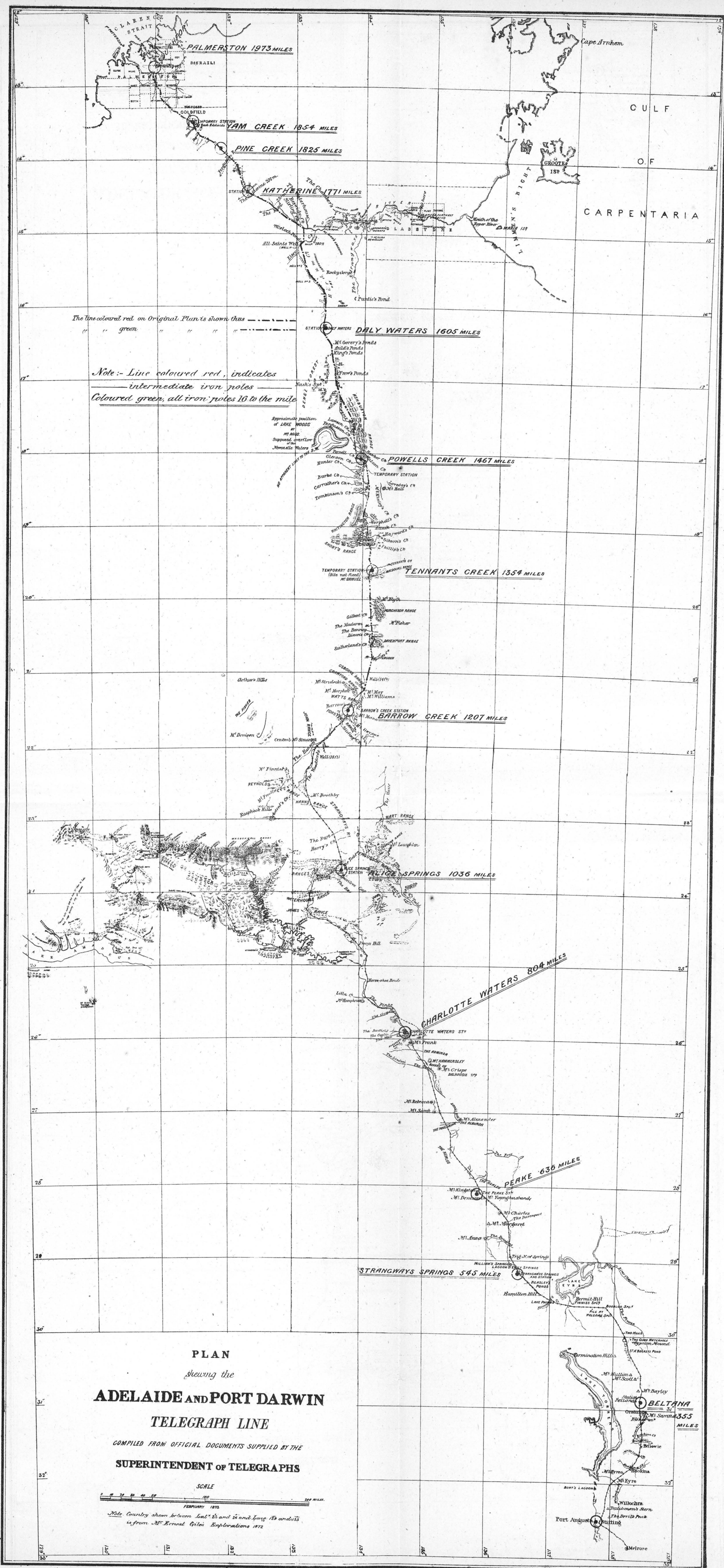
Solicitor,

21, Cannon-street.

The Common Seal of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company was affixed in the presence of—

JOHN PENDER, Director (Chairman).

GEORGE LYONS, Secretary.



PLAN
Showing the
ADELAIDE AND PORT DARWIN
TELEGRAPH LINE

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED BY THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF TELEGRAPHS

SCALE
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800 810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000
FEBRUARY 1875

Note Country shown between Lat. 25 and 26 and Long. 135 and 136
is from Mr. Birnie's Explorations 1872

CABLE CONFERENCE.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY, 1877.

Present :

New South Wales : THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON.
 THE HONORABLE ALEX. STUART.
 THE HONORABLE J. F. BURNS.

New Zealand : THE HONORABLE G. McLEAN.

Queensland : THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH.
 THE HONORABLE CHARLES STUART MEIN.

South Australia : THE HONORABLE SIR HENRY AYERS, K.C.M.G.,
 THE HONORABLE EBENEZER WARD.

Tasmania : THE HONORABLE JAMES WHYTE.

Victoria : THE HONORABLE R. S. ANDERSON.
 THE HONORABLE R. RAMSAY.

Western Australia : THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER.

The Honorable JOHN ROBERTSON, Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, in the Chair.

Mr. William Gregor Taylor, Superintendent and Electrician in charge of New Zealand Cable, called in and examined :—

1. *Sir Henry Ayers.*] Will you have the goodness, Mr. Taylor, to inform the Conference what is your opinion of the relative value of a cable to be laid from Singapore to Thursday Island, near Cape York, and one from Singapore, south of the present line to a point somewhere near Port Darwin? Do you mean that it should pass through the Strait of Sunda?
2. My object is to obtain your opinion of the relative value of the two routes, the one coming to Port Darwin by Banjoewangie, and the other to Thursday Island? I should say very strongly that a line coming to Port Darwin would be the most favourable; first, as being shorter, and because the line south of Singapore is now in fair order. There is a fair sea approaching Banjoewangie, and from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin the cable is in good order now. The greater portion of the first section is in deep water, and from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin the sea is well known and has been surveyed; whereas a line from Singapore south of Macassar to Thursday Island would be too long a section to be worked in one piece. The sea to the south of Borneo and Macassar has a very coralline bottom with shallow water, and would be unfavourable for a cable.
3. *Mr. Burns.*] What would be the difference in point of expense? I am not prepared to answer that now.
4. Can you give us the difference in the matter of distance? I suppose about 800 miles.
5. *Sir Henry Ayers.*] Which line in your opinion would be the best as a duplicate line to Singapore, having regard both to the longevity of the cable and the cost of construction and maintenance? A line from Singapore to Banjoewangie and Port Darwin would be the best of any line that could connect these two points, for the simple reason that any other line in any other direction must be in a coralline sea with shallow water, and through seas imperfectly surveyed.
6. Have you any knowledge of the sea between Banjoewangie and the North-west Cape? None whatever. There have never been any surveys there.
7. *Mr. Fraser.*] The distance from Nicol Bay to Banjoewangie is about 800 knots? I think it is more than that.
8. *Mr. Mein.*] Have you any practical knowledge of the waters you have referred to? Yes; five years ago I was electrician with the contractors, and was on board their ships while the cable was being laid, and last year I was sent in the steamer "Edinburgh" in charge of the work of repairing the cable by the Eastern Extension Company.
9. And you have naturally directed your attention to that route? Yes.
10. So that you are not competent to pass an opinion on the other route, not having examined it? I feel that I may form an opinion on the subject from the soundings that are given on the chart, from the surveys that have been made, and from my general knowledge of the nature of the seas among these islands. I have given my opinion from the observations I have made and from my general knowledge.
11. *Mr. Ramsay.*] I believe you were engaged in repairing a portion of the cable on the occasion of the last break? Yes, we were engaged in repairing it from the 1st April to the 7th August.
12. From the experience you have gained during that time, from the improvements effected, and from what you have seen of its working, do you think the present cable is likely to be durable? Yes, I think it is likely to last much longer without interruption than it has hitherto done. It is less likely to be injured

Mr. W. G.
Taylor.

30 Jan., 1877.

- Mr. W. G. Taylor.
30 Jan., 1877.
- injured by abrasion from the rocks, which was the cause of the break in April last, which occurred in shallow water. We have now reversed the cable and laid it in the deepest water available, and out of the reach of the coralline reefs. The present cable is a better one than the last, it is well laid down, and we have taken various soundings which show that it is on a better bottom. I think therefore it will last certainly more than five years before it breaks from abrasion; there may be other sources of injury, but that was the cause of its breakage last time.
13. In the event of a second cable being laid from Port Darwin, do you think a better line of route than the present could be found? I don't think it is likely that a better route could be found. The line could not vary much—it must in any case be parallel to the present line.
14. Would it not be better to keep to the north of these islands, Timor, Sumba, and Baly? I think not, from the fact that even now changes are frequently occurring among them from subterranean disturbances. Besides, the line would be longer, as it would have to wind through several groups of islands, a number of which are active volcanoes, where the water would be shallow, and there would be greater danger of injury to the cable.
15. I believe you have charge of the New Zealand cable? Yes, of the whole cable.
16. Is that the same quality of cable as that which you would undertake to lay down to Port Darwin? Yes, it is the same weight and make, and capacity of carriage.
17. How long has that cable worked? Eleven months, and it is as sound as when it was laid down, and in better electrical condition.
18. A cable has better carrying capacity in deep water, has it not? Yes.
19. *Mr. Burns.*] I suppose there are no means of avoiding coralline rocks in these seas? No; the best line for the cable has been selected. There is a coralline sea near the coast of Western Australia, and so little is known of it that it requires to be surveyed.
20. *Mr. Anderson.*] Does not the quality of the sea for laying down a cable—that is to say, the character of the bottom—improve as you go further westward? I should think it must, because the water is deeper, and there is likely to be a softer bottom.
21. Then no survey of this sea was made before you commenced to lay the Port Darwin cable? Yes; a series of observations had been made as far east as Rotti Island by the Dutch Government, and there were existing Admiralty surveys.
22. Was that done before the contract was taken to lay the cable? I think so; the observations were taken, I believe, when the line was first projected, when the several routes were discussed, but I could not be certain.
23. *Mr. Ramsay.*] Have you considered the route from Western Australia to the Keeling Islands and thence to Ceylon? Yes; I considered it when I read Mr. Robertson's circular letter.
24. What is your opinion of that route? I think it would be a very long and a very expensive route.
25. *Mr. Fraser.*] Considering that the coast line from Western Australia would be 200 miles shorter than the other, taking one at 1,099 miles and the other at 900, and taking into consideration the fact that the route starting from Shark's Bay would be in deep water almost immediately from the coast, and would be, as we have every reason to believe, free from obstructing reefs, which line do you consider would be the most economical—that from Western Australia or the line from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin; the only alternative being a line from some point on the north-west coast of Australia to Java and Batavia. Which line do you think would be the most economical in construction, the easiest to maintain in repair, and the most secure? The shortest line, as it would effect a saving of 200 miles, would be more economical, and more easily worked. The maintenance would be the same in each case, as far as the length of cable is concerned. The shortest line would also possess the greatest advantages for communication.
26. But the line from the north-west coast of Australia to Java and Batavia would possess one great advantage—it would do away with all interference from the Dutch line at Java, and there would then be two lines of cable entirely in the hands of London proprietaries: there would be that advantage. I am not aware of the exact distance from the north-west coast of Australia to Batavia; do you know? It is, I believe 1,148 miles.
27. 1,148 miles from the north-west coast of Australia to Batavia, and 1,099 miles from Port Darwin to Banjoewangie? Yes, I believe those are the distances shown on the charts.
28. *Mr. Griffith.*] Do you know anything of the seas extending from Coepang to the Gulf of Carpentaria and its shores? Yes, from having sailed over them, and from the charts.
29. Have they all been well sounded? Yes, well sounded.
30. What sort of sea is it south of Timor going eastward? From Timor for about 200 miles it contains coral reefs; after that there is a very good bottom, sand and mud all the way.
31. The 200 miles of coralline sea is open to the same objection which applies to the present route? Yes, there is a coral bank along it.
32. And beyond that you think there is a good bottom? Yes.
33. As far as Normanton? Yes.
34. Supposing a line were made from Timor to Copang and to Queensland, then that would be the best route? Yes, that would be the best water for a cable.
35. What is the sea like between Copang and Banjoewangie? For some distance from Timor it would be necessary to go through a series of very small islands, where the bottom is rocky.
36. Is not that route very much the same as that adopted for the present cable? Yes.
37. And the same kind of sea? Yes, except near Copang, where the line would be adjacent to land for some distance off the north-west corner of Timor.
38. Is the difference in the bed of the sea appreciable between that and the present route—I am speaking of the route from Copang to Banjoewangie? No, there is not much difference; if anything it is in favour of the present route; the other would bring the cable into shallower water.
39. *Mr. Fraser.*] I suppose if a line were laid from the north-west coast of Australia to Ceylon, by way of the Keeling Islands, it would be laid down in two parts; that would be more convenient than the direct route? Yes.
40. Of the two lines—by Banjoewangie to Java, and the direct line from the north-west Cape to Batavia, which do you think would possess the greatest advantages for good working? So little is known of the ocean bed between the north-west coast of Australia and the westerly point of Java that I could hardly tell you.

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41. I suppose you are aware that the heavy currents on the north-west coast only extend a certain distance from the land, and do not come within the direct line. That would be an advantage, as the cable would be less liable to injury? There would not be much fear of injury to the cable, when it was once laid—on a soft bottom it would be comparatively free from danger.
42. Is there a soft bottom between Port Darwin and Banjoewangie? It is some distance from it. You have the same coral reef bank, then you get into deep water, which lasts until you approach Banjoewangie, when the water shallows again.
43. I see it is said here (*referring to papers*) "With regard to the duration of cables no actual experience exists, nor indeed will it be found uniform, as it must depend upon the surroundings in each individual case. In the experience of the cable between Singapore and Australia, passing as it does through shallow and warm seas teeming with animal life, and judging from the experience we have had of the damage to which our present cable is exposed to attack from insects, it is considered fair to estimate the duration of a cable in these seas at about fifteen years." I merely quote that to ask if you can give any opinion as to whether the conditions of the cable would be better if it were laid further to the westward, away from the coral line reef, which, I am given to understand, is destructive to it? From the appearance of the sea further to the westward, I should say the water was deeper and quieter.
44. I have been informed that the water is much deeper and altogether free from coral reefs. Well, the route from Batavia to North-west Cape would be better for the cable, as it would last longer lying in deep water and on a soft bottom? Yes.
45. *Mr. Stuart.* That is, if the water is deeper; but you know nothing of it? No.
46. *Mr. Griffith.* Supposing you proceeded to lay down a duplicate line from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin, how far would that line be from the present cable? About 20 miles south of the present cable.
47. Would that be a sufficient distance to enable you to distinguish between the two lines in case of repairs being necessary? Yes, I think I am safe in saying it would be quite sufficient. There are four cables across the Atlantic joining the same points.
48. Would there not be danger, if there were two lines laid down on the same route, of taking up a sound cable instead of a broken one? No, the lines would be too far apart for that. No such danger is apprehended in connection with these Atlantic Cables all belonging to one Company. There are also two between Malta and Alexandria, two in the Red Sea, besides a duplicate now being laid between Aden and Bombay.
49. Your Company depend upon cables all the way from Australia to London, do they not? Yes, except across Java and India.
50. Supposing one of your cables broke, you have only a single line from Singapore to England? From Bombay to England the line belongs to the Eastern Telegraph Company, who work amicably with us, and the lines are double from Aden to England; the double line is not quite finished from Bombay to Aden.
51. But in the event of interruption is there any other route? Yes, the Indo-European lines are available.
52. *Mr. McLean.* If your line fail they will send a message for you by arrangement? Yes.
53. Then you have to depend upon other Companies? Yes, Companies with which we have a mutual working arrangement.
54. *Mr. Fraser.* I understood you then to say that the Eastern Extension Company works co-operatively with the Eastern Company? Yes.
55. And that the Eastern Company work entirely with cables which go from Plymouth, Alexandria, Aden, and Bombay? Yes.
56. And that this Company's cables have been duplicated between Aden and England, and are being doubled between Aden and Bombay? Yes.
57. So that when this line is completed there will be a complete double communication from Singapore to England by cable? Yes, when a line projected from Penang to Rangoon is laid.
58. If it is carried out? Yes.
59. Then the chances of a complete stoppage are very remote? Yes.
60. And supposing a line were brought from Singapore to the N.W. Cape, that would of course effect a communication with the same system of telegraph lines, and there would be two distinct lines of communication right through? Right through from Australia to Europe.
61. *Mr. Griffith.* Are submarine cables liable to interruption from other causes than abrasion by rocks? Yes, from a small flexible insect, known as teredo, which is said to bore into the gutta-percha.
62. Are they liable to disturbing influences from electric causes—from thunderstorms? No.
63. Or from volcanic influences? No, from nothing of the sort, as far as my experience goes.
64. Has volcanic action in the vicinity of a cable ever been known to affect it? Not that I am aware of.
65. *Mr. Stuart.* Are you a practical telegraphist? Yes.
66. I mean specially in respect to construction? Yes. I have been engaged in the construction of the Atlantic cable. I was for some years in the service of the construction Company who made the Atlantic and all the Eastern cables, and afterwards was engaged in similar work for the Eastern Company. My position here is that of superintendent in charge of the New Zealand section and of the Eastern Extension Company's cable.
67. *Mr. Ramsay.* Another route has been mentioned in Melbourne and submitted to the Chamber of Commerce there—from West Australia to the Mauritius; have you considered that route? Yes. I have seen plans of it, but I think it is impracticable; it is too long a section to work with any degree of accuracy; it is about 3,000 miles.
68. *Mr. Anderson.* That is not longer than some of the American cables? The longest section of American cable is under 2,400 miles, from Brest in France to St. Pierre in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
69. *Mr. Ramsay.* Are you aware of any action that has been initiated for the establishment of a line of telegraph between the Mauritius and Aden? I am not. I know it was spoken of some time ago.
70. Is there any immediate probability of its construction? I think not.
71. *Mr. Fraser.* I have heard that in the Cape Colony a motion has been set on foot to obtain direct communication between the Cape and St. Helena, and Ascension Islands? It was discussed about three years ago, but I have heard nothing of it since. They were anxious for it at that time, and applied to the Home Government to assist them, but that was refused, and the matter fell through.
72. And a further extension from the Cape to the Mauritius was included in the proposal? Yes.

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73. In such a case a line from West Australia to the Mauritius would secure complete communication to Europe *via* the Cape, apart from the line to these islands? Yes, if that line were constructed.
74. Are you of opinion that it would be practicable to carry out that line? It would be most difficult.
75. It is not longer than from America to England? Yes, it is; 1,800 miles is the greatest length of cable from America to British shores—from Valentia to Trinity Bay Newfoundland.
76. And you are distinctly of opinion that a continuous line of 3,000 miles would be impracticable with present appliances? Not impracticable, but difficult.
77. *Mr. Burns.*] You would not rely upon the working of a line of that length? No; it would be more difficult to work and more expensive; it would be much better to be interrupted at some point.
78. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any knowledge of the working of the present line, from Singapore to Banjoewangie? Yes.
79. Which is the worst portion of that line? The Dutch line from Batavia to Banjoewangie.
80. That would be entirely avoided by laying a cable from Singapore to Banjoewangie? Yes.
81. Do you apprehend any difficulty in laying down a line from those points? No.
82. What appliances have you at present for repairing the cable in case of a break between these points? A vessel fully equipped for cable work is always laying at Singapore when not required elsewhere.
83. Would not the same appliances be more effective for repairs on a double line than on a single line? No, they would be equally available.
84. Would not the shorter distances from point to point render them more effective for repairing? No, because the vessel steams to a certain point marked on the chart where the repair is effected.
85. *Mr. Mein.*] Would your Company have any difficulty in establishing a line between Sourabaya and Copang and Torres Straits? I presume not; the only difficulty would be that it would be liable to interruption.
86. That difficulty would apply to both sections? Yes.
87. Would there be any difficulty first in constructing and then in maintaining in working order a line between those points? No, I do not see any difficulty.
88. And the appliances you possess for repairs would be as effective and convenient for that line as for any other? Yes, except that there might be more work for one vessel.
89. *Mr. Ramsay.*] What better provision have you now for keeping the present line in working order than you had when the last breakage occurred? None; we have just the same provision—two vessels.
90. How long was the cable out of use at that time? From April 24th to August 7th, which was a most unfortunate period, as at that time there were three sections of the Company's cables down.
91. I wish to know whether you are in a better position now for keeping the line in good working order than you were then? No; we are exactly in the same position that we were in a year ago when the last break occurred.
92. Then the same thing might occur again at any time, and communication be interrupted for three or four months? Yes; it is possible, certainly.
93. *Mr. Griffith.*] Do you know how far apart from each other are the Atlantic cables belonging to the same Company? No, I do not.
94. What would be the cost of keeping an extra vessel at Port Darwin, besides the one at Singapore? The "Edinburgh" when in port costs us about £500 a month for crew and port charges, with the cost of additional hands when she goes to sea; and then there is a percentage on the value of the policy of insurance.
95. What is your own opinion—that it would be cheaper to keep a second vessel at Port Darwin, or to subsidize another line? That would depend upon whether the vessel was frequently required at sea. The expenses in port would be £6,000 a year, but it would be more when she went out to sea.
96. What would be the additional cost of each trip? That would depend entirely upon the length of the trip.
97. What would be the cost of a cable from Banjoewangie to Port Darwin? I am not empowered to make any estimate beyond the figures given in our Chairman's circular.
98. The cost of the ship stationed at Singapore, you say, is £500 a month? Yes, about that when lying in port; I cannot give you a very close estimate.

Mr. Samuel Knevett, Agent for Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, called in and examined:—

Mr. Samuel
Knevett.

30 Jan., 1877.

99. *Mr. Fraser.*] I wish to know, Mr. Knevett, if you can give me any information with reference to a proposition submitted I believe by your Company. Mr. Barlee, who was Colonial Secretary in Western Australia, writing to Governor Robinson says:—"With the Chairman of the Eastern Extension Company, and with Colonel Glover, R.E., the Managing Director, I have had interviews, and I am in a position to say that a scheme in every way beneficial to Western Australia will in the course of a few days be submitted by the Company. That scheme is roughly as follows:—To lay one cable from Singapore to Banjoewangie, and a second from thence to the north-west Cape in Western Australia. These cables to be worked by the present staff of the Company, and with no foreign interference in the transmission of messages. The cost of these cables is estimated at £400,000, and the Company argue with some reason, that as the business transacted by the cables now in operation is not sufficient to keep the staff at work more than two hours a day, and does not *pay*, it is only reasonable that if the Australian Colonies insist on the luxury of a second cable they should contribute towards the cost of it. It is therefore proposed that the interest on £400,000 to be raised in England, should be guaranteed by the Australian Colonies, with such addition as may be needed for a sinking fund for (say) a period of fifteen years. The Company could not raise this money in England (so they say) on their own responsibility under 6 per cent., but I pointed out that if the Colonies are asked to guarantee the interest, that guarantee would ensure the raising the money at 4 per cent. Assume that £30,000 per annum be required. Such sum divided among the several Colonies in proportion to their population would be no heavy burden on any Colony, and would certainly fall lightly on Western Australia. The Company contemplate that the cables could be ready for work at the expiration of one year from the date on which a contract was signed." I have read that letter with the object of asking you whether the Company have accepted the proposition. I want to learn if possible whether this proposal has been put in definite form? I think not. Colonel Glover told me he had seen Mr. Barlee, but I think nothing came of it, except the proposition which the Company had already made to lay down a cable for £540,000.

100. This letter is dated 31st August, 1876? Yes, but since then there has been Mr. Pender's memorandum on the subject. Mr. Samuel Knevett.
101. But nothing further on these two points? Nothing.
102. *Mr. Ward.*] Do you know anything personally of the working of the cable to Singapore? No. 30 Jan., 1877.

Captain Audley Coote, representative of Messrs. Siemens Brothers and of the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company, called in and examined:— Captain A. Coote.

103. *Mr. Mein.*] I believe, Captain Coote, you are the representative of a Company interested in the establishment of telegraphic communication between Europe and the Colonies? Yes, the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company. 30 Jan., 1877.
104. Have you directed your attention to duplicate telegraph communication between Singapore and the Colonies? I have.
105. Have you considered the practicability of the different routes? Yes.
106. What direction have your inquiries taken? Chiefly from the shores of Queensland to Singapore.
107. In what way? In interesting myself in the soundings, and in having always thought it to be the best route to take for a duplicate cable to connect Australia with Europe, provided it did not go up as far as Celebes.
108. Have the seas there been sufficiently explored to enable you to say authoritatively whether a line constructed there would be practicable? Yes.
109. In what direction? Keeping south of Timor, starting from a point in Queensland, either Normanton or Cape York, touching at Timor, and going through this passage (*indicating localities on map*) known as the strait of Lombeck to Singapore, between the Island of Borneo and Biliton Island. Captain Nares, of H.M.S. "Challenger," informed me that the line shown on the map as a dotted line would pass over an exceedingly deep and uneven bottom, caused by the waters falling into a deep gutter, and it is chiefly on that account I have suggested that the route south of Timor should be adopted.
110. *The Chairman.*] Supposing a line were taken from Port Darwin it might go south of Timor? Yes.
111. Therefore the same line might be taken from Port Darwin that you would take from Normanton? Just the same.
112. And what difference would there be in the length and value of the cable? About 700 miles. A line starting from Cape York would be about 550 miles longer than from Port Darwin.
113. But what I want to find out is whether, for the purpose of laying down a line, there is anything in favour of Normanton, in Queensland, as against Port Darwin? Yes, there would be this advantage: we should keep away from a well-known coral bank and a well-known current, both of which would be injurious to the cable, and great care would have to be taken to keep to the north of that current in touching at Timor.
114. *Mr. Mein.*] That current is likely to act injuriously to the cable? Yes.
115. *Mr. Griffith.*] And you get a better route by Banjoewangie or Sourabaya, south of Timor? Yes, we keep clear of the well-known coral bank and two well-known currents.
116. *Mr. Mein.*] Would the northern routes be quite out of those currents? Yes.
117. What authority have you from your Company—have you authority to enter into new contracts? Yes.
118. Subject to their approval? I have authority to make a binding contract.
119. *Mr. Griffith.*] Was that letter to Mr. Robertson written in accordance with the instructions of your Company? Yes.
120. And the terms therein specified are the terms for which they are willing to do the work indicated in it? Yes.
121. Would it make any difference whether the cable touched at Banjoewangie or Sourabaya? None.
122. Do you know anything of the seas along that route? We know that starting from the North-west Cape we get into deep water, away from the warm waters in the northern seas, and away from some of the currents; and although it does not appear on this chart, the route we propose would go from the North-west Cape through Lombeck Strait and on to Singapore, and not from Batavia to Singapore. The authorities in England would prefer to go this way.
123. Will you point out where this current is? There are two currents (*indicating positions on map*).
124. Your Companies have no cables in the Eastern seas at present, have they? Only in the Persian Gulf.
125. How far does your communication extend from Singapore? It extends to Rangoon, in connection with the Government of India lines.
126. Have you taken any steps to extend that communication? Yes, I hold a contract to construct a double wired line from Tevoi to Singapore.
127. Is that line in course of construction? The surveys are now being made.
128. Under whose control will it be? Messrs. Siemens Brothers.
129. Then you have no repairing ships in those seas at present? We have not; our repairing ship, the "Faraday," is in the Atlantic.
130. In the event of a contract being taken for the line you now propose, would you make it a part of the contract that a repairing ship should be kept in this sea? Yes.
131. For the terms specified? Yes.
132. *Mr. Fraser.*] In your fourth proposition you say "By cable to be supplied, &c." I assume that that means a complete cable entirely separate from the existing communication between Singapore and Batavia? Yes.
133. And you would go from the North-west Cape either through Lombeck Strait to Singapore? We have considered that to be the best route; but we should have no objection to go to the right of this line and touch at Batavia.
134. That would be the most direct route? Yes.
135. Would there be any difference in the cost between the line through Lombeck Strait and the other line, or would you require an equal subsidy in each case? An equal subsidy.
136. But I understood you to say that the route through Lombeck Strait touching at Sourabaya, was the best? That is the opinion held by the authorities in London. 137.

Captain A.
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137. What is the line from Western Australia, *via* Ceylon? It was suggested that the line should go from the North-west Cape to Ceylon, *via* Anjer. There might be some danger to the cable at the Cocos Islands. I have been informed that you can look down from some shelving rocks into an unfathomable ocean. These rocks are not more than 300 yards from the cocoanut trees. It was proposed that the line should go from the North-west Cape to Anjer or Batavia, or thence to Ceylon.

138. *Mr. Frazer.*] False Point, in India, was another alternative line that would touch at Singapore? Yes.

139. That would complete a continuous cable from Australia to India? Yes.

140. That is to say, Australia would have a continuous and independent communication with India, which could not be interfered with by any other country? Yes, we could make 1000-mile connections, all the way from Australia.

141. *Mr. Griffith.*] What is the distance from Copang to Cape York? About 1000 miles. In each of those places there is a complete duplicate system from the time a message is received at any office in Australia until it is received in England.

142. Have you English operators in each country? Yes, right through.

143. Will you state shortly your route, starting from Rangoon? From Rangoon to Calcutta, then to Kurrachee, thence to Teheran to Tiflis; but between Kurrachee and Bushire there is a cable laid down to duplicate the land line of the Indo-European Company. From Tiflis by the frontiers of Germany to Berlin, and thence to London.

144. Are your principals, the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company, represented there? Yes, we have entered into an agreement with the Indo-European Company to allow us a rebate of 40 per cent. upon all messages from Australia.

145. That is a permanent working arrangement? Yes.

146. *Mr. Mein.*] Are these several proposals which you make in connection with the subsidy dependent upon the present rate of charges, or are you prepared to allow the Colonies to fix their own rate of charges? We would allow the Colonies to fix their own rate of charges.

147. You would prefer to leave the rate of charges to competition between the different Colonies? I would.

148. Fixing a maximum charge, I suppose? Yes, we should be obliged to do that.

149. What maximum charge would you be prepared to fix? 6s. a word for ten words including address, which is the present rate.

150. On the terms you offer? On the terms we offer.

151. *President.*] Your Company has stated what they will lay down a line for from Normanton to Singapore. What will they do it for from Port Darwin—would it be more or less? Less.

152. How much less? We should require a subsidy of £45,000 for a cable from Port Darwin to Singapore.

153. And how much from Normanton or Cape York? £50,000.

154. That would make a difference of £5,000? Yes.

155. *Mr. Mein.*] The line from Cape York would be shorter, would not that make a difference? There would be the difference in the cost of the cable; we should be prepared to allow that in the subsidy.

156. Then I understand you that the line from Cape York would be £48,500? No, £49,000. Of course the subsidies have not been calculated on the cost of that cable.

157. *Sir H. Ayers.*] Are you a professional electrician? I am not.

158. How have you obtained your knowledge of the bottom of the seas you have been describing? I have travelled over a great part of them, and I have obtained the latest information respecting them from Capt. Nares, of H.M.S. "Challenger," who took lately the only soundings ever taken in those seas, showing the depth along this dotted line (*indicating line on map*). We know almost as much of the soundings round and south of Timor as we do of the soundings fifty miles from the Australian coast.

159. Will you state whether this information has been obtained by you, or is derived from your own knowledge? It is not only derived from my own knowledge, but has been collected by me from Captain Nares, the best authority I could obtain from the Admiralty in England, from the latest data, and from the charts giving the actual soundings.

160. But you have not taken soundings on board cable ships yourself? No, I have not actually taken soundings.

161. But you say you know the coral reef along this line? Yes.

162. And you state that there are no coral reefs about Timor? Yes, I know it from the charts made by the Admiralty officer sent down purposely to survey this very spot; from the information that gentleman has given me, and from the soundings actually taken and placed on the charts—

163. You are getting away from my question. You seemed to think there was a coral reef here (*indicating locality on map*), on this line from Port Darwin to Banjoewangie; was that from your own knowledge of the bottom? The soundings are given on the chart, and shew the nature of the bottom. The present cable has been removed from that very coral bank to the sea which I have told you is now clear of coral reefs.

164. *Mr. Anderson.*] The present cable is clear of the coral bank? Yes, I am given to understand that it was on the edge of the coral bank that it was broken, and that it is now quite clear of it.

165. *Mr. McLean.*] Your principals are connected with the cable across the Atlantic from Australia to America? Yes, by the direct United States cable and through America by the Western Union Telegraph system.

166. Have they received any instructions to negotiate for a line by Honolulu? Yes.

167. What is your opinion of it? There is nothing against it except the expense.

168. But supposing all those islands should agree to a subsidy, there would be no objection on the score of expense? None whatever, only the line is considerably longer than many persons in Australia think it is. The actual distance is somewhere about 7,500 miles, and that would require a length of cable over 8,000 miles: the sections would be cut in lengths of 1,000 miles between San Francisco and Honolulu and Fiji.

169. They would not be longer than other existing lines? No, there is nothing against it except commercially; we should get nothing from Honolulu or Fiji.

170. Have these questions been discussed by your Company? Yes. I have at the present moment the particulars of a subsidy for laying down that cable.

171. *Mr. Griffith.*] And what subsidy do you think would be necessary to open that route? Well, it would be at least double the present subsidy.

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172. *Mr. Stuart.*] Are you thinking of starting from Australia? Yes.

173. Why should you start from Australia? Well, the French Government have £8,000 ready as a subsidy for a line from Australia to New Caledonia; and although the outlay would not be very great, we should require a subsidy of £25,000 for that cable alone.

174. *Mr. McLean.*] Well, you should get a subsidy from Honolulu and the other Islands, and I do not see why they should not give it for this line? The Government of Honolulu told me that they would give no subsidy, and the Postmaster General told me the same.

175. But Sir Julius Vogel, who has obtained further information, states that they are very likely to give it? Then there would be no difficulty in constructing the line; you see we should only have to look for through messages from America.

176. It would be to the advantage of your Company, because it would bring a great deal of traffic from New Zealand, as well as the Islands? Yes; that is why we are endeavouring to make arrangements with the Honolulu Government to land the first section on that island.

177. *Mr. Griffith.*] What would be the longest section along that route? From Fiji to Honolulu; we have tried all we could to make these cables in 1000-mile sections, because the cost of laying a cable over 1,000 miles is considerably more than for 1000 miles, and the cable is more expensive.

178. Have you any knowledge of the sea through which the cable would pass along that route? No; the Secretary to the Postal authorities has promised to send me the information. From what we know of it, it is an exceedingly deep sea, and, as far as we could learn from the "Tuscaroora," it is a good bottom, and when they got within about thirty miles of the shores of Queensland they reported that their leads dropped into a hole from 3,000 to 4,000 fathoms deep.

179. And so far as you have ascertained, there is quite as good a bottom there as along the route by Java? Yes, as far as we have had experience of the deep seas, we have generally found a soft bottom.

180. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any authority to lay a cable along that route? Oh yes, my authority is to obtain the best concessions I can, and to make a route between here and London whichever way you wish it to go.

181. When you were in treaty to make the line from the Colonies to England in 1875, had you proper authority to carry out the agreement? Yes.

182. Because I see there is a letter from Sir Julius Vogel, stating that the arrangement fell through because you were unable to carry out your agreement? That letter never reached us, and there was another letter which was handed in by special messengers to Sir Julius Vogel, which has not appeared in the correspondence.

183. Have you that letter? I have. (*Witness handed in a letter. Vide Appendix A.*)

184. And you have looked over this printed correspondence and see no trace of these letters? No trace whatever.

185. Do you hold full powers of attorney from your principals? Yes, and I have always done so.

186. *Mr. Stuart.*] I should like to know why that contract was not carried out? It was understood that the cable should be put down in a reasonable time—in three months—and it was nearly eighteen months before the three Governments agreed to do it. The instructions were so stringent that not a single concession could be granted, and one afternoon the conditions fell through, for the moment only. In the New Zealand Act, ratifying the agreement, Sir Julius Vogel inserted a clause authorizing the Government of that Colony to consent to a cable direct from New Zealand, and on the following morning we saw for the first time in the newspaper that a contract had been signed for a separate cable to Australia from New Zealand with a different Company. We were surprised to see this in the morning newspaper, having left Sir Julius Vogel overnight without receiving any intimation of it, and having been prepared to lay down the New Zealand cable separately ourselves.

187. But, as I understand it, you entered into a memorandum of agreement to construct a certain line, subject to ratification by the Parliaments of the various Colonies. That ratification was given, and yet the contract with the Company which you represented fell through? Yes.

188. Well, I want to know why it fell through? For this reason, that at the moment the whole of the money was provided for by a large combination of capitalists; but eighteen months afterwards, owing to complications in the money market in England, that money could not be supplied without certain concessions asked for from the representatives of the different Governments, that certain things were to be granted. Their instructions were not to grant them, and the agreement fell through.

189. Then do I understand that the contract which you made on behalf of your principals was what may be called a sort of sporting offer—that is to say, an offer to make a line provided all things remained the same with regard to the money market? No; the money was provided for.

190. But there was nothing in your memorandum of agreement to limit the time to three months? It was understood that the whole thing would be ratified in three months, and that I should have to go to England by the next mail.

191. But where several Governments had to be consulted in respect to the construction of a new line of telegraph it does not appear, to me at all events, reasonable to expect that everything could be settled within three months? Yes; this Parliament was in Session, and it was expected to be done immediately; the Queensland Parliament was in Session also, and Sir Julius Vogel left here with the understanding that it should be done at once.

192. Now I come to the object I have endeavoured to arrive at by these preliminary questions. You now offer to put down a certain cable for an annual subsidy of £50,000, with a limitation of 6s. a word for the tariff of messages. Is that an offer which would be subject to the approval of the various Colonial Parliaments, or is it an offer made in the same way as the last—an offer made with reference to the present cheap rate of money in England, which you might find it impossible to carry out if money became dearer? No, it is not.

193. You see on the last occasion you stated that you had full power to bind your principals, and yet when the different Parliaments had ratified the contract it fell through because the gentlemen who were parties to the agreement were no longer in a position to do what they had offered to do. I wish therefore to know whether this offer is subject to the same contingency, or whether it will stand any reverse in the money market? Yes; I am prepared to sign a binding contract.

194. Was not that the case on the last occasion? It was, but the contract was never signed.

195. Was not the agreement as binding upon you as the contract? Yes, but the agreement was that it should be carried out quickly.

- Captain A. Coote. 196. Well I want to know whether this offer is made to be carried out quickly? Yes.
 197. What is to be the limit of that quickness? Within twelve months.
 30 Jan., 1877. 198. *Mr. Maclean.*] Then you considered that the non-fulfilment of an agreement by the different Govern-
 ments within eighteen months was unreasonable? Yes.
 199. *Mr. Stuart.*] We are to understand then that on the first occasion you considered three months a
 reasonable time, and that now you think twelve months reasonable? Yes.
 200. You ask a subsidy of £50,000 for this cable? Yes.
 201. Has it occurred to you that if the combined Governments paid you this subsidy, they would virtually
 suppress the other Company? They would get their share.
 202. But they would have to work against £50,000? Yes.
 203. *President.*] You said the Governments refused you a slight concession on the last contract, but you
 did not say what that concession was? I am not quite sure of the exact concession asked for, it was
 merely an alteration of some of the terms of the agreement which was entered into.
 204. Then you do not know whether it was a slight one or not? I have always been given to understand
 that it was a very reasonable request; it was not a question of money at all; it was merely a question of
 landing cables.

NOTE (on revision).—In answering the many questions put to me, I omitted to state that the Messrs. Siemens wished to be allowed to land the cable at Sourabaya, in Java, instead of Celebes, because no business was to be expected from the latter place, and asked the representatives to wait for a few days to allow of a telegram being sent to the Governments interested to allow this slight alteration. This, it was stated, was useless, as their instructions were to keep them to the exact agreement; consequently for the moment negotiations stopped, but when leaving the representatives on that afternoon the Messrs. Siemens told the representatives they were prepared to go on with the New Zealand cable and so allow time to telegraph on.

I arrived in London twelve hours afterwards, when the Messrs. Siemens at once informed me that it was no fault of theirs; that it appeared to them that they had been made a sort of "buffer" between the Eastern Extension Company, and the New Zealand representative. And Sir Daniel Cooper also told me he prevented the competing Company from seeing Sir Julius Vogel for a whole day at his private residence. However, it could not be prevented. The Messrs. Siemens knew nothing of this until the announcement was made in the morning papers, as the letters referred to yesterday had in some extraordinary way miscarried.—AUDLEY COOTE.

P.S.—Some copies of the old powers I then held are still in the possession of Mr. Jno. Robertson.—A. C.

APPENDIX A.

Messrs. Siemens Brothers to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Sir,

12, Queen Anne's Gate, London S.W., 24 August, 1876.

In the printed papers relating to Telegraph Cable negotiations headed "1876, New Zealand," which have been forwarded by the Government of New Zealand to the Governments of each of the Australian Colonies, we find under No. 18 the copy of a letter purporting to be addressed to us by the Honorable J. Vogel and Sir D. Cooper, under date of 21st May, 1875, which letter has never reached our hands.

It is obvious from the tone and contents of that communication that we could not have allowed the same to have passed without our protest, had it ever reached us.

On the other hand, we find that an important letter addressed by us to the Commissioners and handed by special messenger to each of them, has been omitted from the correspondence.

The following is a copy of the same :—

"Sir,

"Queen Anne's Gate, London S.W., 7 May, 1875.

"We have the honor to hand you herewith printed copy of the memorandum, Articles of Association of the Indo-Australasian Telegraph Company Limited, which has been formed by the several gentlemen who have hitherto acted in concert with us, with a view of establishing a second and independent telegraphic communication between India and Australasia.

"We are authorized to say that the promoters of the above Company whose names are affixed to the memorandum Articles of Association (as per enclosed copy) are prepared to enter into negotiations with you and the representatives of New South Wales and Queensland, on the subject of the assistance intended to be granted by the Colonial Governments interested in the furtherance of the undertaking.

"We shall be glad to hear that you are willing to negotiate with the Company on the subject, and any communication you will honor us with we shall have great pleasure in submitting to them.

"The Premier of New Zealand.

"We are, &c.,

"SIEMENS BROTHERS."

We consider it a duty to ourselves to call your attention to the above.

And have, &c.,

SIEMENS BROTHERS.