

Enclosure in No. 3.

Messrs. MACKRELL and Co. to the Hon. Sir J. VOGEL.

21, Cannon Street, London, E.C., 2nd May, 1877.

DEAR SIR JULIUS,—

Mail Service.

We beg to report that, in accordance with the views expressed by yourself and Mr. Forster, the Agent-General for New South Wales, at the conference we had together on Monday last, we have had prepared a deed whereby the parties to the bond declare that all alterations may be made in the service which may be approved by the Postmasters-General of the two colonies by way of temporary arrangement.

We have been through the draft of this deed with Mr. Ure, one of the sureties, who does not see any objection to it, except that he wishes the temporary arrangement to be limited to the year 1877, as otherwise it might prejudicially affect his firm in their arrangements with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. He has taken the draft to submit to his solicitor, which he wished to do before leaving London this afternoon, and we expect to-morrow to receive it back approved.

It will not, however, be possible to get the deed executed and sent out to-morrow, as the sureties are all resident in Scotland.

We will send the draft for your consideration before having it engrossed.

We have, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

JOHN MACKRELL AND Co.

No. 4.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

3, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,

29th May, 1877.

SIR,—

I have the honor to forward you the copy of a letter received from Captain Jopp, enclosing a telegram received by the Agent-General for New South Wales, together with a letter from Mr. Mackrell relative to the same.

In the meanwhile, I had an interview with Mr. Forster, at which that gentleman asked me what I proposed should be done in reference to the telegram. In reply, I said that in my opinion it called for no action. It was an answer to the one he had hastily sent out previously, asking for information about points in the mail contract, which information became wholly unnecessary when it was decided that the sureties' deed of consent should be of a general nature. I reminded Mr. Forster that I had previously advised him to telegraph his Government telling them he did not require the information he had telegraphed for. I declined, therefore, taking any action about the telegram, and said I was quite satisfied with the deed as it was framed. Mr. Forster then consulted Mr. Mackrell, and Mr. Mackrell consulted counsel, and the result, as you will observe, is that the telegram does not necessitate any alteration in the deed.

I bring these facts before you because I think when it comes to a question of paying expenses you may fairly urge that Mr. Forster has incurred unnecessary expenditure. My previous anticipations are accurately fulfilled; all the expenditure connected with the first submission by Captain Jopp of the original telegram to Mr. Mackrell, counsel's first opinion thereon, the telegram to the colony, the first correspondence with Mr. Mackrell, and the reply from the colony, have been wholly unnecessary; besides that, it is probable the Governments were put to much trouble in considering the nature of the reply to be sent to Mr. Forster.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL,

Agent-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Captain JOPP, R.E., to the Hon. Sir J. VOGEL.

3, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, S.W., 24th May, 1877.

SIR,—

I am directed by Mr. Forster to forward, for your information, an extract from a telegram to him from the Chief Secretary of New South Wales, dated Sydney, 23rd instant, and received this morning, respecting the changes in the mail service.

A similar extract has been sent to Messrs. Mackrell and Co.

Mr. Forster will be happy to see you here at any time this morning that may be convenient to you, or, if possible, at any other time that you may name, to consider the instructions contained in the telegram.

I have, &c.,

A. A. JOPP, Captain, R.E.,

Secretary.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

Mr. PARKES to the AGENT-GENERAL, New South Wales.

(Telegram.)

Sydney, 3rd May, 1877.

HAVE now arranged with Gilchrist, pending decision regarding permanent modification of con-