

the group, numbering about 1,181,000 persons, was 2,155,500 letters, or less than two letters per head of population per year. In other words, the population of New Zealand was 8 per cent, and its correspondence 16 per cent of the whole.

The charge on New Zealand for the year ended 31st March, 1862, for its share of subsidy to the main line was nearly £10,000 out of a total on all the colonies of £67,336. This proportion was based on the correspondence of the year 1860, when the per-centage of New Zealand was 11·6 of the whole. The introduction of the element of distance therefore raised the contribution to be paid by New Zealand from 11·6 to above 14 per cent. The application of the same process to later returns will give a proportionately increased charge as that to be made for the year now current. This charge is for the main line subsidy alone, and is quite irrespective of the cost of any branch line connecting New Zealand with Australia.

To sum up this view of the case, and to show at the same time with what right New Zealand calls attention to her requirements, it follows from the foregoing figures, that a population numbering only 8 per cent. is liable to a contribution of little less than 20 per cent. for the general advantage, in which it participates in a very inferior degree.

The maintenance by the Imperial Government at a cost of £13,000 a year, of a branch service from Australia to New Zealand, without expense to the latter colony, has not been either forgotten or undervalued in making the foregoing observations, which are not effected by it. But it must be said that the Colony cannot look forward to much longer exemption from this additional burden, and already it is a charge of a more than equal sum each year to render this portion of its communication with Great Britain tolerably efficient.

The Colony of New Zealand therefore urges that, in consideration of the serious postal disadvantages under which it now labours, and still more in expectation of its largely increasing requirements for the future, immediate steps should be taken to establish a monthly mail service, uniting it with Great Britain by the direct route *viâ* Panama. In furtherance of this object, the colony undertakes to guarantee a contribution by way of subsidy, not exceeding £30,000 per annum, for five years, from the first January, 1864. And this guarantee is given without withdrawing from the engagement, together with the Australian Colonies, to contribute to the expense of the Suez service in proportion to the number of its letters carried by that route.

CROSBIE WARD,

Postmaster-General and Special Representative of New Zealand,
in the United Kingdom.

London, 16th March, 1863.

TABLE (A.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, showing the White Population, the Value of Imports and Exports, the Correspondence with the United Kingdom, and its Proportion to the whole Australian Correspondence, of the Colony of New Zealand, between the years 1857 and 1862 inclusive, compiled from Official Returns.

YEAR.	Number of White Population.	Value of Imports	Value of Exports	LETTERS.	
				Number sent to and Received from the United Kingdom	Per-centage on whole Australian Correspondence.
1857				£77,900	5·694
1859	*58,733	£1,551,030	£551,484	—	—
1860		1,548,333	588,953	266,700	11·586
1861	98,394	2,493,811	1,370,247	—	—
1862		†2,291,217	†684,462	420,200	16·314

* Census taken at the end of preceding year.

† For six months only to 30th June, 1862.