


NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

 All Public Notifications which appear in this Gazette, with any Official signature, are to be considered as Official Communications made to those persons to whom they may relate, and are to be obeyed accordingly.

By His Honor's command,

RICHARD PACKER,
Provincial Secretary.

VOL. IV.] WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1857. [No. XXII.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, Aug. 25th, 1857.*

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs the publication of the following correspondence for general information.

R. PACKER,
Provincial Secretary.

*Superintendent's Office,
Christchurch, July 30th, 1857.*

SIR,—

Shortly after the departure of your Honor, I received a letter from the Post Master General of Victoria, acquainting me that the Canterbury mails are made up with those of Wellington and not separated at Melbourne.

Under these circumstances, I beg to accept the proposal made verbally by your Honor, and agree, on behalf of this Government, to pay Seventy-five Pounds (£75) a month, on condition, that the vessel under engagement to the Government of Wellington to bring down the mails from Melbourne, shall bring the Canterbury mails on here, and shall remain in harbor at least 48 hours after their arrival. This agreement to last until the 31st of

March next, the end of the financial year of this Province.

If the agents of the vessel agree to this, I have the honor to request that it may be acted upon at once, without further delay, or correspondence upon the receipt of this letter, and that your Honor will be so good as to transmit to me the form of agreement signed by the Wellington Government, in order that a similar form may be prepared for my execution.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Honor's very obedient servant,
JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD,
Superintendent.

To his Honor the Superintendent
of Wellington, &c., &c., &c.

*Superintendent's Office,
Wellington, 14th August, 1857.*

SIR,—Understanding that you have received an intimation that the Canterbury English mails must (until other arrangements are made in England) be forwarded from Melbourne to Wellington, I am anxious to lose no time in advising you that the proposal I made during my recent visit to your province, that your mails should, after

being sorted here, be at once forwarded by our mail packet, cannot be carried out, inasmuch as the Contractors for the mail service between this and Melbourne are under heavy penalties to dispatch their vessels within six days after their arrival at this port.

I beg at the same time to submit the following proposals to your consideration:

1. That the *Wonga Wonga* shall bring on your English mails from this port.

2. That, assuming the mail arrives at Melbourne on the 5th, and at Wellington on the 20th, of each month, the *Wonga Wonga* shall (after that day) leave here for Lyttelton within 24 or 36 hours after the arrival of the mails—shall, after landing the mails at Lyttelton, proceed to Otago with its mails—remain there 24 hours, and on her return call at Lyttelton for your return mails.

3. That for the performance of this service Canterbury shall pay a subsidy to Wellington at the rate of not less than £1000 a-year.

4. That in the event of Otago declining to pay a similar amount, the *Wonga Wonga*, instead of proceeding to Otago, shall remain 48 hours at Lyttelton.

With reference to the above proposals you will perceive that it is impossible that we can guarantee that the return mails (even from Wellington) shall reach Melbourne in time for the homeward bound steamer.

It is equally impossible that we should engage that the *Wonga Wonga* should at all times be ready in port to sail within 24 or 36 hours after the arrival of the mails, for it might happen by some lucky accident that the mails might arrive on the 15th of the month—the shareholders of course would not consent to provide for such an improbable contingency, unless the subsidy given to them was sufficient to enable them to employ their vessel solely and exclusively in carrying the mails. We propose, however, that the vessel shall, after the 20th or 21st of each month, (being the time when the Mails ought to arrive) start within 24 or 36 hours after their arrival. I say 24 or 36 hours, because the very sorting of the mails brought requires that time; but it would be for the interest of the company that the vessel should start the instant the mails were ready.

In making this offer I may observe

that this Province has for the last four months brought on the mails of the other southern settlements at an expense at the rate of £1200 a-year, without any one of them contributing a single farthing; that it will in all probability be obliged to raise the subsidy to £1500 or £1800 a-year; that it has engaged to give a subsidy to the *Wonga Wonga* of £2,500 a-year; and further, that by dispatching the *Wonga Wonga* to Canterbury and Otago, the other parts of the Province will not be visited by her oftener than once a month. You will perceive therefore that Canterbury in giving £1,000 for the conveyance of her mails from Wellington does not contribute towards the expense of carrying them from Melbourne, which I submit she ought to do.

I shall feel obliged by your Honor intimating your acceptance or otherwise of this offer by the very first opportunity.

In consequence of the June mail coming by way of the Cape, it is not expected that it will arrive here before the last week of this month, or the first week in September; but should I not hear from your Honor before it arrives, I shall endeavour to make arrangements for forwarding it by the *Wonga Wonga*.

May I therefore beg the favour of your Honor, under any circumstances, informing the agents of the vessel at Lyttelton (Messrs. Cookson, Bowler & Co.), whether you agree to my proposals, for in the event of your accepting them the vessel will probably proceed to Otago for the purpose of making to the Superintendent of that Province a similar offer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. E. FEATHERSTONE,
Superintendent.

To His Honor the
Superintendent of Canterbury,
&c., &c.

Superintendent's Office,
Christchurch, 22nd August, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's letter of the 14th inst. on the subject of the means of transmitting the English mails from Melbourne to Lyttelton.

Your Honor has already received my letter of the 30th ult., and has, no doubt, had your attention called to the

advertisement which was published in the Government Gazette of this Province, dated 6th of August, stating that an engagement had been made with the Province of Wellington to transmit the mails *via* Wellington to Lyttelton.

I think it necessary to remind your Honor, that when here a few weeks ago, your Honor urged strongly on me the adoption of the arrangement which is notified in the Canterbury Gazette; and that your Honor even urged upon me the conclusion of such an arrangement before having heard from the authorities of Melbourne that our wish to have the mails forwarded direct from thence could not be acceded to. Your Honor did not leave the slightest doubt upon my mind that the arrangement would be carried out if I would accede to it.

It was acting under this impression, and feeling that there could be no mistake after having had the personal assurance of your Honor, that I ventured to write to your Honor my letter of the 30th of July, and to publish the advertisement in question without waiting for your Honor's reply.

I confess then I am very much surprised now to learn that the arrangement in question cannot be carried out, and still more so that the obstacle arises from your Honor's government, and not, as I understand it, from the shipowners; for the penalty to which your Honor refers is one of course to the Provincial Government, and one from which therefore the shipowners could be relieved if the Provincial Government desired it.

I am again surprised that your Honor should allude to the fact that the Canterbury mails have been brought down

to Wellington from Melbourne as constituting any sort of claim for pecuniary consideration, or even for gratitude on the part of this Province, when it must be obvious to your Honor that this interference on the part of the Wellington Government with the Canterbury mails is one which, although unintentional on its part, is a very great grievance to this Province, as it prevents us from entering into arrangements far more advantageous for our own interests.

Your Honor's letter has received the full consideration of the Executive Council, and we have unanimously resolved that this Government cannot entertain your Honor's proposal respecting the *Wonga Wonga*, because it offers us no advantage worth the subsidy required.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Honor's very obedient servant,
JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD,
Superintendent of Canterbury.

To His Honor the
Superintendent of Wellington.
&c., &c.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, 31st Aug., 1857.*

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified for public information, that the Provincial Government has entered into an arrangement with the owners of the "Canterbury," for the conveyance of mails between Lyttelton and Wellington for the six months ending 31st of March, 1858.

By His Honor's command,
RICHARD PACKER,
Provincial Secretary.

