



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,

JOSEPH BRITTAN,

Provincial Secretary.

VOL. IV.]

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1857.

[No. III.]

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the 15th and 16th years of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled an "Act to Grant a Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand," it was enacted that no Bill passed by a Superintendent and Provincial Council which shall be reserved for the signification of the assent of the Governor shall have any force and authority within the Province until the Superintendent shall signify either by speech or message to the Provincial Council, or by Proclamation in the "Government Gazette," that such Bill has been laid before the Governor, and that the Governor has assented to the same: *And whereas* two Ordinances were passed by the Superintendent and Provincial Council of the Province of Canterbury, entitled respectively the "Canterbury Association's Debentures Ordinance, Session VII., No. 1," and the "Waste Lands' Regulations Amendment Ordinance, Session VII., No. 2,"

and the same were reserved by me for the assent of His Excellency the Governor: Now, therefore, I, James Edward Fitz Gerald, Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, *do hereby* proclaim and declare that the aforesaid Ordinances have been laid before his Excellency the Governor, and that his Excellency has assented to the same.

Given under my hand at Christchurch, this twenty-ninth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD,  
Superintendent.

By command of his Honor,  
JOSEPH BRITTAN,  
Provincial Secretary.

God save the Queen.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, passed in the fourth Session of

the same, entitled "The Resident Magistrates Courts' Extension of Jurisdiction Act, 1856," it is enacted that it shall be lawful for the Governor, upon the request of the Superintendent of any Province, by Proclamation in the "Government Gazette," to bring the said Act into operation in respect to any Resident Magistrate's Court having jurisdiction within such Province from and after a certain day to be named in such Proclamation, and to define the districts within which causes may be heard in such Court under the provisions of the said Act: and it is further enacted, that the Superintendent of the Province within which any such Resident Magistrate's Court shall be situated shall, by Proclamation in the "Government Gazette" of such Province, fix the days upon which such Court shall sit to hear and determine causes under the provisions of the said Act:—*And whereas* his Excellency the Governor of New Zealand did, by a Proclamation issued at Auckland on the seventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, proclaim and declare that the said recited Act should come into operation, in respect of the Resident Magistrate's Court of Lyttelton, in the said Province of Canterbury, from and after the thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord 1856, and that the said Province of Canterbury should be the district within which causes may be heard in such Court under the provisions of the said Act:—Now, therefore, I, James Edward Fitz Gerald, Superintendent of the said Province, do hereby proclaim and declare that the Resident Magistrate's Court of Lyttelton shall sit to hear and determine causes under the provisions of the said Act in the Town Hall at Lyttelton, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon on the third Tuesday in the months of February, May, August, and November in each year respectively, and thence on each succeeding day, not being a Sunday, Christmas Day, nor Good Friday, until the business of the Court be finished.

Given under my hand, and issued under the Public Seal of the Province of Canterbury, at Christchurch, in the said Province, this twentieth day of

January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD,  
Superintendent.

By his Honor's command,  
JOSEPH BRITTAN,  
Provincial Secretary.

God save the Queen.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Christchurch, 28th Jan., 1857.*

HIS Honor the Superintendent has been pleased to direct the publication of the following correspondence, for general information.

JOSEPH BRITTAN,  
Provincial Secretary.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, January 6th, 1857.*

SIR,—I do myself the honor to address you with reference to the mode by which the Steam Postal Service between Great Britain and the Australasian Colonies may be extended to the respective Provinces of this Colony with the greatest benefit to each.

2. On this subject the Government of New Zealand has received, as your Honor may be aware, Memorials from the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, from Residents in that Province, from Merchants and Residents in the Province of Canterbury, also, resolutions of the Canterbury Provincial Council, and letters from the Superintendents of Wellington and Canterbury, and Mr. Kelham, the latter objecting to arrangements stated to exist at present with respect to the transmission from Melbourne of English letters for Wellington.

3. These Memorials being numerous and influentially signed, may be assumed, together with the resolutions above-mentioned, to represent the opinion on this question of a large section of the inhabitants of New Zealand, in so far as they were aware of the circumstances of the case; and as the question is one affecting the interests of the whole colony, the Government desires that all the facts connected with it should be placed before the public, with a view to eliciting an expression of opinion in favor of the particular steam route, which, all things considered, it may appear preferable to adopt.

4. With this object, copies of correspondence on this subject are herewith enclosed, with which, together with this letter, it is desired that the inhabitants of the Province of Canterbury may be made acquainted, in whatever manner your Honor may deem most suitable for the purpose.

5. From these documents it will be perceived that the Government believes that the most efficient Steam Service, both inter-colonial and inter-provincial, would (having regard to the amount available for the purpose) be maintained by two powerful steamers plying between Australia and all the Provinces of New Zealand; thus providing that the passengers and mails for any one Province would be conveyed, with the least possible delay, to their destination; and also affording a regular and rapid means of communication to and from all parts of this colony and Australia.

6. The latter object would not be attained by the routes indicated by the Memorialists, inasmuch as these routes, although not otherwise objectionable, are not connected with each other and a third steamer would consequently be required to complete the chain of inter-Provincial communication.

7. If a sufficient sum were available for subsidizing three steamers, the communication between the several ports of the colony might thereby be increased; but such a service could not in all probability be maintained in the present circumstances of the colony. For it must not be forgotten that any bonus is only a portion, and generally a small one, of the whole sum necessary for the maintenance of steamers, and that to divide the traffic between three steamers—which would otherwise be enjoyed by two—would necessitate a proportionately increased bonus to compensate for the diminished receipts of each; unless indeed that traffic were very much augmented by the presence of the third vessel, a result which, with the present population of New Zealand, cannot be calculated upon as likely to occur to any appreciable extent.

8. It consequently appears essential to the proper consideration of this question, that it should be determined in what manner, with two vessels only, the

whole service required can be performed with the greatest possible benefit to each portion of the colony; bearing in mind that if the Inter-Provincial Service starts from any port in the centre of the colony, there must (in the absence of a third vessel) be a much longer time consumed in communicating with all the ports to be visited, than if the service were commenced from one of the extremities of the route.

9. In addition to the routes respectively indicated by the Government and the Memorialists, another has been suggested by your Honor, by which it is proposed that two steamers, of which one should call first at Otago, and the other at Manukau, should convey the English mails monthly to New Zealand, and at the same time maintain a fortnightly communication between this colony and Australia. This line of route—with respect to which, I may here remark, when alluded to in the House of Representatives, during the discussion on the Steam Service, no opinion was expressed—would, if practicable, be the most efficient, having reference to the service to be performed; and would consequently have been preferred by the Government if steamers could be obtained possessing the speed and other qualities requisite to ensure the performance of such a service with any degree of regularity; but as the time specified for that service would not allow for accidental delay at any port from bad weather, or for coaling in New Zealand, it is considered impossible that steam vessels could be procured in this part of the world to perform it. Tenders for this line can, however, be invited in order to test its practicability.

10. With reference to the Memorials, I may observe that it appears to be believed that if the steamers which bring the English mails to New Zealand returned by the end of the same month to Australia, the replies to English letters brought by them would be forwarded to Great Britain within the month; but, as far as the Government is aware, from the public papers, having no official information on the subject, this would not be the case, as a mail steamer is to return with the English mails from Sydney 15 days after the arrival of each outward mail from Eng-

land. In other words, it is assumed that an English mail arrives at Sydney on the 1st of each month, and that the New Zealand portion of it is immediately despatched to this colony; but as the homeward mail is despatched from Sydney on the 15th of the same month, and it is impossible that a mail from New Zealand in reply to that received could reach Sydney within 15 days, the New Zealand mail could not, under any circumstances, be despatched from Sydney until the 15th of the next month.

11. The Government was influenced by this consideration, and its proposal provided that the New Zealand Branch Steamers, while performing the inter-Provincial Service also, should return to Sydney within six weeks; thereby ensuring that the return mails were sent home in the shortest time possible, while the steamers employed would have about 15 days at Sydney to coal and refit, and would thus be ready to leave that port within a few hours of the arrival of each outward English mail.

12. In further explanation of the steps taken by this Government, I have to observe that from not being aware of the precise terms of the Postal contract, of which no copy at the date of the latest advices had been received in Australia, it has—in the absence of information as to the precise power of regulating its own branch service which may by the terms of the contract be given to each colony,—been unable to do more than indicate its opinion as to the manner in which the New Zealand branch service might be conducted in relation to that with the Provinces, leaving it with Mr. Sewell, who would first learn the nature of the contract, and who was well acquainted with the requirements of the colony in this respect, to effect the necessary arrangements; as a part of which it will be seen that it is proposed that the first contract shall be for 12 months only, during the currency of which period sufficient evidence may be obtained from all parts of the colony with respect to the course which it may subsequently be desirable to adopt. And it must be remembered that the colony is already bound to pay its share of the expenses of the Imperial Postal Contract, and that it cannot, in accordance with the

terms of that contract, get rid of the difficulty of indicating what port the branch steamer is to visit.

13. It remains to add, in reply to Mr. Kelham's letter, that no instructions of the nature stated by the master of the *Ariel* have been issued by the Government of New Zealand, and if any such do exist, they probably emanated either from the London Post Office or from the Government of Victoria. Instructions as requested by Mr. Kelham will now be forwarded to Melbourne.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your very obedient servant,  
E. W. STAFFORD.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

VICTORIA.

*Chief Secretary's Office,  
Melbourne, 28th October, 1856.*

SIR,—Adverting to your letter of the 26th September on the subject of Postal Communication, I have the honour, by desire of the Chief Secretary, to state that as no copy of the contract for the steam mail service between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies has yet reached this colony, it is feared that it will not be possible to take any immediate steps towards the establishment of the Branch Inter-colonial Mail Services.

I have, &c.,

J. MOORE,  
Under Secretary.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, November 20, 1856.*

SIR,—With reference to the correspondence which has taken place between this Government and the Government of Victoria relative to the establishment of a Branch Mail Service to New Zealand, I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to inform you that as this Government desires to combine that service with the Inter-Provincial Steam Service in New Zealand, it has authorised the Honorable Henry Sewell, Esq., or in his absence, Dr. J. L. Campbell, lately a member of this Government, to represent its wishes at

the proposed conference of delegates from the respective Colonies interested.

These gentlemen have also been empowered to invite and accept tenders on the part of this Government both for the branch service and the inter-provincial service.

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

The Honorable  
The Chief Secretary,  
Melbourne.

Sydney, Nov. 4th, 1856.

SIR,—On my arrival at this place I communicated with the Colonial Secretary on the subject of the steam postal service. I found that no steps had been taken towards providing for the branch service to New Zealand. In order to move the question I left with the Colonial Secretary a memorandum of which I transmit a copy, but to which I have not as yet received any reply. At a subsequent interview with His Excellency the Governor, I understood that the matter would be immediately taken into consideration.

In order to lose no time I put myself into communication with the owners of the *William Denny*, (through Captain Mailler) and also with the Australian Steam Packet Company, and I learnt from them that they are desirous of undertaking the service. It will, however, be impossible to fix definite terms until the contracts for the branch service in connection with the main line shall have been decided.

I have indicated my individual preference for the following plan, which I recommend for the consideration of the New Zealand Government.

Two steamers to work the branch service in connection with the main line—to and from Sydney—one to take the mails monthly from Sydney to Auckland *via* the North Cape, thence to Wellington, and thence touching for a few hours weather permitting at New Plymouth—the other taking the converse route fortnightly *i. e.*, touching at New Plymouth, thence to Wellington, thence to

Auckland and to return to Sydney *via* the North Cape. In addition to the above a small steamer of superior quality to the *Zingari*, to work between Nelson, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago, monthly, staying at each port a moderate time for passengers and cargo, and arranging so that the arrival at Wellington may be in time to meet the homeward mail steamer. If the *William Denny*, and the Company would unite, the service might be efficiently done. The *William Denny* and the *Wonga Wonga* (a vessel of greater power than the *Denny*) would do the service from Sydney, and the *Bomerang*, a small but powerful vessel would perform the service for the southern settlements.

The cost of this would probably be about £15,000 or £16,000. Of this I suppose the general contract would provide about £6000, leaving the residue to be borne by the colony. In my opinion if such a service were established Auckland or Wellington, which would receive a greater share of benefit than the other Provinces, should contribute in an increased proportion, say Auckland £2000 a year, and Wellington £1500 a year.

The result would be a perfectly efficient service monthly, and partly fortnightly, with direct access to the main line from all the Provinces, as well as communication between the Provinces themselves.

I think it would be better to regulate such a service by fixed days of arrival and departure in preference to making it dependent on the accidental arrival of English mails as proposed by the Melbourne Government.

It is improbable that anything will be done before the next departure from Auckland of the *William Denny*, and I shall be obliged by your favouring me with the views and instructions of the Government in New Zealand, which I will endeavour as far as lies in my power to effectuate.

I have, &c.

HENRY SEWELL.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,  
Auckland.

For the Colonial Secretary of  
New South Wales.

Memorandum by Mr. Sewell on the  
part of the New Zealand Govern-  
ment, relative to the contract for  
the Steam Postal Service.

1. I understand the contract between the Imperial Government and the Glasgow Company to be, that the latter shall carry the mails of the five Australian colonies—viz., Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, in consideration of an annual bonus of £175,000, of which half is to be paid by the Imperial Government, and half by the colonies, each to receive and retain its own postal revenue. The postage to be uniformly prepaid, the Imperial Government on its part, and each of the colonies on its part, to be obliged to forward letters to their destination without further charge, using the local posts for that purpose without payment.

2. The proportion of bonus payable by the colonies is to be apportioned between them according to the number of letters sent and received in each year to and from England, to be determined by the Imperial Government from returns at the London Post Office. This to include letters sent and received through whatever channel, and whether by Post Office steamers or other vessels.

3. The tariff of rates for passage and freight to be regulated by the Company—the whole management to be with them, and the profit or loss to be theirs.

4. The steamers to make Melbourne their principal port of arrival and departure.

5. But to be at liberty, in compliance with the wish of the Company, to go on to Sydney.

6. In addition to the main service between England and Melbourne, branch services to be maintained between Melbourne and the colonies of Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and New Zealand. The mode of arranging the branch service is left by the Imperial Government to be settled by the colonies themselves.

7. The cost of such branch services to be added to the above sum of

£175,000, and apportioned in the aggregate between the colonies, according to the above rule.

8. The Melbourne Government has issued circulars to the other colonies, stating proposed terms of tender, asking opinions thereon, and proposing a conference at Melbourne,—but so far as I can learn nothing further has been done.

9. It appears to me, so far as I can judge, that the course taken by the Melbourne Government is correct, that such a conference should take place between persons properly authorized by the respective Governments, or that some one Government should be authorized to act on behalf of all.

10. If a conference be held, Melbourne seems to be the most convenient place of meeting.

11. For the general interest of all the colonies who are alike concerned in the branch service, no delay should take place in completing the arrangements.

12. From what I can learn it appears that the service for New Zealand may be more cheaply and better performed from Sydney than from Melbourne, but this can only be tested by tenders.

13. I understand there are only two parties, the Australian Steam Packet Company, and the "William Denny," capable of contracting for the service. I suggest that it will be desirable to test at once the terms on which they will perform it from Sydney and Melbourne.

14. If New Zealand should prefer Melbourne to Sydney, I assume that the right of choice is open to her.

NEW ZEALAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Nov. 20, 1856.*

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., with the accompanying copy of a Memorandum furnished by you to the Government of New South Wales, on the subject of the establishment of a steam mail service for New Zealand.

2. As under this head is comprised both the extension to New Zealand of the Australian Mail contract lately concluded, and the further conveyance of the Mails between the various Provinces, the main object to be considered is the establishment of such a steam service as will in the most

economical manner possible ensure a rapid and certain means of communication between the several ports of this colony and Australia and Great Britain.

3. This object will most certainly be attained if the two services were combined, and the same vessels ran the whole route; the mails for each port would thus, without delay, be forwarded by the same boat which conveyed them to the colony; while at the same time, passengers between Australia and the several Provinces would be saved the expense, inconvenience, and delay, otherwise attendant on a change from one vessel to another.

4. With this view it is advisable that tenders for the conveyance of mails—first from Sydney to Manukau or Auckland, and secondly from the latter ports to the ports specified in the draft advertisement herewith enclosed—should be called for simultaneously, with an intimation that it is the desire of this Government that the two services should if possible be combined. Were this accomplished, two boats could convey the mails from Sydney to Auckland or Manukau, and thence round the colony and back to Sydney; to which port, rather than Melbourne, it is desired that the New Zealand steamers should ply, as being at the same time cheaper, ensuring a communication both with Melbourne and Sydney (through the English steamers), and affording a means of getting direct from New Zealand to Sydney, which will in a few months, from the cessation of the subsisting arrangements with the *William Denny*, be otherwise wanting.

5. The three routes specified in the advertisement, for the Inter-Provincial Service, would, in the order in which they are respectively numbered, afford the most rapid medium for the distribution both of the English and New Zealand Mails. Of these the first route would effect a saving of four days in time over the second, and of nearly a fortnight over the third. But as some disinclination may be felt on the part of the contractors to engage that the steamers should leave Manukau at stated periods, owing to the possible state of the bar during the prevalence of strong westerly gales, the second route may possibly be preferred. The third route, although affording somewhat more communication between the Southern Provinces, is objectionable from the additional time which would be required, thus delaying the transmission of replies to letters from England or Auckland, and increasing, from the time involved, the expense of transit. At the same time it is advisable that tenders should be invited for it in order fairly to test the

question of expense by the various routes which have been at different times proposed. For the same reason you will perceive that the advertisement invites tenders for any other route which contractors might desire to take.

6. The route indicated in your letter would require three boats, none of which, however, would be fully employed: while, therefore, no one boat would be doing as it might, some inconvenience and expense would be incurred by passengers, especially to and from the southern ports, from the necessity of changing from one boat to another, and of waiting for the arrival of that boat in which they were finally to proceed. In a smaller degree this objection would also apply to the transmission of letters.

7. As the Government, from the circumstances that the decision as to one of the two services does not altogether rest with it, is precluded without further information from determining absolutely in this matter; and as it is most desirable that an efficient steam service for New Zealand should be secured at as early a period as possible; it does not desire that, unless unavoidably necessary, any further reference should be made to it here, but relies on your judgment, after a full consideration of all the circumstances, to effect that arrangement which may be the most advantageous to all parts of the colony. Should your departure from Australia occur before an arrangement can be effected, Dr. Campbell, who will remain at Sydney and Melbourne for some time, is authorised to act on behalf of this Government, either at the Congress of Delegates, or otherwise, as occasion may require.

8. The Government of Victoria has accordingly been informed that you, or in your absence Dr. Campbell, will represent the New Zealand Government in this matter.

9. In concluding any contract it should be borne in mind, that with a view to any necessary modification of the terms, the contract should not be taken for a longer period than twelve months: nor must the cost of the Inter-Provincial Service exceed the sum of £10,000, being the amount voted for that service.

10. It remains to observe that the Government of Victoria may possibly have been led to expect, or may for other reasons desire, that Melbourne should be the port of arrival and departure for the New Zealand Branch service; as this, for the reasons stated in paragraph 4. would be disadvantageous to New Zealand, it must be insisted that Sydney is to be the Port. On this question, Tasmania and South Aus-

tralia are likely to be neutral, (although as the Sydney route would be the cheapest they are interested in its favour); while New South Wales has a strong opposite interest to that of Victoria; little difficulty therefore, is apprehended on this point at the proposed Conference should it take place.

11. It is advisable that an advertisement for Tenders, either in the form transmitted or in such other form as you may think best, be inserted both in the Melbourne and Sydney papers as soon as you may be enabled to determine what can be done as to the branch service; and the Government will expect the earliest information of any steps you may have taken, with a view, amongst other things, to the determination of the present contract with the *Zingari*.

12. In the event of your not being able to conclude a contract before you leave for England, you will be good enough to deliver this letter, to Dr. Campbell, who will put himself in communication with you on his arrival in Sydney.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. W. STAFFORD.

The Hon. Henry Sewell, Esq.,  
Member of the Executive Council.  
New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND STEAM MAIL SERVICE.

TENDERS will be received by the New Zealand Government until , from persons desirous of contracting to convey the Mails by Steam Vessels between the undermentioned Ports of New Zealand by the following Routes, viz. :—

1st Route.

Manukau ..... to ..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Nelson  
Nelson ..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton..... Dunedin  
Dunedin ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Nelson  
Nelson..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Manukau

2nd Route.

Auckland ..... to ..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Nelson  
Nelson ..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton..... Dunedin  
Dunedin ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Nelson  
Nelson ..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Auckland

3rd Route.

Auckland ..... to ..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Nelson  
Nelson ..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Nelson  
Nelson ..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton ..... Dunedin  
Dunedin ..... Lyttelton  
Lyttelton..... Wellington  
Wellington ..... Nelson  
Nelson..... New Plymouth  
New Plymouth ..... Auckland

Tenders will also be received for the above Service by any other route.

The Tenders to specify the sum required in respect of such route separately—the New Zealand Government to have the power of determining, after receipt of the Tenders, which route shall be adopted.

The vessels to remain (weather permitting) at New Plymouth not less than 24 hours nor more than 60 hours at any intermediate Port.

All Mails and other Letter Bags to be conveyed free of charge for gratuities to the Masters of Steamers or others.

Tenders to be addressed to

, who is authorised to accept them on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

The Tenders to state the tonnage, power, and description of vessels, and the number of days proposed for each voyage.

The New Zealand Government does not engage itself to accept any Tender.

NEW ZEALAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Nov. 20, 1856.

SIR,—With reference to the establishment of a Branch Steam Service to New Zealand, in extension of the Australian Mail Contract lately concluded, and also of an efficient Inter-Provincial Service in connexion with the same, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Sewell has been authorised to act in every respect on behalf of the Government of New Zealand, including the calling for and acceptance of Tenders for these services; but as it is possible that the departure of that gentleman from Australia may take place before the necessary arrangements for establishing the above services have been effected, you are, in that event, hereby authorised and empowered to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the above objects at the earliest possible period, and in the most economical manner consistent with efficiency.

As you are so well aware of the views

of the Government in this matter, it is unnecessary to do more than request that you will put yourself in communication with Mr. Sewell on your arrival at Sydney and receive from him the papers connected with this subject, should he leave Australia before the required contracts have been entered into. The Government of Victoria have been informed, that in the absence of Mr. Sewell you are authorised to act on behalf of this Government. In the event of your acting under this authority, you are requested to give the Government the earliest intimation of the steps taken by you in respect of it, with a view to enabling them to determine as soon as possible the subsisting contract with the *Zingari*.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) E. W. STAFFORD.  
 J. Logan Campbell, Esq.,  
 &c., &c.

*Sydney, Dec. 2, 1856.*

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th Nov. on the subject of the steam postal service to New Zealand.

Since I last wrote, I have been in communication with the Sydney Government.

That Government does not feel itself at liberty to enter into a special arrangement for the New Zealand service. It has written to the Government of Victoria, agreeing to the proposal for issuing advertisements for tenders for performance of the service both from Melbourne and Sydney. The object is to test the cheapest route.

A communication to the above effect will go to Melbourne by the next mail.

After discussion with Dr. Campbell, we agree in opinion that it will be for the interest of New Zealand to wait the result of the tenders, and then to negotiate for the additional service required.

Should it devolve on me to undertake the negotiation, I will not fail to observe the instructions contained in your letter.

Should both Dr. Campbell and myself be under the necessity of leaving before the arrangement is made, we will take on ourselves to depute some fit person to act on behalf of the New Zealand Government, according to your instructions. Meantime, I suggest the expediency, if practicable, of making a temporary arrangement with the *Wm. Denny* for continuance of the present service. As regards the *Zingari*, that has been already done.

I propose to leave this for Melbourne on Saturday next.

Nothing further has been heard from England on the subject of the mail con-

tract, except that an Agent has arrived here, who has made the necessary coaling arrangements for the steamers the first of which is expected to arrive towards the latter end of December.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) HENRY SEWELL.  
 The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
 New Zealand

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
 Auckland, Dec. 18th, 1856.*

SIR,—His Excellency's Government have had before them your letter of the 2nd instant, informing them of your renewed communication with the Government of New South Wales on the subject of the steam mail service to this Colony and stating that Dr. Campbell and yourself were agreed in waiting the result of the tenders proposed to be invited for the performance of that service from Melbourne as well as Sydney, before concluding any negotiation.

2. The Government concurs with you in the propriety of this decision, especially in the absence of that information which will be afforded by receipt of copies of the Imperial Contract, and which may either facilitate the arrangements you have been authorised to make, or may, on the other hand, by specially naming some agent for constituting the branch service, prevent this Government from deciding wholly upon the conditions of the service.

3. Should, however, the contract, when received, permit the Government of New Zealand to decide in this matter, it is desirable, from the difficulty which has been experienced in getting the Governments of the Australian Colonies to take action, that all the necessary arrangements for establishing the service should at once be made by yourself and Dr. Campbell on the general basis detailed in my letter of the 20th ultimo, especially bearing in mind that the service must be productive of as equal an amount of benefit to all the Provinces as can be derived from the services of two steamers only, that being the maximum number which we believe can be subsidized for the sum voted by the General Assembly for a steam service.

4. Pending the existence of a permanent arrangement, of this nature, the Government considering that it would be most disadvantageous that steam communication between New Zealand and Australia should, just when it has been established to the latter place from London, absolutely cease, owing to the termination of the contract

with the *William Denny*\* and that without a subsidy she would be placed on another line, has made an engagement, (a copy of which is enclosed) with the agents of that vessel to run two more trips on the same terms as heretofore, under her contract with the Provincial Government, subject to a proviso for the cessation of the subsidy, should Dr. Campbell and yourself have succeeded in establishing the Branch Service, or do so before these trips have been made.

5. Should you therefore have entered into any contract when you receive this, or should you do so before the two trips have been made, you will give immediate notice thereof to the agents of the *William Denny* in Sydney, and forward to this Government a copy of the notice served.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. W. STAFFORD.  
The Hon. Henry Sewell, Esq.

\*NOTE.—The Auckland contract with the *William Denny* expired on the 25th December.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Dec. 17th, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to the interview which took place this morning between his Excellency's Government and yourselves on the subject of the Steam Postal Service between this Colony and Australia, I am now desired by the Colonial Secretary to address you to the following effect.

You have been made generally aware of the views entertained by His Excellency's Government with regard to the Branch Service to be established between Australia and New Zealand under the recent Mail contract with the Imperial Government. In accordance with those views, it has been proposed to combine the inter-Colonial service with the inter-Provincial communication between the several Settlements, and to have both services performed by the same steam vessels, and to invite tenders in Sydney and Melbourne for carrying this proposal into effect. But at the last dates from Australia, no copy of the contract entered into by the Imperial Government had been received there, and until that necessary information reaches the several Governments interested in the contract, no final steps can be taken for the permanent establishment of the Branch Service in New Zealand: in the meantime, however, the gentlemen who represent this Government in Australia have been authorised to enter into certain arrange-

ments for the present conduct of that service.

His Excellency's Government is therefore unable to enter into a permanent contract with the owners of the "*William Denny*" on the same terms as that with the Provincial Government of Auckland, or on any terms which would confine the Steam Postal service to this Colony to one steamer, whilst it is not unlikely that arrangements may have actually been made on behalf of the Government for conducting that service for the next twelve months. But as the Government is unwilling that the Steam Mail Service between New Zealand and Sydney should suddenly cease, at the very time when it is established between the latter place and Great Britain, they have to propose to you that the same amount of subsidy hitherto paid by the Provincial Government to the "*William Denny*," and the existing conditions thereof shall be continued for the period required to make two trips of that steamer: Provided always that in the event of any other arrangements for constituting the Branch Service under the Imperial Mail Contract being effected before the conclusion of these trips, the subsidy now offered, or so much of it as shall not be due at the time of giving notice, either here or in Sydney, shall not be paid.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. GISBORNE,  
Under Secretary.

J. A. Gilfillan, Esq., and  
David Graham, Esq., Auckland.

Wellington Chamber of Commerce,  
24th November, 1856.

Sir,—Enclosed I do myself the honor to wait upon you with two Memorials addressed to His Excellency the Governor on the subject of the contemplated postal arrangements.

I beg leave also to bring under the notice of His Excellency's Government the following circumstance in relation to the mail service which has just occurred. On the 5th instant, the ship "*White Star*" arrived in Port Phillip with the English Mails of August 19th. The "*Ariel*" schooner was then lying there, just ready to sail for Wellington. The Captain immediately wrote a letter to the Postmaster asking for the Mails. This letter he took to the office of the Mail-master in Sandridge, who told him that it was utterly useless to forward the application, as a similar one had been refused because the orders were that the Mails for New Zealand were to be sent on to Sydney. The

letter was therefore destroyed. The *Ariel* sailed for Wellington on the following morning and arrived here on Tuesday the 18th instant, up to this date neither the Mails of the 5th nor of the 19th of August have been received.

As if to make this the more vexatious, the *Shepherdess* sailed from this port for Otago, on Wednesday, the 19th instant; the *Canterbury* is about to sail for Lyttelton; the *Zingari* will sail for Nelson, New Plymouth, &c., to-morrow; and the *Ariel* for Sydney on the same day. Thus had the Mails been brought here by the *Ariel* they might have been distributed to all the Southern Provinces and replies sent at least from this port, instead of which all these opportunities are lost, and, from the infrequency of communication with Otago it is quite probable that the mails for that place may lie here from one to two months before they can be forwarded.

I hope, therefore, that His Excellency's Government will not only grant the prayer of the Memorials, but that pending arrangements for the direct transmission of the Mails, instructions may be sent to the authorities in Melbourne to avail themselves of direct vessels for this Port, whenever such shall offer.

I have, &c.,

JAS. KELHAM, Chairman.

To the Honorable  
the Colonial Secretary,  
Auckland.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, Companion of the most honorable order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

*The humble memorial of the undersigned merchants, traders, and residents of and in Wellington, in the Province of Wellington, New Zealand.*

*Humbly Sheweth,—*

That your Memorialists have read with much regret in a letter addressed by your Excellency to the Colonial Secretary of the Province of Victoria, your Excellency's desire that Auckland shall be made the port for the delivery of the Mails for the whole of New Zealand.

That as this arrangement, if carried out will entirely deprive the community here of any advantage from the postal arrangements made by the English Government, your Memorialists respectfully but earnestly protest against the Mails for this port being sent to Auckland, and pray that

your Excellency will be pleased to direct, that if no arrangements can be made for the transmission of the Mails from Melbourne direct, that they may be forwarded to Sydney, to be sent on from thence, as at present, by the earliest opportunity.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

[313 Signatures.]

#### MEMORIAL OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, Companion of the most honorable order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

*The humble memorial of JAMES KELHAM and JOHN JOHNSTON, as Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce,*

*Humbly Sheweth,—*

That the attention of the Chamber having been called to the proposed Branch Postal Communication from England via Melbourne, and thence to Auckland, your memorialists have been directed to press upon your Excellency's Government the very grave objections to the proposed route which are entertained by the mercantile community and public of this Province.

Your Memorialists regard it as almost impossible that the vessel that has to perform the voyage from Melbourne to Auckland and back within one month—supposing it to be a steamer of considerable power—can call at any other port in New Zealand. The effect of this will be, that another vessel must be employed to convey the mails to the other Provinces, in scarcely one of which will merchants be enabled to reply to their letters earlier than by the second monthly mail after that by which those letters had been brought to Melbourne; so that, instead of being benefitted by the mail service, the Southern Settlements of New Zealand would be in a worse position than they are at present, the mails being now brought from Sydney by the regular trading vessels to their several ports.

Your Memorialists are far from wishing to deprive Auckland of the advantage of having its own mails conveyed direct to that port, but at the same time, your Memorialists respectfully ask that the Southern Provinces may be put on a similar footing, which they believe may be effected if the branch service be performed

by two steamers instead of one,—the one visiting Auckland, from whence the mails might be conveyed to New Plymouth, and perhaps, to Nelson; and the other visiting Otago, Lyttelton, and Wellington, calling at Otago first, and taking her final departure from Wellington,—unless it should be found practicable to include Nelson.

Your Memorialists further venture to submit that by treating the branch service as one—although performed by two vessels,—an equitable adjustment of the proportion payable by the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury might be made, so as not to burden the English Government unduly, and yet at the same time, to give the Southern Provinces of New Zealand their fair share of the advantages intended to be conferred by the new postal arrangements.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) JAMES KELHAM, Chairman;  
(Signed) JOHN JOHNSTON,  
Deputy-Chairman.

Superintendent's Office, Wellington,  
24th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have been requested by the Chamber of Commerce of this place to support the Memorial which they forward by the present mail against the proposed arrangement for the conveyance of the English mail from Australia to New Zealand.

The inadequacy of the arrangements in question, the grave inconvenience and injustice which will be inflicted by them, not only on this, but on all the southern Provinces, are so clearly explained by the memorialists, that it is needless for me to do more than to express my entire concurrence in their protest.

If His Excellency's Government persists in making the steamers run to Auckland, simply because, as the Superintendent of Canterbury remarks in a postscript to his recent pamphlet, "it has chosen to set itself down in a remote corner of the Islands," I earnestly trust it will not so unnecessarily sacrifice the interests of this Province, as to insist upon its mails being conveyed to Auckland, but that, on the contrary, His Excellency's Government will give instructions that the Wellington mails shall be forwarded direct, as at present, by the sailing vessels, which ensure almost a weekly communication between Wellington and Australia. I have, &c.,

I. E. FEATHERSTON, Superintendent.  
The Hon. the Colonial  
Secretary, Auckland,

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Dec. 4, 1856.

SIR,—I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., covering two memorials to the Governor relative to the contemplated postal arrangements, and to inform you that the same has been laid before His Excellency.

I have at the same time to express the regret of His Excellency's Government, that owing to the early departure of the *Zingari* it has been impossible, from the variety of subjects requiring consideration, to afford by this mail such explanations as would, it is believed, remove some misconception on the part of the memorialists of the views of the Government on this subject, with respect to which a further communication will be made by the first opportunity.

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

J. Kelham, Esq., J.P.,  
Wellington.

Wellington Chamber of Commerce,  
Dec. 16, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., acknowledging receipt of Memorials from this Chamber, and from merchants and others in this port, on the subject of the proposed change in the Postal arrangements. Waiting with considerable anxiety the explanations promised, I beg most respectfully to impress upon His Excellency's Government, that no arrangements which would permit the English mail to be first conveyed to Auckland, and from thence distributed to the Southern Provinces, would be satisfactory or fair towards them, and I am persuaded that they will look for this as a *sine qua non* in any arrangements or explanations that His Excellency's Government may make.

I may further take the liberty to observe, that in a matter of so much importance—affecting the whole community of the south, the Memorialists had reasonably expected that some more definite answer would have been given to them, and that no delay would have occurred in giving prompt consideration to the subject.

I have, &c.,  
JAMES KELHAM,  
Chairman of the Wellington  
Chamber of Commerce,

To the Hon. the Colonial  
Secretary, Auckland,

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Jan. 6, 1857.

SIR,—In reply to your letters of the 24th November and 16th December last, referring to Memorials forwarded by you from the Wellington Chamber of Commerce and from merchants and residents in that Province, on the subject of the steam postal service proposed to be established for New Zealand, I have herewith the honour to transmit copies of correspondence on this subject, in continuation of that already published, which will inform the memorialists of the views entertained by the Government of New Zealand with respect to it.

I have, &c.,  
E. W. STAFFORD,  
James Kelham, Esq., J.P.,  
&c., &c., Wellington.

Superintendent's Office, Christchurch,  
December 16, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honor respectfully to lay before your Excellency the enclosed copy of Resolutions which have been passed by the Provincial Council of this Province.

I have, &c.,  
JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD.  
His Excellency  
The Governor of New Zealand,  
&c., &c., &c.

CANTERBURY.

*Extract from the Journal of Proceedings of the Provincial Council.*

Tuesday, November 25, 1856.

“ Motion made, and question proposed—

“ That this Council learns with the greatest concern that the General Government have determined that the New Zealand mail brought by the steamers from England to Melbourne shall be forwarded thence to Auckland, as such an arrangement will entirely deprive the Southern Provinces of the advantages which they ought to derive from the steam service, for which they will have to pay the largest share of the required bonus.

“ That in the opinion of this Council any steam service from Australia which is supported out of the General Public Revenues ought to provide for the conveyance of the English mail to the most central port of the colony, so that all the Provinces may share in the benefit of the arrangement.

“ That a copy of these Resolutions be transmitted to his Honor the Superintendent, with a respectful request that his Honor will cause them to be laid before his Excellency the Governor and the Government.

“ That Mr. Speaker do also transmit a copy of these Resolutions to the Honorable the Speaker of each House of the General Assembly.

“ Question put and agreed to.”

GEORGE A. E. ROSS,  
Clerk to the Council.

Port Lyttelton, New Zealand,  
17th December, 1856.

SIR,—Be pleased to take an early opportunity to bring under his Excellency the Governor's consideration, the accompanying Memorial of the Merchants and other residents of this Province, touching the prejudice to the Southern Settlements of the proposed steam postal communication for the entirety of New Zealand, to be passed from Melbourne only, and always thence direct to Auckland.

I am, &c.,  
R. LATTER.

E. W. Stafford, Esq.,  
Colonial Secretary,  
Auckland.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

*The humble memorial of the undersigned Merchants, Traders, and Residents in the Province of Canterbury, New Zealand,*

*Humbly sheweth,—*

That your Memorialists respectfully desire to lay before your Excellency the injustice done to Canterbury by the arrangement made by your Excellency's Government as to the delivery of Mails at Auckland for the whole of New Zealand, under the new Steam Postal Service.

Your Memorialists submit in the first place, that by the abovementioned arrangement their mails are made to undergo a most circuitous route to Canterbury, and secondly from the very short stay the steamer is to make in Auckland, that it will be quite impossible for your memorialists or the residents in any other of the Southern ports to reply to their letters by the same steamer on her return trip to Melbourne.

Your Memorialists would most respectfully have been disposed to submit to your Excellency that Wellington, from its more central position, would have afforded Canterbury and all the other Southern Settlements more facility in communication.

were it not that Auckland would thus have been deprived of a direct conveyance for her mails.

Your Memorialists would, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, therefore venture to suggest for the purpose of affording to all the New Zealand Settlements some participation in the advantages intended to be granted to all the Australasian and New Zealand Colonies by the new steam postal service, and that the branch service with New Zealand should consist of two steamers instead of one as proposed; the one to run to Auckland, Taranaki, and Nelson; the other to Otago, Lyttelton, and Wellington,—the latter taking her departure for Melbourne from Wellington.

Your Memorialists, in conclusion, humbly but earnestly pray your Excellency that if the petition of your memorialists cannot be granted, the mails for Canterbury may be sent to Sydney as at present to be thence forwarded by the first opportunity, instead of being subjected to the lengthy and uncertain route *via* Auckland.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

[111 Signatures.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, January 6th, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ult., covering a Memorial from merchants and residents in the Province of Canterbury, relative to the steam postal service proposed to be established for New Zealand,

and to forward for the information of the Memorialists copies of correspondence on this subject, which will explain the views of the Government of New Zealand with respect to it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

E. W. STAFFORD.

R. Latter, Esq.,  
Lyttelton.

Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Christchurch, 31st Jan., 1857.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified for general information that a Writ for the election of a Member for the Christchurch Country District having been issued in accordance with clause 12 of an Act of Parliament passed in the 16th and 17th years of her present Majesty, entitled "An Act to grant a Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand"—The Acting Returning-Officer for the said District has returned the said Writ, with a certificate that the undermentioned gentleman has been duly elected to serve as a member of the Provincial Council:

For the Christchurch Country District,

WILLIAM BAYLEY BRAY.

By command of His Honor,

JOSEPH BRITTAN,

Provincial Secretary.

#### ADDENDUM.

*The address of the first letter in the Correspondence on the subject of Steam has been omitted from its proper place. The letter is a Circular addressed to the Superintendents of Provinces.*