

Enclosure in No. 1.

STATEMENT showing Quantities of Rails Shipped at 31st December, 1872.

	AUCKLAND.		HAWKE'S BAY.		WELLINGTON.		NELSON.		PICTON and BLENHEIM.		CANTERBURY.		OTAGO.		SOUTHLAND.		MANAWATU.	
	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles	Rails Tons	Miles
Rails	593	9½	711	11¼	1645	26½	473	7½	570	12	655	10½	1870	27¾	710	11¼	120	2
Fastenings	122	...	91	...	285	...	85	...	33	...	800	17	87	...	89	...	3¼	...
	715	9½	802	11¼	1930	26½	558	7½	603	12	1519	27½	1957	27¾	799	11¼	123¼	2

Aggregate—9,006 tons railway material; 135¼ miles.

Office of the Agent-General, 9th January, 1873.

No. 2.

CABLEGRAM from the AGENT-GENERAL, London.

London, 10th January, 1873.

* * * 135 miles rails despatched.

FEATHERSTON.

No. 3.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

7, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,
24th January, 1873.

SIR,—

I have the honor to enclose invoice and bills of lading for 12,602 iron rails shipped by the "George A. Holt" at Sunderland for Wellington and Canterbury, New Zealand; of these, 7,300 are to be delivered at Wellington, the remainder at Canterbury.

This shipment forms part of the order forwarded under Public Works Memorandum No. 24, of the 23rd January, 1872.

To avoid the delay arising by forwarding the rails in small shipments, the "George A. Holt," of 1,249 tons register, was taken up for an entire cargo.

The rate of freight, 42s. 6d. per ton, was reduced by an allowance of 7s. 6d. per ton received from the manufacturers for taking delivery at Sunderland.

The insurance on this entire cargo was effected with great difficulty at four and a half guineas per cent.

These rates compare unfavourably with the rates paid for past shipments by ordinary vessels.

Owing to the severity of the weather, and to the large draught of water required by the "George A. Holt," she was detained at Sunderland some time after she was loaded, and did not sail from that port until the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

I. E. FEATHERSTON,
Agent-General.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington, N.Z.

No. 4.

CABLEGRAM from the AGENT-GENERAL, London.

London, February, 1873.

* * * Holt sailed December with 1,500 tons rails Canterbury, Wellington. Ships chartered fast plant ready. All orders in hand except two; specifications not ready. Strikes continue.

FEATHERSTON.

No. 5.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

7, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,
6th February, 1873.

SIR,—

I have the honor to transmit herewith the enclosed tabular statements showing the quantities of railway materials forwarded to the several ports of New Zealand, and the quantities yet to be