

(No. 45.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.

DESPATCH, 27 JUNE, 1860.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to
be printed, 16 August, 1860.



CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 27th June, 1860.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 18th ultimo, informing you of the alterations which it had been found necessary to make in respect of the Conveyance of the Australian Mails, I have to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have apprised me, in a letter of which a copy is enclosed, that an arrangement has just been come to between their Lordships and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, under which the Packets of the Company will continue their voyages to Sydney as heretofore.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
NEWCASTLE.

Governor SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

Mr. HAMILTON to Sir F. ROGERS.

(COPY.)

Treasury Chambers, 25th June, 1860.

SIR,

I AM desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state for the information of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, with reference to their Lordships' Minute of the 15th ultimo, on the subject of the Australian Mail Service, that my Lords have, since that date, been in communication with Mr. Edward Hamilton, and with others connected with the Colony of New South Wales, who have represented strongly the dissatisfaction which would be felt in that Colony by the stoppage of the main Service at Melbourne, instead of continuing it, as heretofore, to Sydney.

My Lords have, in consequence, conferred with the Directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company; and find that the Company do not object to run their boats on to Sydney, provided a proportionate increase be made to their subsidy for the actual expense incurred for coals, and wear and tear.

My Lords also understand that the Government and Legislature of New South Wales are quite prepared to contribute their share, as heretofore, of the amount of subsidy which may be necessary for the purpose.

Under these circumstances, my Lords have not hesitated to enter into a provisional arrangement with the Company to carry on the Mail to Sydney, which arrangement will take effect at once, so as to prevent the disappointment to the Colony of New South Wales which might result from an abrupt suspension of the Service to Sydney.

My Lords are unable to state the precise terms of this arrangement, as they have not yet been definitely settled, but they hope to be able to inform the Secretary of State of them before the departure of the ensuing Mail. Whatever they may be, however, the agreement will be so framed as to enable their Lordships to abandon it at once, should the terms of the Service itself not prove satisfactory, or not be adopted by the Colony of New South Wales, in which case the Service must revert to the Contract to Melbourne only, or such other arrangements must be made as may be thought advisable.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) G. A. HAMILTON.

SIR F. ROGERS, *Bart.*