

(No. 12.)



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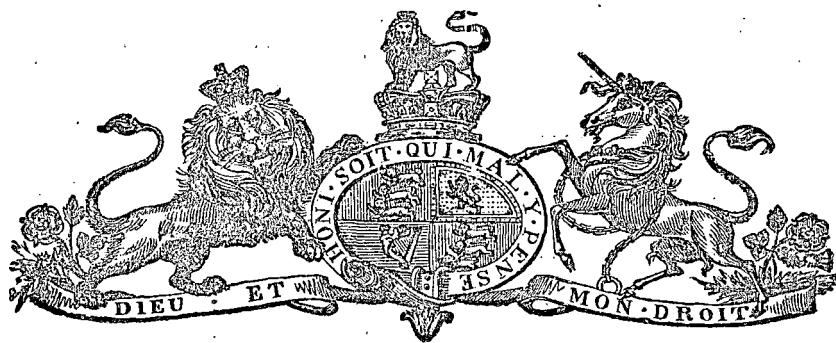
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

POSTAL CONFERENCE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

Laid upon the Table by Sir R. Dry, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 20, 1867.



PROCEEDINGS OF POSTAL CONFERENCE HELD AT MELBOURNE ON
THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH, 1867.

THE following gentlemen, representatives of the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand, were present—

VICTORIA.....	The Honorable James M'Culloch.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable Joseph Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	The Honorable J. P. Boucaut.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The Honorable James M'Culloch having been elected to the Chair, it was

Resolved—That the proceedings of the Conference shall be strictly private, and that the results of the deliberations shall not be made known without the concurrence of the Conference.

Resolved—That the Conference shall sit daily at 11 A.M.

Resolved—That the representatives of each Government undertake that the respective Governments shall recommend to their Parliaments the adoption of measures to carry out all the Resolutions of the Conference to which they may individually have given their assent.

The meeting then adjourned until 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 5th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable J. M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the representatives, after conferring until 2 P.M., adjourned until Thursday, 7th March, at 11 A.M., in order that time might be allowed for the preparation of certain returns.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA.....	{ The Honorable James M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable Henry Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND.....	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the returns ordered, numbered 1 and 2 respectively, were handed in.

General discussion then ensued, in the course of which papers were read by Mr. Docker, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Macalister. These papers having been ordered to be printed, and the return numbered 2 having been ordered to be amended, the meeting adjourned at 1.45 P.M. until 11 A.M. on Friday, the 8th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

FRIDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1867.

Present.

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable James M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND.....	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Memoranda from the representatives of New Zealand, Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria, numbered respectively 3, 4, 5, 6, were handed in, and ordered to be printed.

General discussion ensued.

It was resolved—That at the next meeting of the Conference the proposal of Mr. Macalister, that there be three postal routes, shall be first considered, and that Resolutions be submitted thereupon.

Letter from the Manager, Australasian Steam Navigation Company, dated 23rd February, 1867, was read to the meeting, which then adjourned, at 2 P.M., until 11 A.M. on Monday, the 11th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable J. M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND.....	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

Mr. Macalister proposed—That three postal routes be established, viz., *via* Suez and King George's Sound, *via* Panama, and *via* Singapore and Torres Straits, and that the cost of these services be borne by the United Kingdom and the Colonies respectively, on the basis of the proposition contained in the memorandum handed in by the representatives of New Zealand (Paper No. 3), and that the colonial moiety be paid by the Colonies respectively in the following proportions; viz.—

Victoria	£48,000
New South Wales	47,400
South Australia	16,000
New Zealand	39,400
Queensland	20,500
Tasmania	5000
Western Australia	700
Amounting to	<u>£177,000</u>

being moiety of the estimated cost of the three lines with branch services.

Seconded by Mr. Gore.

Discussion ensued.

Copy of Resolutions to be moved by Mr. Parkes handed in.

Ordered to be printed.

Memorandum handed in by the representatives of South Australia.—Ordered to be printed.

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 P.M., until 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 12th.

JAMES M'ULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

VICTORIA.....	{ The Honorable James M'ulloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Mr. Macalister requested to be allowed to withdraw the Resolution standing in his name in favour of the following—moved by Mr. Parkes:—

“1. That any scheme of ocean postal communication agreed upon by this Conference should, in providing for the general convenience, be so adapted to special interests as to secure the concurrence and support of all the associated Colonies.

“2. That any such scheme will be valuable to each of the Colonies in proportion to the number of points of commercial intercourse which it shall be made to include, in combination with expedition and regularity of conveyance between Great Britain and Australia.

“3. That the facilities for the transmission of merchandise and for passenger traffic ought not to be overlooked as collateral advantages.

“4. That the advantage of more rapid telegraphic communication by way of Torres Straits commends that route to the favorable consideration of the Conference.

“5. That the contributions of the associated Colonies to the cost of any such general scheme should be proportioned, not so much by calculations of the actual population or the post-office correspondence as on the basis of a compromise of interests and preferences in view of a common federal object.

“6. That, considering our political connexion as dependencies of the Crown, and the interest of England as a commercial nation in the trade and progress of the Colonies, one-half of the cost of any such aggregate scheme ought in justice to be borne by the Imperial Government.

“7. That in the proposed federal action the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand are considered as possessing equal interests, which may be approximatively estimated as follows:—

VICTORIA.—On the basis of population and commerce, with her general interest in Australian progress and her special interest in the maintenance of the Suez route, from her undoubted priority of advantages derived from it.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—On the basis of population and commerce and the same general interest, with her supposed greater interest in the Panama route.

NEW ZEALAND.—On the same basis of individual and general interest, with her undoubted priority of advantages in communication *viâ* Panama.

“8. That the interests of Queensland, governed by her geographical situation, require a special service, which does not present any considerable advantages to the other Colonies, but that it is not desirable that Queensland should be disunited from the other Colonies in the settlement of this question.

“9. That the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania, partly owing to the specialities of social character, and partly to the limitation of their intercolonial relations, will be least affected by any new adjustment of the existing postal arrangements.

“10. That, in order to establish a postal system affording regular fortnightly communication by three lines, *viâ* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore, *viâ* Melbourne and South Australia to Suez, and *viâ* New Zealand to Panama, with the necessary branch services, the six Colonies represented at this Conference should contribute a moiety, not exceeding £200,000, of the total cost, in the following proportions; viz.—

Victoria	One-fourth.
New South Wales	One-fourth.
New Zealand	One-fourth.
Queensland	One-seventh.
South Australia	One-twelfth.
Tasmania	One-fiftieth.

“11. That it is expedient that the Six Colonies represented at this Conference should act in concert in urging these views, and should join in a Memorial to Her Majesty, setting forth the mutual advantages to be derived by England and Australia from their adoption.”

Seconded by Mr. Docker.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ward moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the eighth Resolution proposed by Mr. Parkes :—

“That this Conference, while deeming it inexpedient to establish at present three lines of communication for postal purposes, will be prepared to consider any reasonable proposal which may be made for a joint contribution to a steam service to be established by Queensland *viâ* Torres Straits to Singapore, in addition to any general postal system which may be agreed upon.”

Seconded by Mr. Hall.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ward's amendment was then put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result :—

For.		Against.
Victoria,		New South Wales,
New Zealand.		South Australia,
		Tasmania,
		Queensland.

The amendment was accordingly lost.

Mr. Parkes' Resolutions were then considered.

The first Resolution was put to the meeting and agreed to without amendment.

The second Resolution was agreed to after being amended by striking out the words “in combination,” second line, and in inserting in lieu the word “consistently.”

The third Resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The fourth Resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The fifth Resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The sixth Resolution was agreed to, after being amended by striking out the word “England,” and inserting in lieu the words “Great Britain” (second line), and by striking out the words “in justice,” in the last line.

On the seventh Resolution being considered, Mr. Hall proposed that the word “and,” after “New South Wales,” in first line, be struck out, and that the words “and Queensland” be inserted after the words “New Zealand,” in second line.

Seconded by Mr. Ward.

The amendment was put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result:—

For.		Against.
New Zealand.		Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland.

The amendment was accordingly lost, and the original resolution, as proposed, was agreed to.

The eighth Resolution was agreed to after inserting the word "postal" after the word "considerable," in second line.

The ninth Resolution was agreed to after striking out all the words from "partly," first line, to "relations" inclusive, in second line, and by striking out the words "any new," second line, and inserting in lieu "the proposed."

On the tenth Resolution being considered, it was proposed by Mr. Boucaut and seconded by Mr. Duffield, That the proportion to be borne by South Australia shall be one-thirteenth, and that by Tasmania be one-forty-seventh. This amendment was put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result:—

For.		Against.
South Australia, New Zealand.		Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania.

The amendment was accordingly lost, and the original Resolution as proposed was agreed to.

The eleventh Resolution was agreed to after striking out the word "England," last line, and inserting the words "United Kingdom" in lieu.

The whole of the Resolutions, as follow, were then unanimously agreed to:—

"1. That any scheme of Ocean postal communication agreed upon by this Conference should, in providing for the general convenience, be so adapted to special interests as to secure the concurrence and support of all the associated Colonies.

"2. That any such scheme will be valuable to each of the Colonies in proportion to the number of points of commercial intercourse which it shall be made to include, consistently with expedition and regularity of conveyance between Great Britain and Australia.

"3. That the facilities for the transmission of merchandise and for passenger traffic ought not to be overlooked as collateral advantages.

"4. That the advantage of more rapid telegraphic communication by way of Torres Straits commends that route to the favorable consideration of the Conference.

"5. That the contributions of the associated Colonies to the cost of any such general scheme should be proportioned, not so much by calculations of the actual population or the post-office correspondence as on the basis of a compromise of interests and preferences in view of a common federal object.

"6. That, considering our political connexion as dependencies of the Crown, and the interest of Great Britain as a commercial nation in the trade and progress of the Colonies, one-half of the cost of any such aggregate scheme ought to be borne by the Imperial Government.

"7. That in the proposed federal action the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand are considered as possessing equal interests, which may be approximatively estimated as follows:—

VICTORIA.—On the basis of population and commerce, with her general interest in Australian progress and her special interest in the maintenance of the Suez route, from her undoubted priority of advantages derived from it.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—On the basis of population and commerce and the same general interest, with her supposed greater interest in the Panama route.

NEW ZEALAND.—On the same basis of individual and general interest, with her undoubted priority of advantages in communication *viâ* Panama.

"8. That the interests of Queensland, governed by her geographical situation, require a special service which does not present any considerable postal advantages to the other Colonies, but that it is not desirable that Queensland should be disunited from the other Colonies in the settlement of this question.

"9. That the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania will be least affected by the proposed adjustment of the existing postal arrangements.

"10. That, in order to establish a postal system affording regular fortnightly communication by three lines, *viâ* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore, *viâ* Melbourne and South Australia to Suez, and *viâ*

New Zealand to Panama, with the necessary branch services, the six Colonies represented at this Conference should contribute a moiety, not exceeding £200,000, of the total cost, in the following proportions; viz.—

Victoria	One-fourth.
New South Wales	One-fourth.
New Zealand	One-fourth.
Queensland	One-seventh.
South Australia	One-twelfth.
Tasmania	One-fiftieth.

“11. That it is expedient that the six Colonies represented at this Conference should act in concert in urging these views, and should join in a Memorial to Her Majesty, setting forth the mutual advantages to be derived by Great Britain and Australia from their adoption.”

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 P.M., until 11 A.M. on Thursday, 14th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable James M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosby Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

It was proposed by Mr. Ward, and seconded by Mr. Verdon—That in the absence of a representative from Western Australia the contribution of that Colony to the postal service remain as heretofore.

Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Docker, and seconded by Mr. Parkes—That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is expedient that the Colonies in combination should undertake to contract for all Australian services requisite to carry out the Resolutions adopted by this Conference, in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Treasury Minute of the Imperial Government of 4th September, 1866.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 P.M., until 11 A.M. on Friday, the 15th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable James M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

It was moved by Mr. Chapman—That any contract for carrying on the main service or services shall be for (7) seven years.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Chapman consented to the following amended Resolution, which was agreed to by the Conference:—

“That, with a view to economy in making arrangements for the contracts for carrying out the main service or services, such contracts should be terminable by two years’ notice, to be given at any time not being earlier than five years from the commencement of the contract.”

Mr. Verdon’s motion (No. 2) respecting the establishing of a Federal Council was postponed until next meeting of Conference.

Mr. Verdon moved—That the rate of speed to be maintained on the main lines be not less than 10 knots per hour, and that the vessels to be employed in the King George’s Sound and Panama routes be not less than 1500 tons register, and on the Torres Straits route 1000 tons register.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Verdon consented to the following amended Resolution, which was agreed to by the Conference:—

“That the rate of speed to be maintained on the main lines be not less than 10 knots per hour, exclusive of stoppages, and that the tonnage of the vessels to be employed on the King George’s Sound and Panama routes be not less than 1500, and on the Torres Straits route not less than 1000 tons.”

Mr. Hall handed in list of Branch Services.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ward handed in Sketch Time Table.—Ordered to be printed.

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 P.M., until 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 16th March, 1867.

JAMES M’CULLOCH.

SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable James M’Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Mr. Gore, at the suggestion of the Conference, agreed to the following amended intimation on the subject of the extension of the electric telegraph in Queensland being entered on the minutes of proceedings:—

“That it is the intention of the Colony of Queensland to proceed with the extension of the electric telegraph wire beyond Port Denison, until it reaches the point where it is intended to unite with the submarine cable of the Anglo-Indian Telegraph Company; provided, that if, within two (2) years, no steps are in progress for laying the submarine cable, the Colony will establish a line to Cape York.”

Mr. Gore consented to his motion on the subject of the mail steamers calling at the northern ports of Queensland being amended as follows:—

“That, in any contract entered into for the conveyance of the mails *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits, it shall be stipulated that the mail steamships shall receive and deliver mails at Keppel Bay and Port Denison, provided the total delay each trip shall not exceed six (6) hours.

The Resolution, as amended, having been seconded by Mr. Verdon, “was agreed to by the Conference.”

Mr. Hall moved:—

“That, pending the coming into operation of the General Scheme of Postal Communication decided on by the Conference, it is expedient that a joint contribution should be made to the cost of the Panama Mail Service, in consideration of this service being thrown open for use by all the Australian Colonies.”

“That in pursuance of the foregoing Resolution mails to and from all these Colonies shall be conveyed by the Panama steamers free of charge, and that the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania should furnish a joint annual contribution of £20,000 to the cost of this service.”

Seconded by Mr. Parkes.

Discussion ensued.

Consideration of motion postponed until next meeting of Conference.

Mr. Verdon consented to his motion (No. 1.) on the subject of the establishing of a Federal Council being amended as follows:—

“That it is expedient for the purpose of carrying into effect the Resolutions of this Conference that a Federal Council be established, consisting of representatives of the Australasian Colonies.”

The Resolution, as amended, having been seconded by Mr. Parkes, was agreed to by the Conference.

The consideration of Mr. Verdon's motion (No. 2) on same subject was postponed until the next meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Parkes handed in Draft Memorial to Her Majesty the Queen, which was read to the Conference and ordered to be printed.

The meeting then adjourned at 12 noon until 10 A.M. on Monday, the 18th March, 1867.

JAMES M'ULLOCH.

MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

VICTORIA.....	{ The Honorable James M'ulloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND.....	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed,

Mr. Parkes moved the adoption of the Memorial addressed to Her Majesty and read on the 16th March.

Seconded by Mr. Docker.

The Memorial was then taken into consideration and agreed to by the Conference, after being amended.

Mr. Parkes moved the adoption of the following Resolutions:—

- (1.) “That the Memorial to Her Majesty be signed by all the members of this Conference, each member signifying the office he holds, and, if a member of the Executive Council, his position as such.
- (2.) “That a correct copy of the Memorial be prepared on parchment, and signed in the manner aforesaid, for each Government.
- (3.) “That the Representatives of each Colony, on the conclusion of the sittings of this Conference, take the necessary steps, without delay, to obtain the approval of the Executive to the Memorial.
- (4.) “That the Governors of the Australian Colonies be advised to transmit the Memorial for presentation to Her Majesty by the mail leaving Australia in April, *via* Suez, and the Governor of New Zealand by the first mail afterwards; and that their Excellencies be requested to explain to the Secretary of State the occasion of the assembling of this Conference, and the results of its deliberations.

(5.) "That the Governments of the Colonies represented at this Conference adopt such measures as may be necessary, as early as may be convenient after the assembling of Parliament in each case, to give Legislative sanction to the agreements of this Conference.

(6.) "That, in order to secure uniform and harmonious action on the part of the respective Governments, it is expedient that they should communicate with each other as fully as may be practicable."

Mr. Verdon seconded the motion, and the Resolutions were agreed to by the Conference.

Mr. Docker moved the adoption of the following Resolution :—

"That the respective Governments undertake to do all that may be necessary in London to further the objects of this Conference."

Mr. Parkes seconded the motion, and the Resolution was agreed to by the Conference.

Mr. Hall moved the adoption of the List of Branch Services.

Mr. Ward seconded the motion.

Mr. Boucaut proposed, as an amendment, "That the arrangements for the Branch Services, in connection with the Service *via* King George's Sound, be made on the assumption that the mails by the Suez steamer be delivered at Port Adelaide."

Mr. Duffield seconded the motion, which was negatived by the Conference.

Other amendments having been consented to by Mr. Hall, the following List of Branch Services was agreed to by the Conference :—

A LIST of Branch Mail Services required to connect the whole of the Australasian Colonies with the three lines of Postal Communication between Great Britain and Australasia, *via* Suez and King George's Sound, *via* Suez and Singapore, and *via* Panama and New Zealand.

I.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

On the arrival of the Suez steamer at Melbourne, one branch steamer to leave for Launceston and another for New Zealand. On the arrival of the same Suez steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to leave for Brisbane. Return branch steamers to leave Brisbane, New Zealand, and Launceston in time to reach Sydney and Melbourne respectively before the departure of the steamer for Suez.

The Adelaide Mails by this line will be delivered by the Suez steamer at Kangaroo Island, and conveyed to and from that Island and Port Adelaide by a branch service.

II.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* SINGAPORE.

On the arrival of the Singapore steamer at Sydney, one branch steamer to leave that port for a port in New Zealand, and another for Melbourne. On the arrival of the latter vessel at Melbourne, either the same or another steamer to proceed to Adelaide, and a branch steamer also to proceed to Launceston. Branch steamers to return to Melbourne and Sydney respectively in time to catch a return Mail to Singapore.

III.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* PANAMA.

On the arrival of the Panama steamer at Wellington, a branch steamer to leave for Melbourne. On its arrival there, either the same or another vessel to proceed to Adelaide, and another branch steamer to proceed to Launceston. On the arrival of the Panama steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to proceed to Brisbane. The branch steamers to return to Sydney and Wellington respectively in time for a return Mail to Panama.

All the branch services to be performed at a speed of not less than nine and a half ($9\frac{1}{2}$) knots per hour. The several branch steamers to take their departure, on the outward journey, within six hours after the arrival of the trunk-line steamer; and, if necessary, to wait her arrival for a period not exceeding three days beyond her due date.

SUMMARY.

I.—KING GEORGE'S SOUND LINE.

1. Kangaroo Island to Port Adelaide and back.
2. Melbourne to Launceston and back.
3. Melbourne to New Zealand and back.
4. Sydney to Brisbane and back.

II.—SINGAPORE LINE.

1. Sydney to New Zealand and back.
2. Sydney to Melbourne and back.
3. Melbourne to Adelaide and back.
4. Melbourne to Launceston and back.

III.—PANAMA LINE.

1. Wellington to Melbourne and back.
2. Melbourne to Adelaide and back.
3. Melbourne to Launceston and back.
4. Sydney to Brisbane and back.

Mr. Ward's Sketch Time-Table was then brought forward, and ordered to be recorded with the Minutes of the Proceedings.

Mr. Hall's motion, respecting contribution to be made by the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania towards the cost of the Panama Service, pending the coming into operation of the general scheme of Postal communication decided on, was postponed until next meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Verdon proposed that, after the Resolution already agreed to by the Conference in favour of establishing a Federal Council, the following be inserted:—

“That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council.”

Seconded by Mr. Boucaut, and agreed to by the Conference that the Resolutions stand as follows:—

“1. That it is expedient, for the purpose of carrying into effect the Resolutions of this Conference, that a Federal Council be established, consisting of representatives of the Australasian Colonies.”

“2. That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council.”

The meeting then adjourned at 4:30 P.M. until 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1867.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

VICTORIA	{ The Honorable J. M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The Minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

The motion submitted by Mr. Hall on the 16th March was taken into consideration.

Mr. Hall consented to the Resolutions standing in his name being amended as follows:—

“That, pending the coming into operation of the general scheme of postal communication decided upon by the Conference, it is expedient that a joint contribution should be made to the cost of the Panama Mail Service, in consideration of this service being thrown open for use by all the Australian Colonies; and that the Colonial Governments should unite in their efforts to adjust the Panama Service as at present carried on, so as to make it alternate as nearly as practicable with the Suez line.

“That, in pursuance of the foregoing Resolution, mails to and from all these Colonies should be conveyed by the Panama steamers free of charge; and that the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania should furnish a joint annual contribution of £20,000 to the cost of this service.”

The representatives of Victoria offered to contribute the sum of eleven thousand pounds (£11,000) per annum towards the maintenance of the Panama service, on the condition that the Victorian mails by that route are delivered at and despatched from Melbourne *via* Wellington, New Zealand, free of further cost, and that the service is made to alternate as nearly as possible as a fortnightly service with that *via* Point de Galle and King George's Sound.

Discussion ensued, and the consideration of Mr. Hall's motion was further adjourned until next meeting of Conference.

The meeting then adjourned at 2 P.M. until 10 A.M. on the 19th March.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

VICTORIA.....	{ The Honorable James M'Culloch. The Honorable G. F. Verdon.
NEW SOUTH WALES.....	{ The Honorable H. Parkes. The Honorable J. Docker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....	{ The Honorable J. P. Boucaut. The Honorable W. Duffield.
QUEENSLAND.....	{ The Honorable A. Macalister. The Honorable St. George R. Gore.
TASMANIA.....	The Honorable T. D. Chapman.
NEW ZEALAND.....	{ The Honorable J. Hall. Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed,

Mr. Docker submitted the following Memorandum for the consideration of the Conference in connexion with the Resolutions standing in Mr. Hall's name:—

Memorandum handed in by Mr. Docker.

Under the general arrangement, the Colonies have agreed to pay a moiety of the Panama line, as forming part of a general service, in certain proportions.

The moiety being £55,000, the contribution of each Colony is as follows:—

Victoria, 1-4th	£13,750
New South Wales, 1-4th	13,750
New Zealand, 1-4th	13,750
Queensland, 1-7th	7858
South Australia, 1-12th.....	4584
Tasmania, 1-50th	1100

If, therefore, during the provisional arrangement, the Colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand take upon themselves the payment of the Imperial moiety, the contributions will stand thus:—

New South Wales	£41,250
New Zealand	41,250
Victoria	13,750
Queensland	7858
South Australia	4584
Tasmania	1100

But these proportional contributions included the provision for the branch services connected with this line.

These branch services would be as follows :—

Wellington to Melbourne	say	£6000
Sydney to Brisbane	„	2400
Melbourne to Adelaide.....	„	2400
Melbourne to Tasmania	„	1000
		<hr/>
		£11,800

to be defrayed out of the common fund.

The proportion of the non-contracting Colonies, supposing the whole of this portion of the subsidy was credited to them would be—

Victoria, 1-4th.....	=	£2950
Queensland, 1-7th	=	1685
South Australia, 1-12th.....	=	983
Tasmania, 1-50th	=	236

If, therefore, these branch lines were not carried into effect during the provisional arrangement, and each Colony obtained its letters by the earliest opportunity, the proportion of each, founded on the joint agreement, would stand thus—

Victoria	£13,750	—	£2950	=	£10,800
Queensland	7858	—	1685	=	6173
South Australia	4584	—	983	=	3601
Tasmania	1100	—	236	=	864
					<hr/>
					£21,438

Mr. Boucaut submitted the following Memorandum :—

“If New Zealand is entitled to interior contribution for the Panama service, so is South Australia in an equal degree entitled to interior contribution for the cost of the King George’s Sound branch service, which unjustly ignores her geographical position; although, in consideration of the general agreement assented to, South Australia waives her claim for any such interior contributions.”

Mr. Hall requested permission to withdraw the Resolutions standing in his name in favour of the following, moved by Mr. Ward :—

That, until the amalgamated postal service proposed by the Conference shall be determined one way or other, it is reasonable and expedient that the Panama line of mail steamers at present existing should be jointly made use of and supported, in addition to the Suez service, by all the Colonies.

That it is desirable that the associated Colonies should use their joint endeavours so to arrange the Panama and Suez services as that the arrivals and departures of mails thereby at the several colonial ports shall fall as nearly as possible at equal intervals.

That, in consideration of the varying circumstances and liabilities of the several Colonies, it is expedient that the contributions of the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania should be fixed at the total sum of £12,000 per annum, in equal reduction of the sums paid by New South Wales and New Zealand respectively; and that the four first-mentioned Colonies should share such contribution between them in the following proportions, viz. :—Victoria, £9000; Queensland, £2000; South Australia, £550; Tasmania, £450.

That the transit and other incidental expenses of the conveyance of correspondence, and the cost of all branch services, should be borne by the Colony concerned in each case.

Mr. Verdon moved the following amendment :—

That, pending the commencement of the new postal arrangements agreed to by this Conference, the Colonies which do not contract for the Panama service should contribute in proportion to the advantage thus derived from it, either—

1st. On the understanding that the service be made to alternate with the service *via* Suez, and that the mails be delivered directly.

2nd. On the understanding that the service remain as at present.

In either case the payments to be made either in proportion to the extent to which the non-contracting Colonies use the service, to be determined by the result, or in a fixed sum, to be agreed upon, in either case, between the contracting Colonies on the one hand, and the non-contracting Colonies individually on the other.

Prolonged discussion ensued; and, there being no prospect of unanimity, the motion and amendment respectively were not pressed to a division.

Mr. Verdon proposed the following Resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is desirable that direct steam communication should be established by way of the Cape of Good Hope, by means of large steamers carrying mails and passengers cheaply, quickly, and regularly between Great Britain and Australasia.

Seconded by Mr. Parkes.

The motion was not pressed to a division.

Mr. Ward withdrew the motion standing in his name.

Mr. Chapman moved—

That, pending the coming into operation of the postal communication decided upon by this Conference, it is expedient that a four-weekly service *via* Suez be maintained.

Seconded by Mr. Verdon.

After discussion, it was agreed to leave the question to be settled by the Home Government.

Mr. Parkes moved—“That, in order to give authorised and uniform publicity to the proceedings of the Conference, the following arrangement be agreed to; viz.—

- (1.) “That the Government of Victoria be at liberty to lay copies of the proceedings, as read and confirmed by the Chairman, on the table of both Houses of Parliament on Thursday, the 28th of March.
- (2.) “That the Governments of New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania be at liberty to publish copies of the proceedings, in the same form, in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, or other manner to be decided upon by each Government, on the same day.
- (3.) “That the Government of New Zealand be at liberty to publish copy of the proceedings, in same form, in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, or other manner, immediately on the arrival of the representatives of that Colony at Wellington.”

Seconded by Mr. Docker, and agreed to by the Conference.

Proposed by Mr. Parkes:—

“That this Conference desire to leave on record their acknowledgments of the courteous attention of the Honorable James M'Culloch in presiding over their proceedings.”

Seconded by Mr. Macalister, and carried unanimously.

The proceedings of the Conference were then brought to a close.

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

MEMORIAL of the Representatives of the Six Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania to Her Majesty the Queen.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

The Memorial of the Undersigned most humbly and dutifully sheweth :

THAT the six Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, by the duly accredited Representatives of their respective Governments, assembled in Conference in the City of Melbourne, approach Your Majesty with feelings of profound loyalty and attachment to Your Majesty's throne and person.

Your Majesty's Colonial Governments have had under their consideration a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Earl of Carnarvon, one of Your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, enclosing a Treasury Minute of September the 4th, 1866, in which they are urgently invited, in combination, to provide for the Steam Postal Service between Point de Galle and Australia, the Imperial Government engaging to pay one-half of the necessary subsidy. Your Majesty's Australasian dependencies are prepared to respond to an invitation so appreciative of their ability to direct their own affairs; but they feel it incumbent on them to represent to Your Majesty that a single branch service connecting them with the Ocean Postal System of India and China is no longer adequate to their wants, or sufficient to meet the demands of British interests. The rapid progress of these Colonies in population and in all the elements of national wealth, and the widely differing conditions that control their progress, not only render increased facilities of intercourse with the United Kingdom a necessity for the group, but also render it impossible to give equal advantages to all, or to avoid inflicting injustice on some, by any one service. While the productive capabilities and the commerce of the associated Colonies have attained a magnitude which, it is humbly submitted, entitles them to a foremost place in the consideration of Great Britain, their geographical extent imposes upon them deprivations and hardships which can only be alleviated by new and various means of communication with the rest of the world. The farther the settlement of population advances, the greater becomes the difficulty. Thus, the enterprise of the colonists in extending the bounds of the Empire, and spreading the lustre of Your Majesty's name, entails upon them the penalty of their more certain exclusion from British intelligence. In the early years of Australian colonisation this virtual banishment was a condition of life to be faced and endured as inevitable; but the Colonies of the present day, as fields of production and as markets of consumption for the national manufactures, have advanced to a position which makes their intimate connexion not less important to the United Kingdom than to themselves.

The imports into the six Colonies during the year 1865, as valued at the different ports of arrival, amounted to thirty-five millions sterling; and although the estimate includes the intercolonial trade carried on by Your Majesty's Australasian subjects, and the imports from foreign countries, by far the greater part of this sea-borne commerce assists in sustaining the manufacturing power of the United Kingdom. Their exports—consisting principally of gold and wool—for the same period, amounted to more than thirty millions. The following are the returns for the several Colonies:—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
Victoria	£13,257,537	£13,150,748
New South Wales	9,928,595	8,191,170
New Zealand	5,594,977	3,713,218
South Australia.....	2,927,596	3,129,846
Queensland	2,505,559	1,153,464
Tasmania	762,375	880,965
	<hr/> £34,976,639	<hr/> £30,219,411

Within the last sixteen years the two Colonies of Victoria and New South Wales have produced a supply of gold amounting in value to One hundred and fifty millions sterling, five-sixths of which has been the produce of Victoria alone. The Colony of New South Wales has raised from the earth 4,617,100 tons of coal, valued at £2,742,224; and her coal fields, north and south of the port of Sydney, may be said to be inexhaustible. The Colonies of New Zealand and South Australia are eminently favoured in the rich variety of their resources. New Zealand has risen within the last few years to an important position as a producer of gold and wool. In ten years the Colony of South Australia has exported copper of the value of £4,751,638, while the produce of her corn-fields is unsurpassed by other countries. The Colony of Queensland, in addition to her pastoral and mineral wealth, has established by successful experiment her capability of growing both cotton and sugar. Nor are the resources of Tasmania unimportant to the British Empire. Her wool, grain, and timber, with the oil of her whale fisheries, form a valuable part of Australian exports. In the year 1865 the exports of the associated Colonies, in five articles of production, which are selected for their conspicuous value to the world, amounted to more than twenty-one millions sterling. The results are given from the latest official returns:—

	<i>Wool.</i>	<i>Gold.</i>	<i>Coal.</i>	<i>Copper Ore.</i>	<i>Grain of all kinds.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	3,315,109	6,190,317	—	—	—
New South Wales.....	1,624,114	2,647,668	274,303	—	—
New Zealand	1,141,761	2,226,474	—	—	—
South Australia.....	964,397	—	—	618,472	1,228,480
Queensland	885,299	101,352	—	—	—
Tasmania	381,625	—	—	—	107,268
	<hr/> £8,312,305	<hr/> £11,165,811	<hr/> £274,303	<hr/> £618,472	<hr/> £1,335,748

If the position of the Six associated Colonies be tested by the number of the shipping visiting their various ports, its importance to Great Britain will be equally manifest. The shipping returns of 1865 for the Australasian Colonies give an aggregate of arrivals amounting to 1,969,091 tons, and 2,018,224 tons as the aggregate of departures. The following table will show the distribution of this tonnage amongst the six Colonies:—

	<i>Inwards.</i> Tons.	<i>Outwards.</i> Tons.
Victoria	580,973	599,351
New South Wales	635,888	690,294
New Zealand	295,625	283,020
South Australia	183,102	174,188
Queensland	173,227	167,153
Tasmania.....	100,276	140,218
	1,969,091	2,018,224

The present number of those animals most useful to man, as compared with the number only forty-two years ago, will exhibit alike the progress and the internal wealth of the Colonies. In the year 1825 there were in all Australia 6142 horses, 134,519 head of horned cattle, and 237,622 sheep. In 1865 the returns for the Australian Colonies alone were as follows:—

	<i>Horses.</i>	<i>Horned Cattle.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>
Victoria	121,051	621,337	8,835,380
New South Wales.....	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511
South Australia.....	73,993	158,057	3,779,308
Queensland.....	51,091	887,856	6,810,005
Tasmania	22,152	90,020	1,736,540
	550,874	3,719,175	29,293,744

The number of Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Australasia is fast approaching an aggregate of two millions, and the evidences of their successful industry and enterprise which are here recorded, though necessarily brief and imperfect, will not fail to ensure for them Your Majesty's gracious consideration. The interests of commerce are strong in uniting the Colonies to the parent country, but stronger still is the glory of an advancing civilisation which belongs to the remotest British dependency as part of a great nation under Your Majesty's beneficent reign. Nor will Your Majesty be insensible to those claims of the poorest of your subjects which grow out of affections that cannot be severed with separated households. The parent in England and the child in Australia, actually as well as figuratively, feel the need of a closer and more constant intimacy.

The four continental Colonies of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland occupy a seaboard of not less than three thousand miles, with points of settlement and traffic throughout its extent; and the Islands of New Zealand are a thousand miles distant from the Australian coast. The letters brought by the way of Cape Leeuin by a mail steamer calling at any port in the Colony of South Australia, could not be forwarded from that point by any practicable means of communication to Your Majesty's subjects at the northern ports of Queensland under twelve or fourteen days, or to the ports of New Zealand under nine. A steamer arriving by the Torres Straits route would afford still less satisfaction, as the most populous Colonies would be the last to receive their letters. The means of communication with many important settlements in the interior of Australia is only by a journey of several days, and cannot, on account of cost, be more frequent than once or twice a week. It will thus be seen that any single monthly line of steamers would leave large numbers of Your Majesty's subjects unable to reply to their correspondence by the return mails, and that any two or more lines by the same route would fail in affording general satisfaction.

The Representatives of the several Colonies assembled in Conference, after careful and anxious consideration of the whole subject, on behalf of their respective Governments, approach Your Majesty, and humbly and dutifully represent that, in order to meet the demands of the large and growing commerce of these Colonies, and to serve in a satisfactory manner the complicated interests that connect them with the United Kingdom, it has now become necessary to maintain three Ocean Postal Services; one by way of King George's Sound, one by way of Torres Straits, and one by way of New Zealand and Panama. The last two of these routes have been opened successfully by the enterprise of Your Majesty's subjects in Australia and New Zealand; and their advantages to the Colonies most nearly affected by them are too apparent to be relinquished.

The associated Colonies, by their Representatives in Conference, have agreed to contribute annually a moiety not exceeding £200,000 of the entire cost of maintaining these three lines of postal communication; and they are prepared to act in combination in contracting for the necessary services to open and maintain these routes in connection with Your Majesty's contract services to India and China and to the West Indies. They humbly pray that Your Majesty may be advised to take such steps as may be expedient, by terminating or re-adjusting present contracts, or calling for fresh tenders for the performance of the main services, to establish the proposed United Australasian Postal System without drawing upon the limited resources of the Colonies beyond the large sum which they cheerfully undertake to pay.

Your Memorialists humbly urge the claims of the great Colonies they represent to the favourable consideration of Your Most Gracious Majesty; and they trust that a project so closely in harmony with the spirit of British enterprise, so essential for the development of British trade, so calculated in its effects

to promote the welfare of Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Australasia, and one in which the whole of the Colonies are acting in union, may receive Your Majesty's Royal favour and support.

And Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects will ever pray.

- (Signed) JAMES M'CULLOCH, Chief Secretary, and Member of the Executive Council of Victoria.
- (Signed) GEO. VERDON, Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council, Victoria.
- (Signed) HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary, and Member of the Executive Council, New South Wales.
- (Signed) JOSEPH DOCKER, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, New South Wales.
- (Signed) JOHN HALL, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, New Zealand.
- (Signed) CROSBIE WARD, Special Representative of New Zealand.
- (Signed) JAS. P. BOUCAUT, Attorney-General, and Member of the Executive Council, South Australia.
- (Signed) WALTER DUFFIELD, Colonial Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council, South Australia.
- (Signed) A. MACALISTER, Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Colonial Secretary of Queensland.
- (Signed) ST. GEORGE R. GORE, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, Queensland.
- (Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council of Tasmania.

Melbourne, 20th March, A.D. 1867.