

1881.
NEW ZEALAND.

SUEZ MAIL SERVICE

(FURTHER PAPERS RELATING TO).

[In continuation of Papers presented on 28th May, 1880.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.) Wellington, 2nd June, 1880.
* * * Many letters without special address being sent Brindisi. Make protest.
Vogel, London. HALL.

No. 2.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

SIR,— 7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 16th June, 1880.
Referring to the Hon. the Premier's telegram of the 2nd instant (copy herewith), intimating that many letters without special addresses were being sent *via* Brindisi, instead of *via* San Francisco, and instructing me to make a protest against such a proceeding, I have the honor to transmit copy of letter which I addressed to the Secretary to the General Post Office, to which the reply, copy of which I also attach, has been received.
I have, &c.,
JULIUS VOGEL,
Agent-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the SECRETARY, Imperial Post Office.

SIR,— 7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 8th June, 1880.
I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram from the Government of New Zealand, informing me that many letters, not specially addressed by Brindisi, are being sent by that route, and instructing me strongly to protest against a continuance of such a practice.
As you are aware, it has been arranged that all letters unaddressed by special route are to go by San Francisco. The great cost of the latter route to the New Zealand Government makes this necessary to its pecuniary protection, besides that, it is the quickest route, and that no exception can be taken to its admirable regularity. I have therefore to ask you to renew the instructions that all letters, unless otherwise denoted, are to go by San Francisco, and to take the necessary measures to secure the observance of such instructions.
I have, &c.,
JULIUS VOGEL,
Agent-General for New Zealand.

The Secretary, General Post Office,
St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Mr. S. A. BLACKWOOD to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,— General Post Office, London, 15th June, 1880.
I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, informing me that you have received a telegram from the Government of New Zealand to the effect that many letters not specially addressed by Brindisi are being sent by that route, and instructing you strongly to protest against a continuance of such a practice.
I have made inquiries on this subject, but have failed to discover what has given rise to this complaint, as I am assured by the despatching officers that, as a rule, only letters specially addressed to be forwarded by way of Brindisi have been sent in the mails for New Zealand by that route. Exceptionally, however, provincial letters have been sent in the mails *via* Brindisi when it has happened that, instead of being sent directly to Dublin, they have been miss-sent to London, and have thus missed
1—F. 2.

the mail *viâ* San Francisco; but I cannot imagine that these miss-sent letters have been sufficiently numerous to give rise to complaint on the part of the New Zealand office; and, in the opinion of this department, such letters, having accidentally missed the mail for which they were intended, have, with the view of avoiding further delay, been properly forwarded by the most advantageous means, and ought to be so forwarded if a similar circumstance should again occur.

I have not failed to caution the despatching officers against sending any other letters for New Zealand *viâ* Brindisi, unless specially addressed to be forwarded by that route.

Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
S. A. BLACKWOOD.

No. 3.

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

SIR,—
General Post Office, Wellington, 19th June, 1880.
I regret to have to inform you that, during the months of April and May last, a considerable amount of correspondence, particulars of which are shown hereunder, was received in New Zealand by way of Brindisi, which was distinctly marked in some cases "*viâ* San Francisco," and in others "*viâ* Melbourne" per Orient steamers, but in the majority of cases was not marked for transmission by any particular route.

Letters.			Books.			Newspapers.		
No.	Weight.		No.	Weight.		No.	Weight.	
	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
247	4	7½	145	49	5	1,152	198	1½

The correspondence had been sent in the Brindisi mails contrary to the repeated requests of this department and the understanding which has hitherto existed, by which only correspondence specially so addressed has been sent *viâ* Southampton or Brindisi. As this proceeding has involved the New Zealand Post Office in serious loss, owing to the heavy payments which it has to make to Victoria for all letters sent or received *viâ* Brindisi, while continuing to bear the full cost of the transport of its mails *viâ* San Francisco, the Postmaster-General considers that he has a fair claim for the re-imbursement of such loss. A statement of the amount due to this department on this account will be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible. The Postmaster-General has, by telegraph, requested the Agent-General for New Zealand to communicate with you on the subject, and to urge the necessity for immediate steps being taken to stop a practice which has been the cause of serious inconvenience to the public in this colony

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

I have, &c.,
W GRAY,
(for the Postmaster-General.)

No. 4.

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

SIR,—
General Post Office, Wellington, 8th July, 1880.
Adverting to my letter of the 19th ultimo, I have now the honor to forward you a further statement of correspondence received in this colony by way of Brindisi, which should not have been despatched by that route:—

Letters.			Books.			Newspapers.		
No.	Weight.		No.	Weight.		No.	Weight.	
	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
330	10	6½	57	25	3	961	190	13

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

I have, &c.,
W GRAY,
(for the Postmaster-General.)

No. 5.

Mr. E. H. REA to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

SIR,—
General Post Office, London, 12th August, 1880.
I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th June last, informing me that many letters, &c., for New Zealand not specially addressed by Brindisi are being sent by that route.
I had already received a communication from the Agent-General for New Zealand on this subject, and have caused it to be inquired into. I am assured by the despatching officers that, as a rule, only

letters specially addressed to be forwarded by way of Brindisi have been sent in the mails for New Zealand by that route. Exceptionally, however, provincial letters have been sent in the mails *viâ* Brindisi when it has happened that instead of being sent directly to Dublin they have been miss-sent to London, and have thus missed the mail *viâ* San Francisco; and, in the opinion of this department, letters having accidentally missed the mail for which they were intended, have, with the view of avoiding further delay, been properly forwarded by the most advantageous means, and ought to be so forwarded if a similar circumstance should again occur.

I have not failed to caution the despatching officers against sending any other letters for New Zealand *viâ* Brindisi unless specially addressed to be forwarded by that route, and I trust you will have no further cause for complaint on this score.

I have, &c.,

The Postmaster-General, Wellington.

EDW H. REA.

No. 6.

The Hon. JOHN HALL to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 15th July, 1880.

With reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the alteration on the rates of postage collected in London on mail matter sent to this colony *viâ* Brindisi and Suez, consequent upon the abolition of the Southampton service, I have the honor to inform you that the attention of the New Zealand Government has been directed to the serious loss of revenue which those rates entail upon the colony.

The single-letter rate of postage now collected in London is 6d.: of this amount 2d. is retained by the Imperial Post Office, while 6d. is paid by this department to the Victorian Post Office for conveyance from Galle to Melbourne; and a subsidy equal to 6d. per letter is also paid by this Government for the sea conveyance from Melbourne to New Zealand. The loss, therefore, upon each letter sent from the United Kingdom to New Zealand by the Brindisi service, although the cost of the European transit charge is borne by the Imperial Post Office, remains very considerable.

This loss has been made greater by the increased number of letters recently sent *via* Brindisi, not only when specially so addressed, but when not bearing any special address, and in some cases even when addressed *via* San Francisco.

Looking to the provision made by this colony, at a large cost, for the conveyance of its mails *via* San Francisco, and to the fact that this is for every part of New Zealand the most expeditious route, I can see no reason why its correspondence should be sent *via* Brindisi, at rates which entail a serious and increasing loss upon the colony. I beg to request, therefore, that you will give directions that in future the postage on all letters for New Zealand forwarded *via* Brindisi shall be 8d. for single half-ounce letter, and that for newspapers and other printed matter the rates should be the same as formerly levied by your department—viz., newspapers, 2d. per 4 oz.; books, &c., 1 oz. 2d., 2 oz. 4d., 4 oz. 6d., and every additional 4 oz., 6d.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HALL,

Postmaster-General.

The Right Hon. the Postmaster-General, London.

No. 7

The Hon. JOHN HALL to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 17th July, 1880.

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of a communication which I have addressed by the present mail to the Right Hon. the Postmaster-General, relative to certain correspondence recently sent out to this colony by the Brindisi route.

With respect to the third paragraph of the letter in question, I may state that within the last few months a great quantity of correspondence has been sent out *via* Brindisi not specially marked for transmission by that route, and in some cases marked "*via* San Francisco." Copies of two letters* already written to the London Post Office on this subject are also enclosed, and will show what has led up to the request made in the concluding paragraph of the first-mentioned letter.

I beg also to refer you to my telegram of the 2nd ultimo, in which you were asked to protest against the action of the London Post Office in continuing to send *via* Brindisi, correspondence for this colony not specially marked for transmission by that route.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HALL,

Postmaster-General.

Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G.,

Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

No. 8.

Mr. GRAY to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 12th August, 1880.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th June, enclosing copy of the correspondence exchanged between yourself and the Secretary of the Imperial Post Office, consequent on the receipt by you of my telegram of the 2nd of that month, desiring you to protest against the recent action of the Imperial Post Office in forwarding *viâ* Brindisi correspondence for this colony not specially addressed for transmission by that route. This matter was further dealt with in my letter to you of the 17th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

W GRAY,

(for the Postmaster-General)

Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for
New Zealand, London.

No. 9.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 15th October, 1880.

Referring to your letters of 17th July, and 12th August, on the subject of correspondence despatched to New Zealand by the Brindisi route, and the charges made thereon, I now have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a correspondence which has taken place on this matter between myself and the Imperial Post Office.

I hesitate to take further action in the matter. There is no doubt the interests of the San Francisco service have been greatly subordinated to those of the Brindisi route. But I doubt if the postal authorities will agree to the increase you desire, and if they would so agree it is doubtful if, under present circumstances, the change would not be injurious to New Zealand's interests in this country, where a great deal is being uttered in disparagement of the colony. At any rate you have not instructed me to take any action, and it is quite possible your request to raise the rate was merely made to emphasize your complaint of letters being unnecessarily sent by Brindisi. The Post Office promises to be careful concerning this point for the future, and so I think I had better refer the matter to you.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL,

Agent-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9

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

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 16th September, 1880.

I am directed by the Agent-General to inquire whether the postage of all letters for New Zealand forwarded *viâ* Brindisi is now 8d. per single half-ounce letter, and that for newspapers and other printed matter the same as charged previous to the present year; and, if so, at what date such alteration was made, and whether public notice has been given of the same.

I have, &c.,

WALTER KENNAWAY,

Secretary to the Agent-General's Department.

The Secretary, General Post Office,
St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

Mr. TURNOR to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, 17th September, 1880.

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I have to inform you that the postage charged in this country on letters sent to New Zealand by way of Brindisi is the same as that charged *viâ* San Francisco—viz., 6d. per half-ounce; the postage upon newspapers, books, and patterns being also the same *viâ* Brindisi as by the San Francisco route.

I enclose a copy of the last notice to the public on the subject, dated the 26th of February last.

I have, &c.,

ALGERNON TURNOR.

Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for New Zealand.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

Mails for Australia viâ Brindisi.—Further reduction of postage.

On the 1st March next, the following reduced rates of postage on correspondence for the colony of Victoria or for any other Australian colony or for New Zealand, forwarded *viâ* Brindisi will be substituted for those which came into operation on the 1st instant: Letters, 6d. per half-ounce; newspapers (not exceeding 4 oz.), 1d. each; book-packets and patterns or samples, 1d. not exceeding 1 oz., 2d. not exceeding 2 oz.; 4d. from 2 oz. to 4 oz.; and 4d. for every additional 4 oz.; being the same rates as those charged on correspondence forwarded *viâ* San Francisco.

General Post Office, 26th February, 1880.

By command of the Postmaster-General.

Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 21st September, 1880.

Referring to your letter of the 17th instant, respecting the rates of postage of letters to New Zealand *viâ* Brindisi, I have the honor to inform you that I have received from my Government copy of a letter dated 15th July last, addressed by the Postmaster-General of the colony to the Right Hon. the Postmaster-General in this country in which a request is made that directions be given that in future the postage on all letters for New Zealand shall be 8d. per single half-ounce letter, and that for newspapers and other printed matter the same as formerly levied; and, in reference thereto, I venture to ask what action the Right Hon. the Postmaster-General has taken in the matter.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL,

Agent-General for New Zealand.

The Secretary, General Post Office,
St. Martin's-le-Grand,

Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

Mr. ALGERNON TURNOR to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, London, 8th October, 1880.

The Postmaster-General has had before him your letter of the 21st ultimo, in which, advertising to a communication from the Postmaster-General of New Zealand, requesting that the postage rates on correspondence despatched in the mails from this country to that colony by way of Brindisi may be raised to the old amounts, you ask what action this department has taken in the matter.

In reply I am directed to inform you that no action has been taken in the proposed direction for the following reasons: On the abolition of the Southampton route for the conveyance of mails between this country and Australia, in February last, a question arose as to the rates of postage which should be charged for the future. It was at first arranged that a rate of 7d. per half-ounce should be charged on letters, that being one penny less than the rate previously charged for letters sent in mails *viâ* Brindisi, and one penny more than that charged for letters *viâ* Southampton. This course, however, was objected to on the ground that three-fourths of the correspondence was sent *viâ* Southampton, and that persons long accustomed to pay 6d. for a letter would be unwilling to pay the higher rate proposed.

After much negotiation, the Agent-General of Victoria, the Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers, M.P., succeeded in obtaining from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury the concession that the postage on correspondence for the Australian Colonies sent from the United Kingdom *viâ* Brindisi should be reduced to the old rates *viâ* Southampton—namely, for letters, 6d. per half-ounce; newspapers, 1d. each; books, &c., 1d. per ounce. These rates were already in force for the mail *viâ* San Francisco, so that the plan had the great advantage of establishing uniformity of postage to all the colonies and by all routes.

The Post Office of New Zealand now objected to this arrangement, and the Postmaster-General of that colony has addressed a letter to this department asking for the re-establishment, on correspondence to New Zealand *viâ* Brindisi, of the old Brindisi rates of 8d. per half-ounce for letters, 2d. each for newspapers, and 2d. per ounce for books, &c., the reason assigned being that for all letters, &c., sent by the Brindisi mail to New Zealand the cost to the colony is in excess of the proportion of postage which she receives.

I am to state that, while giving every consideration to the position of the colony in the matter, Mr. Fawcett feels that it would be exceedingly inconvenient to reverse the policy of low and uniform rates of postage which has been adopted, merely on the demand of one of the colonies concerned; but, apart from this, he apprehends that the existing rates having been fixed by the Treasury in concert with the Colonial Office, it is beyond the province of this department to move in the matter.

Under these circumstances I am to suggest that any communication you may desire to make on the subject should be addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am to add, however, that instructions have been given that no correspondence for New Zealand is to be sent *viâ* Brindisi, unless specially addressed to go by that route.

Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G.

I have, &c.,

ALGERNON TURNOR.

No. 10.

The Hon. ROBERT RAMSAY, Melbourne, to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Wellington.

SIR,—

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 30th July, 1880.

In transmitting the enclosed memorandum drawing attention to the fact that the Post Office Department of New Zealand still continues to charge the same rates of postage on correspondence, &c., *viâ* Brindisi as were in operation before the Southampton route was given up, thereby imposing a penalty on correspondence forwarded for transmission under the Victorian contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, contrary to the spirit of the agreement made to obviate any objection which might be taken by the other Colonies, I feel certain that it is only necessary to ask that the subject may receive your earliest attention in order to secure the postal rates by various routes being assimilated.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, New Zealand.

ROBERT RAMSAY.

Enclosure in No. 10.

MEMORANDUM for the Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY.

WITH reference to the circular despatch, dated 16th March last, from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor, respecting the reduction of postage on letters, packets, and newspapers transmitted *viâ* Brindisi, and the arrangement agreed to by the Imperial Government at the instance of the Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers on behalf of this colony, for division of the postage collected, the Postmaster-General begs to draw attention to the fact that the Post Office Department of New Zealand continues to collect, on correspondence forwarded *viâ* Brindisi, the rates of postage charged prior to the abandonment of the Southampton route, viz., letters, 8d; newspapers, 2d.; packets, 2d. per ounce.

Under the new arrangement, the postal rates *viâ* Brindisi collected in the United Kingdom on correspondence addressed to all the Australian Colonies, and in Victoria on homeward mail matter, are the same as charged *viâ* San Francisco. On outward correspondence the Home Government accounts to Victoria for 2½d. per half-ounce letter, retaining 3½d. per letter and the whole of the postage on outward packets and newspapers. On homeward correspondence Victoria retains the whole of the letter-postage, and accounts for half on packets and newspapers. The Imperial Post Office defrays the cost of transit through Italy and France, both ways.

In order, however, to meet the objection raised by New Zealand at the time this proposal was under consideration, and to admit of the postal charges *viâ* Brindisi being assimilated to those *viâ* San Francisco, it was agreed that that colony should receive the same proportions of postage by the former as by the latter route, viz., two-thirds of the postage on outward letters and half the postage on outward packets and newspapers, the whole of the postage on homeward correspondence being retained by New Zealand, and the Home Government defraying the Italian and French transit charges both ways, as in the case of correspondence to and from Victoria.

To enable this to be done, Victoria has undertaken to repay to the Imperial Post Office the sums overcredited, viz.,—1½d. per half-ounce on outward letters, and half the postage on packets and newspapers, both ways.

It will be seen that the concession made by Victoria has precisely the same effect as if, in consideration of New Zealand reducing the postage *via* Brindisi to San Francisco rates, Victoria had agreed to reduce the transit charges to and from Galle for outward letters by one-fourth, and for packets and newspapers, both ways, by one-half.

Under these circumstances, the maintenance by New Zealand of the rates above mentioned on correspondence forwarded *viâ* Brindisi is manifestly inequitable, as it must to a considerable extent deter persons who have long been accustomed to send their letters at the lower rates from using the fortnightly mail service, and have the effect of diverting therefrom a large proportion of correspondence which would otherwise be transmitted *viâ* Galle, in consequence of which Victoria cannot, so long as those rates are enforced, receive from New Zealand a due contribution towards the cost of a service established for the benefit and in the interests of all the colonies.

In view of the foregoing facts it is suggested that the Government of New Zealand be asked to bring the reduced rates into operation—as Queensland and Western Australia have already done—with as little delay as possible; and thereby establish, to the great convenience of the public generally, uniform postal charges on correspondence sent by the several routes to and from the United Kingdom,

HENRY CUTHBERT,
Postmaster-General.

Post Office and Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Melbourne, 24th July, 1880.

No. 11.

The Hon. JOHN HALL to the Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY, Melbourne.

SIR,—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 20th September, 1880.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th July last, in which you forward a memorandum from the Postmaster-General of Victoria, complaining that the New Zealand Post Office continues to charge the same rates of postage on correspondence *viâ* Brindisi as were in operation before the abandonment of the Southampton route.

The grounds of that complaint appear to be: (1.) That such a proceeding is "contrary to the spirit of the agreement made to obviate any objection" to the new arrangement; and (2.) That it has the effect of diverting to the San Francisco route a large proportion of New Zealand correspondence which would otherwise be transmitted by way of Galle.

With respect to the first objection, I beg to point out to you that this Government was no party to any agreement by which the postage on correspondence for New Zealand *viâ* Brindisi was reduced to 6d. per single letter: and that, moreover, the Agent-General for New Zealand in London, under instructions from me, informed Her Majesty's Government that this Government objected to the proposal; their objection has since been reiterated. Obviously, therefore, New Zealand cannot be considered to be bound in any way by the agreement to which you refer.

As regards the complaint that adhering to the postage of 8d. per letter diverts New Zealand correspondence from Brindisi to the San Francisco route, I think it would be more correct to say that the reduction of the Brindisi postage, on letters posted in London, from 8d. to 6d., has had the effect of diverting correspondence from the San Francisco service, which is maintained at a large cost by this colony and New South Wales. Not only is this the case with respect to letters which are intentionally sent by way of Galle, but it has been found for some months past, that a large number of letters, not specially directed, and which should therefore, have been forwarded *via* San Francisco, have been transmitted by the British Post Office by the Brindisi route.

That this is a matter for serious complaint on the part of New Zealand, the following statement of loss sustained by this department on all Brindisi mail matter will show:—

Amount credited to New Zealand Post Office by London on each half-ounce letter	d.
..	4
Amount paid by New Zealand to Victoria for conveyance of half-ounce letter from Galle to Melbourne	d.
..	6
Cost of conveyance per half-ounce letter from Melbourne to New Zealand, subsidy being apportioned to correspondence	6
	— 12
Loss to New Zealand on each half-ounce letter, without making any charge for New Zealand internal rate	— 8

The loss on correspondence posted in New Zealand, though less than the above, is considerable, even at the present rate of 8d. per half-ounce letter.

The loss on book packets and newspapers posted in the United Kingdom is also very heavy

I feel sure that your letter has been written without full information as to the above-mentioned facts, and that on consideration of them you will admit the unreasonableness of expecting that, while New Zealand supports, at a very heavy cost, a mail service *viâ* San Francisco, which has proved itself in every way the most advantageous for this colony, it should encourage the transmission of its correspondence by another route, through a reduction in rates of postage which already leave a heavy loss to the Government on all mail matter so forwarded.

I think it right to add that the necessary subsidy for the monthly mail-steamers between Melbourne and New Zealand, to which Victoria makes no contribution, is so considerable in proportion to the correspondence sent by those steamers, that it is proposed to discontinue this subsidy after the month of February next.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HALL,

(for the Colonial Secretary.)

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Melbourne.

No. 12.

The Hon. JOHN HALL to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Sydney

SIR,—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 20th September, 1880.

In view of the community of interest existing between New South Wales and this colony in the matter of ocean postal services, I think it right to forward to you a copy of a letter received from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, with reference to the decision of this Government to continue to levy the old rates of postage on correspondence forwarded by the route of Brindisi, and of my reply thereto.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HALL,

(for the Colonial Secretary)

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

No. 13.

The PRINCIPAL UNDER-SECRETARY, Sydney, to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Wellington.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,

8th October, 1880.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, forwarding copy of a letter received from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, with reference to the decision of your Government to continue to levy the old rates of postage on correspondence forwarded by the route of Brindisi, and also of your reply thereto.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,

Principal Under-Secretary,

(for the Colonial Secretary.)

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary of New Zealand,
Wellington.

