

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

THE SUEZ MAIL SERVICE.

(In continuation of Papers presented 5th August, 1870.)

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY COMMAND OF
HIS EXCELLENCY.

WELLINGTON.

—
1871.

SCHEDULE TO SUEZ MAIL SERVICE PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE SUEZ MAIL SERVICE.

No. 1.

Mr. W. PAGE to the Hon. J. VOGEL.

SIR,— General Post Office, London, 4th June, 1870. No. 4 of Suez Papers, 1870. E.—No. 3.
 I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th March last, and to inform you that the amount due for the Imperial moiety of the cost of the service between Australia and New Zealand, namely £2,900, has been placed to the credit of the Colony of New Zealand, in reduction of the balance due from that Colony on account of the mail service for the current year.

I return the statement of account between the United Kingdom and New Zealand which you enclosed, and which has been corrected by the Receiver and Accountant General of this Department.

WM. JAS. PAGE.

The Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 2.

Mr. ELLIOTT to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,— General Post Office, Wellington, 2nd September, 1870.
 Referring to former correspondence on the subject of the moiety of the cost of a steam mail service between Australia and New Zealand, contributed by the Imperial Post Office, in order to complete the connection of this Colony with the service *via* Suez, I have the honor to inform you that since the termination of the contract in November last, alluded to in my letter of the 13th September, 1869, no formal contract has been entered into for the continuance of the service, but special arrangements have been made from time to time for the carriage of the mails, and from December, 1869, to the 30th June last, a sum of £2,521 7s. 4d. has been paid by bonus and gratuity to the steamers trading between Australia and New Zealand for this purpose.

This Government trusts that, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Postmaster-General will consent to pay one-half of this amount (£1,260 13s. 8d.), as though a formal contract had been entered into.

I have, &c.,

G. ELLIOTT ELLIOTT

(for the Postmaster-General).

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

No. 3.

Mr. W. PAGE to the Hon. J. VOGEL.

SIR,— General Post Office, London, 10th November, 1870.
 With reference to your letter of the 2nd September last, I am directed to inform you, that, although no formal contract for the conveyance of mails between New Zealand and Australia has been entered into by the New Zealand Government since the termination of the last contract in November, 1869, the Postmaster-General willingly consents to a moiety of the expense incurred for this service during the period from December, 1869, to the 30th June last, being contributed by this Department.

The sum of £1,260 13s. 8d. has accordingly been placed to the credit of the New Zealand Post Office, in reduction of the balance due from the Colony on account of the mail service for the current year.

I have, &c.,

WM. JAS. PAGE.

The Postmaster-General, Wellington,

No. 4.

Mr. ELLIOTT to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,— General Post Office, Wellington, 31st January, 1871.
 I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th November last, in which you inform me that a sum of £1,260 13s. 8d. has been placed to the credit of the New Zealand Post Office on account of the conveyance of mails between New Zealand and Australia, being for the period between December, 1869, and 30th June, 1870, and, in reply, beg to thank you for so promptly complying with my request.

I have &c.,

G. ELLIOTT ELLIOTT

(for the Postmaster-General).

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

FURTHER PAPERS RELATIVE TO

No. 5.

MEMORANDUM for His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

No. 5 of Suez Papers,
1870. E.—No. 3.

In the report of the Receiver and Accountant General of the Imperial Post Office, received with the Secretary of State's Despatch dated 19th of May, 1870, the estimate of the amount to be contributed by New Zealand for Post Office packet service *via* Suez, to the 31st December next, is £26,304 3s. 6d. From this has to be deducted a sum of £749 6s. remaining to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1869, as acknowledged by the Secretary to the General Post Office in his letter to the Postmaster-General of New Zealand, dated 4th June, 1870, leaving a balance to be provided for of £25,554 17s. 6d. The Secretary of State requests that half this amount may be remitted as soon after the 30th June as possible.

It is anticipated that this estimate for 1870 will be reduced to about £10,000, by the establishment of the mail service to Great Britain *via* San Francisco and New York; and in anticipation of this result, Ministers transmit herewith a draft for £5,000 on account of the service *via* Suez, in compliance with the Secretary of State's request.

Wellington, 20th September, 1870.

W. GISBORNE.

No. 6.

MEMORANDUM for His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

His Excellency is respectfully requested to forward the accompanying draft for £5,000 to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, being a further payment on account of contributions due from New Zealand to the main line of steam service between Great Britain and Australia *via* Suez.

In the account received from the Receiver and Accountant General for 1870, the balance due by New Zealand on account of the main line of mail service *via* Suez, to the 31st December, 1869, is stated to be £26,304 3s. 6d., as follows:—

<i>Dr.</i> —Balance of account to 31st December, 1869	...	...	£17,933	19	4
Chargeable for 1870	...	...	23,671	2	4
Chargeable for 1868–69	...	...	514	19	7
			£42,120	1	3
<i>Cr.</i> —Remittances	...	...	£15,783	5	4
Amount allowed for penalties	...	...	32	12	5
Balance due 31st December, 1870	...	...	26,304	3	6
			£42,120	1	3

In this account, made out before the establishment of the San Francisco Service was known in the London Office, it has been assumed that the whole of the correspondence between New Zealand and Europe would be forwarded *via* Suez, and the number of letters received and despatched in and by the Colony—on which the account is based—is estimated at 559,046, whereas the actual number was only 226,845, so that the amount for which the Colony is liable for 1870 is about £9,500.

There is also a sum of £2,900, which has been credited to the Colony since the account was made out, being half the cost of the Intercolonial Service between Melbourne and New Zealand; and on the 20th September, 1870, a further sum of £5,000 on account was remitted by the Colony.

With these alterations and additions, the account would stand at present as follows:—

<i>Dr.</i> —Balance of account to 31st December, 1869	...	...	£17,933	19	4
Chargeable for 1870	...	...	9,500	0	0
Chargeable for 1868–69	...	...	514	19	7
			£27,948	18	11
<i>Cr.</i> —Remittance as acknowledged	...	...	£15,783	5	4
Remittance as acknowledged September 22, 1870	...	...	5,000	0	0
Half cost of Intercolonial Service in 1869	...	...	2,900	0	0
Amount allowed for penalties	...	...	32	12	5
Balance due by New Zealand	...	...	4,233	1	2
			£27,948	18	11

General Post Office, Wellington, 15th June, 1871.

HENRY SEWELL
(for the Postmaster-General).

No. 7.

The Right Hon. Earl KIMBERLEY to Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 21st April, 1871.

At the desire of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, I transmit three copies of a report from the Receiver and Accountant General of the Post Office, accompanied by a statement of the

amounts chargeable to the several Australian Colonies and New Zealand, on account of the mail packet service for the year ending 31st December, 1871, together with an account-current showing the whole balance which will be due from each Colony to the 31st of December next.

I request that a remittance may be made by the Colony under your Government of one-half of the amount due up to the 31st December next, as soon after the 30th June as possible, and that the over-balance then remaining due may be remitted immediately after the expiration of each subsequent quarter.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

Enclosure in No. 7.

REPORT from the RECEIVER and ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL of the POST OFFICE, explanatory of the Account against the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES and NEW ZEALAND, for Post Office Packet Service during the Year ending 31st December, 1871.

THE account of the amount chargeable on the Australian Colonies and New Zealand for the Mail Packet Service of the current year is annexed.

The minimum cost of the service to Point-de-Galle having been raised under the new contract of the 6th August, 1870, the amount chargeable on the Australasian Colonies for that service for the present year has been proportionately increased.

The establishment, in May, 1870, of the service to New Zealand *via* San Francisco, and the consequent withdrawal of the greater portion of the New Zealand correspondence from the Suez route, have rendered necessary an adjustment of the account for that year. This has been effected in the account current for the present year, the amount overcharged to New Zealand having been credited to that Colony, and debited to the other Colonies concerned; a portion of the additional cost of the Point-de-Galle Service for the year 1870 having been at the same time charged to each of the Colonies concerned.

In the account for the year 1870 certain sums were debited to each of the Colonies on account of the additional subsidy claimed for the year 1869 by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, under clause 38 of the contract of November, 1867. As, however, this claim was cancelled by the new contract, which took effect from the 1st April, 1869, and by which the addition to the original subsidy was fixed at £50,000, instead of a probable payment of £100,000, credit has been given in this year's account for the difference thus arising in favour of the Colonies.

Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, have remitted in full the balances due on their previous accounts.

The arrears due from the other Colonies on account of 1870 have been carried to their debit in the present account.

General Post Office, London, 14th April, 1871.

GEO. CHETWIND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

A STATEMENT showing the Amounts chargeable to the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES in 1871, on Account of the Year 1870.

C O L O N I E S .					Amount Undercharged in 1870.	Sums chargeable to the Colonies on Account of Premiums earned on the Mail Packet Service for 1870.	Total Sums chargeable for 1870.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria	...	...	...	...	8,994 19 9	60 11 3	9,055 11 0
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	4,205 8 9	24 3 6	4,229 12 3
South Australia	...	...	...	...	1,012 7 7	12 9 6	1,024 17 1
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	10 19 6	10 19 6
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	589 2 3	4 4 6	593 6 9
Queensland	...	...	...	...	1,926 9 10	10 10 9	1,937 0 7
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	182 0 4	2 1 0	184 1 4
					16,910 8 6	*125 0 0	17,035 8 6

				£
* Amount of Premiums earned	...	...	...	250
„ Penalties inflicted	...	...	...	Nil
Net Total				£250
Half chargeable to the Colonies				£125

Enclosure in No. 7—continued.
AN ACCOUNT showing the Amounts chargeable on the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES and NEW ZEALAND, on Account of Mail Packet Service for the Year ending 31st December, 1871.

COLONIES.	Number of Letters Inwards and Outwards in 1870.	Service to Point-de-Galle.	Service between Point-de-Galle and King George's Sound.	Service between King George's Sound and Melbourne.	Service between Melbourne and Sydney.	Moiety of Cost of Mail Boxes and Mail Bags.	Moiety of Expense of Naval Agents in charge of Mails.	Proportion of Cost of Special Packets between Dover and Calais.	Estimated Number of Newspapers Inwards and Outwards, <i>via</i> Suez.	Egyptian Transit Rate on Newspapers, &c., <i>via</i> Suez.	TOTALS.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria ...	1,012,860	13,798 11 2	19,627 1 11	9,242 2 1	3,905 5 9	96 18 0	156 5 0	...	1,835,721	1,494 7 0	44,415 5 2
New South Wales ...	404,240	5,508 0 8	7,834 12 8	3,688 15 0	...	38 13 7	62 7 6	...	730,578	594 8 6	21,632 3 8
South Australia ...	208,610	2,842 6 1	4,042 18 0	...	...	19 19 2	32 3 9	...	387,498	315 5 0	7,252 12 0
New Zealand ...	183,585	2,500 10 11	3,556 15 7	1,675 15 8	1,773 13 1	17 11 2	28 6 4	...	432,950	352 6 0	9,904 18 9
Tasmania ...	70,678	962 12 6	1,369 4 9	644 0 3	...	6 15 3	10 18 0	...	248,027	201 16 6	3,195 7 3
Queensland ...	176,225	2,400 17 3	3,414 19 10	1,608 7 0	1,702 1 2	16 17 3	27 3 8	...	292,957	238 4 6	9,408 10 8
Western Australia ...	34,248	467 1 5	664 7 3	...	...	3 5 7	5 5 9	...	66,039	53 12 6	1,193 12 6
	2,090,446	28,480 0 0	40,510 0 0	16,859 0 0	7,381 0 0	200 0 0	322 10 0	...	3,993,770	3,250 0 0	97,002 10 0

Dr. ACCOUNT CURRENT for the Year 1871, in continuation of that rendered for the Year 1870. Cr.

COLONIES.	Balance of Account to 31st December, 1870.	Amount chargeable for 1871 (as per above Statement).	Sums charged to the Colonies on Account of Undercharges, &c. (as per Statement, p. 5).	TOTALS.	COLONIES.	Remittances.	Branch Packet Service.	Sums allowed to the Colonies on Account of Overcharges for the Years 1869 and 1870.	Balance due 31st December, 1871.	TOTALS.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria ...	41,539 11 2	44,415 5 2	9,035 11 0	95,010 7 4	Victoria ...	41,539 11 2	...	1,237 6 1	52,233 10 1	95,010 7 4
New South Wales ...	17,003 11 11	21,632 3 8	4,229 12 3	42,865 7 10	New South Wales ...	17,003 11 11	...	402 13 7	25,469 2 4	42,865 7 10
South Australia ...	13,060 18 8	7,252 12 0	1,024 17 1	21,338 7 9	South Australia ...	5,874 4 8	2,578 2 6	288 4 6	12,597 16 1	21,338 7 9
New Zealand ...	26,304 3 6	9,904 18 9	10 19 6	36,220 1 9	New Zealand ...	5,000 4 0	4,160 13 8	{ *13,746 8 6 {	13,230 6 4	36,220 1 9
Tasmania ...	3,073 19 0	3,195 7 3	593 6 9	6,862 13 0	Tasmania ...	1,866 13 11	1,207 5 0	82 13 3	3,695 15 9	6,862 13 0
Queensland ...	14,899 0 5	9,408 10 8	1,937 0 7	26,244 11 8	Queensland ...	9,529 16 8	...	92 18 4	16,490 1 5	26,244 11 8
Western Australia ...	1,237 16 3	1,193 12 6	181 1 4	2,615 10 1	Western Australia ...	928 7 1	...	224 13 7	1,641 12 4	2,615 10 1
	117,119 0 11	97,002 10 0	17,035 8 6	231,156 19 5		81,742 5 5	7,946 1 2	45 10 8	125,348 4 4	231,156 19 5

* Overcharged to New Zealand for 1870.

General Post Office, London,
14th April, 1871.

GEO. CHERWYND,
Receiver and Accountant General.

No. 8.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. ELLIOTT.

It will be observed that in the account of the Receiver and Accountant General of the Post Office, No. 7 of this series, enclosed in the Secretary of State's Despatch of the 21st April, 1871, £13,746 8s. 6d. is credited to New Zealand, as overcharged for the year 1870, in consequence of the transmission of the greater portion of the correspondence *via* San Francisco, making the actual amount which the Colony is charged for 1870, £9,924 13s. 10d. It was estimated by this office, when making the last remittance, that it would be £9,500.

The Colony has been credited by the Accountant-General with £2,900, half the cost of service to Melbourne in 1869, under contract with Messrs. McMeckan and Blackwood, and with £1,260 13s. 8d., half the expense incurred for conveying the mails from the termination of that contract up to 30th June, 1870—in all, £4,160, as stated. A further payment has since been made for the period previous to 30th June, 1870, in addition to the former amount, which was divided with the Imperial Government. This can be added to the amount paid for the service during the year ended 30th June, 1871, in order that the half may be claimed from the Home Government. Credit is also given for the remittance of £5,000, made on the 22nd September, 1870. A further remittance of £5,000 was made by the mail of the 9th instant.

The Colony is charged for the year 1871 with £9,904 18s. 9d.; but the number of letters on which the estimated charge is based is set down much higher than it probably will be, so that the charge will be considerably reduced.

The approximate statement of the account will therefore be as follows :—

<i>Dr.</i>				£	s.	d.
Balance of account to 31st December, 1870	...	...	...	26,304	3	6
Amount estimated by London Office for 1871 (which will probably be reduced)	...	...	...	9,904	18	9
Sums charged on account of premiums earned	...	...	...	10	19	6
				<u>£36,220</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
<i>Cr.</i>				£	s.	d.
Remittance of 22nd September, 1870	...	...	...	5,000	0	0
Do. 9th July, 1871	...	...	...	5,000	0	0
Half cost of service to Australia in 1869	...	£2,900	0 0			
Do. do. to 30th June, 1870	...	1,260	13 8			
				4,160	13	8
Amount allowed for overcharges :—						
On account of correspondence <i>via</i> San Francisco				£13,746	8	6
On account of other overcharges				82	13	3
				<u>13,829</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
Half amount of payments made by the Colony for conveyance of mails to and from Australia, from 1st July, 1870, to 30th June, 1871, say				700	0	0
Balance due by the Colony	...	...	...	7,530	6	4
				<u>£36,220</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>

I think it will be sufficient to make a further remittance some four or five months hence.

14th July, 1871.

G. ELLIOTT ELLIOTT.

