

No. 6.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, WELLINGTON, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Melbourne.

(Telegram.)

General Post Office, Wellington, 30th November, 1894.

TELEGRAM received. I very much regret decision *re* cable guarantee. Trust, however, that notwithstanding difficulty of position you may yet see your way to recognise the advantages to colonies, and especially to commerce, from a continuation of cheap cable communication. I have asked Postmaster-General, South Australia, to confer with the guaranteeing colonies.

No. 7

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the POSTMASTERS-GENERAL, Sydney and Hobart, and the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Perth.

(Telegram.)

General Post Office, Wellington, 4th December, 1894.

REFERRING Victoria's withdrawal from cable guarantee: I strongly urge that other colonies immediately make joint representation endeavour persuade her not to withdraw. Am advised that if volume last month's cable business continues next three or four months, payments to Guarantee Fund comparatively trifling. Should Victoria actually withdraw, other colonies must do the same, and cable rates necessarily materially increased, adversely interfering with commerce. I am cabling other guaranteeing colonies. Would be glad if you would obtain their views and arrange. Let me know what considered best to be done.

No. 8.

The Hon. the MINISTER for EDUCATION, Adelaide, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

General Post Office, Adelaide, 1st December, 1894.

In reference to withdrawal from guarantee, will do all I can to urge reconsideration.

No. 9.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the MINISTER for EDUCATION, Adelaide.

(Telegram.)

General Post Office, Wellington, 4th December, 1894.

THANKS for your telegram. Have sent following to Postmasters-General, Sydney, Hobart, and Perth:—[See No. 7.]

No. 10.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Hobart, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Hobart, 4th December, 1894.

VICTORIA'S notice to us of withdrawal is only in respect of agreement to join us in loss by reason of reduced charges across Straits. I am unaware of any other withdrawal. Other colonies have so far declined to share in said loss, and the proposal for them to do so will be reopened at March Conference, until when existing rates continue.

No. 11.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Melbourne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 6th December, 1894.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th October last, advising that it was the intention of the Victorian Government to give notice of withdrawal from all agreements of guarantee in respect of cable receipts for business transacted over European, New Zealand, and Tasmanian cables, as from the 30th April, 1895, and requesting an expression of opinion on the subject.

As you are no doubt aware, the Postmaster-General communicated with the Hon. Mr. Duffy on the 28th and 30th ultimo by telegram, urging a reconsideration of the determination of your colony to withdraw from the guarantee. In sending you copy of the telegrams I am desired by the Hon. Mr. Ward to again express the hope that in the general and commercial interests of Australasia the Government of your colony will yet be able to see its way to continue a party to the guarantee agreement.

The Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary

No. 12.

The Hon. the PREMIER, Melbourne, to the Hon. the PREMIER, Wellington.

SIR,—

Premier's Department, Melbourne, 11th December, 1894.

I have the honour to inform you that it is the intention of this Government to withdraw, from the 30th April next, from the following guarantees:—