

(trading boat), whereas the German Consul-General despatched his by the small coasting vessel before referred to, which failed to catch the mail-steamer. The German despatches have therefore remained here until the 4th February instant.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois,
G.C.M.G., C.B., &c., Governor of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
WILFRED POWELL,
H.B.M. Consul.

No. 40.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 22nd February, 1886.

I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter I have received from the Colonial Office, containing the announcement that Germany has taken possession of the Marshall, Brown, and Providence groups of islands.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

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

Enclosure.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Colonial Office, Downing Street, 20th February, 1886.

I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing a translation of a note from the German Ambassador at this Court notifying officially to Her Majesty's Government that the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, have been placed under the protection of the German flag.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
JOHN BRAMSTON.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

The FOREIGN OFFICE to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Foreign Office, 8th February, 1886.

I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a translation of a note from the German Ambassador at this Court notifying officially to Her Majesty's Government that the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, have been placed under the protection of the German flag.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

(Translation.)

4th February, 1886.

THE undersigned has been instructed to notify officially to Her Majesty's Government that the groups of the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands have been placed under the protection of His Majesty the Emperor by virtue of treaties concluded with the Native chiefs, due regard being had to justly-acquired rights of third parties, and that, as a sign of possession, the German flag has been hoisted there.

In now carrying out these instructions, the undersigned avails himself, &c.,
The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., &c.

V. HATZFELDT.

No. 41.

The PREMIER, Victoria, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 22nd February, 1886.

With reference to my telegram of the 17th ultimo, relative to the reported action of Germany with regard to Samoa, and to your reply dated the 18th *idem*, I beg to forward enclosed, for your information, a copy of a telegram which, immediately on receipt of your message, I addressed to the Agent-General for Victoria on the subject, also a copy of Mr. Murray Smith's reply thereto.

The question was brought under the notice of the Federal Council at Hobart on the 28th ultimo; with the result that an address to the Queen, praying for further information from official sources with respect to Samoa, was resolved upon by the Council, and was forthwith communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania.

The Hon. the Premier of New Zealand, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
D. GILLIES,
Premier.

Enclosure 1.

The PREMIER, Victoria, to the AGENT-GENERAL for Victoria, London.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 18th January, 1886.

TELEGRAM from London to-day says *Cologne Gazette* infers England would not object German annexation Samoa, and that *North German Gazette* asserts lowering Samoan flag ordered by Imperial Government. Warn at once Secretary of State for Colonies and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that such annexation would produce storm disapprobation. Get other agents co-operate.

JAMES SERVICE.