

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE SUBMARINE

The length of the cable is to be between thirty and forty miles. Soundings of the bed in which it is to lie, and further particulars, will be obtained, and transmitted to you by the July mail. In the mean time I enclose a copy of a letter, dated the 26th ultimo, from Mr. Alfred Sheath, the Telegraphic Engineer in this Colony, to the Honorable the Postmaster General, on this subject. This letter is not intended as a guide, but as containing suggestions for the consideration of the best authorities in England, and as furnishing information which may be useful.

Arrangements will be made without delay for keeping you in funds to meet the cost of procuring this cable.

I have, &c.,

W. GIBBONS,

Under Secretary.

John Morrison, Esq.,

3, Adelaide Place, King William-street,
London.

No. 6.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Wellington, 1st June, 1865.

SIR,—

It is the wish of the New Zealand Government to connect the opposite shores of Cook Straits (about forty miles from point to point) by means of a sub-marine telegraph cable, and, as no doubt the Government of Victoria has had experience of a similar work between Victoria and Tasmania, I shall feel much obliged if you would favor this Government with any suggestions or information which may serve as a guide in carrying out the work in question.

I have, &c.,

F. A. WELD.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary,
Victoria.

NOTE.—Similar letter, of like date, addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

No. 7.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Wellington, 3rd June, 1865.

SIR,—

The General Government is anxious to avail itself of the services of Mr. Balfour, Provincial Marine Engineer of Otago, in a Survey of Cook Strait, with a view to ascertaining the best line for a sub-marine telegraphic cable connecting the two Islands. As the object is one of great colonial importance, especially in connexion with the Panama Mail Steam Service, I trust that your Honor will be able to place the services of that officer at the disposal of the General Government for this purpose, and, in such case, may I ask your Honor to be good enough to intimate the same to Mr. Balfour, and to request him to proceed to Wellington by the first opportunity, and to report himself to the Hon. the Postmaster General.

Of course the General Government will pay all expenses of his salary during the time of his employment in such survey.

I have, &c.,

FRED. A. WELD.

His Honor the Superintendent,
Otago.

No. 8.

Superintendent's Office,

Dunedin, 9th June, 1865.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, intimating the desire of the General Government to avail itself of the services of Mr. Balfour, Marine Engineer, of