

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

| By one Intercolonial Service. | | | |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| Melbourne, Hokitika, Wellington, and Bluff | ... | ... | £12,000 |
| One Interprovincial service and a half | ... | ... | 8,000 |
| Wellington and Napier | ... | ... | 650 |
| | | | £20,650 |
| Probable Imperial Contribution | ... | 6,000 | |
| Net cost | ... | £14,650 | |

| Two Intercolonial Services. | | | |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| Melbourne, Bluff, Wellington, and Hokitika | ... | ... | £12,000 |
| Melbourne and Sydney | ... | ... | 2,000 |
| Sydney and Auckland | ... | ... | 7,800 |
| One Interprovincial service and a half | ... | ... | 8,000 |
| Wellington and Napier | ... | ... | 650 |
| | | | £30,450 |
| Probable Imperial Contribution | ... | 6,000 | |
| Net cost | ... | £24,450 | |

Your Committee are of opinion that not less than two regular Mail Services per month should be kept up between the several ports of the Colony. Accordingly both of the above schemes provide for two complete Interprovincial Services, the southern half of one of them being, however, performed by the Intercolonial steamer.

Your Committee abstain from making any recommendations as to which of the two schemes should be adopted; the question appears to them mainly one of expense. The statements above given will enable your honorable House to form a reliable opinion as to the relative postal advantages of the two proposals, and as to their probable cost, as well as to determine whether the advantages presented by the double service are worth the additional outlay which it will involve.

With respect to the San Francisco and Torres Straits Mail Services, your Committee have taken evidence, and have collected the best information at their disposal; such information is, however, necessarily very imperfect. They append to this Report a valuable Memorandum by Lieutenant Woods, Marine Surveyor, on the Pacific line, as well as a Memorandum from the same officer on the peculiarities of the navigation between Brisbane and Singapore *via* Torres Straits.

For the purpose of illustrating the comparative utility for postal purposes of the two routes above mentioned, as well as of that now in use by way of Melbourne and King George's Sound, your Committee append a Time Table showing the dates at which mails sent on the same day from London by each of those routes would arrive at the several ports in New Zealand.

TABLE showing DATES OF ARRIVAL at the different Ports of NEW ZEALAND of a MAIL from LONDON *via* MELBOURNE and HOKITIKA, *via* SINGAPORE and AUCKLAND, and *via* SAN FRANCISCO and AUCKLAND, respectively.

Via MELBOURNE AND HOKITIKA.

| Ports. | | | | | | Dates. | | No. of Days in transit. |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|----|-------------------------|
| London <i>via</i> Marseilles | ... | ... | ... | ... | dep. | June | 18 | ...† |
| Melbourne | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | August | 5 | 48 |
| Hokitika | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 11 | 54 |
| Wellington | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 13 | 56 |
| Lyttelton | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 14 | 57 |
| Port Chalmers | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 15 | 58 |
| Bluff | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 17 | 60 |
| Picton | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 13 | 56 |
| Nelson | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 14 | 57 |
| Taranaki | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 16 | 59 |
| Napier | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 14 | 57 |
| Manukau | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 17 | 60 |

Via SINGAPORE AND AUCKLAND.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|----|------|
| London <i>via</i> Marseilles | ... | ... | ... | ... | dep. | June | 18 | ...† |
| Singapore | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | July | 23 | 35 |
| Brisbane | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | August | 9 | 52* |
| Auckland | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 19 | 62 |
| Napier | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 22 | 65 |
| Wellington | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 23 | 66 |
| Lyttelton | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 25 | 68 |
| Port Chalmers | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 26 | 69 |
| Bluff | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 29 | 72 |
| Picton | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 24 | 67 |
| Nelson | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 25 | 68 |
| Taranaki | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 27 | 70 |
| Hokitika | ... | ... | ... | ... | arr. | " | 29 | 72 |

* The actual time occupied between London and Queensland in six experimental voyages made in 1866, was 66½ days. (*Vide* E.—No. 41868, page 19.)

† The time stated to be occupied *via* Singapore and King George's Sound is that taken by the Marseilles Mail; the bulk of the Mails are sent by Southampton, and take six days longer in their transmission.