

No. 35.

Mr. JOHN D. SPRECKELS, San Francisco, to the Hon. the PREMIER, Wellington.

The J. D. Spreckels and Brothers Company, San Francisco, Cal.,
6th April, 1900.

DEAR SIR,—

I have to advise you that our Government has accepted our proposal for a mail-service to commence 1st November, 1900, and, should nothing unexpected occur, the sailings under the new schedule (copy of which I beg to hand you herewith) will commence on 31st October and continue at intervals of twenty-one days.

As the time is quite near when the change will be inaugurated, I am naturally desirous to learn what my company may expect from the colonial Governments in the line of financial support. In view of the immense advantages to be derived from the new service, with modern steamships, more frequent communication, and reduced time, also of the greatly increased cost of operation, I consider that a lump sum of £30,000, in the form of a joint contribution from the colonies, is not by any means an unreasonable amount, postages to be retained by the Governments, and the contract to extend for five or seven years. In fact, I may definitely state that this sum would be accepted as satisfactory if offered to us.

The amount mentioned is not greatly in excess of the present revenue of the service from bonuses and postages combined, and even the increased amount for the new service will be largely met through the increased postal revenue, owing to more frequent and expeditious mail-service.

In view of the probable discussion of this question in your Parliament, I feel it incumbent upon myself to anticipate certain questions by stating that we cannot undertake to perform the service *via* any other New Zealand port than Auckland; also that we cannot alter our schedule from the basis on which it is at present planned.

In short, my proposal as submitted to you last year, through Mr. Witheford, is still open; and I shall be glad to learn at your earliest convenience that its acceptance is authorised.

I will arrive at Auckland per s.s. "Sierra," leaving here on the 5th September on present schedule, when I should have an opportunity of arranging details.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

JOHN D. SPRECKELS.

Enclosure in No. 35.

TIME-TABLE of NEW SERVICE.

Steamers.				Leave San Francisco, 8 p.m.	Arrive Honolulu.	Arrive Samoa.	Arrive Auckland.	Arrive Sydney.
				1900. Wednesday.	1900. Tuesday.	1900. Tuesday.	1900. Monday.	1900. Thursday.
Sonoma	...	...	...	Oct. 31	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 19	Nov. 22
Sierra	...	...	...	Nov. 21	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 10	Dec. 13
Ventura	...	...	...	Dec. 12	Dec. 18	Dec. 25	Dec. 31	1901. Jan. 3
				1901.	1901.	1901.	1901.	
Sonoma	...	...	...	Jan. 2	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 21	Jan. 24
Sierra	...	...	...	Jan. 23	Jan. 29	Feb. 5	Feb. 11	Feb. 14
Ventura	...	...	...	Feb. 13	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	March 4	March 7
Sonoma	...	...	...	March 6	March 12	March 19	March 25	March 28
Sierra	...	...	...	March 27	April 2	April 9	April 15	April 18
Ventura	...	...	...	April 17	April 23	April 30	May 6	May 9
Sonoma	...	...	...	May 8	May 14	May 21	May 27	May 30
Sierra	...	...	...	May 29	June 4	June 11	June 17	June 20
Ventura	...	...	...	June 19	June 25	July 2	July 8	July 11
Sonoma	...	...	...	July 10	July 16	July 23	July 29	Aug. 1
Sierra	...	...	...	July 31	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 19	Aug. 22
Ventura	...	...	...	Aug. 21	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 9	Sept. 12
Sonoma	...	...	...	Sept. 11	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	Sept. 30	Oct. 3
Sierra	...	...	...	Oct. 2	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 21	Oct. 24
Ventura	...	...	...	Oct. 23	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 11	Nov. 14
Sonoma	...	...	...	Nov. 13	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 2	Dec. 5

Steamers leave San Francisco, Wednesday, 8 p.m., every three weeks; arrive in Honolulu, Tuesday, 5 a.m.; arrive Samoa, Tuesday, 9 a.m.; arrive Auckland, Monday, 5 a.m.; arrive Sydney, Thursday, 6 p.m.