

Enclosure 2 in No. 108.

The POSTMASTER, New York, to the RESIDENT AGENT for NEW ZEALAND, San Francisco.
 (Telegram.) New York, 28th November, 1898.
 LAST instalment Australian mails from this office misconnected. Leaves Chicago this afternoon.
 Important mail. Hold steamer if possible.

[“ Moana ” detained : sailed 1st December.]

Enclosure 3 in No. 108.

The POSTMASTER, New York, to the RESIDENT AGENT for NEW ZEALAND, San Francisco.
 (Telegram.) New York, 29th November, 1898.
 MANY thanks. Twenty-six sacks. Important American business mail.

No. 109.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

(Telegram.) London, 13th December, 1898.
 SAN FRANCISCO Vancouver services: It is very important if it can be arranged so that they may be delivered New York three hours earlier. Will communicate with Camerons with the object of endeavouring to arrange accordingly.

No. 110.

The RESIDENT AGENT for NEW ZEALAND, San Francisco, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

SIR,— Resident Agency for New Zealand, San Francisco, 27th December, 1898.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 10th November, with enclosures [see No. 12], informing me of the passing by the House of Representatives of a resolution authorising the Government to extend the San Francisco and Vancouver mail-services for one year from the 1st April, 1899; and, further, that the department was in communication with the shipping companies on the subject.

I have also the honour to enclose herewith memoranda received from various divisions of the United States railway mail-service relative to the misconnection of a portion of the outward mail for the colonies, causing the detention of the mail-steamer at this port in October last; also a communication from the New York office in explanation of the causes operating to occasion a similar delay in the departure of the December outward mails.

I have, &c.,

H. STEPHENSON SMITH, Resident Agent.

W. Gray, Esq., Secretary, General Post Office, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 110.

The RESIDENT AGENT for NEW ZEALAND, San Francisco, to the SUPERINTENDENT, Railway Mail-service, Chicago.

SIR,— Resident Agency for New Zealand, San Francisco, 10th November, 1898.

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to inform me, if it is in your power, of the cause of the detention of some twenty-five sacks of mail destined to New Zealand ports and other ports of the Pacific on or about the 2nd October [for despatch by “ Alameda : ” sailed 6th October]. Inquiries are being made in reference to the delay which detained the contract steamer some twelve hours, and, if possible, I desire to be in a position to give an intelligent explanation of the circumstance. I have endeavoured to obtain this information from Mr. Thall at this end, but as he states that the delay occurred prior to the mails reaching his division he is not in a position to give the information sought. I therefore again trespass upon your usual kind attention in the matter.

Regretting troubling you,

I have, &c.,

H. STEPHENSON SMITH,

Resident Agent for New Zealand.

L. L. Troy, Esq., Superintendent, Railway Mail-service, Chicago.

Enclosure 2 in No. 110.

The SUPERINTENDENT, Railway Mail-service, New York, to the RESIDENT AGENT for NEW ZEALAND, San Francisco.

Railway Mail-service, Office of Superintendent, New York,
 1st December, 1898.

(Memorandum.)
 IN reply to yours of the 10th ultimo, addressed to Superintendent Troy, at Chicago, in reference to delay to certain British-Australian mails which detained the steamer, I have to state that the mail did not all arrive at the Grand Central Station in New York from the pier in time for despatch; apparently through no one's fault, but rather because of the delayed arrival of the steamer “ Etruria,” and the quantity of mail carried being so heavy that it could not all be transferred to the station before the departure of the train.

H. Stephenson Smith, Esq.,
 Resident Agent for New Zealand, San Francisco,

V. J. BRADLEY, Superintendent,