

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

(CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO REMOVAL OF STATION, WINDEYER.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 16 March, 1864.

WM. B. DALLEY, Esq., M.P., to SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

*Monday Morning,
22 February, 1864.*

MY DEAR HOLROYD,

I have received the enclosed from Mudgee, for presentation to you this day. I cannot do myself the honor of personally presenting it to you, as I shall be engaged at the Central Police Office all day, and I leave town to-night for Tamworth.

Will you cause a reply to be forwarded to Mr. Edward Clarke, of Mudgee?

Ever yours, &c.,

WM. B. DALLEY.

To the Honorable the Minister for Works.

The Memorial of the undersigned Traders and other Residents in the District of Windeyer and also in the Town of Mudgee,—

SREWETH:—

That for the period of some two years and upwards there has been a station of the Electric Telegraph at Windeyer, on the Meroo.

That such station meets not only the requirements of the Town of Windeyer, but also those of a large district extending from Windeyer to the heads of the Meroo, a distance of ten miles, but also to Long Creek, Campbell's Creek, and the Pyramul, as well as those of the whole diggings on the Meroo.

That your Memorialists have heard with surprise and regret, that it is the intention of the Government to remove the Telegraph Station from Windeyer to Hargraves.

That your Memorialists beg most respectfully to call your attention to the geographical position of Windeyer in its relation to the Meroo Gold Fields, from which it must appear that it is not only the oldest but the most central point on the Meroo.

That the station at Windeyer is in every respect fit for the purpose and not inferior to any out of Sydney.

That in case of the removal of the station to Hargraves, all persons resident at Windeyer, Long Creek, Campbell's Creek, Pyramul, and all other portions of Meroo Gold Fields to the northward and eastward of Windeyer, would have to pass through Windeyer and then proceed to Hargraves, a distance of some seven or eight miles over a most rough country.

That your Petitioners (resident in Mudgee) believe that the retention of the Telegraph Office at Windeyer would be a greater convenience to themselves and the residents on the Meroo Gold Fields generally, than the removal of the same to Hargraves, and also that the Government would derive a greater revenue by such retention than by any removal.

Your Memorialists therefore respectfully request that you will be pleased to take this matter into your consideration, and that no orders may be given for the removal of the Telegraph Station from Windeyer.

[Here follow 52 Signatures.]

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF TELEGRAPHS.

THE receipts at the Windeyer Station have never yet covered the clerk's salary. The revenue for 1863 amounted to only £96 0s. 8d.

If the station is of so much importance to the district, I am surprised that it has not been better patronized; and if the Petitioners are really desirous for the retention of the office, I would respectfully suggest that they be requested to guarantee the Government against loss, as at Tambaroora.

E. C. CRACKNELL.

23/2/64.

UNDER SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS to MR. EDWARD CLARKE, MUDGEE.

*Department of Public Works,
Sydney, 2 March, 1864.*

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that W. B. Dalley, Esq., M.P., in forwarding to this office a Petition from certain of the Inhabitants of Mudgee and neighbourhood, relative to the proposed withdrawal of the Telegraph Station at Windeyer, requested that the reply thereto might be addressed to you.

2. The Petitioners state that the retention of this station is required, in consequence of its importance to the district; but I am to state that the Secretary for Public Works fails to see that it can be of much importance, as it appears from the Report of the Superintendent of Telegraphs that the revenue derived from it in 1863 was only £96 0s. 8d., not sufficient to pay even the Station Master's salary.

3. If, however, the Petitioners are really impressed with the necessity for the retention of this station, the Secretary for Public Works will have no objection, provided they guarantee the Government against loss, as is done in other similar cases.

I have, &c.,

JOHN RAE.