

## No. 33.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Adelaide.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 1st May, 1900.

WE have adopted following rates: To New South Wales, fivepence; Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, sixpence; Tasmania, eightpence; and Western Australia, sevenpence per word. Our proportion one penny a word. Money-order telegrams also charged word-rate.

## No. 34.

The DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Melbourne, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 2nd May, 1900.

THIS Administration approved one penny per word local rate New Zealand telegrams lieu present minimum sixpence for ten words. Order in Council give effect probably obtained week's time.

## No. 35.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the MANAGER in AUSTRALASIA, Eastern Extension Company, Adelaide.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 2nd May, 1900.

CABLE-RATES: We have fixed a word-rate all round, and on messages for Tasmania provide one penny for cable. Presume you agree.

## No. 36.

The MANAGER in AUSTRALASIA, Eastern Extension Company, Adelaide, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Adelaide, 2nd May, 1900.

Re Tasmania cable-rate: Yes, one penny per word.

## No. 37.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the MANAGER in AUSTRALASIA, Eastern Extension Company, Adelaide.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 2nd May, 1900.

YOUR cable re cheapest cable-tariff in whole world was given out and published by Press same date received. All your telegrams have been and will be handed out for publication in full. Hope to reply to your last cable to-day.

## No. 38.

The MANAGER in AUSTRALASIA, Eastern Extension Company, Adelaide, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Adelaide, 4th May, 1900.

COMPANY agrees to continue rate one penny per word for New Zealand international Press messages.

## No. 39.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the MANAGER in AUSTRALASIA, Eastern Extension Company, Adelaide.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 5th May, 1900.

IN reply to your wire of the 30th, in which you say that the figures given by me as to cost of working cable were considerably underestimated, I have had matter carefully gone into, and regret I am unable to agree with you. There is wide difference between your estimate of cost of working and station expenses—which you say amounted to £5,853 last year—and ours, probably from the fact that your figures have been swelled by many items which would not be taken into account were cable worked as State-owned. For instance, Wakapuaka and La Perouse are training-stations, and the staffs generally, if not always, are in excess of actual requirements. Your company also works Sydney land-lines, and probably portion this cost is included in your figures. During last year or two your company has added largely to station buildings and provided new outfits, including expensive instruments. In the estimate given by me office-instruments were included in capital cost, and six thousand a year set down for salaries, other expenses, small repairs, &c., and from careful analysis these figures believed to be well within mark. Cost of extensive cable-repairs and renewals debited against amortization fund, as well as up-keep of cable-steamer. I may add that, while I have no doubt your estimate is based upon the practice adopted in working your system, I am certain that your figures are considerably above what they would be if Government owned the cable. In discussing matter with you I have but one object, that of securing lowest possible cable-rates in interests of colony; and I am glad to learn from you that as result of our efforts New Zealand has obtained lowest cable-rates in the world. But, while this is so, we are