

SESS. II.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

SAN FRANCISCO AND VANCOUVER MAIL-SERVICES.

(STATEMENT SHOWING COST FOR CONVEYANCE OF MAILS DURING 1896 BY ALL OCEAN-MAIL ROUTES, AND THE ESTIMATED PAYMENTS UNDER THE NEW PROPOSALS.)

Laid upon the Table by the Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon, with the Leave of the House.

THE proposals submitted in connection with the San Francisco and Vancouver mail-services provide for both services terminating on the 31st March, 1899.

The subsidy of £28,000 a year granted by the United States to the San Francisco service expires in June, 1898.

The contract providing for a payment of £10,000 a year by the New South Wales Government to the Vancouver service ends in May, 1899, and the Canadian Government's contract (£25,000 per annum) in 1903.

The fast Atlantic service to connect with the Vancouver line does not commence until about May, 1899.

By contracting for the services up to March, 1899, the House will have an opportunity next session to reconsider the whole question of ocean-mail communication, after learning the future intentions of the New South Wales and United States Governments in respect of the Pacific services.

It has been assumed that nearly the whole of the correspondence from New Zealand for Great Britain, &c., will be forwarded by the fortnightly Pacific routes, and will be fairly divided. The estimated annual amount payable to each of the companies on the following basis would be £7,180:—

Letters at 10s. 5d. per pound	...	...	...	...	...	£4,973
Books, &c., at 1s.	„	...	...	...	...	634
Newspapers at 6d.	„	...	...	...	...	1,573
						<hr/> £7,180

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of COST of OCEAN-MAIL SERVICES for 1896 and ESTIMATED PAYMENTS under the New Proposals.

Cost, 1896.				Estimated Payments under New Proposals.			
<i>San Francisco Service.</i>			£	<i>San Francisco Service.</i>			£
Payments to contractors	..	..	7,623	Guaranteed minimum payment to contractors	..	7,500	
Interprovincial service, mail agents, &c.	..	..	3,798	Interprovincial service, mail agents, &c.	..	3,600	
Transit charges, San Francisco-New York	..	..	4,770	Transit charges, San Francisco-New York	..	2,798	
Transit charges, New York-Queenstown	..	..	1,967	Transit charges, New York-Queenstown	..	1,156	
Total	..	..	18,158	Total	..	15,054	
<i>P. and O. and Orient Services.</i>				<i>Vancouver Service.</i>			
Payments to contracting Colonies	..	..	3,685	Guaranteed minimum payment to contractors	..	7,500	
Transit charges across Australia	..	..	238	Interprovincial service, mail agents, &c.	..	3,600	
Transit charges across Europe	..	..	587	Transit charges across Canada	..	578	
Transit from New Zealand to Australia	..	..	785	Transit charges across United States	..	513	
Total	..	..	5,295	Transit charges across Atlantic	..	1,156	
<i>Direct Service.</i>				Total	..	13,347	
Gratuity payments	..	..	300	<i>P. and O. and Orient Services.</i>			
Grand total, all services	..	..	23,753	Payments to contracting Colonies	..	1,500	
				Transit charges across Australia	..	97	
				Transit charges across Europe	..	239	
				Transit from New Zealand to Australia	..	319	
				Total	..	2,155	
				<i>Direct Service.</i>			
				Gratuity payments	..	150	
				Grand total, all services	..	30,706	
				Increase under new proposals	..	6,953	

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