

Legislative Assembly.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING—CONTINUED.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 24 January, 1861.

COPY of Correspondence relative to Electric Telegraph Communication with Europe, from December, 1859, to August, 1860. Laid upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly, in continuation of the Correspondence on the same subject ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed on the 30th September, 1859.

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TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE.

No. 1.

SINGAPORE-BATAVIA TELEGRAPH.

ESTIMATE of a Cable similar to that adopted by the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company:—

Distance over the water	557 knots	
25 per cent. slack	139	
	696 @ £105...	£73,080
Shore end, 20 miles, @ £55		1,100
		£74,180
20 per cent. risk of laying		14,835
		£89,015
Ships and coals		31,500
Fittings and instruments		4,000
		£124,515
Insurance, 6 per cent. on £125,000		7,500
Staff.....		4,545
		£136,560
TOTAL OUTLAY.....		
SHIPS.		
1 steamer, 1,700 tons, for 9 months, at £2,000* per month ...		£18,000
Coals, 180 days, at 25 tons; average, 60s. per ton		13,500
		£31,500
TOTAL		£136,560

The above is the estimate communicated by me to Mr. Wenckebach, Telegraph Engineer-in-Chief to Netherlands Government, on 8th November, 1858.

F. GISBORNE.

Sydney, 15 December, 1859.

The above estimate was adopted by the Dutch Government Engineer, and the Dutch Government made a contract for the line at £136,560.

F. GISBORNE.

* This is under 24s. per ton per month.

No. 2.

F. GISBORNE, ESQ., to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 23 January, 1860.

SIR,

I beg to enclose, in connection with my proposal to establish Telegraphic Communication between the Australian Colonies and England, copy of a letter dated the 26th December last, written to me from Auckland by the direction of Mr. Stafford, explaining the views of the New Zealand Government upon the project; also, copy of a letter dated London, 16th November last, addressed to me, and signed by the principal promoters of the line.

I have, &c.,

F. GISBORNE.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 2.]

New Zealand,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 26 December, 1859.

Sir,

I have the honor, by the direction of Mr. Stafford, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to His Excellency the Governor, of the 6th July last, with its enclosures, on the subject of the proposed Telegraphic Communication between England and Australia *via* India.

In reply, I am to inform you that the Government of New Zealand regards the projected establishment of such communication favorably, and would be prepared to propose a contribution on the part.

part of that Colony to such a work, it being borne in mind that the amount of liability to devolve on that account on New Zealand would be governed by the circumstance, whether or not the Telegraphic Line were carried to its coasts. In the latter case, although the Colony would undoubtedly benefit if the line terminated at Sydney, its contribution could not be so large as it might be fairly required to be in the former case.

The mode of determining the respective contributions is a question for the consideration of the Governments concerned, and this Government cannot finally decide in the matter until the details of your scheme are fully known, especially as it is understood that some alterations of your original proposition are contemplated.

F. Gisborne, Esq.,
Australian Club,
Sydney, New South Wales.

I have, &c.,
W. GISBORNE,
Under Secretary.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 2.]

Francis Gisborne, Esq., Melbourne or Sydney.

London, 16 November, 1859.

Dear Sir,

The undermentioned gentlemen will join me in using their best effort to carry out, through the medium of a private Company, a line of Telegraph between the Australian Colonies and Java, upon the terms which may be agreed upon between you and the respective Australian Governments.

I remain, &c.,
WM. GLADSTONE.

R. CAMPBELL.
JAS. J. CUMMINS.
T. M. WEGUELIN.
WM. GLADSTONE.
CHAS. BELL.
JAS. ED. COLEMAN.

No. 3.

F. GISBORNE, ESQ., to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 6 February, 1860.

SIR,

The Legislative Assembly having, on your motion, passed certain Resolutions, authorizing the Government to subsidise a Telegraphic Line to East Java, I will state for your information the further steps I am about to take to realize the undertaking I have had the honor to submit to the several Governments of Australia.

The Resolutions just passed are based upon the assumption, that a subsidy not exceeding £35,000 per annum will be required to enable the necessary capital to be raised in England, and empower the Government to pledge this Colony to contribute £9,625 per annum, or 27½ per cent. of the total amount.

The first condition annexed to any grant by the Government of this Colony is, that the Government of Victoria shall make arrangements with the Company for the residue over and above the annual subsidy of this Colony, necessary for the carrying out of the work.

The obligation, therefore, to obtain the contribution required from the Colony of Victoria would appear to be thrown upon the promoters of the line.

I, therefore, purpose leaving immediately for Melbourne.

I would further direct your attention to the third condition, which provides that the whole work shall be completed in three years from the 2nd instant.

As the line may take as long as two years in constructing, one year is left to the promoters to complete their negotiations with Victoria, to raise the capital, and to let the contract in England.

Much can be done with respect to raising the capital and letting the contract, even before the conclusion of any negotiation with Victoria; much time will thus be gained, and the period within which this great project may be realized materially shortened.

I trust, therefore, that you will put me in a position to state to the promoters, by the next mail, that, on the Government of Victoria making the arrangements alluded to in the first condition, the Government of New South Wales will be prepared to enter into an arrangement with them on the basis of the Resolutions.

I have had the honor of communicating to you a letter addressed to me, dated London, 16th November, 1859, and signed by the principal promoters of the line, undertaking to use their best efforts to carry it out upon the terms which may be agreed upon between me and the Australian Governments. An intimation from you like that I have asked for will place the promoters in the position at once to set about fulfilling their promise. I would also observe, that I have been six months in Sydney conducting this negotiation without having, as yet, received any answer from the Government.

I have, &c.,
F. GISBORNE.

No. 4.

COLONIAL SECRETARY to F. GISBORNE, ESQ.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 8 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to transmit to you a copy of the Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of this Colony, on the 2nd instant, respecting a subsidy for a Telegraphic Line from this Colony to East Java, and to state that the Government is prepared to enter into an arrangement for effecting this object upon the basis of these Resolutions.

2. I am at the same time desired to intimate to you, that the Resolutions appear to the Government to cast upon you the duty of obtaining the co-operation of the Government of Victoria.

I have, &c.,
W. ELYARD.

[Enclosure in No. 4.]

No. 53.—On motion of Mr. Forster, Thursday, 2nd February, 1860. Votes, No. 54.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

To His Excellency Sir William Thomas Denison, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General in and over all Her Majesty's Colonies of New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

May it please your Excellency:—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, beg to communicate to your Excellency the following Resolutions, adopted to-day by this House:—

1. "That this House is of opinion that the Government of this Colony should be authorized to grant a subsidy not exceeding £9,625 per annum, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years, to any Company, of the stability of which satisfactory assurance shall be given, to induce such Company to construct and maintain a Telegraphic Line from this Colony to East Java, upon the following conditions, that is to say:—
 - (1.) "That the Government of Victoria shall make arrangements with such Company, by subsidy or otherwise, for the residue over and above the annual subsidy of this Colony, necessary for the carrying out of the work.
 - (2.) "That the period, within which the first call of the subscribed capital of the Company shall be made, shall be limited to twelve calendar months, from the date of the concurrence of the Colony of Victoria in the preceding condition.
 - (3.) "That the whole work shall be completed, and in effective operation, within three years from the present date—subject, however, to such extension of the time, to meet possible contingencies, as may hereafter be agreed upon.
 - (4.) "That the proposed subsidy shall be proportionally payable on the capital of the Company as paid up.
 - (5.) "That the payment of the said subsidy shall be conditional on the maintenance of the line in effective working order, and that no payment shall be made until the line is completed.
 - (6.) "That no tariff of charges shall be established without the concurrence of this Colony.
 - (7.) "That, in the event of the net profits of the Company exceeding in any year the rate of ten per cent. per annum, such excess shall be ratably applied to reduce the respective contributions of this Colony and of Victoria."
2. "That steps be taken without delay to communicate with, and settle the proportionate contributions of, the other Colonies, in aid of the respective contributions of New South Wales and Victoria."

T. A. MURRAY,
Speaker.

*Legislative Assembly Chambers,
Sydney, 2 February, 1860.*

No. 5.

F. GISBORNE, ESQ., to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 9 February, 1860.

SIR,

Referring to your letter to me of the 8th instant, and to the enclosed Resolutions, I would beg to be informed upon one material point, which is not accurately determined, namely:—From what point on the northern boundary of this Colony it is the desire of the Government that the land line shall commence, connecting the Telegraph System of New South Wales with the proposed submarine line from Moreton Bay to East Java.

As this land line will involve additional expense on the Company, outside the estimated outlay of £720,000 for the submarine line, which outlay formed the basis for the calculation of the subsidy, I trust the nearest practicable point of the frontier to Moreton Bay will be selected.

I would, however, urge upon you, sir, to spare the Company any additional expense, and the difficulties that may possibly attend the management of a land line by an English Company, and, if possible, to rest satisfied with what will notoriously soon be done, namely, the construction by the Government of Queensland of a Telegraph Line from Brisbane to meet the New South Wales Line now in course of construction towards the Queensland frontier.

If

If New South Wales sets the example of insisting upon having a Telegraph Line to Java, independent of any Colonial management, the other Southern Colonies may insist upon the same thing, and thus stifle the undertaking; besides, that principle cannot be carried out beyond Java.

A separate wire for through messages to and from Java, commencing at Moreton Bay and terminating at Adelaide, will probably answer all purposes.

I have, &c.,
F. GISBORNE.

No. 6.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, VICTORIA.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
New South Wales,
Sydney, 10 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of Resolutions passed on the 2nd instant by the Legislative Assembly of this Colony, respecting a subsidy in aid of the construction and maintenance of a Telegraphic Line to East Java, and to state that it has been intimated to Mr. F. Gisborne, who has come to Australia for the purpose of furthering the establishment of such a line, that this Government will be prepared to enter into an arrangement with any Company, of approved stability for carrying out the object in question, upon the basis of the Resolutions.

2. You will observe that the Resolutions make it a condition that the concurrence of the Colony of Victoria to such an extent as may be necessary for carrying out the proposed work, shall be obtained, and I have accordingly to request that you will be good enough to inform this Government of any arrangements which may be made in consequence by the Government of Victoria.

3. The Resolutions have been communicated by me to the Governments of New Zealand and Queensland, with a view to ascertain their willingness to co-operate in the proposal.

4. I enclose for your information printed copies of the papers on this subject, which have been laid before the Legislature of this Colony.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM FORSTER.

No. 7.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales,
10 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of Resolutions passed on the 2nd instant by the Legislative Assembly of this Colony, respecting a subsidy for the construction and maintenance of a Telegraphic Line to East Java, and to state that it has been intimated to Mr. F. Gisborne, who has come to Australia for the purpose of furthering the establishment of such a line, that this Government will be prepared to enter into arrangements with any Company, of approved stability for carrying out the object in question, upon the basis of the Resolutions.

2. You will observe that the Resolutions make it a condition that the concurrence of the Colony of Victoria to such an extent as may be necessary for carrying out the proposed work, shall be obtained, and that the co-operation of the other Colonies interested in such a project shall also be invited. A communication has been made by me to the Government of Victoria on the subject, and I have to request that you will favor me by stating whether Queensland will co-operate in the way suggested; and, if so, whether your Government would be disposed to leave with the Government of this Colony the details of such negotiation as may be necessary for completing the arrangement. I have also to request that you will inform me whether the Government of Queensland, in the event of the construction of a submarine line commencing at Brisbane, would guarantee within the required time the continuance of the overland line from the northern frontier of this Colony.

3. I enclose for your information printed copies of the papers on this subject, which have been laid before the Legislature of this Colony.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM FORSTER.

No. 8.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales,
10 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of Resolutions passed on the 2nd instant by the Legislative Assembly of this Colony, respecting a subsidy for the construction and maintenance of a Telegraphic Line to East Java, and to state that it has been intimated to Mr. F. Gisborne, who has come to Australia for the purpose of furthering the establishment of such a line, that this Government will be prepared to enter into an arrangement with any Company, of approved stability for carrying out the object in question, upon the basis of the Resolutions.

2. You will observe that the Resolutions make it a condition that the concurrence of the Colony of Victoria to such an extent as may be necessary for carrying out the proposed work, shall be obtained, and that the co-operation of the other Colonies interested in such a project shall also be invited. A communication has been made by me to the Government of Victoria on the subject, and I have to request that you will favor me by stating whether New Zealand will co-operate in the way suggested; and, if so, whether your Government would be disposed to leave with the Government of this Colony the details of such negotiation as may be necessary for completing the arrangements.

3. I enclose for your information printed copies of the papers on this subject, which have been laid before the Legislature of this Colony.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM FORSTER.

No. 9.

THE UNDER SECRETARY to F. GISBORNE, ESQ.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 10 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, requesting information as to the point on the northern boundary of this Colony at which the land line to connect the Telegraphic System of New South Wales with the proposed submarine line to East Java is to commence, and to inform you, that in the event of this Government consenting to the commencement of the submarine line at Brisbane, it would be essential that the Government of Queensland, or the contracting Company, should guarantee the continuance of the overland line from the frontier of this Colony to Brisbane.

I have, &c.,
W. ELYARD.

No. 10.

F. W. GISBORNE, ESQ., to GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Sydney, 10 February, 1860.

SIR,

A difficulty of great moment has arisen in the effective prosecution of the proposed Submarine Telegraph from Moreton Bay to East Java, in consequence of the form in which the first Resolution, subsidising the undertaking, was ultimately passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The first Resolution states that the subsidy shall be granted "to induce such Company to construct and maintain a Telegraphic Line from this Colony to East Java."

This leaves the terminus of the submarine portion of the line undetermined.

The Government have informed me that they have not determined that point, but in case they fix upon Moreton Bay, they have it in their option either to stipulate that the Company shall connect the submarine line with the New South Wales northern frontier by a land line, or to see that the Government of Queensland do so.

This position of the question assumes great importance and significance, when it is borne in mind that in this Colony there are many who desire that the submarine portion of the line shall terminate at Shoal Bay; that in Queensland many desire to see it terminate at Broad Sound, or rather Gulf Carpentaria, or even Port Essington; and that in South Australia there is a strong desire to see it terminate at Cambridge Gulf.

The advocates of these several termini of course desire to have the submarine line continued overland to New South Wales, or, in the case of Cambridge Gulf, to South Australia.

It is contended, in each case, that the overland line will be cheaper than the submarine cable; but it is admitted that one main object is to get police stations established, say every 30 miles, to protect the line, and at the same time to form nuclei for population to settle about.

Thus several hundred thousands of pounds will be spent in exploring and settling unknown and waste country.

Your

Your Excellency is so thoroughly acquainted with the objects of this movement for an overland line, and with its effect on the question of an immediate establishment of Telegraphic Communication with England, that I will only indicate the position of the question so as to make myself understood.

Unless the terminus of the submarine line is now and at once settled, it will be hopeless to conclude the negotiation with Victoria during the present Session, or to complete the line within the three years provided for in the Resolutions.

Moreton Bay was fixed upon because, up to that point, land lines are as good as provided for.

If Broad Sound be fixed upon, the intermediate land line will have to be paid for by Queensland, and your Excellency will easily judge whether that Colony will be in a position to do so within the next two years.

To any more northerly terminus the same objection applies, besides the extreme difficulty, if not impossibility, of executing or maintaining the line.

As regards Shoal Bay, which will increase the length of the submarine line, I wish to observe, that the subsidy was carefully calculated to provide for a line only as far as Moreton Bay, and that it is perfectly unnecessary to extend it south of that point, as land lines are in course of construction towards it.

If each Colony is to stipulate that the Telegraph shall be brought to its door, and existing lines through other Colonies made no use of, vastly increased and unnecessary expense will be incurred, and the Colonies not accommodated by the extension will refuse to contribute to it.

I would further earnestly ask your Excellency to consider, whether an English Company will not meet with great difficulty in managing a long land line in this country?

I believe all the lines of Telegraph are in the hands of Government.

Many causes of delay and intricacy in this great question will be avoided, if a few points, which I believe are essential at present, be constantly borne in mind; for instance, to leave to the Company the submarine portion, and to Queensland the land portion of the line; to bring the submarine line to the point up to which a land line can without dispute be completed by Queensland within the next two years; and not to ignore the existence of land lines by bringing the submarine cable south of any point they are likely to reach.

I think, sir, under all the circumstances, it is not an unreasonable request on my part to ask the Government to come to an immediate decision upon the point at which the submarine line shall terminate. This question has been actively discussed in every Colony for the last seven months, and the Resolutions just passed will be rendered inoperative, unless an immediate decision be come to.

I will ask your Excellency's good offices for the solution of this preliminary question. The decision of this Colony will, I believe, be acquiesced in by the other Colonies.

I have, &c.,

F. GISBORNE.

No. 11.

F. GISBORNE, ESQ., to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 10 February, 1860.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day. You inform me that the Government have not yet determined that Moreton Bay, near Brisbane, shall be the starting point of the proposed Submarine Line of Telegraph to Java.

I feel it my duty to point out to you, that no action can possibly be taken, either by the promoters in England, or by me with the Victorian Government, to obtain that co-operation which the Resolutions cast upon us to obtain, until the important question as to which shall be the terminus of the submarine portion of the line is settled.

You are well aware, sir, that Shoal Bay, Moreton Bay, Broad Sound, Gulf Carpentaria, Port Essington, and Cambridge Gulf, have all their strenuous advocates as proper termini for the submarine portion of the line.

You will, I trust, also bear in mind, that three years is the time limited for concluding all the negotiations and completing the line. The Parliamentary Session at Melbourne is not expected to last much longer, and if my negotiation is not concluded there during the present Session, I do not see the least likelihood of the time provided for in the Resolutions being kept to. Indeed, undue delay always throws discredit upon such undertakings and discourages the promoters.

Moreton Bay is selected, because land lines actually determined upon are in progress to that point. But I do not now intend to enter upon a comparison of the different proposed termini, but merely to state that, in the opinion of the promoters, Moreton Bay is the most convenient point, to urge upon you to adopt it, and at any rate to communicate to me your decision at your earliest convenience.

I would again urge upon you that difficulties may attend the management of a long land line by an English Company.

No estimate can be formed of the outlay, or of the amount of financial assistance to be asked of Victoria, until the length of the submarine line, and, if the Company is to undertake it, of the land portion of the line, is determined upon.

I have, &c.,

F. GISBORNE.

No. 12.

THE UNDER SECRETARY to F. GISBORNE, ESQ.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales,
13 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, in which you represent that it is of importance that the starting point of the proposed Submarine Line of Telegraph to Java should be determined at the present time.

2. The Colonial Secretary desires me to state in reply, that the Government of this Colony are willing that the line should be understood to commence at Brisbane, simply as the basis of calculation for a future contract with an approved Company, provided the continuance of the overland line from the frontier of New South Wales to that place is guaranteed.

I have, &c.,
W. ELYARD.

No. 13.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Brisbane, 17 February, 1860.*

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive, and to submit to His Excellency the Governor, in Council, your letter of the 10th instant, transmitting a copy of Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, with reference to a proposal that a subsidy should be granted for the construction and maintenance of a line of Electric Telegraph to East Java, and apprising me of the communication which you had made upon the subject to Mr. F. Gisborne, by whom the proposal has been brought forward.

2. I have now the honor, by direction of His Excellency, and under the advice of the Executive Council, to inform you that the Government of this Colony will lend its willing co-operation in a project which promises results so important to the whole of the Australian Colonies, and that the earliest opportunity will be taken of bringing the subject under the favorable notice of the Legislature of Queensland.

3. It will, without doubt, be the most convenient arrangement to leave, as you propose, to your Government the details of such negotiations as may be necessary for completing the arrangement with any Company, of approved stability, to whom the undertaking may be committed; but I am to state, that the Government of Queensland, while availing themselves of your proposal on this head, must of course be understood as reserving to themselves the right of ratifying any arrangement which may be made before its conditions can be held to be binding upon this Colony.

4. I have here to state, that local information and experience in this Colony point to an overland line of Telegraph from Brisbane to the Gulf of Carpentaria, as the plan which would be the most practicable of any that have been suggested, while it would be attended with largely increased collateral advantages. This Government would much prefer the adoption of such a line; but I beg to be understood that this is meant as a suggestion, and not as essential to the concurrence of Queensland in any plan that may eventually be decided upon, and that will secure the objects which are common to all the Colonies of the Australian Group.

5. With reference to your further inquiry, as to whether the Government of Queensland, in the event of the construction of a submarine line commencing at Brisbane, would guarantee the continuance within the required time of the overland line from the northern frontier of New South Wales, I am to state, that the subject will be submitted for the favorable consideration of the Legislature. In the meantime, as it will, of course, be an object that the work while in progress should be under proper scientific supervision (which is not readily available here at present), and as it will be one not alone for the benefit of this Colony, I beg to inquire whether the Government of New South Wales would be prepared to undertake the construction of the line—it being, of course, understood that the expenditure will be defrayed by this Colony?

I have, &c.,
ROBERT G. N. HERBERT.

No. 14.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, VICTORIA, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, 29 February, 1860.*

SIR,

In reference to your Despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honor to state, that the whole subject of European and Australian Telegraphic Communication having been submitted by the Honorable the Postmaster General of Victoria to the Government, it has been decided, after mature deliberation, to be essential that accurate information should be obtained

obtained as to the tariff of charges for the transmission of messages through the line of Telegraph proposed to be established.

It is therefore considered requisite that the Government should be supplied with the actual charges now levied for through messages at the stations already opened on the proposed route from Australia to Europe, the charges it is proposed to levy for similar messages over the lines in process of construction and over those contemplated, whether under the control of the British Government or Foreign powers, and also the proposed tariff for the transmission of messages over the submarine line from Moreton Bay to Java, and over the land line from Albury to Moreton Bay.

It is deemed absolutely necessary that it should be ascertained what will be the actual cost for the transmission of messages from Victoria to Great Britain, as upon that must rest the probability of any profit being derived from the undertaking, as well as of any adequate advantage resulting from the expenditure of so large an annual sum as it would appear this Colony is expected to contribute in the event of its being decided to adopt the scheme in question.

I have further to state, that it has been determined, in the event of the concurrence of the Government of this Colony being given to the scheme, the guarantee of the subsidy required from New South Wales and Victoria respectively should, in the first instance and throughout, be a joint and equal one, and that the actual payments of each should be in proportion to the use made of the Telegraph by each Colony.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

No. 15.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*New Zealand,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 19 March, 1860.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, transmitting a copy of Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, respecting a subsidy for the construction and maintenance of a Telegraphic Line to East Java, and inquiring whether the Government of New Zealand will co-operate in the way suggested, and, if so, whether it would be disposed to leave with the Government of New South Wales the details of such negotiations as may be necessary for completing the arrangements.

This Government fully recognizes the importance of the projected Telegraphic Communication between Europe and Australia, both as a means for the present of greatly accelerating communication between England and New Zealand, and especially as offering an almost certain guarantee, if successfully established, that complete Telegraphic Communication would at an early period be secured to this country.

The Government will accordingly submit the subject to the consideration of the Legislature, with a view to provision being made, in the meantime, for a contribution on the part of New Zealand towards any subsidy paid on account of the proposed communication, so long as it is maintained. The amount, however, which this Colony may be expected to contribute in the first instance, will manifestly be governed by the circumstances to which I have before referred, viz., whether the Telegraphic Line is carried to its coasts, or terminated in Australia. In the latter case, although the Colony would undoubtedly be benefited, its contribution cannot be so large as it might fairly be required to be in the former case.

I have every confidence that the Government of New South Wales will take all necessary precautions in negotiating the details of the project in question, which is especially a matter for its consideration.

I have, &c.,
E. W. STAFFORD.

No. 16.

CHIEF SECRETARY, VICTORIA, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, June, 1860.*

SIR,

I have the honor to bring under your notice the enclosed copy of an Address from the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, submitting certain Resolutions of the House on the subject of the establishment of Telegraphic Communication with India and Europe, and I am to invite the concurrence of the Government of New South Wales in the views expressed therein.

One or two points in these Resolutions may seem to require some explanation. In the first place, as regards the lowest tender, which it is affirmed should be accepted—what is intended to be conveyed is, the lowest which shall be satisfactory to the Electricians who may be appointed to consider the tenders; and with reference to the limit of Thirteen thousand pounds, fixed for the liability of this Colony, I would observe, it is intended to

cover the liabilities of the Colonies of Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland, upon the basis of the proportions contributed to the postal subsidy, and in the event of such proportions being subscribed by the Colonies enumerated, such contributions are to be applied in reduction of the liability of Victoria as one of the chief contracting parties.

Should any of the matters referred to in these Resolutions not meet the concurrence of your Government, I have to request that you will be good enough to communicate its views upon the subsidy generally as early as convenient, as it is desirable they should be known prior to the Resolutions being forwarded to the Home Government.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

[Enclosure in No. 16.]

To His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg respectfully to forward to your Excellency the following Resolutions, agreed to by the Assembly:—

1. That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that Telegraphic Communication should be established with India and Europe.
2. That the Government of this Colony be authorized to grant a conjunction with the Imperial Government, and with all or any of the Australian Colonies, an annual subsidy, not exceeding in the whole £35,000, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years, to any Company, of whose stability satisfactory assurance shall be given, to induce such Company to construct and maintain a Line of Telegraph which shall connect this Colony with any portion of the Indian and European Telegraph Lines at present in working, or that may hereafter be constructed, upon the following conditions:—
 1. That such Company shall, within two years after a contract has been entered into, construct such Line of Telegraph, unless prevented by war or the dangers or accidents of the seas, and afterwards maintain it in working order at its own expense.
 2. That the proposed subsidy shall be proportionately payable on the capital of the Company actually paid up and expended, and shall not exceed five per cent on such capital. And the contract for the manufacture and laying of the cable shall be open to public tender, and the lowest tender accepted, the satisfactory nature of which competent Electricians in England shall determine.
 3. That no payment of such subsidy shall be made until the Line of Telegraph to be constructed has been in working order for three consecutive months, and such payments shall be made ratably only for the period during which the line so constructed is open for the transmission of messages.
 4. If such line shall be closed, unless by reason of war, or shall not be in a state of efficiency for the transmission of messages for any eighteen consecutive months, then the contract with such Company shall be void.
 5. That a tariff of charges for the transmission of messages over such line shall be agreed to by the several contracting Governments and the Company before any contract is entered into, and such tariff shall not afterwards be altered without the concurrence of such Governments.
 6. That in the event of the net profits of the Company exceeding in any year the rate of ten per cent, per annum, inclusive of the subsidy, such excess shall be ratably applied to reduce the respective contributions of the contracting Governments.
3. That the proportion of the entire annual subsidy to be granted as the contribution of this Colony shall not exceed the sum of £13,000 in any one year.
4. That in any agreement which may be entered into with any other Colony for the purpose of making up the amount of subsidy required, it shall be an express stipulation that the actual annual payments of such Colony, and of this Colony, shall be in proportion to the value of the messages transmitted by each along the line in every year.
5. That upon the completion of the preliminary arrangements for a contract in terms of the foregoing Resolutions, a Bill be brought in for the purpose of authorizing the annual expenditure required.
6. That these Resolutions shall be in force only for two years, and shall be forthwith published in the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.,

FRAS. MURPHY,

Speaker.

No. 17.

F. GIBBORNE, ESQUIRE, to GOVERNOR GENERAL.

17 June, 1860,
Melbourne.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose the Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, granting a subsidy towards the establishment of Telegraphic Communication with England.

The first condition annexed to the corresponding Resolutions of New South Wales was, that the Government of Victoria should grant the residue of the subsidy required for the undertaking over the amount voted by New South Wales.

The Legislature of Victoria having, however, decided that the Home Government should be asked to contribute, a smaller amount was voted here than would otherwise have been the case.

The basis upon which both sets of Resolutions proceed is, that £35,000 a year will be required to enable the necessary capital to be raised in England. Of that amount New South Wales has granted 27½ per cent., or £9,625; Victoria, £13,000; Tasmania has promised a contribution

contribution which I understood is likely to amount to £4,000 a year. These different sums leave a deficit of £8,375 to be provided for.

In case, however, the Home Government contribute, the basis of the New South Wales Resolutions would in strictness reduce the amount named in them to $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole subsidy, less the amount contributed by the Home Government; but I trust this will not be insisted on, even should the case arise. Moreover, the contribution of New South Wales covers the shares of Queensland and New Zealand, that of Victoria only represents her own share.

The deficit of £8,375 must be ultimately provided for by South Australia and the Home Government, which has not yet been applied to.

Should, however, a mutual understanding be come to at once by all the Colonies to provide amongst themselves the whole subsidy, leaving the actual payments of each to be determined in every year by the value or number of its messages, one or two Colonies might then safely undertake the contract with the Company for the entire amount.

In that case the contracting Colonies would have to appoint agents in London to put themselves into communication with an approved Company. Each side would appoint engineers to decide upon the class of cable, tenders would then be called for, and the whole outlay and capital being thus fixed, the agents should have power to enter into a provisional agreement, undertaking to give the Company a certain subsidy on certain conditions, if by a day named the whole amount of capital was subscribed for, and a certain per centage of it paid up.

Such was the course adopted by the Imperial Government in the case of the Red Sea and Indian Line.

I can see no necessity for delay, considering the small amount still unprovided for, if the machinery of an Intercolonial agreement be adopted at once.

Now that all the lines between Java and England are either completed or in rapid progress, and Telegraphic Communication is brought within 1,000 miles of the northern coast of Australia, I trust no delay will take place in extending them to the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

F. GISBORNE.

No. 18.

UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE UNDER SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Brisbane, 4 July, 1860.*

SIR,

Reverting to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Herbert's letter to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, of the 17th February last, in which he stated that the subject of the continuance of the Electric Telegraph from the northern frontier of New South Wales would be submitted for the favorable consideration of the Legislature of this Colony, I am now directed to state, for the information of your Government, that the necessary provision has now been made for the construction of a Line of Telegraph from Brisbane to the boundary of this Colony, and that the work will be entered upon without loss of time.

I am therefore to request that you will be good enough to move Mr. Cowper to cause a reply to be made to Mr. Herbert's inquiry, as to whether the Government of New South Wales would be prepared to undertake supervision of the construction of the line, it being understood that the expenditure will be defrayed by this Colony.

I have, &c.,

A. ORPEN MORIARTY,
Under Colonial Secretary.

No. 19.

UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE UNDER SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Brisbane, 1 August, 1860.*

SIR,

With reference to former correspondence on the subject of the construction of a Line of Electric Telegraph from Brisbane to the frontier of New South Wales and Queensland, to unite with the systems of Telegraphic Communication of the other Colonies, I am directed to inform you that it is now the intention of the Government of Queensland to proceed without delay in the construction of the Line of Telegraph, and that it will, therefore, now be unnecessary that your Government should reply to the communications which have been addressed to it on the subject.

I have, &c.,

A. ORPEN MORIARTY,
Under Colonial Secretary.

No. 20.

CHIEF SECRETARY, VICTORIA, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, 14 August, 1860.*

SIR,

On the 14th June last I had the honor to communicate with you relative to the establishment of Telegraphic Communication between the Australian Colonies and England, *via* India, and to bring under your notice a copy of an Address from the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly on the subject.

As no reply to the letter referred to has yet reached this Office, and as it is considered very desirable that early action should be taken in the matter, I would now invite your attention to the correspondence, and shall be glad to know whether the New South Wales Government have arrived at any decision, and to be favored with their views upon the subject at as early a date as may be convenient.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

1861.

Legislative Assembly.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE.

(DESPATCH.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 1 May, 1861.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Downing-street,

12 February, 1861.

SIR,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the establishment of Telegraphic Communication between Europe and Australia, and more especially with regard to Mr. F. Gisborne's recent mission to Australia as Agent for the Promoters of a scheme *viâ* Java and Moreton Bay, I have the honor to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have intimated to me their inability to co-operate with the Governments of Australia to establish the proposed communication.

Their Lordships further stated that, as the chance of such an undertaking being successfully carried out was at present so uncertain, they would not feel themselves justified in applying to Parliament to add to the various liabilities which Her Majesty's Government have already incurred in respect of lines of Telegraph which, it was supposed, could easily be established, but which have, as yet, resulted only in failures, owing to the unforeseen difficulties which have attended the maintenance and laying of submarine cables.

I have, &c.,

NEWCASTLE.
