

1875.

---

QUEENSLAND.

---

CONSTRUCTION  
OF  
TELEGRAPHIC CABLE

BETWEEN

NEW ZEALAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES,

AND BETWEEN

NORMANTON AND SINGAPORE,

AS AGREED UPON AT THE CONFERENCE HELD IN SYDNEY IN 1873.

(PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING)

---

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

---

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: JAMES C. BEAL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WILLIAM STREET.

# CONTENTS.

---

No.	PAGE.
1. The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... .. (a.) <i>Enclosure in No. 1.</i>	3
2. The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales ... ..	4
3. The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales ... ..	4
4. The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	4
5. The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales ... ..	4
6. Telegram from The Honorable Julius Vogel to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	5
7. Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	5
8. Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales...	5
9. Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Honorable Julius Vogel, Sydney ... ..	5
10. Telegram from the Honorable Julius Vogel to the Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	5
11. Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Honorable Julius Vogel, Melbourne ... ..	5
12. Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Honorable Julius Vogel, Melbourne ... ..	5
13. Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales...	6
14. The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	6
15. The Under Colonial Secretary to The Agent-General (two enclosures) ... .. (a.) <i>Enclosure in No. 15. Copy of the Minute of Proceedings of the Executive Council—29 October, 1874.</i> (b.) <i>Enclosure in No. 15. Copy of Power of Attorney from the Government of Queensland to the Agent-General.</i>	6
16. The Under Colonial Secretary to The Agent-General ... ..	8
17. The Agent-General to The Colonial Secretary ... ..	8
18. The Agent-General to the Colonial Secretary ... ..	9
19. Telegram from the Agent-General to The Colonial Secretary ... ..	9
20. The Under Secretary, Post Office, to The Under Colonial Secretary ... .. (a.) <i>Enclosure from the Superintendent, Electric Telegraphs, to The Postmaster-General.</i>	9
21. Telegram from Colonial Secretary to The Agent-General ... ..	10
22. Telegram from The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, to The Colonial Secretary, Queensland ... ..	10
23. Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Queensland, to The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales ... ..	10
24. Telegram from The Agent-General to The Colonial Secretary ... ..	10

CONSTRUCTION OF TELEGRAPHIC CABLE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES, AND BETWEEN NORMANTON AND SINGAPORE, AS AGREED UPON AT THE CONFERENCE HELD AT SYDNEY IN 1873.

(PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING)

---

No. 1.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 16th June, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit, for your information, copies of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of this colony, by which you will see that Parliament has approved of the agreement between New Zealand, Queensland, and New South Wales, for the joint construction of telegraph cables between New Zealand and this colony, and between Normanton, in Queensland, and Singapore.

2. While there is a general concurrence of opinion in the Legislature on the advisability of constructing and maintaining a second and independent telegraphic cable between Europe and Australia in connection with New Zealand, objections have been urged both to the amount (one million sterling) and to the period (thirty-five years) of the proposed guarantee. As you no doubt are aware, it is reported that a new description of cable has been successfully manufactured which will much reduce the price of construction. I append copy of a letter I have received on this subject from an officer of the Victorian Government's ship "Victoria," which, although written by that officer in his private capacity, I think it is right I should place before you.

3. In view of these circumstances, I respectfully invite the attention of your Government to a reconsideration of the conditions of contract submitted by Mr. Audley Coote before the three colonies finally commit themselves to the undertaking.

4. I may mention that Her Majesty's ship "Challenger," which left this port a few days ago, is now, under instructions, surveying a path for the cable between this colony and New Zealand.

I have, &c.,  
HENRY PARKES.

---

(a.) *Enclosure in No. 1.*

H.M.C. Surveying Ship "Victoria,"  
Queenscliff, Victoria, 16th March, 1874.

SIR,

Having seen by the Melbourne papers of the 14th instant, that it was probable the New South Wales Government, in conjunction with other colonies, would lay a telegraph cable between Singapore and Queensland, I have the honor to inform you that by the last mail from England, I have heard of a newly-invented cable that can be manufactured at half the cost of the usual cable.

It is about to be brought to trial by some of the richest men in Europe; the test cable is to be laid between Lisbon and the Azores. I am not at liberty to describe the cable, but think it is certain to be a success; and as the saving of one-half the cost of a cable is of great importance in a cable of great length, I have thought it a duty to let you know of this cable, should you not be aware of it.

I should also mention that the proposed cable is far easier to lay down than the usual one used at present.

I shall probably hear further of it by next mail, and, should you wish it, shall be happy to supply the information I may receive, so far as I am at liberty to do so; and at any rate can give you the name of the inventor.

I write this letter in a private capacity, and not as a member of the Admiralty Survey of this colony.

My address will be Queenscliff for a week or two.

I have, &c.,  
SIDNEY S. CRISPO.

The Chief Secretary of New South Wales.

## No. 2.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 26th June, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copies of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of New South Wales, transmitted under cover of your letter of 18th June instant, by which it appears that the Parliament of your colony has approved of the agreement between New Zealand, Queensland, and New South Wales for the joint construction of Telegraph Cables between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Normanton, in this colony, and Singapore.

I have, &c.,  
A. MACALISTER.

---

## No. 3.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 30th June, 1874.

SIR,

In further reference to your letter of 14th June instant, on the subject of the joint construction of Telegraph Cables between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Normanton, in this colony, and Singapore, I have the honor to request, with a view to the reconsideration of the conditions of contract, submitted by Mr. Audley Coote, to which you invite the attention of this Government, that you will be good enough to furnish me with any further information in your possession, respecting the new description of cable reported to have been successfully manufactured, and which is calculated to reduce the price of construction materially.

I have, &c.,  
A. MACALISTER.

---

## No. 4.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 11th August, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that the following telegram was forwarded to your address on the 10th instant:—

"I have letter from New Zealand Government of July 27th, in reply to my letter of June 16th (same as to you), on advisability of reconsidering terms of constructing Ocean Telegraph; and suggesting that representatives of the three colonies meet in Melbourne or Sydney to discuss questions raised. As steamer leaves here for New Zealand to-morrow, can you give any reply at once to enable me to write more definitely?"

I have, &c.,  
HENRY PARKES.

---

## No. 5.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 24th August, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th August instant, transmitting copy of a telegram despatched on 10th instant, in reference to a letter addressed to you by the New Zealand Government of 27th July, in reply to yours of 16th June last, as to the advisability of reconsidering the terms of constructing Ocean Telegraph, and suggesting that representatives of the three colonies (New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand) should meet in Melbourne or Sydney to discuss questions raised in connection with the subject.

I have, &c.,  
(For the Colonial Secretary.)  
H. H. MASSIE.

---

## No. 6.

TELEGRAM FROM HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

I have come to Sydney to confer with your Government and the Government of New South Wales concerning the cable arrangements entered into between the three Governments. I hope you will be able to make it convenient to send some one here to meet me. I may say I have very little time at disposal as I am proceeding to England for a few months. I hope therefore you will excuse my not being able to visit you.

Sydney, 24th September, 1874.

## No. 7.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

The Honorable Julius Vogel has arrived here expressly to come to final arrangement as to Telegraphic Cable. Can you send member of your Government to Sydney in order that the matter may be settled. Mr. Vogel cannot remain long. Kindly reply at once.

Sydney, 24th September, 1874.

## No. 8.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Your telegram reporting arrival of Honorable Julius Vogel detained by interruption of line. My colleague Postmaster-General and myself propose to leave on Monday 28th September for Sydney to confer on subject of arrangements as to Telegraphic Cable.

Brisbane, 26th September, 1874.

## No. 9.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL, SYDNEY.

My colleague the Postmaster-General and myself propose to leave Brisbane for Sydney on Monday next to confer on the subject of arrangements as to Telegraphic Cable.

Brisbane, 26th September, 1874.

## No. 10.

TELEGRAM FROM THE HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Before I left Sydney I understood you would communicate to me officially name of your representative to act for you in England in cables question also that you would let me have copy his instructions. Shall be leaving very shortly. May I ask you to attend to this at once.

Melbourne, 26th October, 1874.

## No. 11.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL, MELBOURNE.

Cabinet sat yesterday and appointed Agent-General to act for Queensland. You have introduction to him. Commission is now being drafted and so soon as it reaches us will have copy sent you.

Brisbane, 29th October, 1874.

## No. 12.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL, MELBOURNE.

Copy of power of attorney to Mr. Daintree as Queensland Agent for construction of telegraphic cable has just been posted to you at Melbourne. Please inquire Post Office.

Brisbane, 4th November 1874.

## No. 13.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Will you favor me with copy of commission to agent of your colony London for construction of joint cable.

Brisbane, 4th November, 1874.

## No. 14.

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 26th November, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor, in compliance with the request preferred in your telegram of the 4th instant, to transmit herewith a copy of a commission appointing Sir Daniel Cooper, Baronet, London, to act as Agent for this colony in England in co-operation with the duly appointed representatives of New Zealand and Queensland, in making the necessary contract or contracts for the laying and construction of electric cables between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Normanton in Queensland and Singapore.

I have, &c.,  
HENRY PARKES.

## No. 15.

THE UNDER-COLONIAL SECRETARY to THE AGENT-GENERAL.

Queensland,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 10th November, 1874.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit herewith a copy of an Executive Minute approving of the proceedings of the Colonial Secretary and the Postmaster-General, at a meeting of the representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, held in Sydney, in October last, for the purpose of taking into further consideration the conditions for the construction of a Telegraph Cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Normanton (in Queensland) and Singapore; which the representatives of those colonies, at the Conference held in Sydney, in February, 1873, agreed to recommend to their Governments, with a view of their being subsequently submitted for the sanction of their respective Parliaments.

As you will observe, the conditions in the original agreement have again been approved, with the exception of the guarantee provided in the fourth paragraph, in the terms of which it was found advisable to adopt a material alteration; and it is now agreed, that, if communication should permanently fail on either of the lines, the guarantee with regard to both lines shall cease.

It was also agreed that each of the colonies mentioned should appoint a special agent in London, to enter into a joint contract for the construction of the telegraph cables between the places specified, with authority to act and to do all things that are required and necessary in that behalf.

Mr. Vogel, the New Zealand Treasurer, has already proceeded to England, as the representative of that colony; and a power of attorney, under the Great Seal of the Colony, prepared in your favor, as the special agent of Queensland, as to telegraphic communication with Europe, is now transmitted herewith.

I have, &c.,  
H. H. MASSIE.

(a.) *Enclosure in No. 15.*

COPY OF THE MINUTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 29TH OCTOBER, 1874.

Approved:

(Signed)

NORMANBY.

30-10-74.

His Excellency the Governor, at the instance of the Honorable The Colonial Secretary, submits to the Council that in accordance with the pressing request of Messrs. Parkes and Vogel respectively, the representatives of the Governments of New South Wales and New Zealand, he, together with the Honorable the Postmaster, proceeded to Sydney to attend a meeting of the representatives of the three Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, with reference to the memorandum of conditions for the construction of the Telegraph Cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and one between Normanton and Singapore, which was agreed to by the Conference held in Sydney on the 14th February, 1873, and to consider how far those conditions should be carried out or modified.

The result of the meeting was that the memorandum of conditions previously agreed to was approved of. The fourth clause, referring to the guarantee of the lines when in working order, the representatives of the three colonies were unanimous that if communication should permanently fail in either of the lines the guarantee with regard to both lines should cease; in other respects the conditions were again approved of.

It was also agreed that each colony should, by commission under the Great Seal of the colony appoint an agent in London to enter into a joint contract for the construction of the cable, and that, in the event of not obtaining an offer more advantageous to the colonies than that made by Messrs. Siemens and Co., already printed and placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly, such proposal should be accepted.

The Colonial Secretary further reports that advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by this meeting to urge on the New South Wales Government the desirability of completing their telegraphic communication, by way of Fort Bourke to the Queensland Border, in order that a constant and continuous land wire might be kept open between the two Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland, and which extension the Postmaster-General of New South Wales agreed to carry out.

The Council deliberate; they advise approval of the action and proceedings of the Colonial Secretary and Postmaster-General, and recommend that a commission to the Agent-General for the colony in London be issued under the Great Seal of the Colony, empowering him to enter into a joint contract with the agents of New South Wales and New Zealand for the construction of the cable as hereinbefore mentioned.

Immediate action.

A. V. DRURY,

Clerk of the Council.

(b.) *Enclosure in No. 15.*

COPY OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND TO THE AGENT-GENERAL.

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND to RICHARD DAINTREE, ESQUIRE, AGENT-GENERAL.

*Power of Attorney as to Telegraphic Communication with Europe.*

To all to whom these Presents shall come.

I, GEORGE AUGUSTUS CONSTANTINE, Marquis of Normanby, Earl of Mulgrave, Viscount Normanby and Baron Mulgrave of Mulgrave, all in the County of York, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; and Baron Mulgrave of New Ross, in the County of Wexford, in the Peerage of Ireland, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies,

SEND GREETING:

WHEREAS, at a certain Meeting or Conference held at Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, in or about the month of February, A.D. 1873, between the Representatives of the respective Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, the following Memorandum of Conditions for the Construction of a Telegraph Cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and one between Normanton in Queensland and Singapore, was agreed to, namely:—

The Conditions for the Construction of a Telegraph Cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and one between Normanton, in Queensland, and Singapore, are those which the Representatives of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, shall agree to recommend their Governments to submit for the approval of their respective Parliaments.

1. The three Colonies shall jointly enter into an arrangement for the construction of an Electric Cable to be laid between some point in New Zealand and some point in New South Wales, and also a cable to be laid from Normanton in Queensland to Singapore, the latter to be a through cable, touching only at such points as may be agreed upon, and to be entirely distinct, the whole distance, from the line between Port Darwin and Singapore.

2. The arrangement to be for a guarantee of five per cent. for a term not exceeding thirty-five years upon a sum not exceeding £1,000,000 for the cost of the two lines.

3. Twelve thousand pounds per annum to be allowed to cover in full all expenses, all receipts above twelve thousand pounds to pass in reduction of the guarantee. The contractors to retain receipts in excess of the guarantee; but if the profits are more than ten per cent., the Government may require that the rates shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten per cent.

4. The guarantee to be paid only whilst the lines are in working order, provided that four weeks in each year will be allowed for repairs. If the New Zealand line only be in order, one-third of the guarantee to be paid; if the Singapore line only be in order, two-thirds of the guarantee to be paid. If the lines are not kept in order with due diligence, or if communication should permanently fail, the guarantee to cease.

5. The two lines to be commenced and constructed simultaneously.

6. The cost per message of twenty words from New Zealand to New South Wales not to exceed fifteen shillings, the charge for each word above twenty being ninepence; and the cost for twenty words from Normanton to Singapore not to exceed forty shillings for the first two years and thirty-five shillings afterwards, the charge for each word above twenty being two shillings.

7. Queensland to undertake to keep the land line to Normanton open for the use of the other contributing colonies at rates not to exceed at any time seven shillings for twenty words.

8. The three Governments to act in unison, and to jointly arrange the details.

9. The Governments will require to be satisfied that the contractors have made proper provision for the use of a through line of communication between Singapore and London.

And whereas the said hereinbefore recited memorandum of conditions was subsequently submitted to and approved of by the Parliament of Queensland.

And

And whereas it was also afterwards agreed between the respective Governments aforesaid, that in the interpretation of the fourth hereinbefore recited condition, if communication of either of the said lines should permanently fail, then the guarantee mentioned in such memorandum of conditions should cease. And whereas it was also further agreed between the respective Governments of the hereinbefore mentioned three colonies that such through cable between Normanston, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Singapore should touch only at the most southern portion of the Island of Macassar.

And whereas it was further agreed between the respective Governments of the said three colonies that each colony should, by commission under the Great Seal of the colony, appoint an agent in London to enter into a joint contract for the construction of the said two cables. And whereas at the time of or soon after the said Conference firstly hereinbefore recited, the respective Governments of the said three colonies were placed in possession of a certain telegram, addressed by Siemens Brothers, telegraph engineers and contractors, London, to one Audley Coote, their agent in Australia, and which telegram was as follows:—

"London eighteenth six twelve We accept terms namely guarantee fixed sum equal five per cent. upon one million for thirty-five years for cables Sydney to New Zealand Normanston to Singapore touching at Macassar We have responsibility of forming company to raise necessary capital Four weeks allowed for repairs per annum Proposed tariff Sydney New Zealand fifteen shillings Normanston Singapore two pounds twenty words Twelve thousand per annum allowed working expenses receipts over that to reduce guarantee All details to be arranged in London Five per cent. on one million receipts over that to reduce guarantee All details to be arranged in London Five per cent. on one million Will write Only equal about three per cent. on capital required You should therefore endeavor to get increase.

"SIEMENS BROTHERS."

—but on which telegram no further action has yet been taken by the said three colonies.

Now these presents witness that I, GEORGE AUGUSTUS CONSTANTINE, Marquis of Normanby, the Governor aforesaid, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of Queensland, and with intent to bind the Government thereof, hereby appoint Richard Daintree, Esquire, the Agent-General for the Colony of Queensland in London, the attorney for and in the name, stead, and behalf of the said Government in and about the premises, to execute and do every act, deed, and thing requisite for the making, entering into, signing, and conclusion of such contract and agreement, in England or Europe, as in the recitals to these presents is mentioned; and I hereby, with the advice and to the intent aforesaid, agree and undertake that the said Government shall ratify, confirm, and allow all that the said attorney of the said Government shall do or cause to be done, or purport to do or cause to be done, by virtue of these presents.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my sign manual, at Brisbane; in the Colony of Queensland, and have caused the Seal of the said Colony to be affixed hereto this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and in the thirty-eighth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command,

A. MACALISTER.

(L.S.)

NORMANBY.

## No. 16.

THE UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY to THE AGENT-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 8th December, 1874.

SIR,

With reference to a former communication from this office of 10th November last, on the subject of the agreement to be entered into as approved by the late Conference at Sydney, for the construction of the Telegraph Cable to Normanston, I am directed to point out that the greatest possible care must be taken that every condition inserted in the resolutions agreed to at the Conference, as well as those inserted in the power of attorney, transmitted to you with the letter referred to, defining more accurately those that were obscure, are clearly set out in any contract.

I have, &c.

H. H. MASSIE.

## No. 17.

THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Queensland Government Office,  
32, Charing Cross, S.W.,  
5th February, 1875.

SIR,

With reference to the cable contract, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Vogel has now reached London, but is at present very unwell.

The first meeting on the subject will be held early next week, should Mr. Vogel in the meantime have sufficiently recovered to attend to business.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE.



## No. 18.

THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Queensland Government Office,  
32, Charing Cross, S.W.,  
London, 17th February, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th December, and will take care that the advice therein contained shall be strictly attended to.

When the negotiations now in progress have assumed a tangible form, full details will be forwarded.

I have, &amp;c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE.

## No. 19.

TELEGRAM FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

To avoid useless additional cost Fleming Jenkins advises that cable shall touch Timor and Java instead of Macassar keeping quite distinct from present line Vogel and Cooper urge acceptance this. Advise Information required re clause seven Does the seven shillings twenty words cover charge land line New South Wales and New Zealand.

London 13th March 1875.

## No. 20.

THE UNDER SECRETARY, POST OFFICE, to THE UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Postmaster-General's Department,  
Brisbane, 20th March, 1875.

SIR,

With reference to the telegram from the Agent-General, relative to the submarine cable between Kimberley and Singapore, a copy of which was received from you on the 18th instant, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Colonial Secretary, a copy of Mr. Cracknell's report thereon, and to state that the Postmaster-General considers that the lines should be distinct; and besides, the members of the Conference, which met the other day in Sydney, held it to be a *sine quâ non* that the lines should go *via* Macassar.

I have, &amp;c.,

JOHN McDONNELL.

(a.) *Enclosure in No. 20.*

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS to THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Electric Telegraph Department,  
Superintendent's Office,  
Brisbane, 19th March, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honor to report on telegram from the Agent-General, London, dated 13th March.

On referring to memorandum of conditions agreed upon by the representatives of the three Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, in Conference in Sydney, on 14th February, 1873, it will be observed that clause 1 stipulates that it is to be a cable from Queensland to Singapore, a through cable, touching only at such points as may be agreed on, and to be entirely distinct, the whole distance, from the line between Port Darwin and Singapore.

I may add that, from maps used at the Conference, it was evidently understood that the line was to touch at Macassar. The cause for the stipulation that it was to be a distinct line, was in order that there might be no combination, but ensure a competing line to that now existing, and thus secure all that we are contending for—a lower rate of charge for transmission.

If the proposed line is taken to Java, a junction will be formed with the Dutch lines, which would destroy the power of competition, and would probably subsequently lead to combination and monopoly. Further, the distance from Singapore, *via* Macassar, to Kimberley is less than from Singapore, *via* Java and Timor, to Kimberley.

It is, moreover, to be remembered that it should be our endeavor to induce a competing line to that now between Singapore and Madras, either by land line or by a cable, and that this connection should lead us further, *via* the Indian Government lines, on to the lines of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, and thus avoid the Eastern Company's cable throughout, which is a monopoly, and of which the section between Singapore and Port Darwin now forms a part.

For these reasons I would strongly recommend that this Government insist on a separate line, throughout, from Singapore, *via* Macassar, to Kimberley.

The charge of seven shillings (7s.) is intended to cover cost of transmission over Queensland lines only.

I have, &amp;c.,

W. J. CRACKNELL  
Superintendent Electric Telegraphs.

## No. 21.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to THE AGENT-GENERAL.

Government insist on separate line *via* Macassar otherwise contract not to be entered into The charge of seven (7) shillings covers cost of transmission over Queensland lines only.

Brisbane 22nd March 1875.

---

## No. 22.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

It was agreed on behalf of Queensland New Zealand and New South Wales by Mr. Lilley Mr. Vogel and myself on the 6th January 1870 that those colonies should undertake to guarantee a subsidy for cable from New South Wales to New Zealand New Zealand to pay five (5) tenths or one (1) half we three (3) tenths and you two (2) tenths see our Parliamentary Paper seven (7) May 1870 I presume yours of about the same date It is now proposed through cable by Mr. Vogel that New Zealand should pay two (2) thirds and we the other third of course much more favorable terms Are you willing to join us with regard to this third (3rd) in the same proportion that you were to have taken of the half under the arrangement I have referred to.

Sydney 14th April 1875.

---

## No. 23.

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Memorandum of agreement referred to for construction cable dated 6 January 1870 never confirmed by Parliament and fell through Queensland declines to join in construction of any cables except those agreed to at Conference by representatives of New South Wales New Zealand and Queensland and in terms of the joint contract authorised to be entered into by the duly appointed agents for the three colonies respectively.

Brisbane 17th April 1875.

---

## No. 24.

TELEGRAM, AGENT-GENERAL, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Joint cable negotiations have failed Vogel arranging Sydney New Zealand line under clause nine of his Act.

London 26 April 1875.