

(No. 9.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

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**TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH  
INDIA AND EUROPE.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House  
to be printed, 25 July, 1860.



Victoria,  
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, June, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice the enclosed copy of an Address from the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, submitting certain Resolutions of the House on the subject of the establishment of Telegraphic Communication with India and Europe; and I am to invite the concurrence of the Government of Tasmania in the views expressed therein.

One or two points in these Resolutions may seem to require some explanation.

In the first place, as regards the *lowest* Tender, which, it is affirmed, should be accepted. What is intended to be conveyed is, the lowest which shall be satisfactory to the Electricians who may be appointed to consider the Tenders. And with reference to the limit of Thirteen thousand Pounds fixed for the liability of this Colony, I would observe it is intended to cover the liabilities of the Colonies of Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland, upon the basis of the proportions contributed to the Postal Subsidy; and in the event of such proportions being subscribed by the Colonies enumerated, such contributions are to be applied in reduction of the liability of Victoria as one of the chief contracting parties.

Should any of the matters referred to in these Resolutions not meet the concurrence of your Government, I have to request that you will be good enough to communicate its views upon the subject generally as early as convenient, as it is desirable they should be known prior to the Resolutions being forwarded to the Home Government.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,  
WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*

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*To His Excellency SIR HENRY BARKLY, Knight, Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in Parliament assembled, beg respectfully to forward to Your Excellency the following Resolutions agreed to by the Assembly:—

I. That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that Telegraphic Communication should be established with India and Europe.

II. That the Government of this Colony be authorised to grant in conjunction with the Imperial Government, and with all or any of the Australian Colonies, an Annual Subsidy not exceeding in the whole £35,000, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years, to any Company of whose stability satisfactory assurance shall be given to induce such Company to construct and maintain a Line of Telegraph which shall connect this Colony with any portion of the Indian and European Telegraphic Lines at present in working, or that may hereafter be constructed, upon the following conditions:—

1. That such Company shall, within two years after a contract has been entered into, construct such Line of Telegraph, unless prevented by war or the dangers or accidents of the seas, and afterwards maintain it in working order at its own expense.

2. That the proposed subsidy shall be proportionately payable on the capital of the Company actually paid up and expended, and shall not exceed five per cent. on such capital. And the contract for the manufacture and laying of the cable shall be open to public tender, and the lowest tender accepted, the satisfactory nature of which competent Electricians in England shall determine.

3. That no payment of such subsidy shall be made until the Line of Telegraph to be constructed has been in working order for three consecutive months; and such payments shall be made rateably only for the period during which the Line so constructed is open for the transmission of Messages.

4. If any such Line shall be closed, unless by reason of war, or shall not be in a state of efficiency for the transmission of Messages for any eighteen consecutive months, then the contract with such Company shall be void.

5. That a tariff of charges for the transmission of Messages over such line shall be agreed to by the several contracting Governments and the Company before any contract is entered into; and such tariff shall not afterwards be altered without the concurrence of such Governments.

6. That, in the event of the net profits of the Company exceeding in any year the rate of ten per cent. per annum inclusive of the subsidy, such excess shall be rateably applied to reduce the respective contributions of the contracting Governments.

III. That the proportion of the entire annual subsidy to be granted as the contribution of this Colony shall not exceed the sum of £13,000 in any one year.

IV. That, in any agreement which may be entered into with any other Colony for the purpose of making up the amount of subsidy required, it shall be an express stipulation that the actual annual payments of such Colony, and of this Colony, shall be in proportion to the value of the Messages transmitted by each along the Line in every year.

V. That, upon the completion of the preliminary arrangements for a contract in terms of the foregoing Resolutions, a Bill be brought in for the purpose of authorising the annual expenditure required.

VI. That these Resolutions shall be in force only for two years, and shall be forthwith published in the United Kingdom.

(Signed) FRAS. MURPHY, *Speaker*.

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*Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, Tasmania,  
27th June, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of date June, 1860, in which you bring under notice copy of an Address from the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, submitting certain Resolutions of the House on the subject of the establishment of Telegraphic Communication with India and Europe, to which you invite the concurrence of the Government of Tasmania. And, in reply, I beg to assure you that the Government of Tasmania is alive to the importance of the object contemplated, and will be prepared to recommend to Parliament, at its approaching Session, to give its assent to the Resolutions which you have brought under my notice, to which, as explained by you, the Government attaches this signification: That Victoria contracts to pay the sum of Thirteen thousand Pounds on its own account, and on the joint account of the Colonies of Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland, on the understanding that it should be reimbursed by the Colonies enumerated a proportion of that sum, to be estimated on the basis of the proportions severally contributed by them to the Postal subsidy.

I have, &c.

FRED. M. INNES.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Melbourne.*