

answer which may be sent to the Federal Council on those subjects. Although New Zealand has not entered the Federal Council, the great interest she must have in any events affecting the islands of the eastern Pacific will, I hope, make this request appear reasonable.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
F. D. BELL.

Enclosure 7.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Colonial Office, Downing Street, 6th February, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for your information, copies of a telegram forwarded by the Governor of Tasmania, at the request of the Federal Council, and of the reply which has been returned to it, respecting the present position of affairs with regard to Raiatea and Samoa. I have communicated these telegrams to the Agents-General for the Australian Colonies.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Enclosure 8.

COPY of a TELEGRAM from Sir J. C. STRAHAN to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES, dated 30th January, 1886.

I HAVE been requested by the Federal Council to forward to Her Majesty by telegraph the following resolution: That, in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that further information be obtained from official sources with respect to the present position of affairs in the Islands of Raiatea and Samoa.

GOVERNOR, Tasmania.

Enclosure 9.

TELEGRAM from the COLONIAL OFFICE to the GOVERNOR of TASMANIA, sent 4th February, 1886.

No change Samoan affairs. German Government has recently assured they adhere steadfastly to understanding between Germany, England, and United States, by which each Power is pledged respectively to the others not to endeavour to acquire any privileges in group without consent of others. United States have also objected to any interference with existing arrangements. Raiatea: Provisionally agreed French flag shall remain, subject to stipulation British ships and trade equal footing with French in Society Islands. These islands could at no time since 1847 have come under British flag.

No. 37.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

. RAIATEA: Agreement with France gives equal rights British subjects.
1st February, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 38.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

PROTOCOL signed Germany France pledging Germany not prevent France taking Raiatea and Hebrides.

1st February, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 39.

H.B.M. Consul WILFRED POWELL to the GOVERNOR of NEW ZEALAND.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

H.B.M. Consulate, Samoa, 12th February, 1886.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 14th of January last, covering a telegram from Lord Salisbury in code, with interpretation.

I have to report, in reply to the statement that "the German Government surprised at the contents of telegram of the 31st of December, having received telegram from commander of 'Albatross' of same date reporting all well, and no mention made of incident," that the commander of the "Albatross" must have been badly informed to report "all well," when the expulsion of Malietoa from Mulinu Point was imminent at the time; but the fact that he does not mention the incident of the flag being lowered is in consequence of the small coasting vessel that is employed to carry letters to the mail steamboat off Tutuila had left the same morning, but prior to the lowering of the flag.

Lord Salisbury was informed of the fact by my telegram despatched by a small schooner subsequently, which was especially chartered immediately after the occurrence, with orders to the master to allow nothing to interfere with her intercepting the mail-steamer. I succeeded also in catching the following mail, of the 5th January, by despatching my letters per steamer "Explorer".