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Wellington, 15th April, 1867.

POSTAL CONFERENCE.

A CONFERENCE of the Governments of the six Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, having assembled in Melbourne on the 4th March, and continued in Session until the 20th March, to consider the whole question of Postal Communication between Great Britain and Australasia, and certain Resolutions having been unanimously agreed to by such Conference, His Excellency the Governor directs the Report of the Representatives of New Zealand, with the Minutes of Proceedings, and a copy of the Memorial to Her Majesty, signed by the Representatives of the several Governments, and of Papers and Returns laid before the Conference, to be published for general information.

E. W. STAFFORD.

REPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW ZEALAND.

Melbourne, 26th March, 1867.

SIR,—

We have the honor to report to you the result of the proceedings of the Conference of Delegates from the Governments of the several Australasian Colonies, on the subject of Ocean Postal Communication, at which Conference we were authorized to represent the Government of New Zealand.

The Conference met in Melbourne on the 4th instant, and was attended by Delegates from all the Australasian Colonies (excepting Western Australia,) who undertook that their Governments would be bound by such resolutions of the Conference as they themselves might individually assent to.

The Conference considered:—firstly, "The permanent arrangement which it may be desirable, with the concurrence of the Imperial Government, to adopt for maintaining and improving the Postal Communication between the United Kingdom and the Colonies in question;" and, secondly, "The contribution to the cost of the existing Sydney and Panama Service, which, pending the coming into operation of the permanent arrangement above referred to, should be made by the Colonies who are not parties to this contract."

Upon the first branch of the subject, the Representatives from each Colony began by submitting to the Conference their several views of the most satisfactory scheme for a postal service. After a protracted discussion of the various proposals so made, the following arrangement was at length unanimously adopted; namely—That three lines of Postal Communication between Australasia and Great Britain should be established—1, by Melbourne, South Australia, and Galle or Mauritius; 2, by New Zealand and Panama; 3, by Brisbane, Torres Straits, and Singapore. The Australian terminus of all three lines would be at Sydney. It was agreed to provide in addition all the branch are services which required to complete the communication with the principal Colonial Ports.

The total cost of the whole of these services was estimated, on reliable data, not to exceed £400,000 a year. For reasons explained in the resolutions of the Conference, it was assumed that the Imperial Government will agree to bear one-half the cost of the new services, as is the case with the one now in operation. The remainder, as the Colonial moiety, was apportioned as follows:—

To Victoria	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
„ New South Wales	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
„ New Zealand	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
„ Queensland	...	...	...	...	One-seventh.
„ South Australia	...	...	...	...	One-twelfth.
„ Tasmania	...	...	...	...	One-fiftieth.

The Colony of Western Australia not being represented at the Conference, it was deemed advisable to leave the contribution of that Colony at or near its present amount, which is represented by the small fraction required to make up the total of the Colonial moiety.

In consequence of the length of the notices requisite for determining the existing contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, the new arrangement can hardly, under any circumstances, come into operation in less than two years and a half from the present time.

It was further resolved that the new contracts for the main services should be made for a period of seven years. The agreement between the Colonies now entered into, may consequently, if given effect to by the action of the Imperial Government, be deemed to be concluded for the same period.

In order to carry out the resolutions of the Conference, and to obtain for them the most favorable consideration of the Imperial Government, a Memorial to Her Majesty was drawn up and signed by all the Representatives. It was also agreed that the several Colonial Governments should do all that may be necessary in London to further the objects of the Conference.

On the second branch of the subject, namely, the contribution to be made provisionally by the non-contracting Colonies to the cost of the Panama service, we regret to state that no satisfactory arrangement was arrived at by the Conference. The importance of a settlement of this question was pressed on the consideration of the Conference by the Representatives of New South Wales and New Zealand. But as, after several days' discussion, there appeared no prospect of a satisfactory result being arrived at, it was eventually determined to refer the matter to private negotiation between the Colonies concerned, by which means it was believed that a settlement would be most speedily arrived at. We are glad to state that to some extent these negotiations have already been successful.

It was agreed that, in accordance with the suggestion emanating from the Imperial Government, the Colonies in combination should undertake to call for tenders, and enter into the contracts necessary for connecting the Australian Colonies with the lines of postal communication maintained by the Imperial Government. With a view to the adoption of the measures requisite for this purpose, and also for carrying out in other respects the resolutions of the Conference, it was deemed expedient that a Federal Council, comprising Representatives from all the Australasian Colonies, should be established. The meeting of this Council will be necessary when the answer of the Imperial Government shall have been received.

The Conference was unanimously of opinion that other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to this Council.

We have the honor to append to this Report copies of the Proceedings of the Conference, of the Memorial to Her Majesty, and of Papers and Returns laid before the Conference.

We have, &c.,

JOHN HALL,
CROSBIE WARD.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

Enclosure No. 1.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POSTAL CONFERENCE HELD AT MELBOURNE.

MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1867.

The following gentlemen, representatives of the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand, were present:—

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch.	Queensland	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. Henry Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. Joseph Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia...	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut.	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,		

The Honorable James McCulloch having been elected to the Chair, it was

Resolved—That the proceedings of the Conference shall be strictly private, and that the results of the deliberations shall not be made known without the concurrence of the Conference.

Resolved—That the Conference shall sit daily at 11 a.m.

Resolved—That the representatives of each Government undertake that the respective Governments shall recommend to their Parliaments the adoption of measures to carry out all the resolutions of the Conference to which they may individually have given their assent.

The meeting then adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 5th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. J. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia...	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the representatives, after conferring until 2 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 7th March, at 11 a.m., in order that time might be allowed for the preparation of certain returns.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. Henry Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia...	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the returns ordered, numbered 1 and 2 respectively, were handed in.

General discussion then ensued, in the course of which papers were read by Mr. Docker, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Macalister. These papers having been ordered to be printed, and the return numbered 2 having been ordered to be amended, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. until 11 a.m. on Friday, the 8th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

FRIDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia...	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Memoranda from the representatives of New Zealand, Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria, were handed in and ordered to be printed.

General discussion ensued.

It was resolved—That at the next meeting of the Conference the proposal of Mr. Macalister, that there be three postal routes, shall be first considered, and that resolutions be submitted thereupon.

Letter from the Manager, Australasian Steam Navigation Company, dated 23rd February, 1867, was read to the meeting, which then adjourned, at 2 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Monday, the 11th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	... The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

Mr. Macalister proposed—That three postal routes be established, viz., *via* Suez and King George's Sound, *via* Panama, and *via* Singapore and Torres Straits, and that the cost of these services be borne by the United Kingdom and the Colonies respectively, on the basis of the proposition contained in the memorandum handed in by the representatives of New Zealand (*vide* pp. 177-8), and that the colonial moiety be paid by the Colonies respectively in the following proportions, viz.:—

Victoria	... ..	£	48,000
New South Wales	... ..		47,000
South Australia	... ..		16,000
New Zealand	... ..		39,400
Queensland	... ..		20,500
Tasmania	... ..		5,000
Western Australia	... ..		700

Amounting to £177,000

being moiety of the estimated cost of the three lines with branch services.

Seconded by Mr. Gore.

Discussion ensued.

Copy of resolutions to be moved by Mr. Parkes handed in.—Ordered to be printed. (*See below.*)

Memorandum handed in by the representatives of South Australia.—Ordered to be printed.

(*Vide* p. 179.)

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 12th.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	... The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Mr. Macalister requested to be allowed to withdraw the resolution standing in his name in favor of the following—moved by Mr. Parkes:—

"1. That any scheme of ocean postal communication agreed upon by this Conference should, in providing for the general convenience, be so adapted to special interests as to secure the concurrence and support of all the associated Colonies.

"2. That any such scheme will be valuable to each of the Colonies in proportion to the number of points of commercial intercourse which it shall be made to include, in combination of expedition and regularity of conveyance between Great Britain and Australia.

"3. That the facilities for the transmission of merchandise and for passenger traffic ought not to be overlooked as collateral advantages.

"4. That the advantage of more rapid telegraphic communication by way of Torres Straits commends that route to the favorable consideration of the Conference.

"5. That the contributions of the associated Colonies to the cost of any such general scheme should be proportioned, not so much by calculations of the actual population or the post office correspondence, as on the basis of a compromise of interests and preference in view of a common federal object.

"6. That, considering our political connection as dependencies of the Crown, and the interest of England as a commercial nation in the trade and progress of the Colonies, one-half of the cost of any such aggregate scheme ought in justice to be borne by the Imperial Government.

"7. That in the proposed federal action, the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand are considered as possessing equal interests, which may be approximately estimated as follows:—

Victoria.—On the basis of population and commerce, with her general interest in Australian progress, and her special interest in the maintenance of the Suez route, from her undoubted priority of advantages derived from it.

New South Wales.—On the basis of population and commerce and the same general interest, with her supposed greater interest with the Panama route.

New Zealand.—On the same basis of individual and general interest, with her undoubted priority of advantages in communication *via* Panama.

"8. That the interests of Queensland, governed by her geographical situation, require a special service which does not present any considerable advantages to the other Colonies, but that it is not desirable that Queensland should be disunited from the other Colonies in the settlement of this question.

"9. That the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania, partly owing to specialities of social character, and partly to the limitation of their intercolonial relations, will be least affected by any new adjustment of the existing postal arrangements.

"10. That in order to establish a postal system affording regular fortnightly communication by three lines, *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore, *via* Melbourne and South Australia to Suez, and *via* New Zealand to Panama, with the necessary branch services, the six Colonies represented at this Conference should contribute a moiety not exceeding £200,000 of the total cost, in the following proportions, viz. :—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
Queensland	...	...	...	...	One-seventh.
South Australia	...	...	...	...	One-twelfth.
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	One-fiftieth.

"11. That it is expedient that the six Colonies represented at this Conference should act in concert in urging these views, and should join in a memorial to Her Majesty, setting forth the mutual advantages to be derived by England and Australia from their adoption."

Seconded by Mr. Docker.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ward moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the eighth resolution proposed by Mr. Parkes :—

"That this Conference, while deeming it inexpedient to establish at present three lines of communication for postal purposes, will be prepared to consider any reasonable proposal which may be made for a joint contribution to a steam service to be established by Queensland *via* Torres Straits to Singapore, in addition to any general postal system which may be agreed upon."

Seconded by Mr. Hall.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ward's amendment was then put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result :—

For.	Against.
Victoria, New Zealand.	New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland.

The amendment was accordingly lost.

Mr. Parkes' resolutions were then considered.

The first resolution was put to the meeting and agreed to without amendment.

The second resolution was agreed to after being amended by striking out the words "in combination," second line, and inserting in lieu the word "consistently."

The third resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The fourth resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The fifth resolution was agreed to without amendment.

The sixth resolution was agreed to after being amended by striking out the word "England," and inserting in lieu the words "Great Britain" (second line), and by striking out the words "in justice," in the last line.

On the seventh resolution being considered, Mr. Hall proposed that the word "and," after "New South Wales," in first line, be struck out, and that the words "and Queensland" be inserted after the words "New Zealand," in second line.

Seconded by Mr. Ward.

The amendment was put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result :—

For.	Against.
New Zealand.	Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland.

The amendment was accordingly lost, and the original resolution, as proposed, was agreed to.

The eighth resolution was agreed to, after inserting the word "postal" after the word "considerable," in second line.

The ninth resolution was agreed to, after striking out all the words from "partly," first line, to "relations" inclusive, in second line, and by striking out the words "any new," second line, and inserting in lieu "the proposed."

On the tenth resolution being considered, it was proposed by Mr. Boucaut, and seconded by Mr. Duffield, That the proportion to be borne by South Australia shall be one-thirteenth, and that by Tasmania be one forty-seventh.

This amendment was put to the meeting by the Chairman, with the following result :—

For.	Against.
South Australia, New Zealand.	Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania.

The amendment was accordingly lost, and the original resolution, as proposed, was agreed to.

The eleventh resolution was agreed to, after striking out the word "England," last line, and inserting the words "United Kingdom" in lieu.

The whole of the resolutions, as follow, were then unanimously agreed to.

"1. That any scheme of ocean postal communication agreed upon by this Conference should, in providing for the general convenience, be so adapted to special interests as to secure the concurrence and support of all the associated Colonies.

"2. That any such scheme will be valuable to each of the Colonies in proportion to the number of points of commercial intercourse which it shall be made to include, consistently with expedition and regularity of conveyance between Great Britain and Australia.

"3. That the facilities for the transmission of merchandise and for passenger traffic ought not to be overlooked as collateral advantages.

"4. That the advantage of more rapid telegraphic communication by way of Torres Straits commends that route to the favorable consideration of the Conference.

"5. That the contributions of the associated Colonies to the cost of any such general scheme should be proportioned, not so much by calculations of the actual population or the post office correspondence, as on the basis of a compromise of interests and preferences in view of a common federal object.

"6. That, considering our political connection as dependencies of the Crown, and the interest of Great Britain as a commercial nation in the trade and progress of the Colonies, one-half of the cost of any such aggregate scheme ought to be borne by the Imperial Government.

"7. That in the proposed federal action, the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand are considered as possessing equal interests, which may be approximately estimated as follows:—

Victoria.—On the basis of population and commerce, with her general interest in Australian progress, and her special interest in the maintenance of the Suez route, from her undoubted priority of advantages derived from it.

New South Wales.—On the basis of population and commerce and the same general interest, with her supposed greater interest in the Panama route.

New Zealand.—On the same basis of individual and general interest, with her undoubted priority of advantages in communication *via* Panama.

"8. That the interests of Queensland, governed by her geographical situation, require a special service which does not present any considerable postal advantages to the other Colonies, but that it is not desirable that Queensland should be disunited from the other Colonies in the settlement of this question.

"9. That the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania will be least affected by the proposed adjustment of the existing postal arrangements.

"10. That, in order to establish a postal system affording regular fortnightly communication by three lines, *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore, *via* Melbourne and South Australia to Suez, and *via* New Zealand to Panama, with the necessary branch services, the six Colonies represented at this Conference should contribute a moiety, not exceeding £200,000, of the total cost, in the following proportions, viz.:—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	One-fourth.
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	One-seventh.
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	One-twelfth.
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	One fiftieth.

"11. That it is expedient that the six Colonies represented at this Conference should act in concert in urging these views, and should join in a Memorial to Her Majesty, setting forth the mutual advantages to be derived by Great Britain and Australia from their adoption."

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, 14th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

Victoria	...	The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	...	The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	...	The Hon. J. F. Verdon.	"	...	The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	...	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	...	The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	...	The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	...	The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	...	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	...	Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	...	The Hon. W. Duffield.			

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

It was proposed by Mr. Ward, and seconded by Mr. Verdon, That in the absence of a representative from Western Australia, the contribution of that Colony to the postal service remain as heretofore.

Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Docker, and seconded by Mr. Parkes, That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is expedient that the Colonies in combination should undertake to contract for all Australian services requisite to carry out the resolutions adopted by this Conference, in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Treasury Minute of the Imperial Government of 4th September, 1866.

Carried unanimously.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. Mr. Chapman gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, That the contract for the main service or services be for seven (7) years certain, and that two years' notice of intention to discontinue be given at the expiration of such term.

2. Mr. Verdon gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move—

(1.) That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is expedient, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions which have been adopted, that a Federal Council be established, consisting of representatives of the Australasian Colonies.

(2.) That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise, from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council.

3. Mr. Verdon gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, That the rate of speed to be maintained on the main lines be not less than 10 knots per hour, and that the vessels to be employed on the King George's Sound and Panama routes be not less than 1,500 tons register, and on the Torres Straits route, 1,000 tons register.

4. Mr. Hall gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference, he will make certain propositions relative to the several branch services.

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Friday, the 15th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed,—

It was moved by Mr. Chapman,—That any contract for carrying on the main service or services shall be for seven (7) years.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Chapman consented to the following amended resolution, which was agreed to by the Conference:—

"That, with a view to economy in making arrangements for the contracts for carrying out the main service or services, such contracts should be terminable by two years' notice, to be given at any time not being earlier than five years from the commencement of the contract."

Mr. Verdon's motion (No. 2) respecting the establishing of a Federal Council was postponed until next meeting of Conference.

Mr. Verdon moved, That the rate of speed to be maintained on the main lines be not less than 10 knots per hour, and that the vessels to be employed in the King George's Sound and Panama routes be not less than 1,500 tons register, and on the Torres Straits route 1,000 tons register.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Verdon consented to the following amended resolution, which was agreed to by the Conference:—

"That the rate of speed to be maintained on the main lines be not less than 10 knots per hour, exclusive of stoppages; and that the tonnage of the vessels to be employed on the King George's Sound and Panama routes be not less than 1,500, and on the Torres Straits route not less than 1,000 tons."

Mr. Hall handed in List of Branch Services.—Ordered to be printed. [*Vide* p. 180.]

Mr. Ward handed in Sketch Time Table.—Ordered to be printed. [*Vide* p. 183.]

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. Mr. Gore gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference the representatives of Queensland will intimate to the Conference that it is the intention of the Colony they represent to proceed with the extension of the electric telegraph wire beyond Port Denison, until it reaches a point at or near the Gulf of Carpentaria, where it is intended to unite with the submarine cable of the Anglo-Indian Telegraph Company.

2. Mr. Gore gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, That in any contract entered into for the conveyance of mails *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits, it shall be stipulated that the mail steamships shall receive and deliver mails at Keppel Bay and at Port Denison.

3. Mr. Hall gave notice that, in accordance with intimation already given, he will at the next meeting of the Conference move resolutions on the subject of the contribution to be made to the present cost of the Panama Service, pending the decision of the Imperial Government on the resolutions already agreed to by the Conference.

4. Mr. Verdon gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move—

(1.) That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is expedient, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions which have been adopted, that a Federal Council be established, consisting of Representatives of the Australasian Colonies.

(2.) That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council.

The meeting then adjourned, at 2 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 16th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	South Australia	The Hon. W. Duffield.
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	Queensland	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed,—

Mr. Gore, at the suggestion of the Conference, agreed to the following amended intimation on the subject of the extension of the Electric Telegraph in Queensland, being entered on the minutes of proceedings:—

“That it is the intention of the Colony of Queensland to proceed with the extension of the Electric Telegraph wire beyond Port Denison, until it reaches the point where it is intended to unite with the submarine cable of the Anglo-Indian Telegraph Company, provided that if within two (2) years, no steps are in progress for laying the submarine cable, the Colony will establish a line to Cape York.”

Mr. Gore consented to his motion on the subject of the mail steamers calling at the northern ports of Queensland being amended as follows:—

“That in any contract entered into for the conveyance of the mails *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits, it shall be stipulated that the mail steamships shall receive and deliver mails at Keppel Bay and Port Denison, provided the total delay each trip shall not exceed six (6) hours.”

The resolution, as amended, having been seconded by Mr. Verdon, “was agreed to by the Conference.”

Mr. Hall moved:—

“That pending the coming into operation of the General Scheme of Postal Communication decided on by the Conference, it is expedient that a joint contribution should be made to the cost of the Panama Mail Service, in consideration of this service being thrown open for use by all the Australian Colonies.

“That in pursuance of the foregoing resolution, mails to and from all these Colonies should be conveyed by the Panama steamers, free of charge, and that the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, should furnish a joint annual contribution of £20,000 to the cost of this service.”

Seconded by Mr. Parkes.

Discussion ensued.

Consideration of motion postponed until next meeting of Conference.

Mr. Verdon consented to his motion (No. 1) on the subject of the establishing of a Federal Council being amended as follows:—

“That it is expedient, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions of this Conference, that a Federal Council be established, consisting of representatives of the Australasian Colonies.”

The resolution, as amended, having been seconded by Mr. Parkes, was agreed to by the Conference.

The consideration of Mr. Verdon's motion (No. 2) on the same subject was postponed until the next meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Parkes handed in draft Memorial to Her Majesty the Queen, which was read to the Conference and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Parkes gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, That the Memorial to Her Majesty, read on the 16th, be adopted by the Conference.

Mr. Hall gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, That “The List of Branch Mail Services required,” submitted by him (p. 180), be adopted by the Conference.

Mr. Ward gave notice that at the next meeting of Conference he will move, That the “Sketch Time Table” submitted by him (No. I., p. 183), be considered by the Conference.

Mr. Verdon gave notice that at the next meeting of the Conference he will move, in connection with the resolution agreed to, in favor of establishing a Federal Council—

“That in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council.”

The meeting then adjourned at 12 noon, until 10 a.m., on Monday, the 18th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1867.

Present:

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
”	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	”	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
”	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	... The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	”	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
”	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Mr. Parkes moved the adoption of the Memorial addressed to Her Majesty and read on the 16th March.

Seconded by Mr. Docker.

The Memorial was then taken into consideration, and agreed to by the Conference, after being amended. [*Vide* p. 174.]

Mr. Parkes moved the adoption of the following resolutions:—

- (1.) “That the Memorial to Her Majesty be signed by all the members of this Conference, each member signifying the office he holds, and, if a member of the Executive Council, his position as such.
- (2.) “That a correct copy of the Memorial be prepared on parchment, and signed in the manner aforesaid, for each Government.
- (3.) “That the Representatives of each Colony, on the conclusion of the sittings of this Conference, take the necessary steps, without delay, to obtain the approval of the Executive to the Memorial.

- (4.) "That the Governors of the Australian Colonies be advised to transmit the Memorial for presentation to Her Majesty by the mail leaving Australia in April, *via* Suez, and the Governor of New Zealand by the first mail afterwards; and that their Excellencies be requested to explain to the Secretary of State the occasion of the assembling of this Conference, and the results of its deliberations.
- (5.) "That the Governments of the Colonies represented at this Conference adopt such measures as may be necessary as early as may be convenient after the assembling of Parliament in each case, to give legislative sanction to the agreements of this Conference.
- (6.) "That, in order to secure uniform and harmonious action on the part of the respective Governments, it is expedient that they should communicate with each other, as fully as may be practicable."

Mr. Verdon seconded the motion, and the Resolutions were agreed to by the Conference.

Mr. Docker moved the adoption of the following resolution:—

"That the respective Governments undertake to do all that may be necessary in London to further the objects of this Conference."

Mr. Parkes seconded the motion, and the resolution was agreed to by the Conference.

Mr. Hall moved the adoption of the List of Branch Services.

Mr. Ward seconded the motion.

Mr. Boucaut proposed, as an amendment, "That the arrangement for the Branch Services, in connection with the Service *via* King George's Sound, be made on the assumption that the mails by the Suez steamer be delivered at Port Adelaide."

Mr. Duffield seconded the motion, which was negatived by the Conference.

Other amendments having been consented to by Mr. Hall, the following List of Branch Services was agreed to by the Conference:—

A LIST of BRANCH MAIL SERVICES required to connect the whole of the Australian Colonies with the three lines of Postal Communication between Great Britain and Australasia, *via* Suez and King George's Sound, *via* Suez and Singapore, and *via* Panama and New Zealand.

I.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

On the arrival of the Suez steamer at Melbourne, one branch steamer to leave for Launceston and another for New Zealand. On the arrival of the same Suez steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to leave for Brisbane. Return branch steamers to leave Brisbane, New Zealand, and Launceston, in time to reach Sydney and Melbourne respectively before the departure of the steamer for Suez.

The Adelaide Mails by this line will be delivered by the Suez steamer at Kangaroo Island, and conveyed to and from that Island and Port Adelaide by a branch service.

II.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* SINGAPORE.

On the arrival of the Singapore steamer at Sydney, one branch steamer to leave that port for a port in New Zealand, and another for Melbourne. On the arrival of the latter vessel at Melbourne, either the same or another steamer to proceed to Adelaide, and a branch steamer also to proceed to Launceston. Branch steamers to return to Melbourne and Sydney respectively in time to catch a return Mail to Singapore.

III.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* PANAMA.

On the arrival of the Panama steamer at Wellington, a branch steamer to leave for Melbourne. On its arrival there, either the same or another vessel to proceed to Adelaide, and another branch steamer to proceed to Launceston. On arrival of the Panama steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to proceed to Brisbane. The branch steamers to return to Sydney and Wellington respectively in time for a return Mail to Panama.

All the branch services to be performed at a speed of not less than nine and a half ($9\frac{1}{2}$) knots per hour. The several branch steamers to take their departure, on the outward journey, within six hours after the arrival of the trunk-line steamer; and, if necessary, to wait her arrival for a period not exceeding three days beyond her due date.

SUMMARY.

- I.—KING GEORGE'S SOUND LINE.
1. Kangaroo Island to Port Adelaide and back.
 2. Melbourne to Launceston and back.
 3. Melbourne to New Zealand and back.
 4. Sydney to Brisbane and back.

- II.—SINGAPORE LINE.
1. Sydney to New Zealand and back.
 2. Sydney to Melbourne and back.
 3. Melbourne to Adelaide and back.
 4. Melbourne to Launceston and back.

- III.—PANAMA LINE.
1. Wellington to Melbourne and back.
 2. Melbourne to Adelaide and back.
 3. Melbourne to Launceston and back.
 4. Sydney to Brisbane and back.

Mr. Ward's Sketch Time-Table was then brought forward, and ordered to be recorded with the Minutes of the proceedings.

Mr. Hall's motion, respecting contribution to be made by the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania towards the cost of the Panama Service, pending the coming into operation of the general scheme of Postal communication decided on, was postponed until next meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Verdon proposed that, after the resolution already agreed to by the Conference in favor of establishing a Federal Council, the following be inserted:—

"That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council."

Seconded by Mr. Boucaut, and agreed to by the Conference, that the resolutions stand as follows:—

- (1.) "That it is expedient, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions of this Conference, that a Federal Council be established, consisting of representatives of the Australasian Colonies."
- (2.) "That, in the opinion of this Conference, other subjects of common interest, as they arise from time to time, may be advantageously referred to such a Council."

The meeting then adjourned at 4.30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1867.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. J. McCulloch,	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	... The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

The motion submitted by Mr. Hall on the 16th March was taken into consideration.

Mr. Hall consented to the resolutions standing in his name being amended as follows:—

"That, pending the coming into operation of the general scheme of Postal communication decided upon by the Conference, it is expedient that a joint contribution should be made to the cost of the Panama Mail Service, in consideration of this service being thrown open for use by all the Australian Colonies; and that the Colonial Governments should unite in their efforts to adjust the Panama Service as at present carried on, so as to make it alternate as nearly as practicable with the Suez line."

"That, in pursuance of the foregoing resolution, mails to and from all these Colonies should be conveyed by the Panama steamers, free of charge; and that the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, should furnish a joint annual contribution of £20,000 to the cost of this service."

The representatives of Victoria offered to contribute the sum of £11,000 per annum towards the maintenance of the Panama Service, on the condition that the Victorian mails by that route are delivered at and despatched from Melbourne *via* Wellington, New Zealand, free of further cost, and that the service is made to alternate as nearly as possible as a fortnightly service with that *via* Point de Galle and King George's Sound.

Discussion ensued, and the consideration of Mr. Hall's motion was further adjourned until next meeting of Conference.

The meeting then adjourned at 2 p.m. until 10 a.m. on the 20th March.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1867.

Present :

Victoria	... The Hon. James McCulloch	Queensland	... The Hon. A. Macalister,
"	... The Hon. G. F. Verdon.	"	... The Hon. St. George R. Gore.
New South Wales	The Hon. H. Parkes,	Tasmania	... The Hon. T. D. Chapman.
"	... The Hon. J. Docker.	New Zealand	... The Hon. J. Hall,
South Australia	... The Hon. J. P. Boucaut,	"	... Crosbie Ward, Esq.
"	... The Hon. W. Duffield.		

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed—

Mr. Docker submitted the following Memorandum for the consideration of the Conference in connection with the Resolutions standing in Mr. Hall's name:—

Memorandum handed in by Mr. Docker.

Under the general arrangement, the Colonies have agreed to pay a moiety of the Panama line, as forming part of a general service, in certain proportions.

The moiety being £55,000, the contributions of each Colony is as follows:—

	£
Victoria, 1-4th	= 13,750
New South Wales, 1-4th	= 13,750
New Zealand, 1-4th	= 13,750
Queensland, 1-7th	= 7,858
South Australia, 1-12th	= 4,584
Tasmania, 1-50th	= 1,100

If, therefore, during the provisional arrangement, the Colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand take upon themselves the payment of the Imperial moiety, the contributions will stand thus:—

	£
New South Wales	41,250
New Zealand	41,250
Victoria	13,750
Queensland	7,858
South Australia	4,584
Tasmania	1,100

But these proportional contributions included the provisions for the branch services connected with this line.

These branch services would be as follows:—

	£
Wellington to Melbourne	say 6,000
Sydney to Brisbane	" 2,400
Melbourne to Adelaide	" 2,400
Melbourne to Tasmania	" 1,000
	£11,800

to be defrayed out of the common fund.

The proportion of the non-contracting Colonies, supposing the whole of this portion of the subsidy was credited to them, would be—

	£
Victoria, 1-4th	= 2,950
Queensland, 1-7th	= 1,685
South Australia, 1-12th	= 983
Tasmania, 1-50th	= 236

If therefore, these branch lines were not carried into effect during the provisional arrangement, and each Colony obtained its letters by the earliest opportunity, the proportion of each, founded on the joint agreement, would stand thus—

Victoria	£13,750	—	£2,950	=	10,800		
Queensland	7,858	—	1,685	=	6,173		
South Australia	4,584	—	983	=	3,601		
Tasmania	1,100	—	236	=	864		
					£21,438		

Mr. Boucaut submitted the following Memorandum:—

"If New Zealand is entitled to interior contribution for the Panama service, so is South Australia in an equal degree entitled to interior contribution for the cost of the King George's Sound branch service, which unjustly ignores her geographical position; although, in consideration of the general agreement assented to, South Australia waives her claim for any such interior contributions."

Mr. Hall requested permission to withdraw the resolutions standing in his name in favor of the following, moved by Mr. Ward:—

That, until the amalgamated postal service proposed by the Conference shall be determined one way or other, it is reasonable and expedient that the Panama line of mail steamers at present existing should be jointly made use of and supported, in addition to the Suez service, by all the Colonies.

That it is desirable that the associated Colonies should use their joint endeavors so to arrange the Panama and Suez services as that the arrivals and departures of mails thereby at the several colonial ports shall fall as nearly as possible at equal intervals.

That, in consideration of the varying circumstances and liabilities of the several Colonies, it is expedient that the contributions of the Colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, should be fixed at the total sum of £12,000 per annum, in equal reduction of the sums paid by New South Wales and New Zealand respectively; and that the four first-mentioned Colonies should share such contribution between them in the following proportions, viz.:—Victoria, £9,000; Queensland, £2,000; South Australia, £550; Tasmania, £450.

That the transit and other incidental expenses of the conveyance of correspondence, and the cost of all branch services, should be borne by the Colony concerned in each case.

Mr. Verdon moved the following amendment:—

That pending the commencement of the new postal arrangements agreed to by this Conference, the Colonies which do not contract for the Panama service should contribute in proportion to the advantage thus derived from it, either—

1st. On the understanding that the service be made to alternate with the service *via* Suez, and that the mails be delivered directly.

2nd. On the understanding that the service remain as at present.

In either case the payments to be made either in proportion to the extent to which the non-contracting Colonies use the service, to be determined by the result, or in fixed sum, to be agreed upon, in either case, between the contracting Colonies on the one hand, and the non-contracting Colonies individually on the other.

Prolonged discussion ensued; and there being no prospect of unanimity, the motion and amendment respectively were not pressed to a division.

Mr. Verdon proposed the following Resolution—

That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is desirable that direct steam communication should be established by way of the Cape of Good Hope, by means of large steamers carrying mails and passengers cheaply, quickly and regularly, between Great Britain and Australasia.

Seconded by Mr. Parkes.

The motion was not pressed to a division.

Mr. Ward withdrew the motion standing in his name.

Mr. Chapman moved—

That, pending the coming into operation of the postal communication decided upon by this Conference, it is expedient that a four-weekly service *via* Suez be maintained.

Seconded by Mr. Verdon.

After discussion, it was agreed to leave the question to be settled by the Home Government.

Mr. Parkes moved—“That, in order to give authorized and uniform publicity to the proceedings of the Conference, the following arrangement be agreed to, viz. :—

- (1.) “That the Government of Victoria be at liberty to lay copies of the proceedings, as read and confirmed by the Chairman, on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, on Thursday, the 28th of March.
- (2.) “That the Governments of New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, be at liberty to publish copies of the proceedings, in the same form, in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, or other manner to be decided upon by each Government, on the same day.
- (3.) “That the Government of New Zealand be at liberty to publish copy of the proceedings in same form, in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, or other manner, immediately on the arrival of the representatives of that Colony at Wellington.”

Seconded by Mr. Docker, and agreed to by the Conference.

Proposed by Mr. Parkes :—

“That this Conference desire to leave on record their acknowledgments of the courteous attention of the Honorable James McCulloch, in presiding over their proceedings.”

Seconded by Mr Macalister, and carried unanimously.

The proceedings of the Conference were then brought to a close.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

Enclosure No. 2.

MEMORIAL TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

The Memorial of the Undersigned most humbly and dutifully sheweth :

That the six Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, by the duly accredited Representatives of their respective Governments assembled in Conference in the City of Melbourne, approach Your Majesty with feelings of profound loyalty and attachment to Your Majesty's throne and person.

Your Majesty's Colonial Governments have had under their consideration a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Earl of Carnarvon, one of Your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, enclosing a Treasury Minute of September the 4th, 1866, in which they are urgently invited, in combination, to provide for the Steam Postal Service between Point de Galle and Australia, the Imperial Government engaging to pay one-half of the necessary subsidy. Your Majesty's Australasian dependencies are prepared to respond to an invitation so appreciative of their ability to direct their own affairs; but they feel it incumbent on them to represent to Your Majesty that a single branch service connecting them with the Ocean Postal System of India and China is no longer adequate to their wants, or sufficient to meet the demands of British interests. The rapid progress of these Colonies in population and in all the elements of national wealth, and the widely differing conditions that control their progress, not only render increased facilities of intercourse with the United Kingdom a necessity for the group, but also render it impossible to give equal advantages to all, or to avoid inflicting injustice on some, by any one service. While the productive capabilities and the commerce of the associated Colonies have attained a magnitude which, it is humbly submitted, entitles them to a foremost place in the consideration of Great Britain, their geographical extent imposes upon them deprivations and hardships which can only be alleviated by new and various means of communication with the rest of the world. The farther the settlement of population advances, the greater becomes the difficulty. Thus the enterprise of the Colonists, in extending the bounds of the Empire, and spreading the lustre of Your Majesty's name, entails upon them the penalty of their more certain exclusion from British intelligence. In the early years of Australian colonization, this virtual banishment was a condition of life to be faced and endured as inevitable; but the Colonies of the present day, as fields of production and markets of consumption for the national manufactures, have advanced to a position which makes their intimate connection not less important to the United Kingdom than to themselves.

The imports into the six Colonies during the year 1865, as valued at the different ports of arrival, amounted to thirty-five millions sterling; and although the estimate includes the intercolonial trade carried on by Your Majesty's Australasian subjects, and the imports from foreign countries, by far the greater part of this sea-borne commerce assists in sustaining the manufacturing power of the United Kingdom. Their exports—consisting principally of gold and wool—for the same period amounted to more than thirty millions. The following are the returns for the several Colonies :—

	Imports.	Exports.
Victoria	£13,257,537	£13,150,748
New South Wales	9,928,595	8,191,170
New Zealand	5,594,977	3,713,218
South Australia	2,927,596	3,129,846
Queensland... ..	2,505,559	1,153,464
Tasmania	762,375	880,965
	<u>£34,976,639</u>	<u>£30,219,411</u>

Within the last sixteen years, the two Colonies of Victoria and New South Wales have produced a supply of gold amounting in value to One hundred and fifty millions sterling, five-sixths of which has been the produce of Victoria alone. The Colony of New South Wales has raised from the earth 4,617,100 tons of coal, valued at £2,742,224; and her coal fields north and south of the port of Sydney may be said to be inexhaustible. The Colonies of New Zealand and South Australia are eminently favored in the rich variety of their resources. New Zealand has risen within the last few years to an important position as a producer of gold and wool. In ten years the Colony of South Australia has exported copper of the value of £4,751,638, while the produce of her corn fields is unsurpassed by other countries. The Colony of Queensland, in addition to her pastoral and mineral wealth, has established by successful experiment her capability of growing both cotton and sugar. Nor are the resources of Tasmania unimportant to the British Empire. Her wool, grain and timber, with the oil of her whale fisheries, form a valuable part of Australian exports. In the year 1865 the exports of the associated Colonies, in five articles of production, which are selected for their conspicuous value to the world, amounted to more than twenty-one millions sterling. The results are given from the latest official returns:—

	Wool.	Gold.	Coal.	Copper Ore.	Grain of all kinds.
Victoria	3,315,109	6,190,317	...	...	...
New South Wales	1,624,114	2,647,668	274,303	...	...
New Zealand	1,141,761	2,226,474	...	...	...
South Australia	964,397	...	...	618,472	1,228,480
Queensland... ..	885,299	101,352	...	...	...
Tasmania	381,625	...	...	...	107,268
	<u>£8,312,305</u>	<u>£11,165,811</u>	<u>£274,303</u>	<u>£618,472</u>	<u>£1,335,748</u>

If the position of the six associated Colonies be tested by the number of the shipping visiting their various ports, its importance to Great Britain will be equally manifest. The shipping returns of 1865 for the Australasian Colonies give an aggregate of arrivals amounting to 1,969,091 tons, and 2,018,224 tons as the aggregate of departures. The following table will show the distribution of this tonnage amongst the six Colonies:—

	Inwards. Tons.	Outwards. Tons.
Victoria	580,973	599,351
New South Wales	635,888	690,294
New Zealand	295,625	283,020
South Australia	183,102	174,188
Queensland	173,227	167,153
Tasmania	100,276	104,218
	<u>1,969,091</u>	<u>2,018,224</u>

The present number of those animals most useful to man, as compared with the number only forty-two years ago, will exhibit alike the progress and the internal wealth of the Colonies. In the year 1825 there were in all Australia, 6142 horses, 134,519 head of horned cattle, and 237,622 sheep. In 1865 the returns for the Australian Colonies alone were as follows:—

	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.
Victoria	121,051	621,337	8,835,380
New South Wales	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511
South Australia	73,993	158,057	3,779,308
Queensland	51,091	887,856	6,810,005
Tasmania	22,152	90,020	1,736,540
	<u>550,874</u>	<u>3,719,175</u>	<u>29,293,744</u>

The number of Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Australasia is fast approaching an aggregate of two millions, and the evidences of their successful industry and enterprise which are here recorded, though necessarily brief and imperfect, will not fail to ensure for them Your Majesty's gracious consideration. The interests of commerce are strong in uniting Colonies to the parent country, but stronger still is the glory of an advancing civilization which belongs to the remotest British dependency as part of a great nation under Your Majesty's beneficent reign. Nor will Your Majesty be insensible to those claims of the poorest of your subjects which grow out of affections that cannot be severed with separated households. The parent in England and the child in Australia, actually as well as figuratively, feel the need of a closer and more constant intimacy.

The four continental Colonies of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, occupy a seaboard of not less than three thousand miles, with points of settlement and traffic throughout its extent; and the islands of New Zealand are a thousand miles distant from the Australian coast. The letters brought by the way of Cape Leeuin by a mail steamer calling at any port in the Colony of South Australia, could not be forwarded from that point by any practicable means of communication to Your Majesty's subjects at the northern ports of Queensland under twelve or fourteen days, or to the ports of New Zealand under nine. A steamer arriving by the Torres Straits route would afford still less satisfaction, as the most populous Colonies would be the last to receive their letters. The means of communication with many important settlements in the interior of Australia is only by a journey of several days, and cannot, on account of cost, be more frequent than once or twice a week. It will thus be seen that any single monthly line of steamers would leave large numbers of Your Majesty's subjects unable to reply to their correspondence by the return mails, and that any two or more lines by the same route would fail in affording general satisfaction.

The Representatives of the several Colonies assembled in Conference, after careful and anxious consideration of the whole subject, on behalf of their respective Governments, approach Your Majesty, and humbly and dutifully represent that, in order to meet the demands of the large and growing commerce of these Colonies, and to serve in a satisfactory manner the complicated interests that connect them with the United Kingdom, it has now become necessary to maintain three Ocean Postal Services; one by way of King George's Sound, one by way of Torres Straits, and one by way of New Zealand and Panama. The last two of these routes have been opened successfully by the enterprise of Your Majesty's subjects in Australia and New Zealand; and their advantages to the Colonies most nearly affected by them are too apparent to be relinquished.

The associated Colonies, by their Representatives in Conference, have agreed to contribute annually a moiety not exceeding £200,000 of the entire cost of maintaining these three lines of postal communication, and they are prepared to act in combination in contracting for the necessary services to open and maintain these routes in connection with Your Majesty's contract services to India and China and to the West Indies. They humbly pray that Your Majesty may be advised to take such steps as may be expedient, by terminating or re-adjusting present contracts, or calling for fresh tenders for the performance of the main services, to establish the proposed United Australasian Postal System without drawing upon the limited resources of the Colonies beyond the large sum which they cheerfully undertake to pay.

Your Memorialists humbly urge the claims of the great Colonies they represent to the favorable consideration of Your Most Gracious Majesty, and they trust that a project so closely in harmony with the spirit of British enterprise, so essential for the development of British trade, so calculated in its effects to promote the welfare of Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Australasia, and one in which the whole of the Colonies are acting in union, may receive Your Majesty's royal favor and support.

And Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects will ever pray.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| (Signed) | JAMES McCULLOCH, Chief Secretary, and Member of the Executive Council of Victoria. |
| (Signed) | GEO. VERDON, Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council, Victoria. |
| (Signed) | HENRY PARKES, Colonial Secretary, and Member of the Executive Council, New South Wales. |
| (Signed) | JOSEPH DOCKER, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, New South Wales. |
| (Signed) | JOHN HALL, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, New Zealand. |
| (Signed) | CROSBIE WARD, Special Representative of New Zealand. |
| (Signed) | JAS. P. BOUCAUT, Attorney-General, and Member of the Executive Council, South Australia. |
| (Signed) | WALTER DUFFIELD, Colonial Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council, South Australia. |
| (Signed) | A. MACALISTER, Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Colonial Secretary of Queensland. |
| (Signed) | ST. GEORGE R. GORE, Postmaster-General, and Member of the Executive Council, Queensland. |
| (Signed) | THOS. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Council of Tasmania. |

Melbourne, 20th March, A.D. 1867.

Enclosure No. 3.

PAPERS SUBMITTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIX COLONIES OF VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, AND TASMANIA.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE scheme of Postal Communication between the Australasian Colonies and Great Britain, which appears to the Delegates from New Zealand to present the greatest advantages and to be most likely to prove satisfactory both to the Mother Country and to the Colonies, is one under which the two services by way of Panama and Suez, should be regarded as constituting one aggregate line of Postal Communication, so timed as to alternate as far as possible fortnightly with each other; the total cost

of the joint services being divided equally between the Mother Country and the Colonies, and the Colonial moiety being allocated to the several Colonies in proportion either to the amount of their correspondence, to the extent of their population, or perhaps according to a combination of both. It is assumed that the Imperial Government will agree to pay half the cost of the combined service; it is very improbable that, if the Colonies are unanimous in support of such a scheme as that now proposed, and memorialise the Home Government to that effect, that Government will refuse to bear an equal share of the necessary expense.

The total expense may be taken as follows:—

Panama Service, including costs of Isthmus transit	£120,000
Suez Service, including share of service between Southampton and Galle	147,000
Branch Services*—	
To Tasmania	2,000
To Queensland	4,000
To New Zealand	12,000
To South Australia	4,000
	<u>£289,000</u>
Colonial moiety	<u>£144,500</u>

*Estimated cost of Branch services necessary to connect the amalgamated Suez and Panama services with all the Colonies:—

Colony served.	In connection with		Total.
	The Suez Line.	The Panama Line.	
	£	£	£
South Australia	Nil.	From Melbourne 4,000	4,000
Tasmania	From Melbourne 1,000	From Melbourne 1,000	2,000
Victoria	Nil.	From New Zealand 6,000	6,000
Queensland	From Sydney 2,000	From Sydney 2,000	4,000
New Zealand	From Melbourne 6,000	Nil.	6,000
New South Wales	Nil.	Nil.	—
Totals	£9,000	£13,000	£22,000

The apportionment of the Colonial moiety, if made strictly according either to population or correspondence, would be, in round figures as follows:—

Victoria	According to Population.	According to Correspondence.
New South Wales	£55,000	£48,000
South Australia	36,000	24,000
New Zealand	15,000	12,000
Queensland	19,000	36,000
Tasmania	8,000	12,000
Western Australia	8,000	8,000
	3,000	4,000
	<u>£144,000</u>	<u>£144,000</u>

But however equitable the above rules of apportionment may be, the delegates from New Zealand suggest that, having regard to existing obligations with respect to Postal Subsidies, and to the financial circumstances of the several contributing Colonies, neither of these rules should be strictly insisted upon. They propose, as a fair and reasonable adjustment, the following allocation of the Colonial moiety:—

Victoria	£
New South Wales	40,000
South Australia	37,000
New Zealand	15,000
Queensland	37,000
Tasmania	10,000
Western Australia *	4,000
	<u>700</u>
	<u>£144,500</u>

* In the absence of any representative from Western Australia, it has not been thought desirable to increase the charge upon this Colony.

In the event of the Colonial moiety proving to be either more or less than the total sum abovementioned, the contributions from the several Colonies to be proportionately increased or diminished.

It is submitted that the above payments cannot be complained of as excessive by the western group of Colonies, considering that they will be thereby entitled to a full participation in the advantages of both the Panama and Suez services, without any extra charge for correspondence sent by

either route. The payments are probably not at all heavier than would be the cost of contributions to the cost of the Suez service alone, which would devolve upon the western Colonies if the expense of this service were not shared by New South Wales and New Zealand. The above allocation is proposed as adapted to the existing circumstances of the Colonies, and should be revised at stated intervals.

The bringing into operation of the scheme now proposed need not be deferred until new contracts are obtained for the Suez service; the plan can be given effect to as soon as the assent of the Imperial Government is obtained, and in the meantime the Colonial moiety should be contributed in the proportions above stated.

It is desirable that the attention of the British Post Office should be called to the fact that if the mails proceeding from Great Britain to the Eastward are in future to be despatched at weekly intervals, the mails to the West Indies, of which the Panama line is a branch, should also be despatched at intervals of four weeks instead of a calendar month, in order that the two services may harmonise.

JOHN HALL,
CROSBIE WARD.

QUEENSLAND.

Melbourne, March, 1867.

WE, the representatives of the Government of Queensland at this Conference, and in terms of a suggestion on the part of the Conference, that each Colony should put forward its own proposal, beg to offer, for the consideration of the Conference, the two following propositions:—

There are three routes now before the Conference, viz.: that from and to Galle and Melbourne; that from and to Sydney and New Zealand *via* Panama; and that from Galle by way of Singapore and Torres Straits.

The first of our proposals is as follows:—

That the Conference should recommend to all the Colonies represented by it, to subsidize the whole of these routes, the contribution by each Colony to be in proportion to its population.

In submitting this proposition to the Conference, we do not do so because we think that for postal purposes these three routes are essential. We regard these lines as not wholly in existence for postal purposes, and we think them calculated to bring the various Colonies into direct and immediate communication with every portion of the world. We submit this proposal in the hope that by a subsidy to the three routes an amicable and united recognition may be made of the claims and interests of all the Colonies.

In the event of the above suggestion being acceded to, there will be no necessity for considering our second one; but should the Conference not concur in approval of the three routes, then our second proposition is as follows:—

The Colony of Queensland, while hitherto paying her full share, at least, for the conveyance of the mails by King George's Sound and Melbourne, has practically derived little or no benefit from that line, for it very seldom happens that the incoming mail arrives in Queensland in time to have letters answered by the outgoing mail of the same month; and in no case does it ever arrive in time for answers beyond a circuit of a few miles around Brisbane.

We propose, therefore, that the Conference should recommend the establishment of a fortnightly mail from Galle; one mail to be carried as at present by Adelaide and Melbourne, the other to be conveyed by way of Singapore and Torres Straits, the contract amount to be borne by the several Colonies as follows—one-half on the basis of population, the other half in proportion to the estimated number of letters forwarded and received by each respective Colony.

This proposal commends itself for various reasons:—

- (1.) The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers already carry the English mails to Singapore, where there are docks in which these steamers are regularly examined, and the probability therefore is, that that Company would offer to convey the mails from Singapore to Australia, by way of Torres Straits, at a less sum than any other Company.
- (2.) By the employment of good steamers, bound to a certain average speed, and on the completion of the improvements now going on in Torres Straits, the mail by that route ought to be delivered in Melbourne within a very limited period beyond that at which the present mail arrives, while the public intelligence, as announced by the electric wire, and much private and business information by the same way, would in connection with the mail steamer, reach the whole of the Colonies much earlier than by any other route.
- (3.) The line by Torres Straits and Singapore is a smooth water passage, with natural advantages unknown to any other route, and must, when well opened, be the one preferred by all passengers proceeding to England.
- (4.) Regarding the Torres Strait route as something more than a postal one to Europe, it opens up to these Colonies a new and safe means of access to India, China, Japan, and California, in place of the stormy passage by the Leeuin.

Having submitted the two foregoing propositions to the Conference, we would now add that, in the event of the rejection of both, or in the event of any modification in which we cannot concur, we reserve to ourselves the right of considering any other proposal that may be submitted, and of assenting or dissenting therefrom, either in whole or in part.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

FIRST PROPOSITION.

THE Colonies to move the Imperial Government to undertake the payment of a moiety of the lines *via* Panama, making an estimate of the contribution at present paid by the free conveyance of the Australian mails by the West Indian Mail Service.

To make the necessary provision for the carriage of the Australian mails *via* Suez as far as Galle, in conjunction with the China and Japan service.

The departure of the mails from Southampton and Sydney to be fixed respectively for the 1st and 15th of every month, making the conjoint services a fortnightly communication. The Colonies to contribute to each line *pro rata* on the system now in force on the Suez line; each Colony and England keeping its respective collections.

The Colonies to call for tenders for the performance of the service once a month, from Galle to Sydney, calling at King George's Sound and Melbourne, with a branch service to Adelaide, New Zealand, and Brisbane.

SECOND PROPOSITION.

The Imperial Government to bear the expense of delivery of the Australian mails at Singapore, keeping its collections.

The Colonies to call for tenders for a monthly service from Singapore *via* Batavia and King George's Sound (known as the Western Passage) to Sydney, delivering mails at Adelaide and Melbourne; returning *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore.

Also, for a monthly service alternating with the foregoing from Singapore *via* Batavia and Torres Straits to Melbourne, delivering mails at Brisbane and Sydney, returning *via* Adelaide and King George's Sound to Batavia and Singapore; branch mails to New Zealand and Tasmania.

Also, for an Intercolonial service to leave Sydney on the arrival of the outward mail with the mail for Brisbane; and on the other line, leaving Melbourne with the mail for Adelaide. The Intercolonial boat to leave Adelaide six days after the arrival of the outward mail, with the return mail, calling at Melbourne, and thence to Sydney, arriving there in time for the despatch of the departing mail *via* Torres Straits; and, in the alternating passage, leaving Brisbane in the same manner, calling at Sydney *en route* for Melbourne, for the steamer returning by the Western route.

The arrivals of each line-steamer to be fortnightly (say 1st and 15th); the departure, 5th and 22nd of the month.

The expense to be distributed *pro rata* on the Suez system, and each Colony to retain its own collections.

In the event of this plan being adopted, it will be necessary to fix some plan of contribution from the Colonies which are not at present contributing to the Panama line, to be apportioned by the extent to which they use it.

VICTORIA.

1. The Representatives of Victoria in the Postal Conference assembled at Melbourne, are of opinion that a Monthly Mail Service by way of Suez and King George's Sound is essential for the interests of Victoria and the other Western Colonies.

2. That it is expedient that a Fortnightly Service between England and Australia be established.

3. That this service could be most efficiently and cheaply performed by way of Suez, but that to secure the collateral advantages to be obtained by the adoption of a second route for the fortnightly service, and to enable the Australasian Colonies to act together in the matter of Postal communication, they are prepared to entertain any proposal which will secure those advantages without entailing upon the Western Colonies a disproportionate cost.

4. That if a general scheme be adopted by the Colonies in common, it is desirable that the plan of direct communication by way of the Cape of Good Hope, should be considered by the Conference.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

WE support the Suez route, believing it to be the best for the interests of the Australian Colonies generally. The ocean steamers to call at a port in South Australia.

Nevertheless, for the purpose of securing the advantages that would follow united action by the various Colonies, we would join in a more general or federal scheme, on a just estimate of the resources and geographical position of South Australia.

Melbourne, 9th March, 1867.

JAS. P. BOUCAUT,
WALTER DUFFIELD.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE MOVED BY MR. PARKES.

1. That any scheme of ocean postal communication agreed upon by this Conference should, in providing for the general convenience, be so adapted to special interests as to secure the concurrence and support of all associated Colonies.

2. That any such scheme will be valuable to each of the Colonies in proportion to the number of points of commercial intercourse which it shall be made to include, in combination with expedition and regularity of conveyance between Great Britain and Australia.

3. That the facilities for the transmission of merchandise and for passenger traffic ought not to be overlooked as collateral advantages.

4. That the contributions of the associated Colonies to the cost of any such general scheme should be proportioned, not so much by calculations of the actual population or the post office correspondence as on the basis of a compromise of interests and preferences in view of a common federal object.

5. That, considering our political connexion as dependencies of the Crown, and the interest of England as a commercial nation in the trade and progress of the Colonies, one-half of the cost of any such aggregate scheme ought in justice to be borne by the Imperial Government.

6. That in the proposed federal action the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand are considered as possessing equal interests, which may be approximately estimated as follows :

Victoria.—On the basis of population and commerce, with her general interest in Australian progress and her special interest in the maintenance of the Suez route from her undoubted priority of advantages derived from it.

New South Wales.—On the basis of population and commerce and the same general interest, with her supposed greater interest in the Panama route.

New Zealand.—On the same basis of, individual and general interest, with her undoubted priority of advantages in communication *via* Panama.

7. That the interests of Queensland, governed by her geographical situation, requires a special service which does not present any considerable advantages to the other Colonies, but that it is not desirable that Queensland should be disunited from the other Colonies in the settlement of this question.

8. That the Colonies of South Australia and Tasmania, partly owing to the specialities of social character, and partly to the limitation of their Intercolonial relations, will be least affected by any new adjustment of the existing postal arrangements.

9. That in order to establish an aggregate system, affording regular monthly communication from the port of Sydney *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore, and *via* Melbourne and Galle to Suez, and *via* New Zealand to Panama, with the necessary branch services, the six Colonies represented at this Conference should contribute a sum of £197,900 by the following proportions, or a larger or smaller sum, not exceeding £200,000 in the whole, by the same rate of apportionment, viz. :—

	£
Victoria	50,000
New South Wales	50,000
New Zealand	50,000
Queensland	27,500
South Australia	15,500
Tasmania	4,000
	£197,000

10. That it is expedient that the six Colonies represented at this Conference should act in concert in enforcing these views, and should join in a Memorial to Her Majesty, setting forth the mutual advantages to be derived by England and Australia from their adoption.

A LIST of BRANCH MAIL SERVICES required to connect the whole of the Australian Colonies with the three lines of Postal Communication between Great Britain and Australia *via* Suez and King George's Sound, *via* Suez and Singapore, and *via* Panama and New Zealand.

I.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

On the arrival of the Suez steamer at Melbourne, one branch steamer to leave for Launceston and another for New Zealand. On the arrival of the same Suez steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to leave for Brisbane. Return branch steamers to leave Brisbane, New Zealand, and Launceston, in time to reach Sydney and Melbourne respectively before the departure of the steamer for Suez.

The Adelaide mails by this line will be delivered by the Suez steamer at Kangaroo Island, and conveyed to and from thence by the South Australian Government.

II.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* SINGAPORE.

On the arrival of the Singapore steamer at Sydney, one branch steamer to leave that port for New Zealand, and another for Melbourne. On the arrival of the latter vessel at Melbourne, either the same or another steamer to proceed to Adelaide, and a branch steamer also to proceed to Launceston. Branch steamers to return to Melbourne and Sydney respectively in time to catch a return Mail to Singapore.

III.—FOR THE SERVICE *via* PANAMA.

On the arrival of the Panama steamer at Wellington, a branch steamer to leave for Melbourne. On its arrival there, either the same or another vessel to proceed to Adelaide, and another branch steamer to proceed to Launceston. On the arrival of the Panama steamer at Sydney, a branch steamer to proceed immediately to Brisbane. These branch steamers to return to Sydney and Wellington respectively in time for a return Mail to Panama.

All the branch services to be performed at a speed of not less than nine knots per hour. The several branch steamers to take their departure on the outward journey, within twelve hours after the arrival of the trunk-line steamer; and if necessary, to wait her arrival for a period not exceeding three days beyond her due date.

S U M M A R Y.

<p>I.—KING GEORGE'S SOUND LINE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Melbourne to Launceston and back. Melbourne to New Zealand and back. Sydney to Brisbane and back. 	<p>II.—SINGAPORE LINE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sydney to New Zealand and back. Sydney to Melbourne and back. Melbourne to Adelaide and back. Melbourne to Launceston and back. 	<p>III.—PANAMA LINE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington to Melbourne and back. Melbourne to Adelaide and back. Melbourne to Launceston and back. Sydney to Brisbane and back.
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COST OF OCEAN MAIL SERVICES—UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, and NEW ZEALAND, 1866.

Country Contributing.	SUEZ ROUTE.						PANAMA ROUTE.				TORRES STRAITS ROUTE.
	BRANCH SERVICES.						Between Sydney and Panama.	Isthmus Transit Rate.	Between Colon and Southampton.	Total, Panama Route.	Queensland and Batavia.
	Between Southampton and Galle.	Between Galle and Sydney.*	Between Melbourne and New Zealand.	Between Melbourne and Tasmania.	Sydney to New Zealand.	Sydney to Queensland.						Total, Suez Route.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	...	65,512 13 2	...	925 0 0	...	...	...	Nil	...	...	...
Victoria ...	6,122 10 10	22,652 6 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New South Wales ...	2,658 7 0	11,977 3 6	...	...	...	...	...	2,300 0 0	...	...	57,300 0 0
South Australia ...	1,406 3 10	3,691 17 2	9,319 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Zealand ...	4,244 4 5	19,250 5 1	6,000 0 0	...	3,000 0 0	...	...	7,700 0 0	...	...	62,700 0 0
Tasmania ...	459 12 8	1,754 1 3	...	925 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queensland ...	1,354 4 11	6,070 2 5	...	...	...	2,050 0 0	...	...	...	...	45,000 0 0
Western Australia ...	193 16 4	525 12 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	16,439 0 0	131,434 1 6	11,794 0 0	1,850 0 0	6,000 0 0	2,050 0 0	175,567 1 6	10,000 0 0	120,000 0 0	Nil	45,000 0 0

* Includes moiety of cost of mail boxes, of naval agents, of special packets between Dover and Calais, and Egyptian transit rate.
† 49,000 by Dutch Government.

RECAPITULATION.

Cost of monthly service per annum, Southampton to Sydney, via Suez	£	s.	d.
Ditto ditto, via Panama	175,567	1	6
Estimated cost, Queensland and Batavia, via Torres Straits	120,000	0	0
TOTAL cost of Services	45,000	0	0
	£340,567	1	6

St. Thomas	...	...	...	18 *
Panama	...	...	...	24 *
Adelaide	...	...	arrival	June 2
Melbourne	...	...	...	May 29
Sydney	...	...	...	June 29 *
Brisbane	...	...	...	June 1
New Zealand	...	...	...	May 22 *
Launceston	...	...	...	June 1

HOMEWARDS.

	Via Mauritius.	Via Singapore.	Via Panama.
New Zealand	April 13	April 8	April 8 *
Brisbane	" 13	" 19 *	March 28
Sydney	" 16 *	" 16 *	April 1 *
Launceston	" 18	" 11	March 29
Melbourne	" 20 *	" 13	April 1
Adelaide	" 22 *	" 10	March 28
Colon	...	...	May 7 *
St. Thomas	...	...	" 15 *
Singapore	...	May 7 *	...
Mauritius	May *	...	...
Alexandria	" 29 *	June 4 *	...
London, via Marseilles	June 7 *	" 14 *	...
" (Southampton)	" 13 *	" 20 *	" 29 *

* This mark denotes a port of call on the trunk line. The others are served by branches.

NOTE.—The above Table is constructed for calendar months of thirty days. A simple modification would adapt it to the weekly system, should such be adopted on all three lines. But the Table would not be applicable should weekly

ion of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, the estimated Number of Letters received and despatched by the Colonies, respectively, Outward Voyage by the several Postal Routes, and the Amounts contributed by the United Kingdom and the Colonies towards the al Communication between Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

Estimated Number of Letters received and despatched during one Year.	Contract Time—Outward Voyage.				Amount Contributed.		Estimated Cost of Service via Batavia.	Total.
	Via Galle.	Via Panama.	Via Batavia and Marseilles.	Via Southampton	Via Galle.	Via Panama.		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,094,668	48	56	54	60	69,437 13 2	...	...	28,774 16 11
475,302	51	56	52	58	14,635 10 6	57,300 0 0	...	71,985 10 6
251,423	46	59	57	63	17,098 1 0	...	...	17,098 1 0
758,843	55	49	59	65	32,494 9 6	62,700 0 0	...	95,194 9 6
242,124	53	59	50	56	9,474 7 4	...	45,000 0 0	54,474 7 4
82,176	50	58	56	62	3,138 13 11	...	...	3,138 13 11
34,644	...	...	...	...	719 9 2	...	...	719 9 2
2,989,180	...	...	...	...	175,773 1 6	120,000 0 0	45,000 0 0	340,773 1 6

actual number received and despatched during the quarter ended 31st December, 1866. The number of letters by the Panama route has increased since then; and a place in the number of letters sent and received via Suez.

PROPORTIONS IN WHICH THE COLONIES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPOSED POSTAL SERVICE.

Victoria	...	...	...	...	25:00
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	25:00
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	25:00
Queensland	...	...	...	...	14:20
South Australia	...	...	...	...	8:35
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	2:00
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	36
					<u>100:00</u>

TABLE showing the amount and proportion of Correspondence of each Colony, the contract times of the services by way of Suez, and Marseilles, and Southampton, and Panama respectively, the difference of time by each route from London to each Colony, and the advantage or disadvantage accruing to each Colony by the routes respectively in proportion to the Correspondence.

Colony.	Amount of Correspondence in 1866.	Ratio	Days.			Marseilles over Panama.		Panama over Marseilles.		Southampton over Panama.		Panama over Southampton.	
			Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton	Via Panama	Days	Value.	Days	Value.	Days	Value.	Days	Value.
Victoria	1,094,668	4	48	54	56	8	32	...	...	2	8	...	...
New South Wales	475,302	2	51	57	56	5	10	...	...	...	...	1	2
South Australia	251,423	1	46	52	59	13	13	...	...	7	7	...	...
New Zealand	758,843	3	55	61	49	...	6	18	...	...	...	12	36
Queensland	242,124	1	53	59	59	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania	82,176	0½	50	56	58	8	3	...	...	2	1	...	...
							64	18			16		38
							46						22
													66
													20

* The values shown in these columns are obtained by multiplying the days gained by the ratio of correspondence of the Colony.

Net balance in favor of Panama

GENTLEMEN,—
 Australasian Steam Navigation Company,
 Sydney, 23rd February, 1867.
 I do myself the honor to inform you that this Company will be prepared to tender for the "Mail Service to and from Galle," at a less rate than is now paid, and will undertake to perform it in the same time as the present service is limited to; or, if deemed preferable, would unite with owners of steamers in the sister Colonies for the performance of the service.

SKETCH TIME TABLE.—No. I.

DESIGNED to afford as nearly as possible regular Fortnightly Communication between London and the various Australian Colonies and New Zealand, by the amalgamation of three routes, viz:—*via* Mauritius and Suez, *via* Singapore and Suez, and *via* Panama.

OUTWARDS.

				<i>Via</i> Mauritius.	<i>Via</i> Singapore.	<i>Via</i> Panama.
London (Southampton)	...	...	<i>departure</i>	April 12 *	April 20 *	April 2 *
" <i>via</i> Marseilles	...	...	"	" 18 *	" 26 *	...
Suez	...	...	"	" 28 *	May 6 *	...
Mauritius	...	...	"	May *	...	...
Singapore	...	...	"	...	" 29 *	...
St. Thomas	...	...	"	...	...	" 18 *
Panama	...	...	"	...	...	" 24 *
Adelaide	...	...	<i>arrival</i>	June 4 *	June 23	June 2
Melbourne	...	...	"	" 6 *	" 20	May 29
Sydney	...	...	"	" 9 *	" 18 *	" 29 *
Brisbane	...	...	"	" 11	" 16 *	June 1
New Zealand	...	...	"	" 13	" 25	May 22 *
Launceston	...	...	"	" 8	" 22	June 1

HOMEWARDS.

				<i>Via</i> Mauritius.	<i>Via</i> Singapore.	<i>Via</i> Panama.
New Zealand	...	...	<i>departure</i>	April 13	April 8	April 8 *
Brisbane	...	...	"	" 13	" 19 *	March 28
Sydney	...	...	"	" 16 *	" 16 *	April 1 *
Launceston	...	...	"	" 18	" 11	March 29
Melbourne	...	...	"	" 20 *	" 13	April 1
Adelaide	...	...	"	" 22 *	" 10	March 28
Colon	...	...	"	...	...	May 7 *
St. Thomas	...	...	"	...	...	" 15 *
Singapore	...	...	"	...	May 7 *	...
Mauritius	...	...	"	May *	...	...
Alexandria	...	...	"	" 29 *	June 4 *	...
London, <i>via</i> Marseilles	...	...	<i>arrival</i>	June 7 *	" 14 *	...
" (Southampton)	...	...	"	" 13 *	" 20 *	" 29 *

* This mark denotes a port of call on the trunk line. The others are served by branches.

NOTE.—The above Table is constructed for calendar months of thirty days. A simple modification would adapt it to the weekly system, should such be adopted on all three lines. But the Table would not be applicable should weekly intervals of departure be arranged for some portions of the amalgamated service and not for the whole.

SKETCH TIME TABLE.—No. II.

SHewing the way in which the proposed POSTAL SERVICES *via* Panama, *via* Singapore and Torres Straits, and *via* Point de Galle and King George's Sound would work under existing arrangements for the Panama and Indian and China services.

OUTWARDS.

Route.	London.	Arrive.	Arrive.	Arrive.	Arrive.	Arrive.	Arrive.
	Depart.	Adelaide.	Melbourne.	Sydney.	Launceston.	Wellington.	Brisbane.
Panama	June 2	August 1	July 29	July 29	July 31	July 22	July 31
Singapore	June 10	August 4	August 2	July 31	August 4	August 7	July 29
Point de Galle and King George's Sound	June 26	August 11	August 13	August 16	August 15	August 20	August 18

HOMEWARDS.

Route.	Depart.	Depart.	Depart.	Depart.	Depart.	Depart.	Arrive.
	Adelaide.	Melbourne.	Sydney.	Launceston.	Wellington.	Brisbane.	London.
Panama	July 29	August 1	August 1	July 30	August 8	July 29	Sept. 29
Singapore	August 14	August 16	August 19	August 14	August 12	August 21	October 13
Point de Galle and King George's Sound	August 31	August 28	August 24	August 26	August 21	August 22	October 14

PROPORTIONS IN WHICH THE COLONIES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE
PROPOSED POSTAL SERVICE.

Victoria	...	...	...	...	25'00
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	25'00
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	25'00
Queensland	...	...	...	...	14'20
South Australia	...	...	...	...	8'35
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	2'00
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	36
					100'00

TABLE showing the amount and proportion of Correspondence of each Colony, the contract times of the services by way of Suez, and Marseilles, and Southampton, and Panama respectively, the difference of time by each route from London to each Colony, and the advantage or disadvantage accruing to each Colony by the routes respectively in proportion to the Correspondence.

Colony.	Amount of Correspondence in 1866.	Ratio	Days.			Marseilles over Panama.		Panama over Marseilles.		Southampton over Panama.		Panama over Southampton.		
			Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton.	Via Panama.	Days	Value.	Days	Value.	Days	Value.	Days	Value.	
Victoria	1,094,668	4	48	54	56	8	32	*	*	2	8	...	*	
New South Wales	475,302	2	51	57	56	5	10	...	...	...	...	1	2
South Australia	251,423	1	46	52	59	13	13	...	...	7	7	...	...
New Zealand	758,843	3	55	61	49	...	—	6	18	...	...	12	36
Queensland	242,124	1	53	59	59	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania	82,176	0½	50	56	58	8	3	...	...	2	1	...	...
		—	—	—	—	—	64	—	18	—	16	—	38	
							Balance	46					22	
													Southampton Correspondence being treble that via Marseilles—net value ...	66
													Net balance in favor of Panama	20

* The values shown in these columns are obtained by multiplying the days gained by the ratio of correspondence of the Colony.

Australasian Steam Navigation Company,
Sydney, 23rd February, 1867.

GENTLEMEN,—

I do myself the honor to inform you that this Company will be prepared to tender for the "Mail Service to and from Galle," at a less rate than is now paid, and will undertake to perform it in the same time as the present service is limited to; or, if deemed preferable, would unite with owners of steamers in the sister Colonies for the performance of the service.

I have, &c.,

FREDK. H. TROWTON,
Manager.

The Representatives of the Australian Governments
assembled in Conference on Ocean Postal Arrangements, Melbourne.