

Memorandum of Amount required to return Capital							£	s.	d.
Cost of line per balance-sheet	..	..	..	..	..	..	109,048	1	7
Balance to credit of profit and loss	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,135	15	0
* Say £108,000.							* £107,912	6	7
Rates, three years, to 31st March, 1885	..	..	..	..	..	..	£13,016	14	6
Rates, one year, to 31st March, 1886 (say)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,587	0	0
							£15,603	14	6
Amount required to return capital as above (say)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£108,000	0	0
Half-rates as above (say)	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,800	0	0
							£115,800	0	0

6. The Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. CUTHBERT COWAN, M.H.R.

Re *Waimea Plains Railway*.

SIR,—

31st December, 1885.

In reply to your letter of the 24th instant on the subject of the purchase of the above-mentioned railway I have the honour to inform you that, having carefully considered the offer made by the company, it appears to me that, whilst a purchase of the railway on these terms would be, no doubt, a very excellent arrangement for the company, it would, at the same time, be an exceedingly bad one for the ratepayers.

The offer is, in fact, so unfavourable to the ratepayers that I do not think that Parliament would be in the least degree likely to acquiesce in it, even if the Government could see their way to recommend it; but, before giving you a final answer as to the views of the Government on the subject, I have thought it desirable to refer the matter to Cabinet.

In view of the present holidays, however, and of the probable absence of myself and Sir Julius Vogel in Auckland for some little time, it may probably be some weeks before a full Cabinet can be got together to decide upon the question, and I have therefore thought it better in the meantime to acknowledge your letter, with an indication as to my own views on the subject, pending the decision of the Government being given upon it.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD RICHARDSON,

Minister for Public Works.

Mr. Cuthbert Cowan, M.H.R., Dipton.

7. Mr. CUTHBERT COWAN, M.H.R., to the Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS.

(Telegram.)

Dipton, 18th January, 1886.

Will offer Waimea be considered by Cabinet before 23rd? If necessary, I will ask company for extension of time. Can I help in getting conditions modified?

CUTHBERT COWAN.

8. The UNDER-SECRETARY for PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. CUTHBERT COWAN, M.H.R.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 20th January, 1886.

Re *Waimea Railway*: Your telegram of 18th instant having been referred to Hon. Mr. Richardson, who is in Auckland, he directs me to inform you that he cannot submit company's offer to Cabinet until his return to Wellington; and he thinks, therefore, that it might be as well if you were to get extension of time as you suggest; but he cannot hold out any hopes at all of offer being favourably considered by Cabinet unless considerably modified.

C. Y. O'CONNOR.

9. Mr. CUTHBERT COWAN, M.H.R., to the Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS.

(Telegram.)

10th February, 1886.

Offer of Waimea may lapse on 15th instant. Does Government wish further extension? Will be glad to try and arrange matter.

CUTHBERT COWAN.

10. The Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. CUTHBERT COWAN, M.H.R.

(Telegram.)

Christchurch, 12th February, 1886.

The report I advised you I was getting as to the real value of the Waimea line to the Government of course cannot be considered by Cabinet till we meet at end of this or early next month. Probably the company, if they really wish to sell, will not withdraw.

EDWARD RICHARDSON.