

Siam, et Suisse, est reduite à 1d. par $\frac{1}{2}$ once, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer le 8 Juillet suivant, sous le No. 3565, qu'à mon avis, la taxe des lettres echangees entre la Nouvelle-Zelande et un pays de l'Union autre que la Grande-Bretagne et les colonies et protectorats britanniques, ne peut pas être reduite, ni dans les deux sens, ni dans un sens seulement, par simple entente administrative, et que pour l'un comme pour l'autre cas, il est necessaire, suivant moi, de conclure à ce sujet un arrangement d'Etat avec chacun des pays interesses, conformément au § 2 de l'Article 21 de la Convention principale.

Par la même lettre, j'ai eu, en outre, l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me faire connaître :—

(a.) Quelles sont les colonies precedemment connues sous le nom de colonies britanniques de l'Australasie qui font partie des Australian States.

(b.) Si, comme l'Office de la Grande-Bretagne, vous ne croyez pas devoir vous en tenir, en ce qui concerne la reduction de la taxe des lettres à 1d par $\frac{1}{2}$ once, aux denominations de " Protectorat de la Côte du Niger " et " Territoire du Niger, " au lieu de " Nigeria (Northern) " et " Nigeria (Southern). "

Je vous prie de vouloir bien me faire part des observations que vous aura suggerees la première de ces questions et me fournir les renseignements demandes au sujet des deux autres questions ci-dessus rappelees sous les lettres (a) et (b).

Veuillez agreer, &c.,

Le Directeur,
RUFFY.

Monsieur le Postmaster-General à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 21st May last, by which you were good enough to inform me that the charge for prepayment on letters from New Zealand for the United Kingdom, for a certain number of colonies and British protectorates, and for the following countries: Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Portuguese colonies, Siam, and Switzerland, has been reduced to 1d. per half-ounce, I had the honour to inform you on the 8th July that in my opinion the charge on letters exchanged between New Zealand and the countries of the union other than Great Britain and the British colonies and protectorates cannot be reduced, either in the two directions or in one only, by simple administrative agreement, and that for one case as well as the other it is necessary in my opinion to conclude on this subject a State agreement with each of the countries in question according to paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Principal Convention.

By the same letter I had, moreover, the honour to beg of you to kindly inform me :—

(a.) Which of the colonies formerly known under the name of British colonies of Australasia form part of the Australian States.

(b.) If, similarly to the office of Great Britain, you do not deem it best to substitute, in respect of the reduction of letter charges to 1d. per half-ounce, the names of the " Protectorate of the Nigerian Coast " and " Nigerian Territory " for " Northern Nigeria " and " Southern Nigeria. "

I should be glad if you would let me have any observations which the first of these questions may suggest to you, and furnish me the information requested on the subject of the two other questions above reiterated under the letters (a) and (b).

No. 173.

The ACTING POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Hongkong, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Hongkong, 3rd February, 1902.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government has approved of the extension, from the 15th instant, of the penny rate of postage on letters passing between the British postal agencies in China, noted hereunder, and the United Kingdom, British colonies and possessions, in the same manner as it now obtains between Hongkong and these places: Shanghai, Liu Kung Tau, Hankow, Ningpo, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Hoihow.

The rate of postage charged will be 4 cents per half-ounce.

I am, &c.,

E. CORNWALL LEWIS,

The Secretary, General Post Office, Wellington.

Acting Postmaster-General.

No. 174.

The STATE-SECRETARY, Postal Department, Berlin, to the GENERAL POST OFFICE, Wellington.

Kaiserlich Deutsches Reichs-Postamt, Berlin, W. 66, den 18 Februar, 1902.

MITTELS gefälligen Schreibens vom 18 Oktober V.J., P.O. 01/43(57), hat das General Post Office den Abschluss eines besonderen Abkommens in Vorschlag gebracht behufs Einführung des inländischen neuseeländischen Portos für den Briefverkehr Neu-Seelands mit Apia.

Das Reichs-Postamt beehrt sich zu erwidern, dass es zu seinem Bedauern nicht in der Lage ist, der dortseitigen Anregung Folge leisten zu können, da dem Vorschlage ähnliche Bedenken entgegenstehen, wie sie in dem Schreiben vom 15 Februar, 1901, I/864 gegenüber dem