

1903.
NEW ZEALAND.

UNIVERSAL PENNY POSTAGE

(PAPERS RELATING TO).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

[Extract from Universal Postal Union Convention, dated Washington, 15th June, 1897.]

Article XXI.

1. The present Convention does not involve alteration in the legislation of any country as regards anything which is not provided for by the stipulations contained in this Convention.

2. It does not restrict the right of the contracting parties to maintain and to conclude treaties, as well as to maintain and establish more restricted unions, with a view to the reduction of postage-rates, or to any other improvement of postal relations.

No. 2.

[Extract from Report of London Conference on Postage within the British Empire.]

Second Day.—Tuesday, 5th July, 1898.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Secretary and confirmed,

Mr. Mulock proposed, "That it is advisable, in the interests of the British Empire, that the rate of postage for the conveyance of letters (other than inland letters) throughout the entire extent of the Empire be reduced from the present rate of 2½d. per half-ounce to 1d."

Sir David Tennant, in seconding the proposal, &c.

No. 3.

[Extract from Parliamentary Debates, No. 2, 27th June, 1900, page 90.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Universal Penny Postage.

Mr. WARD (Postmaster-General) said the Government had shown their earnest desire in this matter by having placed upon the statute-book legislation to give effect when the time was opportune to this great reform. But the Government of the country had to recognise that which was so important in all matters—namely, the financial aspect of every reform. As honourable members knew, the country had recently received concessions computed by the Railway officers to the extent of £75,000 on the railways. He was strongly in favour of the penny post, but he thought the right course, as they all desired to see this reform effected, was to wait a reasonable time in order that they might see how far the concessions on the railways were going to be reimbursed.

No. 4.

[Extract from the Financial Statement of the Colonial Treasurer, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, 17th August, 1900.]

Penny Postage.

Parliament, during the session of 1891, passed an Act under which a penny postage within the colony could be established. From that time until the present, owing to the demand upon our funds, we have not been able to give to the public the boon such a cheap rate of postage would confer.

It is pleasing to be able to announce that, on and after the 1st day of January, 1901, a penny-postage system will be established within and without the colony.

This colony will therefore be the first in Australasia to have a universal penny postage.

I estimate that the loss of revenue by so doing will be about £80,000 per annum; but this will only be of a temporary nature, for there will be an increase in the correspondence which will in time bring up the revenue to the original level.

The loss to the revenue during the unexpired portion of the present financial year will be about £20,000.

No. 5.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 17th August, 1900.

NEW Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration new century. Confident your reciprocating, I send greeting on forging another link in chain of Empire.

[Telegrams of same text sent to the Hons. the Postmasters-General, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Ottawa, Sydney; the Postmasters-General, Adelaide, Cape Town, Colombo, Hongkong, Natal, Newfoundland, Singapore; and the Director-General of Posts, Calcutta.]

No. 6.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 17th August, 1900.

NEW Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope you reciprocate.

No. 7.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to Mr. J. HENNIKER HEATON, M.P., London.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 17th August, 1900.

GREAT pleasure informing you New Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting reform commemoration new century, and adding another link to chain of Empire.

No. 8.

The Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

London, 17th August, 1900.

THANKS for kindly telegram. Before consulting Government I would ask, Is intention universal or Imperial penny postage? If Imperial, are arrangements with Australia mature? If universal, foreign countries would expect to be consulted.

No. 9.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 18th August, 1900.

NEW Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration of new century. Advise Imperial Post Office, and ask that all colonies be informed.

No. 10.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Posts, Berne.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 18th August, 1900.

NEW Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope for your favourable consideration.

No. 11.

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

(Telegram.)

Pietermaritzburg, 18th August, 1900.

GLAD to hear you are introducing universal penny post, which, of course, Natal will reciprocate. We cordially congratulate you on this forward step.

No. 12.

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

(Telegram.)

Hobart, 18th August, 1900.

CONGRATULATE you on penny-postal-rate policy. Wish we could reciprocate, but as one of Commonwealth States Tasmania's future postal rates will be controlled by Federal Post Office.

No. 13.

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

Office of the Postmaster-General, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.,

SIR,—

18th August, 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of your telegram of the 17th instant in the words following—viz., “New Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope you reciprocate”—permit me to congratulate your Administration upon its action, which, it seems to me, is a step forward in the march of progress now being made by the postal administrations of the world.

I have, &c.,

G. EMORY SMITH.

The Postmaster-General, Wellington, New Zealand.

No. 14.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Singapore, 19th August, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram in the following words: “New Zealand introduces universal penny postage first January, befitting commemoration new century. Confident your reciprocating, I send greeting on forging another link in chain of Empire.”

I congratulate your Administration on the adoption of the proposed measure, and cordially reciprocate the sentiments expressed by you. This colony will gladly extend penny postage to letters for New Zealand from the date mentioned.

I have, &c.,

N. TROTTER,

Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General of New Zealand.

No. 15.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 20th August, 1900.

UNIVERSAL, not Imperial. No arrangement Australia, but hope fall in. Assume you reciprocate. New Zealand outside federated Australia. Berne advised, asked consider favourably.

No. 16.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Simla, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Simla, 20th August, 1900.

HEARTY congratulations on New Zealand joining Imperial penny postage. India fully prepared reciprocate. No link more enduring than cheapened communication by post.

No. 17.

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

(Telegram.)

Brisbane, 20th August, 1900.

Your wire seventeenth, penny post: Matter so far this colony concerned one for consideration Federal Government.

No. 18.

[Extract from Parliamentary Debates, No. 17, 21st August, 1900, page 109.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Penny Postal Rate.

Mr. WARD (Postmaster-General) said the establishment of penny postage from the 1st January next applied to all places outside the colony that would agree to our sending letters at 1d., as well as within the colony. There appeared to be some slight misapprehension in the minds of some people concerning the position. He would like to say that the legislation passed in 1891 applied to within the colony only, as under the Postal Act authority existed for the Governor in Council to vary postage-rates beyond the colony, and the penny postage could be put into operation beyond the colony whenever the Government elected to do so. The legislation of that year, therefore, applied to within the colony only. What the Government intended to do now, however, was to establish on the 1st January next a penny postage within the Imperial dominions, and to all places which would allow the colony to send letters to them at the penny rate. For the information of the House he might say the Postmaster-General, London, had cabled to him asking if it was intended to adopt Imperial penny postage, and he replied that it was intended to do so. Again, the Postmaster-General of Pietermaritzburg had telegraphed his very hearty congratulations, and

also intimated that Natal would gladly reciprocate; while only that day he had received from Simla, the summer residence of the Governor-General in India, the following message: "Hearty congratulations on New Zealand joining Imperial penny postage. India fully prepared reciprocate. No link more enduring than cheapened communication by post.—A. U. FANSHAWE." Mr. Fanshawe was, he understood, a representative of the Government of the country. The honourable member would therefore see the extent of the boon it was proposed to grant to the colony after the 1st January next.

No. 19.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Sydney, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.
(Telegram.) Sydney, 21st August, 1900.

RE your cable 17th instant: In view of early approach of federation, the question of universal penny postage is not one for one or two colonies to settle. The question of penny postage throughout Australia and its extension to New Zealand will, of course, be one of the matters for consideration at the preliminary Conference proposed to be held.

No. 20.

The ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Hongkong, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.
(Telegram.) Hongkong, 22nd August, 1900.

HONGKONG reciprocates your greeting, and welcomes New Zealand on her adoption Imperial penny rate most heartily.

No. 21.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Cape Town, to the Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.
(Telegram.) Cape Town, 23rd August, 1900.

IMPERIAL penny postage: Hearty congratulations. Will reduce concurrently.

No. 22.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Melbourne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.
(Telegram.) Melbourne, 23rd August, 1900.

CONGRATULATE you cordially on determination to establish penny post. Victorian Government at present considering proposal.

No. 23.

The Right Hon. the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.
(Telegram.) London, 24th August, 1900.

AGENT-GENERAL informs me that your Ministers propose universal penny postage 1st January. Highly appreciate spirit of proposal, but presume that it will apply only to United Kingdom, India, and colonies having adopted penny postage; otherwise Postal Union Convention infringed. Telegraph reply.

No. 24.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
24th August, 1900.

SIR,—

I beg herewith to transmit copy of correspondence relating to the adoption by New Zealand of universal penny post, and, in reference thereto, to state that, in accordance with the suggestion of the General Post Office, I am requesting the Director-General of the Swiss Post Office to transfer the Hon. J. G. Ward's cablegram, which he has received, to the Director of the International Bureau of the Postal Union.

I have, &c.,

WALTER KENNAWAY,
For the Agent-General for New Zealand.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

The SECRETARY to the AGENT-GENERAL to the UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

SIR,—

18th August, 1900.

I am directed by the Agent-General to inform you that he has this day received a cablegram from the Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General for New Zealand, stating that New Zealand introduces universal penny postage on the 1st January next as a befitting commemoration of the commencement of the new century.

I am, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

WALTER KENNAWAY.

Enclosure 3 in No. 24.

The SECRETARY to the AGENT-GENERAL to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

Sir,—

18th August, 1900.

I am directed by the Agent-General to inform you that he has this day received a cablegram from the Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General for New Zealand, stating that New Zealand introduces universal penny postage on the 1st January next as a befitting commemoration of the commencement of the new century, and instructing him to request the favour of your communicating this decision to the Postmaster-General, and also informing all colonies to the same effect.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary, General Post Office.

WALTER KENNAWAY.

Enclosure 4 in No. 24.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the SECRETARY to the AGENT-GENERAL.

DEAR MR. KENNAWAY,—

Colonial Office, 18th August, 1900.

The gratifying announcement contained in your letter of to-day as to New Zealand adopting penny postage refers, I suppose, only to adoption of the cheap rate in the case of those countries within the Empire which have joined the penny-post arrangement?

I should be much obliged by an early line from you.

Yours, &c.,

Walter Kennaway, Esq., C.M.G.

A. E. COLLINS.

Enclosure 5 in No. 24.

The SECRETARY to the AGENT-GENERAL to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

DEAR MR. COLLINS,—

20th August, 1900.

I have yours of Saturday.

We have no further information with regard to the adoption of the penny postage by New Zealand than that contained in my official letter of that day.

As it is referred to in the cablegram we received as "universal penny post," I am inclined to think that it is intended to extend it to all countries without distinction.

Yours, &c.,

A. E. Collins, Esq.

WALTER KENNAWAY.

Enclosure 6 in No. 24.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, General Post Office, London, to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, London, 23rd August, 1900.

I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, notifying that you have received a telegram from the Postmaster-General of New Zealand announcing the introduction of universal penny postage in that colony as from the 1st January next.

In reply, I am to inform you that the Postmaster-General has received directly from Mr. Ward a telegram on this subject, to which he has sent a reply by cable, eliciting a rejoinder received on the 20th instant. Of these three telegrams copies are sent herewith. [Nos. 5, 8, 15.]

It is clearly the desire of the New Zealand Government to institute in that colony from the 1st January next penny letter postage for the rest of the world; and the Postmaster-General of the colony is in communication with the International Bureau at Berne with a view to secure the consent of the other parties to the Postal Union.

So far as the adhesion of New Zealand to the scheme for penny postage within the British Empire is concerned, the Postmaster-General will at once lay the matter favourably before Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

H. BUXTON FORMAN.

P.S.—Since the above letter was written the Postmaster-General has received a letter from the Director-General of the Swiss Post Office, a copy of which is enclosed. From this it would seem that the New Zealand Post Office has sent its communication not directly to the International

Bureau of the Postal Union, but to the Swiss Post Office, presumably for transmission to the Bureau. In these circumstances you will probably think it right to request the Director-General of that office to transfer the telegram he has received to the Director of the International Bureau.

Sub-enclosure to Enclosure 6 in No. 24.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Swiss Posts, Berne, to the GENERAL POST OFFICE, London.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Direction Générale des Postes Suisses,
Berne, le 20 Août, 1900.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je viens de recevoir le télégramme suivant de Wellington (Nouvelle-Zélande), savoir:—

"Director-General Posts, Berne.

"New Zealand introduces universal penny post 1st January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope for your favourable consideration.

" J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General."

J'ai tout lieu de supposer que c'est par erreur que ce télégramme m'a été adressé, aussi je vous prie de bien vouloir si possible me renseigner et, le cas échéant, adresser les communications voulues à l'office de la Nouvelle-Zélande.

General Post Office, London.

Veillez agréer, &c.,
LUTZ, Directeur-Général.

No. 25.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL and DIRECTOR of TELEGRAPHS, Colombo, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Colombo, 24th August, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 17th instant, relative to the reduction to 1d. the half-ounce of the postage on letters from New Zealand, and to inform you that the new rate will be introduced in Ceylon from the 1st January, 1901, as proposed.

I presume that the adoption of the penny-postage scheme by your colony will be duly notified to this office by the British Post Office.

I am, &c.,

W. C. MACREADY,

For Postmaster-General and Director of Telegraphs.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 26.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Perth, 28th August, 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of your Minister's telegram of the 17th instant, notifying that New Zealand intended on the 1st January next to introduce universal penny postage, I beg to inform you that, as Western Australia has, in common with the other colonies of Australia, already rejected the universal-penny-postage proposal, I fear I am unable to reciprocate the views expressed in the message above alluded to, and therefore, until the question is definitely decided by the Federal Government, this Department will either be unable to deliver letters received here from New Zealand unless fully prepaid at the rate of 2d. per half-ounce, or else surcharge the deficiency with the customary fine to the addressees. Probably the former course will be adopted.

I have, &c.,

R. A. SHOLL,

Postmaster-General and General Superintendent of Telegraphs.

The Secretary, General Post Office, Wellington.

No. 27.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 29th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next, and to thank you for your congratulatory telegram in reply.

I gather from cable messages from the Postmasters-General of some of the other Australian colonies that the question of reciprocity in this matter is considered to be one for the attention of the Federal Government; but I trust it will be possible for some decision to be come to by the Conference, which it is understood is to meet presently to make recommendations in respect of the fusing of the postal services in Australia, whereby penny postage may be brought into operation between New Zealand and the Commonwealth at the beginning of the new century.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that most appreciative telegrams have been received from the Postmasters-General, London and many of the principal colonies beyond Australia. I venture to

express the hope that the first congratulations which I am privileged to offer the Federal Postmaster-General may be upon the adhesion of the Commonwealth to the Imperial penny-postage agreement—an adhesion which will put the coping-stone on a reform the ultimate effect of which will be more far-reaching than can at present be conceived.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Melbourne.

[Letters of same text sent to the Postmasters-General, Adelaide and Perth.]

No. 28.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 29th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next, and to thank you for your telegram in reply.

I note that the question of reciprocity in this matter is considered to be one for the attention of the Federal Government; but I trust it will be possible for some decision to be come to by the Conference, which it is understood is to meet presently to make recommendations in respect to the fusing of the postal services in Australia, whereby penny postage may be brought into operation between New Zealand and the Commonwealth at the beginning of the new century.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that most appreciative telegrams have been received from the Postmasters-General, London and many of the principal colonies beyond Australia. I venture to express the hope that the first congratulations which I am privileged to offer the Federal Postmaster-General may be upon the adhesion of the Commonwealth to the Imperial penny-postage agreement—an adhesion which will put the coping-stone on a reform the ultimate effect of which will be more far-reaching than can at present be conceived.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Brisbane.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

[A letter of same text sent to the Hon. the Postmasters-General, Hobart and Sydney.]

No. 29.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Cape Town.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 29th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next, and to thank you for your congratulatory telegram in reply.

No doubt the Postmaster-General, London, will communicate with you in regard to the completion of any necessary arrangements, but it gave me much pleasure to convey to you the earliest possible intimation of the intentions of this colony.

I have, &c.,

The Postmaster-General, Cape Town.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

[Letters of same text sent to the Postmasters-General, Hongkong and Pietermaritzburg, and the Director-General of Posts, Simla.]

No. 30.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 29th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next.

No doubt the Postmaster-General, London, will communicate with you in regard to the completion of any necessary arrangements, but it gave me much pleasure to convey to you the earliest possible intimation of the intentions of this colony.

I have, &c.,

The Postmaster-General, Colombo.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

[Letters of same text sent to the Postmasters-General, St. John's (Newfoundland) and Singapore.]

No. 31.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 30th August, 1900.

INTEND having postage-stamp commemorating universal penny post. Inquire cost stamp exact measurement present penny stamp and same number on steel plate. Might be designed by President Royal Academy. Female figure symbolical New Zealand facilitating communication throughout world. Lettering to be, "New Zealand Universal Postage, One Penny." Telegraph quickly if design can be obtained and plate engraved and sent with million stamps to reach here before end year.

No. 32.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 30th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm the telegram, copy of which is attached [No. 9], on the subject of the proposed introduction of universal penny postage by this colony.

I also enclose copies of telegrams,—From the Colonial Office to His Excellency the Governor [No. 23], and between the Postmaster-General at London and the Hon. Mr. Ward [Nos. 5, 8, 15], and copy of a memorandum from myself to the Governor in reply to the telegram from the Colonial Office.

You will observe that the question was raised whether Imperial or universal penny postage was intended, and Mr. Ward's telegram to the Postmaster-General, London, will make it clear that the latter was meant. The Government was, of course, aware that letters at the penny rate could only be exchanged with foreign countries under the provisions of the Postal Union Convention, and by way of preliminary action the Director-General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union at Berne was apprised by cable of the intention of this colony to establish the universal rate. You will perhaps consider it advisable to inform the London postal authorities of this, and at the same time to ask whether Her Majesty's Postmaster-General would be disposed to use his influence with the International Office and the Post Offices of the principal foreign countries in order that New Zealand might be enabled to extend its penny-postage scheme as widely as possible. It is, of course, understood that the Imperial Post Office offers every encouragement to the introduction of the penny post throughout the Empire, and I do not doubt that the colonies concerned have already been communicated with by the Marquess of Londonderry, in order that, at the least, New Zealand may be enabled to participate in the Imperial penny-post arrangements by the beginning of the new year.

As regards the Australian Colonies, it is probable that, owing to the near approach of federation, it may be some time yet before the Federal Government determines whether it will fall in with New Zealand. The appreciative telegrams, however, from the principal colonies in the group, and the generally expressed wish for a penny post within the Commonwealth, encourage me in the hope that the penny postage may be adopted by Australia.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD,

For the Premier.

The Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

No. 33.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 30th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, advising you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage on the 1st January next, and to thank you for your Lordship's cordial reply.

My second telegram of the 20th idem would make it clear that universal, as distinct from Imperial, penny postage was intended. I was, of course, aware of the difficulties attending the establishing of a penny post beyond Her Majesty's dominions, but with every confidence that the acceptance of the scheme throughout the Empire was assured, the time seemed opportune to bring forward the larger question, in the hope that at least the United States, as being the principal foreign country with which New Zealand has direct postal relations, would agree to exchange letters at 1d., as it does with Canada.

As regards the Australian Colonies, it may be well to explain that, with the near approach of federation, it is unlikely that the Conference which is to meet presently to consider the fusing of the postal services of Australia will be able to come to a decision about the penny post until close upon the end of the year. Judging, however, from telegrams which have been received from the Postmasters-General of the principal colonies there is reason to hope that the Commonwealth will fall in with New Zealand.

No doubt your Lordship will, before the receipt of this letter, be in a position to inform me whether Her Majesty's Government and the colonies which at present are parties to the Imperial penny-postage scheme are prepared to receive our letters at the penny rate. I am pleased to be able to say that highly satisfactory telegrams have been received from the Director-General of Posts, India, and the Postmasters-General, Hongkong, Natal, and Cape Colony.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Londonderry, K.G., P.C., Postmaster-General, London.

No. 34.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 30th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next.

The scheme which it is proposed to introduce will, as far as practicable, be universal, as

distinct from Imperial, penny postage. There will, no doubt, be difficulties in the way of making arrangements with many of the countries in the Postal Union, but the cordial relations which have for so many years subsisted between the United States and this colony lead me to hope that you will see your way to grant the same privileges to New Zealand in regard to the exchange of letters at the penny rate as are at present accorded to the Dominion of Canada.

I have the less hesitation in expressing this hope as for a generation—from the time when New Zealand was an unimportant colony, indeed, until the present day—the route by way of the United States has been availed of by the colony, as it is the quickest for mail communication with the Mother-country.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Postmaster-General, Washington, D.C.

No. 35.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 30th August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 16th instant, informing you that this colony would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next.

Recalling the prominent part which Canada took in the negotiations which preceded the establishing of the Imperial penny-postage scheme, it gives me unusual pleasure to make this announcement. No doubt the Postmaster-General, London, will write to you in connection with any necessary arrangements yet to be made.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Ottawa.

No. 36.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR of the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, Berne.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 31st August, 1900.

NEW ZEALAND introduces universal penny postage first January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope for your favourable consideration.

No. 37.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL BUREAU of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, Berne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 31st August, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of to-day, advising that New Zealand would introduce universal penny postage on the 1st January next.

I should be obliged if you would communicate with other Administrations informing them that New Zealand is desirous of extending the penny-postage rate as widely as possible, and would be glad to enter into a restricted union under Regulation XXI. of the Washington Convention, with a view to a reduction of letter-postage rates with any country which may be willing to do so.

I may explain that through inadvertence my telegram of the 18th instant, intended for you, was addressed to the Director-General of Posts, Berne.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Director, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne.

No. 38.

The AGENT-GENERAL for NEW ZEALAND to the Hon. the PREMIER.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

31st August, 1900.

SIR,—

Referring to my letter of the 24th instant, I beg herewith to transmit copy of letter and enclosure received from the Colonial Office, relating to the adoption by New Zealand of universal penny post.

I also enclose copy of a letter received this day from the Director-General of the Swiss Post Office, stating that the Hon. J. G. Ward's cablegram of 18th instant has been transmitted to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union at Berne.

I have, &c.,

WALTER KENNAWAY,

For the Agent-General for New Zealand.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 38.

The ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES, London, to the AGENT-GENERAL for NEW ZEALAND.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 25th August, 1900.

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a telegram [No. 23] which has been transmitted to the Governor of New Zealand, on the subject of the proposal of his Ministers to introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next.

I am, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

H. BERTRAM COX.

[For Sub-enclosure to Enclosure 1, see No. 23.]

Enclosure 2 in No. 38.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne, to the AGENT-GENERAL for NEW ZEALAND.
MONSIEUR,— Direction Générale des Postes Suisses, Berne, le 29 Août, 1900.

En me référant à votre lettre du 24 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le télégramme que j'ai reçu le 18 courant de Mr. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à Wellington, a été transmis au Bureau International de l'Union Postale Universelle à Berne.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

ANAGUY.

No. 39.

The DIRECTOR of the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Bureau International de l'Union Postale Universelle,
Berne, le 31 Août, 1900.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Le 18 et le 31 Août courant, vous avez bien voulu me transmettre le télégramme suivant : "New Zealand introduces universal penny post first January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope for your favourable consideration."

En réponse, je me permets de vous faire remarquer que votre Administration ne peut pas adopter la taxe de 1 penny par $\frac{1}{2}$ once indistinctement pour les lettres à destination de tous les pays de l'Union.

L'Article 5 de la Convention principale fixe, d'une manière générale, la taxe des lettres à 25 centimes par 15 grammes ou fraction de 15 grammes ou à l'équivalent de cette somme dans la monnaie des pays de l'Union qui n'ont pas le franc pour unité monétaire (voir Article IV. du Règlement d'exécution de la Convention principale).

L'Administration de la Nouvelle-Zélande est donc obligée de percevoir cette taxe, soit 2½d. par port simple pour les lettres à destination de tout le ressort de l'Union, à moins que, conformément au § 2 de l'Article 21 de la Convention principale elle ne conclue avec certaines Administrations "des unions plus restreintes, en vue de la réduction des taxes ou de toute autre amélioration des relations postales."

L'Administration de la Grande-Bretagne, entre autres, a conclu un arrangement de ce genre avec un certain nombre de colonies britanniques, aux termes duquel la taxe des lettres de la Grande-Bretagne pour ces colonies et *vice versa* est fixée à 1d. par $\frac{1}{2}$ once (voir note "(15) Grande-Bretagne (a)" au bas de la page 10 du Recueil de renseignements réparti par ma circulaire du 5 Septembre, 1899, No. 5237/233).

Si l'Administration de la Nouvelle-Zélande désire conclure un arrangement de cette nature soit avec la Grande-Bretagne et les colonies britanniques, soit avec d'autres pays de l'Union, il y aura donc lieu de prendre les mesures nécessaires à cet effet dans le sens du § 2 de l'Article 21 précité.

Je vous serais très obligé de vouloir bien me faire connaître le plus tôt possible quelle suite vous jugerez à propos de donner à la présente communication.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur,

Monsieur le Postmaster-General à Wellington.

RUFFY.

[TRANSLATION.]

On the 18th and the 31st instant you were good enough to send me the following telegram : "New Zealand introduces universal penny post 1st January, befitting commemoration new century. Hope for your favourable consideration."

In reply, permit me to remark that your Administration is not empowered to adopt the rate of 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. without distinction for letters addressed to the countries of the Union.

Article 5 of the Principal Convention fixes in a general manner the charge for letters at 25 centimes per 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes, or the equivalent of this sum in money of those countries of the Union which have not the franc for their unit of value (see Article IV. of the regulation for the execution of the Principal Convention).

The New Zealand Administration is therefore obliged to levy this charge—that is to say, 2½d. per single rate of letters addressed to any place within the Union, unless in conformity with section 2 of Article 21 of the Principal Convention it concludes with certain Administrations agreements for restricted unions with a view to the reduction of charges or to any other improvement of postal relations.

The Administration of Great Britain, for instance, has concluded an arrangement of this kind with a certain number of British colonies, in terms of which the charge on letters from Great Britain for these colonies and *vice versa* is fixed at 1d. per ½ oz. (See note “(15) Great Britain (a)” of page 10 of the Summary of Regulations communicated by my circular of the 5th September, 1899).

If the New Zealand Administration desires to conclude an arrangement of this kind, either with Great Britain and the British colonies or with other countries of the Union, it will have to take measures necessary to this effect in the sense of section 2 of Article 21 before recited.

I shall be much obliged if you will be good enough to let me know as early as possible what steps you think proper to take in connection with the present communication.

No. 40.

The AGENT-GENERAL for NEW ZEALAND to the Hon. the PREMIER.

(Telegram.)

London, 5th September, 1900.

PENNY postage: In reply to your telegram of 30th, 1,000,000 can be delivered early November, free on board, London. Cost, including overtime work £280, not including charges President Academy, who now preparing design. Immediate reply required.

No. 41.

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

(Telegram.)

Ottawa, 6th September, 1900.

CANADIAN Government heartily congratulates New Zealand on adoption penny postage.

No. 42.

The Hon. the PREMIER, Wellington, to the AGENT-GENERAL for New Zealand, London.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 7th September, 1900.

PENNY postage: In reply to your telegram of fifth: Approved.

No. 43.

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

DEAR SIR,—

Ottawa, 7th September, 1900.

I have to acknowledge your telegram of the 27th ultimo, announcing that it is the intention of New Zealand to introduce universal penny postage on the 1st day of January, 1901, “as a befitting commemoration of the new century,” and expressing your confidence that this Department will take reciprocal action.

In reply, I desire to say that this Department will have great pleasure in establishing the penny rate with New Zealand on and from the date you mention.

I have to thank you at the same time for the kind personal congratulation your message contains, and I need hardly say that I agree most fully with you that the liberal arrangements which the scattered possessions of Great Britain are making with one another do, in a very true sense, constitute “links of Empire.”

Congratulating you on the step which New Zealand has decided to take, and hoping that the results from every point of view may be wholly satisfactory,

I remain, &c.,

W. MULOCK, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 44.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Hobart, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Hobart, 7th September, 1900.

I am directed by the Hon. the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, confirming your telegram of the 18th idem, relative to the introduction in New Zealand of the universal penny postage on and from the 1st January next.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

H. V. BAYLY, Secretary.

No. 45.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Posts, Berne.
 Sir,— General Post Office, Wellington, 8th September, 1900.

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 18th ultimo, advising that New Zealand would introduce universal penny postage on the 1st January next.

No doubt the Director of the International Office will communicate with you in regard to the completion of any necessary arrangements, but it gave to me much pleasure to convey to you the earliest possible intimation of the intentions of this colony.

The Director-General of Swiss Posts, Berne.

I have, &c.,
 W. GRAY,
 For the Postmaster-General.

No. 46.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Cape Town, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.
 Sir,— General Post Office, Cape Town, 8th September, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your cablegram of the 17th ultimo on the subject of the adoption of Imperial penny postage by New Zealand, and to confirm my cablegram of the 23rd idem, of which a copy is enclosed.

I may say that this Department heartily welcomes the adhesion of New Zealand, and trusts that before long the whole of the Australasian Colonies may be able to adopt the lower rate.

The Cape Colony takes an especial interest in the question of ocean penny postage, and, as you are doubtless aware, was instrumental in securing the adoption of the penny rate between British possessions as a preferable arrangement to the higher rate of 2d. advocated by the Imperial authorities.

The Postmaster-General, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
 S. R. FRENCH, Postmaster-General.

No. 47.

The UNDER-SECRETARY and SUPERINTENDENT of TELEGRAPHS, Brisbane, to the Hon the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Sir,— Post and Telegraph Department, Brisbane, 8th September, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ultimo, in further reference to the introduction of universal penny postage in your colony, and to the suggested adoption of the system by the Australasian Colonies.

In reply, the Postmaster-General directs me to say it is considered that the question of so large a reduction of postage must affect the financial position of the Federal Government, and it is therefore a matter to be dealt with by the Federal Cabinet and Parliament, and could not be departmentally decided. The position of New Zealand as regards area, contiguity to the sea, and population, is not at all analogous to that of Australia, where the land services are necessarily long and expensive, and where the comparatively small population is scattered over a very large extent of country.

I have, &c.,
 ROBERT. T. SCOTT,

Under-Secretary and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 48.

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

Sir,— General Post Office, Melbourne, 11th September, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge your communication of the 29th ultimo, and to confirm my telegraphic congratulations of the 23rd idem upon the introduction of penny post decided upon by your Government.

The question of a uniform penny postal rate within the Australian Commonwealth will undoubtedly be considered at the Conferences which are to take place before the Postal Departments of the federating States are amalgamated, but of course it would be premature to predict as to the shape the recommendation will assume.

In the meantime the matter is receiving the attention of the Victorian Government, and I hope to be able to announce our decision in a few weeks at latest.

I have, &c.,
 W. A. WATT, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 49.

The MINISTER of EDUCATION and AGRICULTURE, Adelaide, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Office of the Minister of Education and Agriculture,
Adelaide, 17th September, 1900.

SIR,—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29th August, conveying the information that universal penny postage will be introduced by New Zealand from 1st January, 1901, and asking that the question of reciprocity in this matter between your colony and the Commonwealth of Australia be considered at the conference of heads of departments proposed to be held shortly.

In reply I beg to inform you that the Australian Colonies have all decided that the question of adopting universal penny postage should be left to the Federal Government. I agree, however, with the suggestion made by you that the forthcoming Conference should discuss the matter in order to facilitate a decision.

I have, &c.,

E. L. BATCHELOR,
Minister of Education and Agriculture.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 50.

The AGENT-GENERAL for New Zealand to the Hon. the PREMIER.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
19th September, 1900.

SIR,—

Referring to your cablegram of the 30th August, instructing me to inquire as to the cost, &c., of engraving by steel-plate process one million postage-stamps proposed to be issued in commemoration of New Zealand adopting universal penny post, I beg to state that I at once communicated with Sir E. Poynter (President of the Royal Academy), who expressed his willingness to prepare the design. I also communicated with Messrs. De La Rue and Company and Messrs. Waterlow and Sons as regards the cost and the time in which they would undertake to supply the stamps.

Messrs. De La Rue were unable to undertake to supply the stamps within the required time. Messrs. Waterlow, however, subject to their receiving the design without delay, undertook to deliver them for shipment early in November.

Messrs. Waterlow quoted as follows: Engraving original die, £100; making printing-plate, £95; printing 1,000,000 stamps, £62 10s.; overtime, £20: total, £277 10s.

I informed you on the 5th instant by cable of the price and time of delivery, and on the 7th instant I received your reply approving the same.

However, on again communicating with Sir Edward Poynter I was informed by him that he could not furnish the design before the 21st of this month.

There was therefore, in order to get the stamps out to the colony in time, no alternative but to obtain a design through Messrs. Waterlow, so that the work of engraving could be at once commenced.

The design furnished by their designer will, I think, be approved as artistic and as carrying out the idea expressed in your cablegram.

I propose to send out at all events a portion of the stamps by the mail (*via* San Francisco) which leaves London on the 17th November next, and which is due at Wellington on the 20th December. The remainder will go by the direct steamer leaving London on the 8th November, and should reach Wellington before the end of the year.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

W. P. REEVES.

No. 51.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL and GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT of TELEGRAPHS, Perth.

General Post Office, Wellington, 20th September, 1900.

SIR,—

Universal Penny Postage.

I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, in which you say that until the question is definitely decided by the Federal Government your Department will probably be unable to deliver letters received from New Zealand unless fully prepaid at the rate of 2d. per half-ounce.

I am to express the Hon. Mr. Ward's regret that the refusal of letters from this colony should have been suggested. He is surprised to think that, even if you were unable to establish a penny rate from your colony to New Zealand, any objection should be raised to treating our mail matter as fully prepaid at the rate of 1d.

The Minister desires to remark further that if your colony determines to take such unusual action as you suggest there is nothing to prevent our retaliating.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

The Postmaster-General and General Superintendent of Telegraphs, Perth.

No. 52.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

(Telegram.)

London, 24th September, 1900.

UNIVERSAL penny postage :—Stamp colour : Shall I decide without further reference to? I recommend accordingly.

No. 53.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 25th September, 1900.

PENNY postage-stamps : Arrange for six heavy arrows in margin sheets to facilitate division into sixties. Confer with Imperial Post Office.

No. 54.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

(Telegram.)

London, 27th September, 1900.

PENNY-postage message of 25th received. I do not see the necessity for conferring with Imperial Post Office. There is no difficulty.

No. 55.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 27th September, 1900.

PENNY postage-stamp must be printed in carmine, same as our present penny stamp.

No. 56.

The SUPERINTENDENT of FOREIGN MAILS, Washington, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Post Office Department, Office of Foreign Mails, Washington, D.C.,

SIR,—

2nd October, 1900.

I have the honour, by direction of the Postmaster-General, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th August last, confirming your telegram of the 18th of the same month, announcing that New Zealand would introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next, and, in connection therewith, stating that the cordial relations which for so many years have subsisted between New Zealand and the United States lead your Administration to hope that this Department will see its way to grant the same privileges to New Zealand in regard to the exchange of letters at the penny rate as are at present accorded to the Dominion of Canada.

In reply, I am to inform you that, however much the Postmaster-General may be in sympathy with your views respecting universal penny postage, and especially respecting penny postage between New Zealand and the United States, yet, under the legislation in force in this country, it is impracticable to carry those views into operation as regards any country the mails for which are necessarily conveyed from this country by sea.

I am, &c.,

N. M. BROOKS,

Superintendent of Foreign Mails.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 57.

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

(Telegram.)

3rd October, 1900.

WHEN do you propose introducing inland penny postage? Reply.

No. 57A.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 3rd October, 1900.

PENNY postage within and beyond New Zealand 1st January next.

No. 58.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

(Telegram.)

London, 11th October, 1900.

ASSURED by Imperial Post Office that on 1st January postage will be reduced to one penny the half-ounce each way between New Zealand and all parts of the British Empire included in penny scheme. Steps will be taken to notify change to all British possessions concerned, as well as Postal Union, in due time.

[Extract from Parliamentary Debates, No. 34, of 12th October, 1900, page 162.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Imperial Penny Postage.

Mr. WARD (Postmaster-General) read the following cablegram from the Agent-General: "Assured by the Imperial Post Office that on 1st January postage will be reduced to one penny the half-ounce each way between New Zealand and all parts of the British Empire included in penny scheme. Steps will be taken to notify the change to all British possessions concerned, as well as Postal Union, in due time.—London, 11th October, 1900."

No. 59.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, London, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, London, 12th October, 1900.

I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th August, confirming your previous announcements by telegraph of the desire of the New Zealand Government to establish penny letter-postage with all parts of the world on the 1st January next.

As regards that part of the proposal which relates to the adhesion of New Zealand to the scheme for penny postage within the British Empire, I am to state that the Postmaster-General lost no time in laying the matter favourably before Her Majesty's Government, which, he is glad to inform you, has now agreed to the institution of penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st January next. I am to explain that the inclusion of any British possession in the scheme automatically establishes penny postage between that possession and all others which are parties to the scheme. It was laid down as an essential principle of the measure, on its inception in 1898, that it should be applicable to the reciprocal relations between any two of the postal administrations participating in it. Consequently it will suffice for the Postmaster-General to notify the Post Offices of the British possessions concerned (of which a schedule is attached) in order to secure the adoption of penny postage between each of them and New Zealand, in both directions, on the 1st January next; and this he will proceed to do in proper course. He will at the same time notify the change to the Postal Union generally, through the International Bureau. It is, of course, understood that the change will be restricted to the rate of postage on letters.

As regards your desire to establish a penny letter-postage with foreign countries, more particularly the United States, the Postmaster-General has already pointed out (in his telegram of the 17th August) that this must be a matter for negotiation between your Government and the several foreign Governments concerned. Since the receipt of your letter now under reply, the Agent-General for New Zealand has, on behalf of his Government, requested the Postmaster-General to use influence with foreign Post Offices and the International Bureau of the Union in order to further the desired change. It has been explained to him that the Postmaster-General has not, and cannot have, any influence in this matter. Nor has the International Bureau, which merely serves as a medium of communication between Union Administrations, any power to affect the arrangements made between them. The sole method of reducing postage below the normal Union tariff which Union Administrations can adopt is that provided in Article XXI. of the Convention of Washington—namely, the formation of restricted unions for the purpose by mutual agreement between the Post Offices concerned. Thus the Post Office of New Zealand will have to treat directly with any foreign Post Office with which it desires to establish penny postage. Her Majesty's Postmaster-General will, of course, be much interested to see whether you will be more successful than he was in endeavouring to arrange for a reduced postage to foreign countries.

The Agent-General has also stated that it is desired to obtain a separate vote for the New Zealand Post Office in the affairs of the Union. You are no doubt aware that, to this end, it is incumbent upon the New Zealand Post Office, under Article XXVI. of the Convention, to make a proposal, with the support of at least two Union Administrations, to the Union, through the International Bureau, for the modification of Article XXVII., and that the proposal will have to receive a unanimity of votes. The Postmaster-General will have pleasure, if Her Majesty's Government sees no objection, in supporting the proposal of your office, and he is representing the matter to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile it will be necessary for you to seek the support of a second Administration, which the Postmaster-General ventures to suggest might readily be found in either the Post Office of Canada or that of the United States.

The Postmaster-General, Wellington.

I am &c.,
G. H. MURRAY.

SCHEDULE OF THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND PROTECTORATES COMPRISED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE PENNY-POSTAGE SCHEME.

Aden; Ascension; Bahamas; Barbadoes; Bermudas; British Central Africa Protectorate; British East Africa Protectorate; British Guiana; British Honduras; British North Borneo; Canada; Cape Colony; Ceylon; Cyprus; Falkland Islands; Fiji; Gambia; Gibraltar; Gold Coast; Hongkong; India; Jamaica; Johore; Labuan; Lagos; Leeward Islands—namely, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Monserrat, and the Virgin Islands; Malay States, Protected—namely, Perak, Selangor, Negri-Sembilan, and Pahang; Malta; Mauritius; Natal; Newfoundland; Nigeria Northern—including Borgu, Idia, and Lakoja; Nigeria Southern—including Akassa, Asaba, Benin, Bonny, Brass, Burutu, Calabar (New and Old), Onitsha, Opobo, Warree or Forcados; St. Helena; Sarawak; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Straits Settlements; Tobago; Trinidad; Turk's Islands; Uganda; Windward Islands—namely, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines; Zanzibar.

No. 60.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

SIR,—

18th October, 1900.

Referring to your letter of the 30th August last and to previous correspondence, I beg to transmit copy of further correspondence which has taken place with respect to the introduction by New Zealand of universal penny postage.

It will be seen that the Imperial Government have agreed to the institution of penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st January next, and also between the colony and every other part of the British Empire included in the penny-postage scheme which was adopted by the Conference of 1898.

With regard to the establishment of penny postage with other countries, the General Post Office points out that it rests with New Zealand to treat direct with any foreign Post Office with respect thereto.

* * * * *

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
W. P. REEVES.

Enclosure 1 in No. 60.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, London.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,

SIR,—

8th October, 1900.

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the proposed introduction of universal penny postage in New Zealand. On the 17th August you sent a telegram to the Postmaster-General, Wellington, asking whether it was universal or Imperial penny postage that the colony propose to establish, and on the 20th August a reply was telegraphed to you that the proposed postage would be universal and not Imperial.

The Government of New Zealand fully understand that outside the Empire New Zealand can only establish penny postage with such countries as are willing to exchange under the provisions of the Postal Union Convention, and by way of preliminary action the Director-General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postage Union at Berne was apprised by cable of the colony's intention to establish the universal rate.

My Government would be greatly obliged if you could see your way to use your influence with the International Office and Post Offices of the principal foreign countries to secure that New Zealand may be enabled to extend her penny-postage scheme as widely as possible.

My Government also confidently assume that you will give your assistance to enable it to establish the penny rate within the Empire with all those offices the Governments of which have already given their adhesion to penny postage.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,
W. P. REEVES.

The Right Hon. the Postmaster-General, St. Martins-le-Grand, E.C.

Enclosure 2 in No. 60.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, London, to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

General Post Office, London, 9th October, 1900.

With reference to my letter of the 23rd August last, [Enclosure 6 in No. 24], acquainting you with the intention of the Postmaster-General to communicate to Her Majesty's Government his cordial concurrence in the proposed adhesion of the Post Office of New Zealand to the scheme for penny postage within the British Empire, I am directed to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, after consultation with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, have agreed to the institution of penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st January next. It is, I need not remind you as a member of the Conference which discussed the penny-postage scheme in 1898, an essential principle of the measure that it is applicable to the reciprocal relations between any two postal Administrations participating in it—that is to say, on the 1st of January next the rate of postage on letters will be reduced to 1d. the half-ounce, in both directions, not only between New Zealand and the United Kingdom, but between the colony and every other part of the British Empire included in the scheme. Steps will, of course, be taken here to notify the change to the British possessions concerned, as well as the Postal Union generally, in due time.

The Postmaster-General is communicating the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the New Zealand Post Office in a letter explaining the general conditions attaching to penny letter-postage within the Empire. Meanwhile, you may desire to apprise your Government in advance by telegraph.

Since the Postmaster-General received the decision of the Treasury your letter of the 8th instant has been received.

As regards the request of the New Zealand Government that this Department will use its influence with the International Bureau of the Union and the Post Offices of the principal foreign countries to secure that New Zealand may be enabled to extend the penny-postage scheme a

widely as possible, I am to explain that the Postmaster-General is powerless in this matter. Nor is it one affecting the International Bureau, of which the function is to announce and record the arrangements between the contracting parties of the union, and not to intervene save as a medium of communication. Under Article XXI. of the Postal Union Convention of Washington it is only by mutual agreement between Post Office and Post Office that restricted unions for the reduction of postage-rates can be formed; and it will rest with the New Zealand Post Office to treat directly with any foreign Post Office with which it desires to establish penny postage. The result of any such negotiation will, of course, be awaited by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General with much interest.

The Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand.

I am, &c.,
G. H. MURRAY.

[For Enclosure 3, see No. 58.]

Enclosure 4 in No. 60.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
12th October, 1900.

SIR,—

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks your letter of 9th instant, informing me that penny postage between New Zealand and every other part of the British Empire included in the scheme will commence on the 1st January next; and also explaining what has to be done to establish penny postage with foreign countries.

I at once cabled to my Government the information you gave as to the operation of penny postage on 1st January.

The Secretary, General Post Office, E.C.

I am, &c.,
W. P. REEVES.

[Enclosures 5 and 6 not printed.]

No. 61.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 20th October, 1900.

UNIVERSAL penny postage-stamps: Print second million.

No. 62.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Swiss Posts, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Direction Générale des Postes Suisses,
Berne, le 26 Octobre, 1900.

Répondant à votre lettre du 8 Septembre dernier et en me référant à la circulaire du Bureau international de l'Union postale universelle du 10 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon Administration n'est pas en mesure de donner suite actuellement à votre proposition de conclure un arrangement réduisant à 1 penny (soit la contre-valeur de cette somme) la taxe simple des correspondances dans l'échange avec votre pays à partir du 1er Janvier prochain.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

General Post Office (Nouvelle-Zélande), Wellington.

Le Directeur-General,
LUTZ.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of 8th September last, and referring to the circular of the International Office of the Universal Postal Union of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that my Administration is not as yet in a position to give effect to your wishes for concluding an agreement reducing to one penny (or the equivalent of that sum) the single rate for correspondence exchanged with your country from the 1st January next.

No. 63.

The Right Hon. the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES, to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

My LORD,—

Downing Street, 30th October, 1900.

With reference to the telegraphic correspondence noted in the margin [Secretary of State to Governor, 24th August, 1900, (No. 23); Governor to Secretary of State, 28th August, 1900; Secretary of State to Governor, 10th October, 1900; Governor to Secretary of State, 23rd October, 1900, (see next number following)], relative to the proposal of your Government to introduce universal penny postage from the 1st January next, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury on 3rd instant agreed to the institution of penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st January next, provided that your Government, on finding that universal penny postage was impracticable, retained its desire to institute penny postage with this country and with such British colonies as have accepted the latter scheme.

Your telegram of the 23rd instant having since made clear what was the intention and desire of your Government in this respect, their adherence to the Imperial penny-postage scheme will be communicated, as on previous similar occasions, in a circular despatch to the colonies generally; and the same circular will also contain an intimation of the readiness of your Government to enter into a similar arrangement with any British possession that may not as yet have joined the scheme.

I have, &c.,

H. BERTRAM COX,

For the Secretary of State.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Ranfurly, K.C.M.G., &c.

No. 64.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PREMIER.

SIR,—

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
30th October, 1900.

Referring to my letter of the 18th instant, I beg herewith to transmit copy of letter from the Colonial Office (dated this day) forwarding copy (also enclosed) of further correspondence relating to the introduction of universal penny postage.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington, New Zealand.

W. P. REEVES.

Enclosure in No. 64.

The ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY, Colonial Office, to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 30th October, 1900.

With reference to your letter of the 18th August last [Enclosure 2 in No. 24] relative to the proposal of the New Zealand Government to introduce universal penny postage on the 1st January next, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin [telegram from the Secretary of State to Government, 24th August, 1900; telegram from Government, 28th August, 1900; Treasurer's letter, 3rd October, 1900; telegram to Government, 10th October, 1900; telegram from Government, 23rd October, 1900], and to state that a circular despatch to the colonies notifying the adherence of the New Zealand Government to the Imperial penny-postage scheme from the 1st January, 1901, will be issued from this Department.

An intimation will also, at the same time, be made of the desire of New Zealand to enter into similar arrangements with any British possessions which may not as yet have joined the penny-postage scheme.

I am, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

H. BERTRAM COX.

[For Sub-enclosure 1, see No. 23.]

Sub-enclosure 2 to enclosure in No. 64.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR to the Right Hon. the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

Wellington, 28th August, 1900.

REFERRING to your telegram 24th August, my Government fully understood that penny postage could only be applied to such countries as would reciprocate, and that preliminaries to action had been taken in regard to places beyond Her Majesty's dominion by communicating with International Office, Berne.

Sub-enclosure 3 to Enclosure in No. 64.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY to the UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

SIR,—

Treasury Chambers, 3rd October, 1900.

Adverting to Mr. Lucas's letter of the 8th ultimo, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith for the information of the Secretary of State a copy of a letter which is being addressed to the Postmaster-General in regard to penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

I am, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

R. W. HANBURY.

Second Sub-enclosure to Sub-enclosure 3 in No. 64.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY to the Right Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

My LORD,—

Treasury Chambers, 3rd October, 1900.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, in reply to Mr. B. Forman's letter of the 23rd August, that, after communicating with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain on the subject, they agree to the institution of penny postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st January next, provided that the Colonial Government, on finding that universal penny postage (which it appears desirous of establishing) is impracticable, retains its desire to institute penny postage with this country, and with such British colonies as have accepted the latter scheme.

The Postmaster-General.

I am, &c.,

R. W. HANBURY.

Sub-enclosure 4 to Enclosure in No. 64.

The Right Hon. the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

(Telegram.)

London, 10th October, 1900.

REFERRING to your telegram of 28th August, do I rightly understand that your Government will adopt penny postage 1st January, as regards places where the system has been adopted within the Empire independently of action in respect to places outside?

Sub-enclosure 5 to Enclosure in No. 64.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR to the Right Hon. the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 23rd October, 1900.

REFERRING to your telegram of 10th October: New Zealand adopts penny postage to all places in Empire which will allow New Zealand to do it. My Government, however, desire to enter into arrangements with any other British country and with any other country willing to form a restricted union under section two, article twenty-one, Washington Convention.

No. 65.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Cape Town.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 1st November, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th September last on the subject of the introduction of the penny post in this colony.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General desires me to express his great satisfaction at receiving so appreciative a reply from your office.

It is understood that the Imperial Post Office is communicating with the British colonies in the matter.

The Postmaster-General, Cape Town.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 66.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Posts, Paris.

General Post Office, Wellington, le 23 Novembre, 1900.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la Nouvelle-Zélande désire introduire, à partir du 1er Janvier prochain, le "penny tarif" (tarif de 10 centimes par 15 grammes) pour lettres pour tous pays, en commémoration du commencement du nouveau siècle. Les administrations des Postes de la Grande Bretagne, des Indes, du Canada, et beaucoup d'autres possessions britanniques ont déjà signifié leur intention de nous rendre la réciprocité; mais par un malentendu il est possible que votre administration n'ait pas été prévenue du désir de notre colonie d'étendre le tarif d'un penny à votre pays.

Les avantages de tarifs postaux modérés vous sont si bien connus que je me contente, à présent, de suggérer, à la considération favorable de votre administration, la formation d'une Union restreinte entre la France et la Nouvelle-Zélande, sous l'article XXI. de la Convention Principale de Washington.

S'il n'est pas en votre pouvoir de réduire le tarif des lettres mises à la poste dans votre pays et destinées à la Nouvelle-Zélande, j'espère pourtant qu'il vous serait possible de délivrer aux destinataires, sans taxe, les lettres provenant de notre colonie et affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

J. G. WARD,

Maître-Général des Postes.

Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes de France, à Paris.

(For translation of this letter, see No. 66A, down to end of third paragraph, "prepaid at 1d.")

[Similar letter sent addressed Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes—de l'Etat de Nicaragua; de Perse; de Liberia; d'Haïti; d'Allemagne; du Mexique; des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises; de l'Equateur; d'Autriche; du Montenegro; de Suède; de Bosnie Herzegovine; de la Russie; du Royaume de Siam; de la République de l'Uruguay; de Norvège; de Bulgarie; de Hongrie; de Turquie; de Belgique; de Chine; de l'Etat indépendant du Congo; de la République de Costa-Rica; du Danemark; de Luxembourg; des Pays Bas; de la Suisse; de l'Egypte; de la République Dominicaine; de la Bolivie à La Paz; du Guatemala; du Brésil; d'Italie; de Roumanie; du Salvador; de Grèce; de Serbie; du Chili; de la République Argentine; du Venezuela; de Corée; du Paraguay; du Honduras; du Pérou; and de la République le Colombie.]

No. 66A.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR, Imperial German Posts, Berlin.

General Post Office, Wellington, 23rd November, 1900.

SIR,—

Penny Postage.

I have the honour to inform you that New Zealand is desirous of establishing penny postage (10 centimes for each 15 grammes) to all countries throughout the world as from the 1st January next, as a fitting commemoration of the commencement of the new century. The Post Offices of Great Britain, India, Canada, and many other British possessions have already signified their intention of reciprocating; but through a misapprehension it is possible that your Administration has not yet been apprised of the desire of this colony to extend the penny rate to your country.

The advantages of cheap postage are so well known to you that I have only at the present time to suggest for the favourable consideration of your Administration the formation of a restricted union between Germany and New Zealand under Article XXI. of the Washington Convention.

Should it not be within your power to reduce the postage on letters posted in your country for New Zealand, I trust that it may be possible to deliver without surcharge any letters received from New Zealand prepaid at 1d.

The progressive policy of the Imperial German Post Office, to which so many of the world-wide postal reforms are due, gives me every confidence that your Administration will be able to fall in with the views of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

[Letter in similar terms sent to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Tokio, Japan.]

No. 67.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 4th December, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th October last, transmitting copy of correspondence with respect to the introduction of universal penny postage.

* * * * *

The Postmaster-General has communicated with foreign offices concerning a reciprocal agreement for the exchange of letters at the penny rate, but so far a reply has been received from the United States of America only, which did not see its way to fall in with the request. Australia has not yet decided the question, but a favourable decision is hoped for.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, for the Premier.

No. 68.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 5th December, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th October last, advising that Her Majesty's Government had agreed to the institution of penny letter postage between the United Kingdom and New Zealand as from the 1st proximo.

I was pleased to learn that the decision of New Zealand to adopt the penny-postage scheme automatically establishes penny postage between this colony and all other British possessions which are parties to the system, and this Department will proceed on the understanding that it is settled that the reciprocity is complete as far as the possessions in question are concerned. Up to the present I have not been advised of the intentions of the Australian Colonies, but it is hoped they will be favourable to the reduced postage. I have already communicated with the foreign Post Offices, as suggested in your letter, and the only reply received so far is from the Washington Office, which does not see its way to agree to the proposal.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, for the Postmaster-General.

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

No. 69.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 5th December, 1900.

Has Conference yet settled question of penny post? If so, would be glad to hear from you.

No. 70.

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

(Telegram.)

Sydney, 5th December, 1900.

It is not function of Conference to settle question of penny postage. We are reporting to our respective Ministers. Regret, therefore, unable to supply information.

No. 71.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 7th December, 1900.

HAVE you yet come to decision *re* penny postage? May I hope that Australian Colonies will fall in with us? In any case, would they consent from first January deliver our penny letters without surcharge?

No. 72.

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

(Telegram.)

Sydney, 8th December, 1900.

I AM not in position at present to come to decision *re* penny postage, but you may expect to hear from me shortly.

No. 73.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Melbourne, 22nd December, 1900.

A circular having been received from the Universal Postal Union Bureau, Berne, relative to a proposal by your Administration to introduce the universal penny-postage rate, I have the honour to state that it is regretted correspondence from New Zealand paid at the penny rate cannot be accepted by this colony, but will be surcharged.

I have, &c.,

F. L. OUTTRIM,

Deputy Postmaster-General.

The Secretary, Post and Telegraph Department, Wellington.

No. 74.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Posts, Paris.
SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 27th December, 1900.

Penny Postage.

With reference to my letter of the 23rd ultimo on the above-named subject, I have the honour to inform you that, in connection with the South Sea Islands, to which for many years past the letter postage has been the same as the New Zealand inland rate, 2d. per half-ounce, it has been announced that the rate of 1d. would apply to the Society Islands (Tahiti) among others. The close trade relations which exist between New Zealand and Tahiti, and the fact that New Zealand has for many years subsidised a line of steamers to Tahiti, render the circumstances exceptionally favourable to such a concession. It is therefore hoped that your Administration will raise no objection to the application of the penny rate to Tahiti.

I have, &c.,

The Director-General of Posts, Paris.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

No. 75.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Right Hon. EDMUND BARTON, Sydney.
(Telegram.)

Wellington, 28th December, 1900.

I SHOULD greatly appreciate your cordial assistance in endeavouring to have New Zealand penny letters admitted into Australia on first January. I have telegraphed Postmasters-General other colonies as follows [See No. 76].

[The above also sent to the Hon. Alfred Deakin, Sydney; the Hon. C. C. Kingston, Sydney; and the Right Hon. Sir George Turner, Melbourne.]

No. 76.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 28th December, 1900.

IN view consummation Australian Federation beginning new year, I earnestly hope you may see your way to agree to accept our penny letters until Federal Government determines whether there shall be Australian penny postage, embracing New Zealand. I may mention that very many of our colonists desire to commemorate your federation by writing their friends in Australia by medium of penny post. To preclude this would cause widespread disappointment, and probably the fact would be looked upon as anti-federal in spirit, which at this juncture should be avoided. I myself purpose forwarding a brief congratulatory message on advent new century and penny post to Governor-General, Governors, Ministers, principal officials, and newspapers, and number of commercial and business-men in Australia. These will be prepaid a penny only, and it would be very unfortunate, and would discount real object of missive, if the letters have to be enclosed in franked official covers, to avoid surcharge. May I hope for favourable response to my request, which is already indorsed by our Cabinet.

[The above also sent to the Hons. the Postmasters-General, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, and the Hons. the Ministers in charge of Post Offices, Adelaide and Perth.]

No. 77.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL of Victoria, at Sydney.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 29th December, 1900.

I SENT you telegram yesterday addressed Melbourne, expressing hope that you and other Postmasters-General would see their way to accept our penny letters from first January pending decision Federal Government to introduce penny postage embracing New Zealand. If you have not received telegram Mr. Crick will probably supply you with copy.

No. 78.

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

(Telegram.)

Hobart, 29th December, 1900.

REGRET to be unable to meet your wish *re* penny postage. Recent Postal Conference recommended that the question be left for Commonwealth Government to decide. It is one on which the whole of the States should act as one, pending the transfer of Post Offices to Federal Government. Were it only a Tasmanian question we might have met you, but as it is really a Commonwealth question we do not wish to act independently.

No. 79.

The Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Perth, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Perth, 29th December, 1900.

REGRET cannot entertain your proposal *re* penny postage.

No. 80.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL of Victoria, at Sydney, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Sydney, 31st December, 1900.

PENNY post: Have conferred with Mr. Crick, and regret that we cannot now disturb the previous decision, but in the event of any letters having been posted in New Zealand in expectation of coming through for a penny these will be delivered. You will therefore notify your public that postage to Australia will be twopence. We have informed other colonies in foregoing terms, but all those Administrations heard from so far are in favour of Conference recommendations being adopted.

No. 81.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to POSTMASTERS.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 31st December, 1900.

ALL post-offices supplied with the new universal penny stamp are to open to the public to-morrow from 9 to 10 a.m. for the sale of the stamps. In no case are the stamps to be sold in quantities, or for collectors' or for any other purposes, except for prepaying letters intended to be posted to-morrow so as to bear the date-stamp of the 1st January.

No. 82.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hons. the PREMIERS of the Australian States.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 1st January, 1901.

ALL good wishes for happy and prosperous new year. May the new century see the complete cementing of the Empire and its continued expansion in the interests of national progress, liberty, equality, and commerce. Not the least important event of the new century will be New Zealand's decision to introduce universal penny postage. The inclusion of federated Australia would complete the extension of this reform to all important parts of the Empire, and I look forward with unfeigned satisfaction to the probable adoption of the penny post by Australia.

[Telegrams of same text sent to His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Sydney; His Excellency the Governor, Adelaide; His Excellency the Governor, Brisbane; His Excellency the Governor, Hobart; His Excellency the Governor, Melbourne; His Excellency the Governor, Perth; the Hon. E. Barton, the Hon. J. Cook, the Hon. A. Deakin, the Hon. J. Dickson, the Hon. John Kidd, the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, and the Right Hon. G. H. Reid, Sydney; the Hon. Gavan Duffy and the Hon. Agar Wynne, Melbourne; the Hon. J. A. Thynne and the Hon. Horatio Wilson, Brisbane; J. H. Henniker Heaton, Esq., M.P. (at Sydney); the Hon. S. H. Parker, Perth; the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Sydney; the Hon. J. Carroll, Sydney; the Hons. the Postmasters-General, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, and Sydney; the Postmasters-General, Adelaide and Perth; W. Warren, Esq., Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Melbourne; Sir Charles Todd, K.C.M.G., Adelaide; the Editors, *Herald*, *Age*, and *Argus*, Melbourne; *Daily Telegraph*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Bulletin*, *Evening News*, and *Australian Star*, Sydney; *Courier* and *Daily Telegraph*, Brisbane; *Observer*, Adelaide; and *Mercury*, Hobart; and Reuter's Agent, Melbourne.]

No. 83.

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

(Telegram.)

Brisbane, 2nd January, 1901.

YOUR wire twenty-eighth ultimo *re* accepting your penny letters: Much regret inability to comply with request, in view of precedents already established—namely, refusal of the British Administration to accept letters at four [? 1d.] from Queensland as fully prepaid, and more recent instance in which colonies refused to accept letters from United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire prepaid in any restricted unions provided for in article twenty-one of Postal Convention. It is understood reduced rates are to be reciprocal. Matter was considered at recent Conference, which advised that letters prepaid at rate one penny per half-ounce should not be accepted from New Zealand until Commonwealth Government decided adopt reciprocal rate.

No. 84.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 4th January, 1901.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your acceptance, three specimens of the new penny stamp just issued by this Department.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

For the Postmaster-General.

No. 85.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Cape Town.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 4th January, 1901.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your acceptance, three specimens of the new penny stamp just issued by this Department.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

[Letters of same text to the Postmaster-General, Adelaide; the Under-Secretary and Superintendent of Telegraphs, Brisbane; the Secretary, General Post Office, Hobart; the Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne; the Postmaster-General, Perth; and the Deputy Postmaster-General, Sydney.]

No. 86.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Assumption, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SEÑOR DIRECTOR,—

Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos, Paraguay,
Asunción, Enero 7 de 1901.

Tengo el honor de acusar recibo de la nota de S.S. fecha 23 de Noviembre ultimo, pidiendo la reduccion de la tarifa, relativos á las cartas postales enviadas de ese pais con destino a, Paraguay.

En este scutido, me es grato manifestar á S.S. que por la depreciacion monetaria actual, no puede reducirse mas su tarifa; pero que en cambio, por corresponder á los desers manifestados por S.S. la Administracion, á mi cargo, dejará de percibir la sobre-taxa.

Con tal motivo, saluda á S.S. con toda consideracion.

Señor Director General de Correos, Nueva Zelandia.

ANGEL D. PEÑA.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 23rd November last, respecting the reduction of the letter tariff to Paraguay.

In reply, I regret that, owing to the present monetary depression, I am unable to reduce the tariff here, but, on the other hand, in order to comply with the wish of your Administration, I will undertake to relinquish the surcharge on "penny letters" from New Zealand.

No. 87.

The POSTMASTER, Hawera, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Hawera, 8th January, 1901.

IT is observed that a large proportion of letters posted by Maoris still bear the old rate of postage. May I suggest that a short explicit Maori poster referring to penny postage be published? [This was done.]

No. 88.

THE COUNCILLOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Lisbon, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes et des Télégraphes,

Lisbonne, le 10 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL,—

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser la réception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, au sujet du tarif réduit de 10 centimes par 15 grammes, que votre Administration s'est proposée d'établir, à partir du 1er Janvier courant, pour les lettres à destination de tous les pays, en commémoration du commencement du nouveau siècle.

Je vous félicite pour cette mesure dont la large portée ne m'échappe pas, et tout en regrettant que mon Administration ne soit pas à même de vous rendre la reciprocité, je vous assure qu'elle ne manquera pas cependant de faire délivrer sans taxe aux destinataires en Portugal les lettres que leur parviendront de votre colonie affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes.

Comme le service postal des colonies portugaises relève du Ministère de la Marine et d'Outremer à Lisbonne, je viens de transmettre copie de votre susdite lettre à ce Ministère pour la suite qu'elle pourra comporter en ce qui concerne ces colonies.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Conseiller Directeur-Général,

Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, on the subject of the reduced tariff of 10 centimes per 15 grammes which your Administration proposes to establish from the 1st January instant for letters addressed to all countries, in commemoration of the new century.

I congratulate you on the measure, the large bearing of which has not escaped me, and, while regretting that my Administration is not in a position to reciprocate, I assure you that meanwhile it will not fail to deliver without surcharge to addressees in Portugal letters which may reach it from your colony prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce.

As the postal service for Portuguese colonies is under the administration of the Minister of Marine and "Beyond Sea" at Lisbon, I transmitted a copy of your above-mentioned letter to that Minister for any action he might wish to take in respect of the colonies.

No. 89.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Madrid, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos,

Madrid, le 11 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me proposer l'application du "penny postage" aux relations entre nos deux offices.

Mon Administration voit avec une grande sympathie toute mesure tendant à faciliter le développement du trafic postal, et elle serait prête à conclure un arrangement dans le sens indiqué, si des raisons, dont elle ne peut manquer de tenir compte, ne l'en empêchaient.

Le tarif interne pour les lettres s'élève à 15 centimes par 15 grammes ; en outre les lettres remises à domicile, et c'est naturellement le plus grand nombre, sont encore grevées d'un droit de distribution de 5 centimes pour objet. Dans ces conditions mon office ne peut adopter pour un échange international le tarif que vous avez bien voulu me proposer.

D'un autre côté j'estime qu'il doit y avoir, autant que possible, réciprocité dans les prix d'affranchissement applicables à l'échange entre deux pays. Je pense donc que, pour le moment, il vaut mieux s'en tenir en tarif de l'Union pour nos relations réciproques, en attendant que des circonstances plus favorables nous permettent d'entreprendre une réforme dans le genre de celle dont il s'agit.

Agrérez, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

A. Mr. le Postmaster-General de la Nouvelle-Zélande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd November last, in which you were good enough to propose to me the application of penny postage between our two offices.

My Administration views with great sympathy any measure tending to facilitate the development of the postal tariff, and would be glad to conclude an agreement in the sense indicated, if reasons, which cannot be left out of consideration, did not preclude its doing so.

The inland tariff for letters amounts to 15 centimes for 15 grammes. Moreover, letters delivered at domicile—and naturally these are the most numerous—are surcharged a delivery fee of 5 centimes per article. Under these circumstances my office could not accept for international exchange the tariff which you were good enough to propose.

On the other hand, I hold that there should be reciprocity, as far as possible, in the postages applicable to exchanges between our two countries. I consider, therefore, that for the present it will be best to adhere to the tariff of the union for our reciprocal relations until more favourable circumstances should permit us to undertake a reform in the direction in question.

No. 90.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes Suisses,
Berne, le 11 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

En prenant la liberté de me référer à ma lettre du 26 Octobre 1900, qui répondait à la vôtre du 8 Septembre de la même année, au sujet de la même affaire, j'ai l'honneur de répondre comme suite à votre communication du 23 Novembre dernier.

Quelque disposée que soit mon Administration à s'associer à toute proposition ayant pour but la réalisation d'un progrès, je regrette de ne pouvoir, en raison des conséquences, souscrire à celle tendant à l'introduction d'une taxe de 10 cts. par 15 gr. pour les lettres échangées entre nos deux pays.

En effet, le public suisse ne comprendrait pas et envisagerait à bon droit comme une anomalie qu'une lettre à destination d'un pays éloigné d'outre-mer pût être transportée à raison d'une taxe de 10 cts. alors que la même lettre devrait être affranchie par 25 cts. si elle était à destination d'un des pays avoisinant la Suisse.

En revanche, je me déclare disposé à faire délivrer jusqu'à nouvel ordre aux destinataires sans perception de taxe, à la condition qu'elles ne portent aucun signe les désignant comme insuffisamment affranchies, les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Suisse affranchies d'un penny par 15 gr.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

LUTZ.

General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN taking the liberty of referring to my letter of the 26th October, 1900, which was in reply to yours of the 8th September of the same year and on the same subject, I have the honour to reply as follows to your communication of the 23rd November last:—

However disposed my Administration might be to associate itself with any proposal having for its object the realisation of progress, I regret being unable, owing to its consequences, to subscribe to that tending to the introduction of the penny rate for 15 grammes between our two countries.

In fact, the Swiss public would not comprehend and would rightly regard it as an anomaly if a letter addressed to a distant country beyond sea could be forwarded at the penny rate when the same letter would have to be prepaid 2½d. if directed to one of the countries in the vicinity of Switzerland.

On the other hand, I feel disposed to deliver, until further advised, to addressees, without surcharge, letters from New Zealand for Switzerland prepaid at 1d. for 15 grammes, provided they bear no mark denoting them as insufficiently paid.

No. 91.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Rio de Janeiro, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,— Direction Générale des Postes, Rio de Janeiro, le 12 Janvier, 1901.

Par lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, vous avez bien voulu me faire connaître que votre pays désire introduire, à partir du mois de janvier courant, le "penny tarif" (tarif de 10 centimes pour 15 grammes) pour lettres pour tous pays, en commémoration du nouveau siècle.

En réponse j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le désir exprimé par votre office, assez raisonnable, ne peut, cependant, être accepté par mon Administration, les conditions spéciales dans lesquelles le Brésil se trouve, au point de vue de ces finances, ne permettant par le moment, aucune modification à cet égard dans ses relations internationales.

J'ajouterai qu'en date du 26 Decembre, 1900, j'ai écrit au Bureau International, avec prière de vous faire connaître l'avis de mon Administration au sujet de la réduction dont il s'agit.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général.

Monsieur le Maître General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

By letter, 23rd November, 1900, you were good enough to notify me that your country desires to introduce from the month of January instant penny postage (10 centimes for 15 grammes) for letters for all countries, in commemoration of the new century.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the desire expressed by your office, however reasonable, cannot be acceded to by my Administration, as the special conditions in Brazil in connection with finance do not at present permit of any modification in this respect in its international relations.

I may add that on the 26th December, 1900, I wrote to the International Office to above effect, with a request that it should notify your Administration on the subject of the reduction in question.

No. 92.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, The Hague, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GÉNÉRAL,— Direction Générale des Postes et des Télégraphes des Pays-Bas, La Haye, le 14 Janvier, 1901.

Comme suite à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que pour l'Administration des postes néerlandaises il y a de graves objections à la proposition de votre Administration tendant à établir une union restreinte, en vue de la réduction des taxes entre les Pays-Bas et la Nouvelle-Zélande, comme il a été prévu dans l'article 21 de la Convention Postale Universelle.

Je ne puis à mon regret pas non plus accepter votre proposition de délivrer sans taxe aux destinataires les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour les Pays-Bas qui seraient affranchies d'après la taxe d'un penny par port simple. Ces lettres devront donc être considérées comme affranchies insuffisamment.

Agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

Monsieur le Maître-Général des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that in respect of the Administration of Dutch Posts there are grave objections to the proposition of your office to establish a restricted union for the reduction of rates between Holland and New Zealand, as provided for in Article 21 of the Postal Union Convention.

I regret that I am also unable to accept your proposition to deliver without surcharge letters from New Zealand to Holland prepaid at 1d. per single rate. These letters will therefore be considered as insufficiently prepaid.

No. 93.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Brussels, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,— Administration des Postes, Bruxelles, le 14 Janvier, 1901.

Comme suite à votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que l'Administration des postes belge désire s'en tenir aux dispositions de l'art. 5 de la Convention principale de Washington, pour ce qui concerne le tarif des correspondances dans ses relations réciproques avec les pays de l'Union.

Je regrette donc de ne pouvoir adhérer à votre proposition de conclure un arrangement special en vue d'adopter, dans nos relations, une taxe d'affranchissement inférieure à celle de l'Union, soit pour les lettres échangées entre nos deux pays soit seulement pour celles qui seraient expédiées de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Belgique.

A mon avis, le *statu quo* doit être maintenu ; c'est au prochain Congrès qu'il appartiendra d'apprécier l'opportunité d'une réduction de la taxe des lettres dans l'Union.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

A Monsieur le Postmaster-General, à Wellington, Nouvelle-Zélande.

[TRANSLATION.]

With reference to your letter of the 23rd November, I have the honour to inform you that the Administration of Posts, Belgium, wishes to comply with the provisions of Article V. of the Principal Convention of Washington in respect of the tariff for correspondence in its relation with the countries of the union.

I regret, therefore, being unable to accept your proposition to conclude a special agreement to adopt in our relations a charge for prepayment lower than that of the union, either for letters exchanged between our two countries or solely for those which would be forwarded from New Zealand to Belgium.

In my opinion, the *statu quo* should be maintained, leaving it to the next Congress to seize the opportunity for a reduction of letter charges within the union.

No. 94.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Paris, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,—

République Française, Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1901.

Vous avez bien voulu me proposer, par votre communication du 23 Novembre dernier, d'établir entre nos deux pays une union restreinte, en vue de diminuer la taxe des lettres, et vous demandez subsidiairement que dans le cas où mon Administration ne pourrait se rallier à votre projet, elle consente, tout au moins, à faire délivrer sans supplément de taxe aux destinataires les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande affranchies à raison de 1 penny par 15 grammes.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que mon Administration étudie en ce moment la refonte complète de ses tarifs postaux, et il n'est pas encore possible de préjuger le sort que le Parlement réserve à ce projet. Je me trouve, dès lors, de par les circonstances actuelles, dans la nécessité d'ajourner ma décision au sujet de l'abaissement de la taxe des lettres que vous désiriez introduire dans les relations de la France avec votre pays.

J'ajouterai, pour répondre au dernier paragraphe de votre lettre, qu'il n'est pas en mon pouvoir de faire délivrer sans taxes aux destinataires les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande et affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes.

La France est tenue de se conformer aux tarifs de l'Union Postale Universelle, dans l'impossibilité où elle se trouve présentement de conclure une union restreinte avec la Nouvelle-Zélande en vue de la réduction du tarif des lettres. Une telle modification détruirait, d'ailleurs, la parité des tarifs entre nos deux pays et créerait en faveur des expéditeurs de la Nouvelle-Zélande, un traitement privilégié de 60 % qui ne manquerait pas de provoquer de légitimes réclamations de la part des expéditeurs français.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Postes et des Telegraphes,
Le Directeur de l'Exploitation Postale,

JACOBET.

Monsieur le Maître Général de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

You were kind enough to propose to me in your communication of the 23rd November last the conclusion between our two countries of a restricted union with a view to lower letter rates ; and you ask, subsidiarily, if, in case my Administration could not see its way to agree to your proposal, it would consent at least to the delivery without additional charges to addressees of letters originating in New Zealand and prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce.

I have the honour to inform you that my Administration has at present under consideration the complete readjustment of its postal tariff, and it is not as yet possible to foresee the fate reserved for the proposals by Parliament. I find myself, in consequence of these circumstances, under the necessity of postponing my decision on the subject of the lowering of the letter rate which you desire to introduce in the relations of France with your country.

I may add, in reply to the last paragraph of your letter, that it is not in my power to deliver without surcharge to addressees letters originating in New Zealand and prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

France is obliged to conform to the tariff of the Universal Postal Union, and finds it impossible just at present to conclude a restricted union with New Zealand with a view to the reduction of the letter tariff. Such a modification would, moreover, destroy the equity of the tariff between our two countries, and create in favour of senders from New Zealand privileged treatment to the extent of 60 per cent., which would not fail to call forth legitimate complaint on the part of French senders.

No. 95.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Bangkok, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,— Post and Telegraph Department, Bangkok, 15th January, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, referring to your proposal to extend the penny postage also to Siam. In reply, I regret not to be able to accede to your wish as regards correspondence from Siam to New Zealand. There is, however, no objection on my part that correspondence from New Zealand to Siam be prepaid with 1d. only for every 15 grammes, instead of with 2½d., as prescribed by the Washington Convention.

The Siamese Post Offices have been instructed to treat such correspondence as fully prepaid.

I have, &c.,

Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

To the Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 96.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the COUNT DE COURTE, Consul for France, Wellington.

SIR,— General Post Office, Wellington, 16th January, 1901.

I have the honour, by direction of the Hon. the Postmaster-General, to forward the accompanying copies of letters addressed to the Director-General of Posts at Paris, in connection with the introduction of penny postage in this colony, and the application of the reduced rate to the Society Islands.

I have, &c.,

The Count de Courte, Consul for France, Wellington.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

[For enclosures see Nos. 66 and 74.]

No. 97.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS, San José, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Dirección General de Correos de la República de Costa Rica, San José,
MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL,— Janvier le 16, 1901.

Me referant à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon Administration n'est pas autorisée pour faire la réduction dans la tarif des lettres mises à la poste, mais il n'y a pas d'embarras en accepter la réduction fait dans votre office, et pourtant mon Administration peut accepter et délivrer les lettres provenant de la Nouvelle-Zélande, affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes, sans les graver d'aucune taxe.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

M. J. CARRANZA.

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that my Administration is not authorised to make a reduction in the tariff of letters posted here, but has no objection to accept the reduction made in your office, and therefore my Administration will accept and deliver letters from New Zealand prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce without subjecting them to any surcharge.

No. 98.

The DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Sydney, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.
(Telegram.) Sydney, 17th January, 1901.

OVER two hundred letters received by "Waihora" bearing penny postage only. Will be passed, but similar letters despatched from New Zealand after 20th instant will be surcharged.

No. 99.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Sydney.
(Telegram.) Wellington, 18th January, 1901.

THANKS re letters by "Waihora." Instructions will be reissued and officers strictly warned to see that letters for Australia prepaid twopence. Postmaster-General's commemorative cards were prepaid at this rate.

No. 100.

The DIRECTOR of the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Bureau International de l'Union Postale Universelle,
Monsieur LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,— Berne, le 18 Janvier, 1901.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que trois Administrations ont répondu jusqu'à présent à la circulaire du 10 Octobre, 1900, par laquelle j'ai fait connaître aux Administrations de l'Union que votre office est désireux d'étendre la taxe postale d'un penny dans la plus grande mesure possible et qu'il serait heureux de conclure, avec n'importe quel pays qui y serait disposé, une union restreinte aux conditions de l'article 21 de la Convention principale, dans le but de réduire la taxe des lettres.

Ces Administrations sont celles des États-Unis d'Amérique, du Brésil, et de l'Égypte.

Elles ont fait connaître—celle des États-Unis d'Amérique, qu'elle a pris bonne note de votre proposition; celle du Brésil, que les conditions spéciales dans lesquelles son pays se trouve au point de vue financier, ne lui permettent pas, pour le moment, de réduire son tarif des lettres; et celle de l'Égypte, qu'elle regrette de n'être pas à même actuellement d'adopter la taxe postale d'un penny, mais qu'elle se réserve de prendre ultérieurement une décision favorable à ce sujet, lorsque les conditions le permettront.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur,
RUFFY.

General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to inform you that three Administrations have so far replied to circular of the 10th October, 1900, by which I advised Administrations of the union that your office is desirous of extending the penny post to the greatest extent possible, and that it would be happy to conclude with any country so disposed a restricted union on the conditions of Article 21 of the Principal Convention, with the object of reducing the letter-postage.

These Administrations are the United States of America, Brazil, and Egypt.

They have replied—The United States of America, that it has duly noted your proposals; Brazil, that the special financial conditions of the country do not permit it at present to reduce its letter tariff; Egypt, that it regrets its inability to at present adopt the penny rate, but promises, when conditions permit of it, to give a favourable decision.

No. 101.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Santiago, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes du Chili,
Monsieur LE MAÎTRE GENERAL,— Santiago, le 18 Janvier, 1901.

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre très honorée du 23 Novembre dernier, par laquelle vous me proposez, à l'occasion du commencement du nouveau siècle, de réduire à 10 centimes par 15 grammes le port que, d'après l'Article IV. de la Convention Principale de Washington, nos pays respectifs doivent percevoir.

En réponse je dois vous faire connaître qu'il ne m'est pas possible d'accepter la proposition que vous voulez bien me faire, parce que la direction de mon ressort n'est pas autorisée à effectuer des réductions dans les tarifs postaux, le pouvoir législatif pouvant seul dans ce pays-ci décréter ces sortes d'alteration. En outre, je crois devoir vous faire observer que, étant donnée la dépréciation de la monnaie admise pour le paiement de ces taxes en relation avec le franc, notre tarif international actuel, y comprise la surtaxe maritime de 5 centavos perçue pour chaque 15 grammes, est un des plus réduits de l'Union Postale.

Toutefois, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer qu'en date de ce jour, je donne aux bureaux de ma dépendance les instructions nécessaires afin qu'à l'avenir ils considèrent comme dûment affranchies les lettres expédiées de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour le Chili portant la valeur d'un penny pour chaque 15 grammes de poids.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Directeur-Général, Le Chef du Service International,
CARLOS LANAIN CLARO.

Monsieur le Maître Général des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed letter of the 23rd November last, in which you propose, in inauguration of the commencement of the new century, to reduce to 10 centimes per 15 grammes the postage which, according to Article IV. of the Principal Convention of Washington, our respective countries should levy.

In reply, I have to inform you that I am unable to accept the proposal which you were good enough to make, because the direction of my service is not authorised to effect reductions in the postal tariffs, as the Legislature alone has power to decree such alterations in this country.

Moreover, I may remark that, considering the depreciation of the currency admitted for prepayment of these charges in the relation to the " franc currency," our present international tariff, including therein the maritime surcharge of 5 centavos per 15 grammes, is one of the lowest in the union.

However, I have pleasure in informing you that to-day I am issuing the necessary instructions to my officers to in future consider as duly prepaid letters from New Zealand for Chili bearing postage at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

No. 102.

The ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Mexico, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Administration Générale des Postes, Mexico, le 19 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR L'ADMINISTRATEUR-GENERAL,—

Me référant à votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu proposer cette Administration générale la conclusion d'une Convention pour la réduction du port pour la correspondance provenant du Mexique à destination de la Nouvelle-Zélande, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'ayant étudié l'affaire, et en vue de ce que le mouvement de correspondance entre le Mexique et la Nouvelle-Zélande a peu d'importance, je ne trouve pas, pour le moment, nécessaire la Convention dont il s'agit.

Respectivement à la partie finale de votre lettre précitée, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon Administration générale n'a pas d'inconvénient à délivrer aux destinataires, sans taxe, les lettres provenant de la Nouvelle-Zélande et affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

L'Administrateur-Général,

Monsieur l'Administrateur des Postes, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, in which you were good enough to propose to this General Administration the conclusion of a convention for the reduction of postage on correspondence from Mexico addressed to New Zealand, I have the honour to inform you that, having gone into the question, and in view of the fact that the volume of correspondence between Mexico and New Zealand is not large, I do not deem such a convention necessary at present.

Respecting the conclusion of your letter, I have the honour to inform you that my General Administration does not see any objection to deliver to addressees, without surcharge, letters originating in New Zealand and prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

No. 103.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Managua, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Général des Postes et des Télégraphes de La République de Nicaragua,

MONSIEUR,—

Managua, le 19 Janvier, 1901.

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier me proposant la réciprocité de la part de mon Administration pour l'établissement dans la Nouvelle-Zélande du " penny tarif " (tarif de 10 centimes par 15 grammes) pour les lettres à destination de tous les pays.

En réponse, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le tarif des lettres ne pouvant se réduire pour le moment, mon office doit se limiter à faire délivrer aux destinataires, sans taxe, les lettres provenant de votre colonie et affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Secrétaire,

J. MERCEDES FONSECA.

Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes, de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, in which you propose reciprocity on the part of my Administration for the establishment of penny postage with New Zealand (tariff of 10 centimes per 15 grammes) for letters to all countries.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the letter tariff cannot be reduced just at present, and my office must therefore confine itself to delivery to addressees without surcharge of letters from your colony prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce.

No. 104.

The MINISTER of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Rome, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Ministère des Postes et des Télégraphes,
Rome, le 21 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GÉNÉRAL,—

En réponse à votre note du 23 Novembre dernier, j'ai le regret de vous informer que mon office n'est pas en mesure d'adhérer à votre proposition d'établir un'entente plus restreinte entre nos deux offices, en vue de réduire à 10 centimes le tarif du port des lettres, s'y opposant les exigences de Trésor public Italien.

Toutefois, je n'aurai aucune difficulté à admettre que cette réduction soit appliqué aux lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de l'Italie et qu'elles soient livrées aux destinataire sans taxe.

J'attendrai de connaître depuis quand cette réforme fonctionnera pour donner les ordres nécessaires à mes bureaux.

Agréer, Monsieur, &c.,

Le Ministre,

A. PASCOLATO.

M. le Directeur-Général des Postes, de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN reply to your note of 23rd November last, I regret to inform you that my office is unable to accept your proposals to establish a more restricted union between our two offices, as Italian Public Treasury exigencies are opposed to such a course.

However, I shall have no difficulty in agreeing that this reduction should apply to letters originating in New Zealand addressed to Italy, and that they be delivered to addressees without surcharge.

I shall wait to be informed from what date the reform will come into operation, so that the necessary orders may be issued to my officers.

No. 105.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Athens, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes et des Télégraphes de Grèce,
Athènes, le 21 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GÉNÉRAL,—

Me référant à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que malgré mon vif désir d'accepter la diminution du port des lettres que vous venez de consacrer à partir du 1er de ce mois, en commémoration du commencement du nouveau siècle, je m'empêche de la mettre en exécution, vu que l'échelle en vigueur qui est celle l'Union Postale Universelle, est une lois de l'Etat comme la Convention elle-même.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

A. ROUKIS.

Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your letter of the 23rd November, I have the honour to inform you that, notwithstanding my great wish to accept the reduction in letter-postage which you introduced as from the 1st of this month in commemoration of the new century, I am unable to give it effect, because the rate in force, which is that of the Universal Postal Union, is fixed by State law in the same way as the Convention itself.

No. 106.

The DIRECTOR of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Tunis, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Office des Postes et des Télégraphes, Tunis, le 23 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GÉNÉRAL,—

En réponse à votre lettre en date du 23 Novembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître qu'il ne m'est pas possible, quant à présent, d'accepter votre proposition relative à la fixation de la taxe des lettres à 10 centimes par 15 grammes, la question de la réforme complète des tarifs étant en ce moment à l'étude.

Je ne puis non plus faire délivrer sans taxe aux destinataires des lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande qui seraient affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes, cette exception au régime de la Convention Postale Universelle, constituant un tarif de faveur au profit des expéditeurs de la Nouvelle-Zélande qui provoquerait vraisemblablement des réclamations du public.

Je vous exprime mes regrets de ne pouvoir seconder vos vues sur ce point.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur de l'Office des Postes et des Télégraphes,

Monsieur le Maître-Général des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, I have the honour to inform you that I find it impossible at present to accept your proposal respecting the fixing of the letter charge at 10 centimes per 15 grammes, as the question of complete tariff reform is at present under consideration.

Similarly, I am unable to deliver without surcharge to addressees letters originating in New Zealand prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce, as such exception to the *régime* of the Universal Postal Union would constitute a favoured tariff to the profit of senders from New Zealand, and would probably call forth public complaint.

No. 107.

The MINISTER of COMMERCE, Vienna, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GÉNÉRAL,—

Vienne, le 25 Janvier, 1901.

In réponse à votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je regrette de ne pas pouvoir adhérer à votre proposition d'introduire le tarif modéré d'un penny (10 centimes) par port simple pour les lettres dans les relations entre nos pays. Des taxes modérées pour les lettres ne s'appliquent, en ce qui concerne mon office, que dans les relations avec quelques pays voisins. L'adoption d'une taxe modérée dans le service international, en général, entraînerait des pertes trop considérables, tandis que l'introduction d'une telle mesure dans l'échange avec un seul pays éloigné ne répondrait pas à un besoin réel du trafic. Suivant le principe de réciprocité il ne m'est pas non plus possible de laisser remettre aux destinataires, sans surtaxe, les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande et affranchies à raison d'un penny, au lieu de 2½ pence par 15 grammes.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour de Ministre du Commerce,

A Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, I have the honour to inform you that I regret that I am unable to accept your proposal to introduce the reduced tariff of 1d. (10 centimes) per single rate for letters in the relations between our two countries. Reduced charges for letters are only applied in respect of my office in the relations with some neighbouring countries. The adoption of a reduced charge in international service would entail too great loss, while the introduction of such a measure in the exchange with a single distant country would not meet actual requirements of the tariff; nor is it possible in accordance with the principle of reciprocity to permit of the delivery to addressees, without surcharge, of letters originating in New Zealand and prepaid at the rate of 1d. in lieu of 2½d. per half-ounce.

No. 108.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Sofia, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes Télégraphes et Téléphones, Sofia, le 16-29/1/1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GÉNÉRAL,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la réception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me proposer, en commémoration du commencement du nouveau siècle, d'introduire, dans nos relations réciproques, le tarif réduisant la taxe des lettres ordinaires de 10 centimes par 15 grammes ou fraction de 15 grammes.

En réponse je m'empresse de vous faire connaître que mon Administration bien que désireuse de profiter des avantages que présentent toutes les réductions des tarifs ayant pour but d'augmenter le trafic international, ne peut, à son grand regret, quant à présent, s'associer à cette proposition, bien qu'elle apprécie l'idée progressive dont elle avait été dictée, car les tarifs applicables actuellement dans le service intérieur sont plus élevés, et qu'une pareille réduction dans le sens de votre proposition, constituerait une dérogation des dispositions en vigueur.

Pour ces mêmes raisons il m'est impossible d'admettre que les lettres originaires de votre pays à destination de Bulgarie, affranchies par des timbres postes de 10 centimes, peuvent être considérées comme dûment affranchies, par conséquent elles seront traitées dans les conditions actuelles prévues par la Convention Internationale.

Agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général,

W. STAYAZ.

A Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, in which you were good enough to propose to me, in commemoration of the commencement of the new century, to introduce in our reciprocal relations a reduced letter tariff of 10 centimes per 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.

In reply, I hasten to inform you that my Administration, however desirous of profiting by the advantages presented by reduced tariffs which have for their object the augmentation of international traffic, cannot, it is regretted, at present agree to the proposal, although it appreciates the progressive sentiment by which it was dictated, as the tariffs at present applicable in the inland service are higher, and a reduction in the sense of your proposition would constitute a breach of the regulations in force.

For these same reasons it is not possible to admit that letters originating in your country addressed to Bulgaria, prepaid by 1d. stamps, be considered fully prepaid, and they will therefore be treated under the present conditions of the International Convention.

No. 109.

The DIRECTOR of the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, Berne, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

Bureau International de l'Union Postale Universelle,
Berne, le 30 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Comme suite à ma lettre du 18 Janvier courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que, d'après une lettre qu'elle vient de m'adresser en réponse à ma circulaire du 10 Octobre, 1900, l'Administration des Postes de Victoria regrette de ne pouvoir accepter comme régulièrement affranchies les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour son pays qui ne porteraient qu'un timbre d'un penny par port simple, et que ces lettres seraient taxées dans son service comme insuffisamment affranchies.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Directeur,

The General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In continuation of my letter of the 18th January, I have the honour to inform you that, according to a letter just addressed to me in reply to my circular of the 10th October, 1900, the Administration of Posts of Victoria regrets not being able to accept as regularly prepaid letters from New Zealand for that country which bear only a penny stamp per single rate, and that such letters would be charged in its service as insufficiently prepaid.

No. 110.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of COLONIES, Lisbon, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale d'Outremer, Lisbonne, le 30 Janvier, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GÉNÉRAL,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la réception de votre office du 23 Novembre écoulé relatif à l'introduction à partir du 1er Janvier courant du "penny tarif" (tarif de 10 centimes pour 15 grammes) pour lettres pour tous pays en commémoration du commencement du nouveau siècle.

En vous félicitant par une mesure si sympathique, je veux de vous dire que les colonies portugaises ne peuvent pas à présent faire partie de la même réciprocité.

Je vous peux assurer, cependant, que les lettres mises à la poste dans votre pays affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes et destinées aux colonies portugaises seront délivrées aux destinataires sans taxe.

Agréez, &c.,

Le Directeur-General d'Outremer,

F. F. DIAS COSTA.

Monsieur le Directeur des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23rd November last, respecting the introduction from the 1st January instant of the "penny postage" (postage of 10 centimes per 15 grammes) for letters for all countries in commemoration of the new century.

In congratulating you on such a sympathetic measure, I have to say that the Portuguese colonies are unable at present to take part reciprocally.

I may assure you, however, that letters posted in your country prepaid 1d. per 15 grammes and addressed to Portuguese colonies will be delivered free of charge.

No. 111.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Alexandria, Egypt, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Alexandria, 31st January, 1901.

In reply to your letter dated the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that I regret my inability to establish the penny-postage system for correspondence exchanged between your colony of New Zealand and this country, and *vice versa*.

Referring, however, to the last paragraph of your letter, I beg to inform you of my willingness to consider letters originating from New Zealand, weighing not more than 15 grammes, and bearing a penny stamp, as sufficiently prepaid.

This resolution to come into force on a date to be decided by you.

I have, &c.,

_____, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 112.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Lima, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SEÑOR,— Dirección General de Correos y Telegrafos del Peru, Lima, Enero 31, 1901.

En respuesta al estimable oficio de V.S. de 23 de Noviembre último, tengo el honor de manifestarle que—por ahora—no es posible introducir modificación alguna en la tarifa peruana de postes para el extranjero; pero que mi administración no tiene inconveniente para aceptar y dar curso á la correspondencia de Nueva Zelanda, franqueado con un penique por cada quince gramos de peso, siempre que esta no venga con el sello T que indica la insuficiencia.

Sírvase V.S. aceptar, &c.,

El Director General,

Al Sr. Director General de Correos de Nueva Zelanda, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your esteemed letter of the 23rd November last, I have the honour to inform you that it is not at present possible to introduce any modification in the postage tariff to foreign countries. However, this Administration does not see any objection to accept and deliver correspondence from New Zealand prepaid a penny each half-ounce, provided it does not bear a "T" stamp, indicating insufficient postage.

No. 113.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, and TELEPHONES, Bucharest, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones,
MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GÉNÉRAL,— Bucarest, le 5 de Février, 1901.

En réponse à votre note du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer que nous désirons maintenir le tarif de 25 centimes par 15 grammes applicable tant aux lettres présentées dans la Nouvelle-Zélande et destinées à la Roumanie qu'à celles de Roumanie pour la Nouvelle-Zélande, attendu que notre Administration ne juge pas opportune la formation d'une union restreinte entre la Roumanie et la Nouvelle-Zélande.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer en même temps que nous ne tenons à avoir des unions restreintes qu'avec les pays plus rapprochés du nôtre.

Agréez, &c.,

Le Directeur Général,

Le Chef du Service,

Monsieur Le Maître-Général des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your communication of the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that we are desirous of maintaining the tariff of 25 centimes per 15 grammes applicable to letters posted in New Zealand and addressed to Roumania, as well as to those from Roumania for New Zealand, as our Administration does not deem the formation of a restricted union between Roumania and New Zealand opportune.

I have the honour to inform you at the same time that we only have restricted unions with the countries nearest to us.

No. 114.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Budapesth, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Générale des Postes et des Télégraphes,
MONSIEUR,— Budapest, le 7 Février, 1901.

En réponse à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, au sujet de l'application des taxes modérées sur les lettres échangées entre nos deux pays, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître qu'en principe je désire aussi la réduction des tarifs pour les correspondances internationales à condition que

la réduction s'effectue dans l'échange entre les pays limitrophes ou, en général, entre tous les pays de l'union postale universelle. Mais tant que dans l'échange entre les pays européens restent les taxes actuelles, je ne suis pas à même de me rallier à une réduction des taxes dans l'échange avec n'importe quel pays extra européen.

Par conséquent j'ai le regret de devoir vous informer que je ne puisse accepter votre proposition ni en ce qui concerne notre échange reciproque, ni relativement aux lettres provenant de votre colonie à destination de la Hongrie.

Agreez, &c.,
Le Directeur-General,
SZALAZ.

Monsieur le Postmaster-General, à Wellington, Nouvelle-Zélande.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, respecting the application of reduced charges on letters exchanged between our two countries, I have the honour to inform you that as a matter of principle I am also desirous of reduction in the tariffs for international correspondence, but on condition that such reduction is effected in exchanges between adjoining countries, or in general between all the countries of the Universal Postal Union; but while in exchanges between European countries the rates remain as at present, I am unable to agree to any reduction in charges with any extra-European country whatsoever.

I regret, therefore, to have to inform you that I am unable to accept your proposals either in respect of reciprocal exchanges or in connection with letters from your colony to Hungary.

No. 115.

The IMPERIAL WAR MINISTER, Vienna, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Reichs-Kriegs Ministerium, Wien, am 13 Februar, 1901.

An die General Post Office in Wellington, Neu-Seeland.

IN Beantwortung der geschätzten Zuschrift vom 23 November, 1900, beehrt sich das Reichs-Kriegs-Ministerium mitzutheilen, dass dasselbe der Einführung der ermässigten Taxe von 10 Centimes für je 15 Gramm in Briefpostverkehr Bosniens und der Herzegovina mit Neu-Seeland aus principiellen Gründen nicht zustimmen kann.

Für den Reichs-Kriegs-Minister,
TCHMAICH.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your esteemed letter of the 23rd November, 1900, the Imperial War Minister has the honour to inform you that as a matter of principle he is unable to accede to the proposals for the introduction of a reduced postage of 10 centimes per 15 grammes in letter exchanges between Bosnia and Herzegovina and New Zealand.

No. 116.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Berlin, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Kaiserlich Deutsches Reichs-Postamt, Berlin, W. 66, den 15 Februar, 1901.

DAS Reichs-Postamt hat von dem Wunsche des General Post Office, für den Verkehr Neu-Seelands mit allen anderen Ländern den Portosatz von einem Penny (= 10 Ct.) für je 15 Gramm des Briefgewichts einzuführen, mit grossem Interesse Kenntniss genommen. Es erblickt in dem dortseitigen Vorschlage einen erfreulichen Beweis dafür, dass die postalischen Verhältnisse Australasiens, die noch im Jahre 1891 den Beitritt der Australischen Kolonien zum Weltpostvereine nur unter Schwierigkeiten sich vollziehen liessen, inzwischen unter der Wirkung der Einrichtungen des Vereins eine völlige Umgestaltung im Sinne des im Weltpostvereine verkörperten Gedankens fortschreitender Entwicklung erfahren haben. Da Deutschland, wie dem General Post Office aus dem Rundschreiben des Internationalen Büreaus des Weltpostvereins vom 3 Mai, 1899, No. ²⁷²⁸/₁₁₁, bekannt ist, für den Verkehr mit seinen Kolonien sowie für den Verkehr der letzteren unter einander noch erheblich weiter gehende Portoherabsetzungen, als sie der dortseitige Vorschlag vorsieht, durchgeführt hat, so steht das Reichs-Postamt der Anregung des General Post Office, das Briefporto auch für den Verkehr zwischen Deutschland und den deutschen Kolonien einerseits und Neu-Seeland andererseits zu ermässigen, grundsätzlich sympathisch gegenüber. Indessen scheint der Zeitpunkt zur Durchführung einer derartigen Neuerung noch nicht gekommen zu sein. Das deutsche Publikum würde es nicht verstehen, wenn das Porto für Briefe nach dem fernen Neu-Seeland verbilligt, dagegen für Briefe nach näheren, und insbesondere nach den unmittelbar benachbarten Ländern in seiner jetzigen Höhe (20 Pf. für je 15 g.) beibehalten werden würde. Dass sich aber im Verkehre mit allen in Betracht kommenden Ländern in naher Zeit eine Herabsetzung des Briefportos im Sinne der dortseitigen Anregung sollte verwirklichen lassen, hält das Reichs-Postamt bei der grossen finanziellen Bedeutung, die dieser Frage für die theilhaftigen Verwaltungen innewohnen für ausgeschlossen; jedenfalls steht mit der Frage der Bemessung des Portos die schwierige Transitfrage in engem Zusammenhange. Unter diesen Verhältnissen ist das

Reichs-Postamt zu seinem Bedauern vorerst nicht in der Lage, dem Vorschlage des General Post Office zuzustimmen; es glaubt vielmehr ergebenst anheimstellen zu sollen, die Angelegenheit, deren Bedeutung für die Entwicklung des Weltpostvereins nicht verkannt wird, dem nächsten Postkongresse zu unterbreiten.

Bezüglich des weiteren Vorschlags, wenigstens die aus Neu-Seeland abgesendeten, mit einem Penny für je 15 g. frankirten Briefe den Empfängern in Deutschland ohne Nachtaxe zuzustellen, beehrt sich das Reichs-Postamt zu bemerken, dass es nicht angängig erscheint, für die eine und für die andere Richtung verschiedenartige Portosätze anzunehmen, weil ein solches Verfahren nach diesseitiger Auffassung einem der Grundprinzipien des Weltpostvereins, demjenigen der Reciprocität, zuwiderlaufen würde und eine Ausnahme von diesem Princip im Weltpostvertrag nur bezüglich der Zuschlagtaxen (Art. 5, 2) zugelassen ist.

General Post Office, Wellington.

F. WAERKE.

[TRANSLATION.]

THE Imperial Post Office has been greatly interested in the desire of the General Post Office to introduce penny letter postage (10 centimes per 15 grammes) in exchanges between New Zealand and all other countries. It recognises in the proposal a pleasing proof that the postal conditions of Australasia, which, even in 1891, only with difficulty permitted of the Australian Colonies joining the Universal Postal Union, have experienced under the influence of the union a complete change in the sense of continued development, as contemplated in the underlying intentions of the Universal Postal Union. Seeing that Germany, as intimated to the General Post Office in the circular letter of the International Bureau of 3rd May, 1899, No. 2728/111, in exchanges with her colonies, as well as between the latter, introduced even farther-reaching postal reductions than those contemplated by your Administration, she naturally views the suggestions by the General Post Office to reduce the letter postage between Germany and the German Colonies and New Zealand sympathetically, on principle. However, the time for such innovation does not appear to have yet arrived. The German public would be unable to comprehend why the letter postage to distant New Zealand should be reduced, and yet for the nearer countries, more especially those in the immediate vicinity, retained at the present rates, 20 pfennings per 15 grammes. That, however, in exchanges with the countries contemplated, a reduction in letter postage in the direction indicated by you could be immediately realised is considered by the Imperial Post Office to be precluded through the great financial importance of the question to the countries affected; at all events, the question of assessing postages is intimately connected with the difficult transit problem. Under these circumstances the Imperial Post Office, to its regret, is as yet unable to accede to the proposal of the General Post Office. It would urge, moreover, that, in view of the importance of the development of the Universal Postal Union, the question be submitted to the next Congress.

With respect to the further proposal to at least deliver without surcharge to addressees in Germany letters from New Zealand which are prepaid 1d. per half-ounce, the Imperial Post Office begs to remark that it would not be expedient to have different postages for one way and the other, because such a course would be contrary in its opinion to one of the elementary principles of the Universal Postal Union, that of reciprocity, and the only infraction of this principle permissible under the Universal Postal Convention is in connection with surcharges (Art 5, 2.).

No. 117.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of FINANCES, Luxembourg, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL Wellington.

Grand Duché de Luxembourg, Luxembourg, le 19 Février, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GÉNÉRAL,—

En réponse à votre estimée en date du 23 Novembre de l'année écoulée, concernant l'introduction d'un tarif réduit pour les relations postales entre la Nouvelle-Zélande et le Grand-Duché, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'il résulte de l'instruction à laquelle l'administration des postes de ce pays a fait procéder, qu'en ce moment les relations entre les deux pays sont de très peu d'importance; tout en rendant hommage à la pensée qui a dicté votre proposition, je crois cependant qu'il serait préférable de la réserver pour le prochain congrès postal, et d'examiner en même temps la question de savoir s'il ne convient pas, en égard au grand développement qu'a pris le service international, de proposer d'une manière générale la réduction des taxes actuelles.

Veillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général des Finances,

À Monsieur le Maître-Général des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, concerning the introduction of a reduced tariff in the postal relations between New Zealand and the Grand Duchy, I have the honour to inform you that, from an examination by this Administration, it does not appear that the correspondence between our two countries is of great importance. While, therefore, appreciating the motive which prompted your proposal, I consider it would be preferable to reserve it for the next Postal Congress, and to investigate at the same time whether it would not be advisable, in view of the great development of the international service, to propose a reduction in the present charges generally.

No. 118.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, San Domingo, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

General Post Office, San Domingo, Dominican Republic,
St. Domingue, le 20 Février, 1901.

MONSIEUR,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre communication datée le 23 Novembre, 1900; et j'ai le regret de vous annoncer que je ne peut pas accepter les conditions que vous me proposez, toutefois que notre loi des postes ne me permet pas accepter des correspondances qui ne soient pas bien affranchies, sous condition de la surtaxe correspondant.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-Général.

RAF. R. BAER.

Monsieur le Directeur-Général des Postes, Wellington, New-Zealand.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated the 23rd November, 1900, and to inform you that I regret that I am unable to accept the conditions which you propose. Moreover, the law of this country does not permit me to accept without a corresponding surcharge correspondence which is not fully prepaid.

No. 119.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Berne, le 23 Février, 1901.

Comme suite à ma lettre du 11 Janvier dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me faire connaître, afin que je puisse donner les instructions nécessaires aux offices de poste de mon service, si et, le cas échéant, depuis quelle date les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Suisse sont affranchies par 1 penny pour chaque demi-once de leur poids ou si les taxes publiées à la page 26, numéro 60, du Recueil de renseignements d'intérêt général concernant l'exécution de la Convention principale et de son Règlement de détail et d'ordre (voir circulaire No. 5237/233 du Bureau international du 5 Septembre, 1899) continuent à rester en vigueur dans l'échange avec les pays qui n'ont pas introduit la penny post pour ce qui les concerne.

J'attacherais du prix à être, en outre, informé si seule la taxe des lettres a été modifiée et si votre office continue à percevoir sous le nouveau régime une surtaxe maritime et, le cas échéant, laquelle.

Veuillez agréer,

Le Directeur-General,

General Post Office, Nouvelle-Zélande.

LUTZ.

[TRANSLATION.]

ADVERTING to my letter of the 11th January last, I have the honour to request you to kindly inform me, so that I may give the necessary instructions to the Post Offices of my service, if, and, in the affirmative, since when letters from New Zealand addressed to Switzerland have been prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce, or if postages published on page 26, No. 60, of the summary of general information respecting the execution of the Principal Convention and its detailed regulations (see Circular No. 5237/233 of the International Office of 5th September, 1899) continue to remain in force in exchanges with the countries who have not introduced penny post on their part.

I would esteem it a favour, in addition, if you would inform me whether the letter rate has been modified, or whether your office continues to levy under the new régime a maritime surcharge, and, if so, of what amount.

No. 120.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Christiania, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes, Christiania, 27 Février, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL,—

En réponse à votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, par laquelle vous m'informez du désir de votre colonie d'introduire le penny tarif dans les relations entre la Norvège et la Nouvelle-Zélande, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je regrette de ne pas pouvoir, à présent, recommander à mon Administration de former une Union restreinte à ce sujet entre nos deux pays.

Je vous exprime, en même temps, mes vifs regrets de ne pas pouvoir accorder votre demande d'admettre sans taxe les lettres provenant de votre colonie et affranchies d'un penny par 15 grammes. Ce serait, à mon avis, contraire aux dispositions de l'Article 5 et de l'Article 10 de la Convention Principale et ne manquerait pas de soulever de la part du public de mon pays des propositions tendant à réduire aussi le port norvégien pour les lettres à destination de la Nouvelle-Zélande.

Agreez, &c.,

À Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes à Wellington.

KARL BRYN.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, in which you informed me of the desire of your colony to introduce penny postage in the relations between Norway and New Zealand, I have the honour to inform you that I regret my inability at present to recommend my Administration to form a restricted union on the subject between our two countries.

I would express my great regret at the same time that I am unable to accede to your request to admit without surcharge letters from your colony prepaid 1d. per half-ounce. This would, in my opinion, be contrary to the provisions of Articles 5 and 10 of the Principal Convention, and would not fail to raise on the part of the public of my country proposals for the reduction of the charge for the carriage from Norway of letters addressed to New Zealand.

No. 121.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, St. Petersburg, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,—

St. Petersburg, le 3-16 Mars, 1901.

En réponse à votre lettre due 23 Novembre, 1900, concernant la taxe réduite de l'affranchissement des lettres expédiées à destination de l'étranger, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon office regrette de ne pouvoir se rallier à votre proposition, et croit que les questions que vous soulevez doivent être soumises à l'approbation du prochain Congrès Postal Universel.

Agreez, &c.,

SEVASTIARCEFF.

Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN reply to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, respecting the reduced charge for the prepayment of letters forwarded to foreign countries, I have the honour to inform you that my office regrets its inability to agree to your proposition, and considers that the question raised should be submitted for the approval of the next Universal Postal Congress.

No. 122.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 8th March, 1901.

GRATEFUL for your letter thirty-first January. Kindly fix first April.

No. 123.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the MINISTER of POSTS, Rome.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 8th March, 1901.

RECONNAISSANT de votre lettre 21 Janvier. Veuillez introduire premier Avril.

[TRANSLATION.]

OBLIGED for your letter 21st January. Kindly introduce first April.

No. 124.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Rome, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Rome, le 13 Mars, 1901.

Me référant à votre telegramme du 8 courant ainsi conçu : "Reconnaissant de votre lettre 21 Janvier veul lez introduire premier Avril ;" j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je viens de donner des instructions aux bureaux italiens afin qu'à partir de la date indiquée les correspondances de la Nouvelle-Zélande en Italie avec l'affranchissement réduit de 1 penny par port de 15 grammes, soient délivrées sans surtaxe.

Les correspondances non affranchies ou insuffisamment affranchies seront grevées d'une surtaxe de 10 cmes pour chaque $\frac{1}{2}$ penny manquant.

Agreez, &c.,

Le Chef de Division, O. SCAGLIETTO.

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zelande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your telegram of 8th instant as below: "Obliged for your letter 21st January Kindly introduce 1st April;" I have the honour to inform you that I have just given instructions to Italian offices, so that from the above-indicated date correspondence from New Zealand to Italy prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce shall be delivered without surcharge.

Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence will be marked with a surcharge of 10 centimes for each deficiency of $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 125.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Copenhagen, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes,

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL DES POSTES,—

Copenhagen, le 14 Mars, 1901.

En reponse à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'en consideration de la correspondance peu nombreuse echangee entre nos deux pays je n'ai pu trouver de raisons suffisantes pour conclure, conformement à l'Article 21 de la Convention de l'Union postale universelle, un arrangement special avec la Nouvelle-Zelande concernant une reduction de la taxe des lettres, de part et d'autre, à 1 penny, et que je ne puis que considerer comme contraire aux dispositions des Articles 5 et 10 de la Convention de l'Union postale universelle d'admettre des lettres provenant de la Nouvelle-Zelande comme suffisamment affranchies, lorsqu'elles ne sont revêtues de timbres-poste qu'à 1 penny.

Agreez, &c.,

C. SVENDEM.

A Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zelande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that, in view of the small volume of correspondence exchanged between our two countries, I am unable to find sufficient reason for concluding, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union, a special arrangement with New Zealand respecting a mutual reduction of letter postage to 1d., and I can only consider as contrary to provisions of Articles 5 and 10 of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union the suggestion to admit letters from New Zealand as sufficiently prepaid when they only bear postage-stamps of 1d.

No. 126.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the COUNCILLOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Lisbon.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 19th March, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th January last, advising that you were unable to agree to the establishing of penny postage between your country and this colony, but would deliver without surcharge letters from New Zealand prepaid at the rate of 10 centimes per 15 grammes.

I am much gratified by your prompt and courteous action, which will materially assist towards the consummation of the universal penny-postage scheme. I venture to hope that it will not be long before Portugal is in a position to reduce the postage on letters in the opposite direction to 10 centimes per 15 grammes. The friendship which has in the meantime prompted the concession of delivering New Zealand letters at the lower rate is appreciated.

* * * * *

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

Councillor Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Lisbon, Portugal.

[Letters in similar terms were sent to the Hon. the Minister of Posts, Rome (19/3/01); the Postmasters-General, Alexandria (19/3/01) and Liberia (8/7/01); the Administrator-General of Posts, Mexico (19/3/01); the Directors-General of Posts, San José (19/3/01), Bangkok (31/3/01), Assumption (1/4/01), Lima (10/4/01), Santiago (10/4/01), and Managua (10/4/01); and the Director-General of Colonies, Lisbon (10/4/01).]

No. 127.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Constantinople, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes,
MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,— Constantinople, le 23 March, 1901.

Me referant à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 23 Novembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que l'établissement d'un tarif réduit de 10 c. par 15 grammes, pour les relations postales reciproques entre la Turquie et la Nouvelle-Zelande, n'étant pas compatible avec notre tarif interieur, nous desirons continuer à appliquer aux lettres destinees à la Nouvelle-Zelande le tarif resultant des dispositions de la Convention internationale de Washington.

Quant aux lettres a destination de la Turquie affranchies sur la base d'un penny, je regrette de ne pas pouvoir acquiescer à votre desir attendu que la même consideration nous oblige à les soumettre a la taxe prevue pour les lettres insuffisamment affranchies.

Agreez, &c.

Le Directeur-General des Postes,
HUSSEIN HASSIB.

Monsieur le Postmaster-General, Wellington, Nouvelle-Zelande.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to the letter which you were good enough to address to me on the 23rd November last, I have the honour to inform you that, as the establishing of a reduced tariff of 10 centimes per 15 grammes for the reciprocal postal relations between Turkey and New Zealand would not be compatible with our internal tariff, we desire to continue to apply to letters addressed to New Zealand the tariff resulting from the provisions of the International Conference of Washington.

Respecting letters addressed to Turkey prepaid at the rate of 1d., I regret my inability to accede to your request, seeing that the same consideration would oblige us to subject them to the charge provided for insufficiently prepaid letters.

No. 128.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Stockholm, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes, Stockholm, le 29 Mars, 1901.
MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Par votre lettre rappelée en marge vous avez bien voulu me proposer la formation, avec application de l'Article 21 de la convention principale de Washington, d'une union restreinte entre la Suède et la Nouvelle-Zelande, en vue de l'introduction du "penny tarif" (tarif de 10 centimes par 15 grammes) pour les lettres echangees entre nos deux pays.

En reponse, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ce qui suit.

Il est bien vrai qu'en vertu de l'article mentionne par vous des unions restreintes peuvent être etablies, en vue de la reduction des taxes postales, entre des parties contractantes, mais selon mon opinion il n'entrerait guère dans l'esprit dudit article qu'une union restreinte fût etablie dans le but en question entre des parties contractantes aussi eloignees l'une de l'autre comme le sont la Suède et les Colonies Britanniques d'Australasie, parties contractantes entre lesquelles il n'existe, du reste, aucun echange postal direct, tandis que les taxes normales de l'Union postale universelle seraient maintenues dans l'echange entre la Suède et des parties contractantes si voisines que l'Allemagne, par exemple, avec lesquelles la Suède entretient des rapports des plus frequents. Et même s'il n'y avait pas de ce point de vue d'obstacles à la realisation d'un pareil propos, présenté par l'ensemble des Colonies Britanniques d'Australasie, son adoption aurait dans tous les cas pour la Suède des consequences si incalculables, aussi bien pour ce qui concerne le service interne que pour ce qui est des relations avec beaucoup d'autres pays etrangers, que pour ma part je ne saurais le recommander à l'acceptation de mon Gouvernement.

M'en rapportant à ce qui précède, je me vois donc dans la necessité de decliner votre proposition bienveillante; et envisageant comme je le fais la question qui nous occupe, je ne suis même pas en etat de faire delivrer aux destinataires sans taxe les lettres provenant ici de votre Colonie et affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes.

Veuillez agreer,

Le Directeur-General des Postes,
F. H. SCHLYTERK.

A Monsieur le Postmaster-General de la Nouvelle-Zelande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

By your letter mentioned in the margin you were good enough to propose the formation, under Article 21 of the Principal Convention of Washington, of a restricted union between Sweden and New Zealand with a view to introduce penny post for letters exchanged between our two countries.

In reply, I have to inform you as follows :—

It is quite true that in virtue of the article mentioned by you a restricted union may be established with a view to reducing postal charges between contracting parties, but, in my opinion, it is hardly in the spirit of the said article that such restricted unions should be established with that object between contracting parties who are so distant from each other as Sweden and the British colonies of Australasia, more especially as between such contracting parties there does not exist any direct postal exchange, while normal charges of the Universal Postal Union are maintained in exchanges between Sweden and contracting parties so near as Germany, for example, with which Sweden maintains the most frequent relations. And even if there were no obstacles to the realisation of such a proposal from this point of view, if presented by the whole of the British colonies of Australasia its adoption would in any case have for Sweden such incalculable consequences, as well for the internal service as in the relations with many foreign countries, that for my part I would be unable to recommend it for the acceptance of my Government.

With reference to the above-mentioned matter I am therefore under the necessity of declining your well-intentioned proposals, and, viewing the question as I do, I am not even able to cause to be delivered to addressees, without surcharge, letters coming here from your colony and prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

No. 129.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Melbourne.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 1st April, 1901.

I HEARTILY congratulate you on adopting penny postage within your State. Trust that your example speedily followed by the other States, and the penny rate made universal throughout the Commonwealth, and applied to this colony as well. May I venture to hope that, as you now have an inland penny post, our letters prepaid 1d. will be accepted and delivered without surcharge?

No. 130.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the MINISTER OF COMMERCE, Vienna.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 9th April, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th January last, advising that your office could not agree either to the proposed exchange of letters between our respective countries at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce or to the receipt without surcharge of such letters from New Zealand.

I much regret to learn your decision in this matter, more especially as the administrations of Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Portuguese colonies, Siam, and Switzerland have readily agreed to consider our penny letters as fully prepaid. In view of the fact that the countries mentioned have seen no difficulty in agreeing to the proposal for penny postage in one direction, I should be obliged if you would again give the question your consideration, in the hope that you may yet be able to see your way to at least deliver penny letters from New Zealand without surtax.

I have, &c.,

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Minister of Commerce, Vienna.

[Letters in similar terms sent to the Hon. the Imperial Minister for War (in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina) (9/4/01); the Director-General of Finances, Luxembourg (9/4/01); the Directors-General of Posts, Budapest (9/4/01), Madrid (9/4/01), Hague (9/4/01), Brussels (9/4/01), Bucharest (9/4/01), Sofia (9/4/01), Rio de Janeiro (9/4/01), Athens (9/4/01), Tunis (9/4/01), San Domingo (9/4/01), Copenhagen (2/5/01), Christiania (2/5/01), St. Petersburg (17/5/01), Stockholm (22/5/01), and Constantinople (22/5/01); and the Secretary-General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Congo Free State (11/6/01).]

No. 131.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL, Congo Free State, Department of Foreign Affairs, Brussels, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

État Independant du Congo, Departement des Affaires Etrangères,

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL DES POSTES,—

Bruxelles, le 17 Avril, 1901.

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la reception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me proposer l'établissement d'une union restreinte entre la Nouvelle-Zelande et l'État Independant du Congo sur les bases de l'Article XXI. de la Convention principale de Washington.

L'Administration postale de l'État n'a jusqu'ici conclu d'accord de l'espèce avec aucune administration de l'Union, c'est dire que le tarif d'affranchissement en vigueur dans notre service est applique uniformement à tous les offices avec lesquels nous entretenons des échanges.

Je ne pense donc pas que la modification qui y serait apportée se justifierait pour les relations postales d'un seul pays.

6—F. 3.

Je regrette en consequence, Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes, de ne pouvoir accueillir la proposition que vous avez bien voulu me faire par votre dépêche précitée.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Secrétaire-General,

Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, in which you were good enough to propose to me a restricted union between New Zealand and the Congo Free State on the basis of Article 21 of the Principal Convention of Washington.

The Postal Administration of the State has not up to the present concluded any agreement of the kind with any administration of the union, and the tariff of prepayment in force in our service is therefore applied uniformly to all offices with whom we maintain exchanges.

I do not consider that the modification which would be introduced would be justified for the postal relations of a single country.

I regret, therefore, Mr. Director-General of Posts, not being able to accept the proposals which you were kind enough to make by your aforesaid communication.

No. 132.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Belgrade, Servia, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes,

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Belgrade, le 24 Avril, 1901.

Comme suite à votre lettre du 23 Novembre, 1900, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que j'adhère à votre proposition de faire bénéficier les correspondances échangées entre nos deux Administrations et dont le poids ne dépasserait pas 15 grammes, d'une réduction de taxe de 10 centimes = 1 penny.

J'ai donné en conséquence les instructions nécessaires à mes bureaux intéressés.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

KADYLORSTCH.

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes et des Telegraphes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that I accept your proposals to reduce the postage on letters exchanged between our two Administrations to 1d. per 15 grammes.

The necessary instructions have been given to my officers.

No. 133.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Montevideo, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes de l'Uruguay,

MONSIEUR,—

Montevideo, le 30 Avril, 1901.

En réponse à votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que, tout en reconnaissant les avantages des tarifs postaux modérés, cette Direction regrette que ne soit dans ses attributions la réduction des tarifs de son service, sans consultation préalable du Corps Législatif de cette République, qui n'est pas à même, pour le moment, de s'en occuper.

J'ai pris, néanmoins, bonne note de votre proposition, qui sera soumise, aussitôt que possible, à l'approbation supérieure.

Agreez, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes, Wellington.

HONORE ROUSTAN.

[TRANSLATION.]

IN reply to your letter of the 23rd November last, I have the honour to inform you that, while recognising the advantages of reduced postal tariffs, this Administration regrets its inability to reduce the tariffs of this service without previous consultation with the Parliament of the Republic, which at present is unable to occupy itself with the question.

I have therefore taken note of your proposition, which will be submitted as early as possible for higher approval.

No. 134.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Monrovia, 2nd May, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, bearing date 23rd November, 1900, in reference to the introduction into New Zealand of the penny tariff, and note the suggestion on your part, for the consideration of this Administration, of the formation of a restricted union between the Republic of Liberia and New Zealand under Article XXI. of the Principal Convention of Washington.

I regret to say that it is not in my power at present to reduce the tariff on letters mailed in Liberia. I will, however, deliver to addressees, without tax, letters coming from New Zealand prepaid at the rate of 1d. for 15 grammes.

I have, &c.,

F. E. R. JOHNSON,

Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

No. 135.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 10th May, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd February last, asking since when letters have been posted in New Zealand for Switzerland prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce, and, in reply, to inform you that the reduced rate was applied on the 9th March last.

I beg to enclose for your acceptance a list of the countries, to which New Zealand letters are sent for 1d. per half-ounce. To other places the Postal Union rates are charged, except Australia, to which the postage is 2d. per half-ounce.

This Department does not now levy a maritime tax of any kind. The postage of 1d. per half-ounce is regarded as sufficiently prepaying a letter to or from the countries named in the list. The International Bureau will be advised of the cessation of the maritime tax on post-cards.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

For the Postmaster-General.

The Director-General of Swiss Posts, Berne.

No. 136.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Rome.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 15th May, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 13th March last, advising that you had given instructions to offices under your control to deliver free of surcharge correspondence from New Zealand for Italy prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS ROSE,

For the Postmaster-General.

The Director-General of Posts, Rome.

No. 137.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Brussels, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,—

Administration des Postes, Bruxelles, le 21 Mai, 1901.

Comme suite à votre lettre du 9 Avril dr., j'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer ma réponse du 14 Janvier, 1901.

Aux termes de l'Art. 21 de la Convention principale de Washington, un arrangement special devrait être conclu par voie diplomatique entre nos deux pays pour que les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Belgique, affranchies à raison d'un penny par demi-ounce, pussent être remises sans taxe aux destinataires.

L'Administration des postes Belge ne pourrait pas recommander un tel arrangement à son gouvernement parce que cet arrangement aurait pour effet de déroger, au profit d'une des parties contractantes seulement, à une des dispositions fondamentales de la convention d'Union postale universelle.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

A Monsieur le Postmaster-General, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th April last, I have the honour to confirm my reply of the 14th January, 1901.

In terms of Article 21 of the Principal Convention of Washington, a special agreement would have to be concluded through diplomatic channels between our two countries to have letters from New Zealand addressed to Belgium, prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce delivered without charge to the addressee.

The Belgian Administration of Posts could not recommend such an agreement to its Government, because it would practically abrogate in favour of one of the contracting parties only, one of the fundamental provisions of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

No. 138.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Madrid, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,— Direction General de Correos y Telegrafos, Madrid, le 22 Mai, 1901.

Par votre lettre du 9 Avril dernier, vous avez bien voulu me demander d'admettre dans le service de mon Administration, comme pleinement affranchies, les lettres provenant de vos bureaux et affranchies à raison de 1 penny par port simple. Vous citez à l'appui de votre demande l'exemple de diverses Administrations qui ont répondu favorablement à une enquête semblable.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'il m'est impossible d'acquiescer à votre proposition. J'estime, ainsi, que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous l'indiquer, qu'il doit y avoir réciprocité dans les prix fixes à la correspondance échangée entre deux pays, et que les correspondances du service international ne doivent pas jouir de bénéfices qui ne seront pas accordés à celles du service interne.

Je ne puis donc, à mon grand regret, que vous confirmer les conclusions de ma lettre du 11 Janvier dernier.

Agreez, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

A Monsieur le Postmaster-General de la Nouvelle-Zélande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

By your letter of the 9th April last you were good enough to request me to admit in the service of my Administration, as fully prepaid, letters from your office prepaid at 1d. per single rate. You mention in support of your request the example of several Administrations who have favourably replied to a similar inquiry.

I have the honour to inform you that I am unable to agree to your proposal. I consider, as I have already had the honour of intimating to you, that there should be reciprocity in the postage fixed for correspondence exchanged between our two countries, and that correspondence for the international service should not enjoy benefits which are not granted to the inland service.

I am only able, therefore, to my great regret, to confirm the decision of my letter of 11th January last.

No. 139.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, The Hague, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes des Pays-Bas,
La Haye, le 22 Mai, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL,— Comme suite à votre lettre du 9 Avril dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je dois persister à considérer votre proposition comme inacceptable, haut en ce qui concerne l'établissement d'une union restreinte, en vue de la réduction des taxes, qu'en ce qui regarde la distribution sans taxe des lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour les Pays-Bas, affranchies d'après la taxe d'un penny.

Agreez, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

A Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 9th April last, I have the honour to inform you that I must persist in considering your proposals as inacceptable, both as to the establishment of a restricted union with the object of reducing charges as well as the delivery without charge of letters from New Zealand for the Netherlands prepaid according to the penny tariff.

No. 140.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Tunis, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Office des Postes et des Telegraphes, Tunis, le 23 Mai, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL,—

Me référant à votre lettre en date du 9 Avril dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je ne puis que confirmer les renseignements que je vous ai donné le 23 Janvier, relativement à l'impossibilité de faire délivrer sans taxe aux destinataires en Tunisie les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande qui seraient affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes.

Je regrette donc de ne pouvoir accepter votre proposition.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

pour Le Directeur de l'Office,

Le Sous-Directeur,

Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your letter of the 9th April last, I have the honour to inform you that I am only able to confirm the information conveyed to you on the 23rd January last, intimating the impossibility of delivering without surcharge to addressees in Tunis letters originating in New Zealand which are prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

I regret being unable to accept your proposition.

No. 141.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Paris, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR,—

Paris, le 25 Mai, 1901.

Vous avez bien voulu, par votre lettre du 9 Avril dernier, me prier d'examiner de nouveau s'il ne serait pas possible à mon office de faire distribuer sans taxe, les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande, affranchies à raison de 1 penny par 15 grammes ou fraction de 15 grammes.

Un nouvel examen de cette question n'a fait que confirmer la manière de voir exposée dans ma lettre du 15 Janvier dernier.

Il m'est, en effet, impossible par suite des dispositions réglementaires de mon administration, d'accepter, quant à présent, vos propositions et je vous en exprime tous mes regrets.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Sous-Secrétaire d'État des Postes et des Télégraphes :
Le Directeur de l'Exploitation Postale,

JACOBET.

Monsieur le Maître-Général des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

You were good enough in your letter of the 9th April last to request me to again examine whether it would not be possible for my office to undertake delivery without surcharge of letters originating in New Zealand prepaid at 1d. per 15 grammes or fraction thereof.

A further examination of the question has only caused the confirmation of the view previously expressed in the letter of the 15th January last.

In fact, it is quite impossible, in consequence of the regulations of my Administration, to accept for the present your propositions, and I beg to express my regret therefor.

No. 142.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Rio de Janeiro, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Directoria Geral dos Correios, Rio de Janeiro, 30 de Maio, de 1901.

SR. DIRECTOR-GERAL,—

Em resposta ao vosso officio, de 9 de Abril ultimo, no qual propondes a esta Directoria que seja feita a entrega das cartas-penny, procedentes da Nova-Zelandia, sem sobre taxa, tenho a honra de vos declarar que o caso e igual ao que já for respondido em meu officio No. 6, de 12 de Janeiro do corrente anno, por isso que, nao podendo o Correio Brasileiro acquiescer á reciprocidade da reducao de taxa proposta, nao pode outrosim dispensar a cobrança da insufficiencia, que the pertence, *ex-vi* do No. 3 do Art. 5 da Convenção principal de Washington e que constitue uma parte de suo renda, conforme o Art. 34, do Regulamento postal do meu paiz.

Alem disso, é minha opiniao que a taxa postal internacional nao pode ser modificada a arbitrio desta Directoria, porquanto é ella firma da por um acto do Congresso Postal, a que todos os paizes adherentes têm de obedecer.

Reitero-vos, &c.,

O Director-Geral,

Sr. Director-Geral dos Correios da Nova-Zelandia em Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 9th April last, in which you proposed to this Direction that letters originating in New Zealand should be delivered without surcharge, I beg to inform you that the case remains the same as when dealt with in my reply of the 12th January of the current year, in which the Brazilian office stated that it could not acquiesce in any mutual reduction of charges, nor could it dispense with the surcharge in case postage were not at rates given at paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the principal Convention of Washington, which forms part of the Post Office Regulations of this country (Article 34).

I should, moreover, remark that, in my opinion, the international postal charges cannot be modified arbitrarily by this direction, because they are fixed by an Act of a Post Office Congress which all adhering countries are obliged to obey.

No. 143.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Berlin, to the GENERAL POST-OFFICE, Wellington.

Kaiserlich Deutsches Reichs-Postamt, Berlin, W. 66, den 31 Mai, 1901.

DAS Reichs-Postamt bedauert, dem dortseitigen Vorschlage, die aus Neu-Seeland abgesendeten, mit einem Penny für je 15 g ($\frac{1}{2}$ Unze) frankirten Briefe den Empfängern in Deutschland ohne Nachtaxe zuzustellen, auch nach wiederholter Prüfung nicht zustimmen zu können. Das Grundprincip des Weltpostvertrages, dass jede Verwaltung dass von ihr erhobene Briefporto ungetheilt behält, hat die Gleichheit der Tarife zur Voraussetzung und lässt daher diesseitigen Erachtens ein solches Verfahren nicht zu. Die bezüglich der Zuschlagtaxen im Verein vorgesehene Ausnahme ist von Anfang an nur als vorübergehend gedacht worden und verschwindet von Jahr zu Jahr mehr.

Director-General of Posts,

General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

THE Imperial Post-Office regrets its inability, after renewed examination, to agree to New Zealand's proposition that letters from New Zealand prepaid at a penny per 15 grammes (per half-ounce) be delivered to addressees in Germany without surcharge. The fundamental principle of the Universal Postal Union that each Administration should retain its own postages is based on the presumption of equality of tariffs, and precludes, therefore, the adoption of such a course here. The surcharges in the Union which form the exception to the above principle were from their initiation considered as transitory, and disappear from year to year.

No. 144.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, and TELEPHONES, Sofia, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes, des Telegraphes et des Telephones,
Sofia, le 19 Mai (1 Juin), 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la reception de votre lettre en date du 9 Avril ecoule et de vous faire connaître que j'ai examine de nouveau la question au sujet de la réduction de l'unité de la taxe à percevoir pour les lettres échangées entre nos deux pays et éventuellement de reconnaître comme dûment affranchies toutes les lettres originaires de votre office, à destination de Bulgarie, dont le port d'affranchissement consisterait en $\frac{1}{2}$ once 10 centimes.

En reponse, je viens de vous reiterer mes considerations anterieures et de vous informer que du moment que les taxes aux lettres dans nos relations interieures, sont superieures a celles proposees par vous, il m'est impossible à mon tres vif regret, de me rallier à votre proposition, nonobstant qu'elle me paraît contraire à l'esprit des stipulations de l'Article 20 de la Convention Postale Universelle.

Agreez, Monsieur, &c.

Le Directeur-General,

A Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 9th April, and to inform you that I have again looked into the question of the reduction of the unit of postage to be levied on letters exchanged between our two countries, and the proposal to eventually recognise as fully prepaid all letters originating from your office addressed to Bulgaria on which prepayment is made at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

In reply, I beg to reiterate my previous reply, and to inform you that for the present the charges on letters in our internal relations are greater than those proposed by you, and it is therefore impossible for me, though with keen regret, to accept your proposal, notwithstanding that it would appear to be contrary to the spirit of Article 20 of the Universal Postal Convention.

No. 145.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, and TELEPHONES, Bucharest, Roumania, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes, des Telegraphes, et des Telephones,

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL,—

Bucharest, le 8 Juin, 1901.

Me referant à votre lettre du 9 Avril dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer que nous ne pouvons accepter votre proposition et que nous maintenons la reponse que nous vous avons donne par notre note No. 2448 du 5 Fevrier dernier.

Agreez, &c.,

p. Le Directeur-General,

Le Chef du Service,

Monsieur le Maître-General des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

With reference to your letter of 9th April last, I have the honour to inform you that we are unable to accept your proposals, and that we maintain the reply which was given you in our letter of 5th February last.

No. 146.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, London, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

General Post Office, London, 13th June, 1901.

Adverting to the letter from this office of the 12th October last, in which you were informed of the interest naturally taken by the Postmaster-General in looking forward to the outcome of your proposals to negotiate for a reduced letter postage between New Zealand and foreign countries, I am directed to ask whether you are now in a position to favour the Marquess of Londonderry with full particulars of the result of your negotiations.

The Postmaster-General supposes that this inquiry can hardly be premature, seeing that some details already appear to have been communicated by yourself and your officers either directly or indirectly to members of Parliament and to the Press in this country. Through Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., the Postmaster-General learned some time ago that you had concluded a unilateral arrangement with the Egyptian Post Office, and this intelligence was authenticated by application to that office. From a newspaper report, of which a copy is enclosed, it is now gathered that you have secured a similar concession from several other foreign Post Offices, and that interesting correspondence has passed between yourself and the German Post Office on the subject.

The Postmaster-General is sure that you will appreciate his anxiety to have early and complete information on this important matter from yourself, instead of depending, as he has hitherto had to depend, on such second-hand reports respecting it as may reach him at haphazard from unauthoritative quarters.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

I am, &c.,

H. BUXTON FORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 146.

[Extract from *Daily Express* dated the 11th June, 1901.]

THE foreign Administrations of Chili, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Siam, and Switzerland have notified that they will accept New Zealand penny letters, although not at present prepared to reciprocate.

Germany has sent a lengthy letter giving reasons why the New Zealand Postmaster-General's proposals cannot be accepted at present, and many of the countries desire that the question be held over until it can be discussed at the next Universal Postal Union Congress, which will be held at Rome in 1902.

No. 147.

The Hon. the IMPERIAL MINISTER OF COMMERCE, Vienna, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Vienna, le 13 Juin, 1901.

Me referant à votre lettre du 9 Avril dr., je regrette d'être dans la necessite de vous repeter qu'il m'est impossible, pour les motifs que je me suis permis de vous expliquer dans ma lettre du 25 Janvier, dr., d'ordonner que les lettres originaires de votre pays, à destination de l'Autriche et affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes, soient remises aux destinataires sans surtaxe.

Le procede creerait, à mon avis, une exception fâcheuse au principe de l'uniformite des taxes de l'Union postale universelle.

Veuillez agreer, &c.,

Pour le Ministre du Commerce,

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to your letter of the 9th April last, I regret to find myself under the necessity to repeat to you that it is impossible for me, because of the reasons which I took the liberty of explaining to you in my letter of the 25th January last, to arrange that letters originating in your country addressed to Austria and prepaid at 1d. per half-ounce be delivered to addressees without surcharge.

Such a procedure would create, in my opinion, a regrettable exception to the principle of uniformity of the surcharges of the Universal Postal Union.

No. 148.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Athens, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes de Grèce,
MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,— Athènes, le 31 Mai (13 Juin), 1901.

En reponse à votre lettre du 9 Avril dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon Administration partant du principe dont traite ma precedente ne peut pas aussi accepter des correspondances d'un port modere sans les taxer à leur arrivee.

Les circonstances d'aujourd'hui ne permettent pas à mon office des changements pareils.

Veuillez agreer, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

A. ROUKIS.

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 9th April last, I have the honour to inform you that my Administration, acting on the principle enunciated in my preceding communication, cannot accept correspondence with reduced postage without surcharging it on arrival.

The circumstances at the present time do not permit of my office making such changes.

No. 149.

The Hon. the IMPERIAL WAR MINISTER, Vienna, Austria, to the GENERAL POST OFFICE, Wellington.

An die General Post Office in Wellington.

Wien, am 17 Juni, 1901.

In Beantwortung der geschätzten Zuschrift vom 9 April, 1901, beehrt sich das Reichs-Kriegs-Ministerium mitzuthellen, dass es nicht in der Lage ist, von dem in der hierstelligen Note vom 13 Februar, 1901, präcisierten Standpunkte anzugehen.

Für den Reichs-Kriegs-Minister,

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your esteemed letter of the 9th April, 1901, the Imperial War Ministry has the honour to intimate that it does not see its way to recede from the position notified in communication of the 13th February, 1901.

No 150.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Budapesth, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes, Budapest, le 23 Juin, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

En reponse à votre lettre du 9 Avril dr., j'ai le regret de devoir vous informer que pour les causes que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer par ma lettre du 7 Fevrier dernier il m'est impossible d'adherer à votre proposition tendant à l'application des taxes moderes de votre pays.

Le principe que les taxes des correspondances dans l'echange reciproque entre deux pays doivent être les mêmes, ne me permet pas d'ordonner que les lettres originaires de votre pays à destination de la Hongrie et affranchies à raison d'un penny par 15 grammes soient traitees comme lettres suffisamment affranchies.

Agreez, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

SZALAZ.

Monsieur le Postmaster-General à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of the 9th April last, I regret to have to inform you that, for the reasons which I had the honour to communicate to you in my letter of the 7th February last, it is impossible for me to accept your proposition tending to the application of reduced postages to your country.

The principle that the charges for correspondence in the reciprocal exchange between two countries should be the same does not permit me to arrange that letters originating in your country addressed to Hungary and prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce be treated as sufficiently prepaid.

No. 151.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Christiania, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.
SIR,—

Direction General of Posts, Christiania, Norway, 25th June, 1901.

In reply to your letter of the 2nd May last, I have the honour to inform you that my Administration, after having reconsidered the matter, cannot accept penny letters from New Zealand without surtax as long as the greater part of the European countries has not agreed to consider your penny letters as fully prepaid.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington, New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
KARL BRYN.

No. 152.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Batavia, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Service des Postes et des Telegraphes aux Indes Orientales Neerlandaises,
Batavia, le 26 Juin, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser reception de votre lettre du 23 Novembre dernier, par laquelle vous proposez d'introduire une taxe moderee de dix centimes par 15 grammes, pour les lettres echangees entre la Colonie de la Nouvelle-Zelande et celle des Indes Orientales Neerlandaises.

En reponse je m'empresse de vous informer que mon Administration, ayant ete appelee à la revision generale des taxes postales des Indes Orientales Neerlandaises, vient de soumettre à l'appréciation de son Gouvernement la proposition de reduire toutes les taxes applicables aux lettres et autres objets postaux, echanges dans les relations tant internes qu'internationales de cette colonie.

Avant d'examiner votre proposition qu'une Union plus restreinte soit etablie entre nos deux colonies aux termes de l'Article 21 de la Convention principale de Washington, il convient, comme il parait, d'attendre jusqu'à ce que l'autorite superieure à la Haye veuille bien se declarer au sujet de la proposition de moderer generalement les taxes postales des Indes Orientales Neerlandaises.

Veuillez agreer, &c.,
L'Inspecteur-General,

A Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes et des Telegraphes
de la Nouvelle-Zelande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, in which you propose introducing a reduced charge of 10 centimes per 15 grammes for letters exchanged between the Colony of New Zealand and the Dutch East Indies.

In reply, I hasten to inform you that my Administration, having been called upon to undertake the general revision of the postal charges of the Dutch East Indies, has just submitted for the approval of its Government the proposition to reduce all charges applicable to letters and other Post Office articles exchanged in the internal as well as the international relations of this colony.

Before examining your proposal that a more restricted union be established between our two colonies, in terms of Article 21 of the Principal Convention of Washington, it would seem best to wait until the superior authorities at the Hague have come to a decision on the proposition for generally reducing the postal charges of the Dutch East Indies.

No. 153.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Belgrade.
SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 3rd July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th April last, agreeing to the interchange between our respective countries of letters prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce, or 10 centimes per 15 grammes.

I am much gratified by your prompt and courteous action, which will materially assist towards the consummation of the universal penny-postage scheme.

The Director-General of Posts, Belgrade, Servia.

I have, &c..
J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

No. 154.

The DIRECTOR, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Berne, le 8 Juillet, 1901

Par lettre du 21 Mai dernier, vous avez bien voulu me faire connaître, entre autres, que la taxe d'affranchissement des lettres de la Nouvelle-Zelande pour le Royaume-Uni, pour un certain nombre de colonies et protectorats britanniques et pour les pays suivants: Chili, Costa-Rica,

Egypte, Italie, Mexique, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perou, Portugal and colonies portugaises, Siam et Suisse, est reduite à 1d. par $\frac{1}{2}$ once ou fraction de $\frac{1}{2}$ once, et me demander de rectifier en consequence le Recueil repartí par ma circulaire du 5 Septembre, 1899, No. 5237/233.

En reponse à cette communication, je me permets de vous faire remarquer, Monsieur le Postmaster-General, 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. Pour l'un comme pour l'autre cas, il est nécessaire, suivant moi, de conclure un arrangement d'État, conformément au § 2 de l'Article 21 de la Convention principale.

En consequence, avant de faire la rectification dont il s'agit, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me faire connaître si votre Gouvernement a conclu un arrangement de ce genre avec le Gouvernement de chacun des pays ci-dessus soulignes, en vue de la reduction en question.

Au mois de Janvier dernier, j'ai prie quelques-unes des Administrations que j'avais suppose avoir ete pressenties par votre office sur sa proposition de reduction de taxe, de vouloir bien me faire connaître dans quel sens elles se sont prononcees. Vous trouverez ci-joint, à titre de renseignements, le resume des observations que ces Administrations m'ont fait parvenir en reponse à ma demande.

Vous me priez, en outre, de remplacer dans la note (40) Nouvelle-Zelande (a) de la page 26 du Recueil, les mots "colonies de l'Australasie," par les mots "Australian States." Pour eviter tout malentendu, j'ai besoin de savoir quelles sont les colonies precedemment connues sous le nom de colonies britanniques de l'Australasie qui font partie des Australian States. Je vous prie de vouloir bien aussi me fixer sur ce point.

L'annexe de votre lettre mentionne Nigeria (Northern) et Nigeria (Southern) comme devant beneficier de la taxe des lettres de 1d. par port simple. Je crois devoir vous faire remarquer que l'Office de la Grande-Bretagne m'a fait connaître dans le temps que le Protectorat de la Côte du Niger et le Territoire du Niger sont admis au benefice de cette tax moderee. (Voir la note : 15, Grande-Bretagne (a) de la page 10 du Recueil). Je vous vous serais donc oblige de vouloir bien me faire savoir s'il ne vous paraît pas indique de vous en tenir deux denominations adoptees par la Grande-Bretagne.

Quant à la taxe de 2½d. que perçoit votre office pour les reclamations relatives à des objets recommandes quand il n'a pas ete demande un avis de reception (colonne 27 du Recueil), il en a dejà ete donne avis aux Administrations de l'Union par ma circulaire du 7 Mai, 1900, No. 2501/116.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur,

RUFFY.

Monsieur le Postmaster-General, à Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 154.

RESUME DES REPONSES FAITES PAR LES ADMINISTRATIONS CI-APRÈS INDIQUEES AUX PROPOSITIONS DE L'OFFICE DE LA NOUVELLE-ZELANDE.

Allemagne.—Voit dans la proposition de la Nouvelle-Zelande d'introduire, pour les lettres, la taxe de 1 penny (10 centimes) dans ses rapports avec tous les pays de l'Union, la preuve que, sous l'influence des institutions de l'Union, le service postal des colonies australiennes, qui leur permettait à peine d'adhérer à la Convention principale en 1891, a subi depuis lors une transformation complète dans le sens des idées de progrès qui sont à la base de l'Union. Ainsi que l'Administration de la Nouvelle-Zelande en a ete informee par la circulaire du Bureau international de l'Union postale universelle du 3 Mai, 1899, No. 2728/111, l'Allemagne a adopte, pour les relations avec ses colonies, ainsi que pour les relations de ces colonies entre elles, des reductions de taxes encore bien plus considerables que celle qui fait l'objet de la proposition de cette Administration. L'Office allemand est donc en principe sympathique à l'idée de reduire aussi le tarif des lettres dans les rapports entre l'Allemagne et les colonies allemandes, d'une part, et la Nouvelle-Zelande, d'autre part. Toutefois, le moment de realiser une semblable mesure ne paraît pas encore venu. Le public allemand ne comprendrait pas pourquoi le tarif des lettres pour un pays aussi eloigne que la Nouvelle-Zelande serait reduit, tandis que celui des lettres pour des pays plus rapproches et en particulier pour les pays limitrophes serait maintenu au taux actuel de 20 pfennig par 15 grammes. D'ailleurs, en raison de la grande portee financière que les Administrations interessees ne peuvent pas perdre de vue, l'Office allemand estime qu'il est impossible de reduire à bref delai, dans les rapports avec les pays dont il s'agit, la taxe des lettres selon la proposition de la Nouvelle-Zelande. Dans tous les cas, la fixation de cette taxe est intimement liee à la question si difficile du transit. Dans ces conditions, l'Office allemand regrette de ne pouvoir se rallier dès maintenant à la proposition de l'Administration de la Nouvelle-Zelande et il prie cette Administration de vouloir bien examiner s'il ne conviendrait pas de soumettre au prochain Congrès cette question si importante pour le developpement de l'Union.

Quant à la partie de la proposition concernant la remise sans taxe des lettres de la Nouvelle-Zelande pour l'Allemagne, qui seraient affranchies à raison de 1 penny par 15 grammes, l'Office allemand fait remarquer qu'il ne paraît pas admissible d'adopter pour les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zelande à destination de l'Allemagne un tarif different de celui des lettres de l'Allemagne à destination de la Nouvelle-Zelande. De l'avis de l'Office allemand, une semblable manière de proceder serait contraire à un des principes fondamentaux de l'Union, celui de la *réciprocité*. Une derogation à ce principe n'est admise qu'en ce qui concerne les surtaxes (Article 5, § 2, de la Convention principale).

Autriche.—Regrette de ne pouvoir adhérer à la proposition d'introduire le tarif modere de 1 penny par port simple pour les lettres echangees entre l'Autriche et la Nouvelle-Zelande. Des

taxes modérées pour les lettres ne s'appliquent, en ce qui concerne l'Autriche, que dans les relations avec quelques pays voisins.

L'adoption d'une taxe modérée dans le service international en général entraînerait des pertes trop considérables, tandis que l'introduction d'une telle mesure dans l'échange avec un seul pays éloigné ne répondrait pas à un besoin réel du trafic.

En raison du principe de réciprocité, il n'est pas possible à l'Office autrichien de faire distribuer sans taxe les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande, qui seraient affranchies seulement 1 penny au lieu de 2½ pence par 15 grammes.

Belgique.—Desire s'en tenir aux dispositions de l'Article 5 de la Convention principale de Washington, pour ce qui concerne le tarif des correspondances dans ses relations réciproques avec les pays de l'Union.

L'Office belge regrette donc ne pouvoir adhérer à la proposition de conclure un arrangement spécial en vue d'adopter dans les relations avec la Nouvelle-Zélande une taxe d'affranchissement inférieure à celle de l'Union, soit pour les lettres échangées entre les deux pays, soit seulement pour celles qui seraient expédiées de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Belgique.

De l'avis de l'Office belge le *statu quo* doit être maintenu ; c'est au prochain Congrès qu'il appartiendra d'apprécier l'opportunité d'une réduction de la taxe des lettres dans l'Union.

France.—Il a été répondu au Post Office de la Nouvelle-Zélande, que d'une part, la France ne pouvait en ce moment conclure une union restreinte en vue de l'abaissement de la taxe des lettres échangées entre les deux pays et que, d'autre part, l'Administration française ne pouvait délivrer sans taxe les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande affranchies seulement 1 penny par 15 grammes, cette modification devant détruire la parité des tarifs entre les deux pays et créer en faveur des expéditeurs de la Nouvelle-Zélande un traitement privilégié de 60 % qui ne manquerait pas d'être critiqué.

Hongrie.—Desire aussi, en principe, la réduction du tarif des correspondances internationales, mais à la condition que la réduction soit introduite dans l'échange entre les pays limitrophes ou, en général, dans les rapports avec tous les pays de l'Union. Aussi longtemps que les taxes actuelles restent en vigueur dans l'échange entre les pays européens, l'Office hongrois n'est pas à même de se rallier à une réduction de taxe pour les correspondances à échanger avec n'importe quel pays hors d'Europe.

En conséquence, il regrette de ne pouvoir accepter la proposition ni en ce qui concerne l'échange réciproque, ni en ce qui concerne les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour la Hongrie.

L'Administration italienne a fait connaître à l'Office de la Nouvelle-Zélande qu'elle ne peut pas adhérer à la proposition de réduire à 10 centimes par 15 grammes la taxe des lettres originaires de l'Italie pour ce pays, les exigences du Trésor italien s'y opposant, mais que, par contre, rien ne s'oppose à ce que les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande pour l'Italie, affranchies à raison de 1 penny par port simple, soient délivrées sans taxe aux destinataires.

L'Administration suisse a informé l'Office de la Nouvelle-Zélande qu'elle est disposée à faire délivrer sans taxe, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, les lettres de ce pays affranchies à raison de 1 penny par 15 grammes, à la condition qu'elles parviennent dans le service suisse sans aucun signe les designant comme insuffisamment affranchies.

[TRANSLATION.]

By letter of 21st May last you were good enough to inform me, amongst other matters, that the charge for prepayment of letters from New Zealand for the United Kingdom, for a certain number of British colonies and protectorates, and for the following countries: Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Portuguese colonies, Siam, and Switzerland, is reduced to 1d. per half-ounce or fraction of half-ounce, and to request me to rectify therefore the summary distributed with my circular of 5th September, 1899 (No. 5237-233).

In reply to that communication, I permit myself to remark, Mr. Director-General, that in my opinion the charge for letters exchanged between New Zealand and countries of the union other than Great Britain and British colonies and protectorates cannot be reduced either in both directions or in one only by simple administrative agreement.

In either case it is necessary, in my opinion, to conclude a State agreement according to paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Principal Convention.

Therefore, before making the rectification in question, I have the honour to beg of you to kindly inform me if your Government has concluded an agreement of this kind with the Governments of each of the above-named countries with a view to the reduction in question.

In the month of January last I requested some of the Administrations, which I presume had been approached by your office on the proposal of the reduction of the charge, to kindly advise me in which sense they pronounced themselves. You will find here enclosed, by way of information, the *résumé* of observations which these Administrations forwarded me in response to my request.

You request me, moreover, to replace in note (40), New Zealand (a), page 26 of summary, the words "Colonies of Australasia" by the words "Australian States." In order to obviate any misunderstanding, I should be informed which are the colonies formerly known under the name of the "British Colonies of Australasia" which form part of the Australian States, and I beg of you to kindly advise me on this point.

Re annex of your letter mentioning Nigeria (Northern) and Nigeria (Southern) as coming under the letter charge of 1d. per single rate, I should inform you, that the Office of Great Britain has notified me some time ago that the Protectorate of the Niger Coast and the Nigerian Territory are admitted to the benefits of such reduced charge (see note 15, Great Britain

(a), page 10 of summary). I should therefore feel obliged if you would kindly inform me if it would not appear to you expedient to keep to the names adopted by Great Britain.

As to the charge of 2½d. which your office levies for inquiries relating to registered articles when no acknowledgment of delivery has been prepaid (column 27 of summary), the question has already been advised to Administrations of the Union by circular of 7th March, 1900, No. 2501/116.

Enclosure.

Résumés of REPLIES BY THE UNDERMENTIONED ADMINISTRATIONS ON PROPOSITION OF THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICE.

Germany

Sees in the proposition of New Zealand to introduce for letters a charge of 1d. (10 centimes) in its relations with all the countries of the union a proof that, under the influence of the institutions of the union, the postal services of the Australian Colonies, which barely permitted them to adhere to the Principal Convention of 1891, has since then undergone a complete transformation in the sense of the ideas of progress which form the basis of the union. As the Administration of New Zealand was informed by the circular of the International Office of the Universal Postal Union of 3rd May, 1899, Germany adopted in its relations with its colonies, as well as for the relations between these colonies themselves, reductions in postages considerably greater than those which form the subject of the proposals of New Zealand Administration. The German office is therefore in principle in sympathy with the idea of reducing the letter tariff in the relations between Germany and German colonies on the one hand and New Zealand on the other. However, the moment of realising such a measure does not appear to have come as yet. The German public would not comprehend why the tariff on letters for a country so distant as New Zealand should be reduced while that of letters for nearer countries, and more particularly for adjoining countries, should be maintained at the present rate of 20 pfennigs per 15 grammes. Moreover, in view of the great financial bearing which the Administrations interested could not lose sight of, the German office considers that it is impossible to reduce at short notice in the relation with the countries in question the letter charge as proposed by New Zealand. In any case, the fixing of this charge is intimately connected with the difficult question of transit.

Under these circumstances the German office regrets not being able to agree at this stage to the proposition of the New Zealand Administration, and requests that Administration to kindly see if it would not be convenient to submit to the next Congress this question, which is so important for the development of the union.

Respecting the part of the proposition concerning the delivery without surcharge of letters from New Zealand to Germany which would be prepaid at the rate of 1d. per 15 grammes, the German office remarks that it would not appear admissible to adopt for letters from New Zealand addressed to Germany a tariff different from that for letters from Germany addressed to New Zealand. In the opinion of the German office such a procedure would be contrary to one of the fundamental principles of the union—that of reciprocity. A derogation from this principle can only be admitted in respect to surcharges (Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Principal Convention).

Austria

Regrets being unable to accept the proposal to introduce the reduced tariff of 1d. per single rate for letters exchanged between Austria and New Zealand. Reduced charges are only applied in Austria in relations with some neighbouring countries.

The adoption of a reduced rate in the international service generally would entail too heavy a loss, while the introduction of such a measure in the exchange with one distant country would not respond to a real need of the traffic.

On the grounds of reciprocity it is not possible to the Austrian office to deliver without surcharge letters originating in New Zealand which are prepaid only 1d. in lieu of 2½d. per 15 grammes.

Belgium

Desires to keep to the provisions of Article 5 of the Principal Convention of Washington in respect to the tariff for correspondence in its reciprocal relations with the countries of the union.

The Belgian office regrets not being able to accept the proposition to conclude a special agreement with a view to adopt in the relations with New Zealand a charge for prepayment lower than that of the union, either for letters exchanged between the two countries or solely for those which might be sent from New Zealand addressed to Belgium.

In the opinion of the Belgian office the *status quo* should be maintained, leaving it to the next Congress to appreciate the opportunity for a reduction in the letter charge within the union.

France

Has replied to the Post Office of New Zealand that, on the one hand, France could not at this moment conclude a restricted union with a view to lowering the charge on letters exchanged between the two countries, and, on the other hand, the French Administration could not deliver without surcharge letters originating in New Zealand prepaid only 1d. per 15 grammes, as this modification would destroy the parity of tariffs between the two countries and create in favour of senders from New Zealand a privileged treatment of 60 per cent., which could not fail to provoke criticism.

Hungary

Desires also in principle the reduction of the tariff of international correspondence, but on condition that the reduction be introduced in the exchanges between adjoining countries, or generally in the

relations with all the countries of the union. As long as the present charges remain in force in the exchange between European countries the Hungarian office is not able to agree to a reduction in the charges for correspondence to be exchanged with any country outside Europe.

It regrets, therefore, not being able to accept the proposition either in respect of reciprocal exchanges or in regard to letters from New Zealand for Hungary.

Italy.

The Italian Administration has notified to the New Zealand office that it cannot accept the proposition to reduce to 10 centimes per 15 grammes the charge on letters originating in Italy for New Zealand, as the exigencies of the Italian Treasury are opposed to such a course, but, on the other hand, it sees no objection to letters from New Zealand for Italy prepaid at 1d. per single rate being delivered to addressees without surcharge.

Switzerland.

The Swiss Administration has informed the New Zealand office that it is prepared to deliver without surcharge, until further advised, letters from that country prepaid at the rate of 1d. per 15 grammes, on condition that they reach the Swiss service without any indorsement designating them as insufficiently prepaid.

No. 155.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, St. Petersburg, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,— St. Petersburg, le 28 Juin (11 Juillet), 1901.

En reponse à votre lettre du 17 Mai, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon office maintient son opinion première emise par ma lettre du 3 Mars de cette annee.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Directeur-General,

Monsieur le Directeur-General des Postes de la Nouvelle-Zelande à Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter of 17th May, I have the honour to inform you that my office maintains its first opinion enunciated in my letter of 3rd March of this year.

No. 156.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Stockholm, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes, Stockholm, le 12 Juillet, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

En reponse à la lettre rappelee en marge concernant votre proposition d'introduire le tarif modere de 1 penny (10 centimes) par port simple pour les lettres echangees entre nos deux pays, et après nouvel examen de l'affaire, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon Administration n'est toujours pas à même d'accepter votre proposition mentionnee ni non plus de satisfaire à votre demande de faire delivrer aux destinataires suedois sans taxe les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zelande et affranchies seulement 1 penny par une demi-once.

En me referant, à ce sujet, aux motifs allegues dans la lettre de mon Administration du 29 Mars dernier, j'ajoute qu'il donnerait sans doute lieu à du mecontentement chez les correspondants suedois, si les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zelande à destination de la Suède pouvaient être affranchies seulement à raison de 10 centimes par 15 grammes, tandis que les lettres de la direction contraire seraient soumises à la taxe ordinaire de 25 centimes par 15 grammes.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Pour le Directeur-General des Postes en son absence,

AXEL HUSBERG.

A Monsieur le Postmaster-General de la Nouvelle-Zelande, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

In reply to your letter mentioned in the margin, respecting your proposal to introduce the reduced charge of 1d. (10 centimes per 15 grammes) for letters exchanged between our two countries, and after a thorough examination of the question, I have the honour to inform you that my Administration is still unable to accept your proposal mentioned above, or to accede to your request to deliver to Swedish addressees without surcharge letters originating in New Zealand and prepaid only 1d. per half-ounce.

In referring to the reasons given in the letter of my Administration of the 29th March last, I may add that it would doubtless cause discontent to Swedish correspondents if letters from New Zealand addressed to Sweden could be prepaid at the rate of 10 centimes per 15 grammes while those in the opposite direction were subject to the ordinary charge of 25 centimes per 15 grammes.

No. 157.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Monte Video.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 25th July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th April last, advising that you would submit my request that you should receive without surcharge letters from this colony prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce to the Parliament of your Republic.

I await a further reply, which, it is hoped, will be favourable.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

For the Postmaster-General.

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Monte Video.

No. 158.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Berlin.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 25th July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st May last, advising that you were still unable to agree to the receipt without surcharge of letters from this colony prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

I learn with regret your decision in the matter.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

For the Postmaster-General.

The Director-General of Posts, Berlin.

[Letters in similar terms sent to the Directors-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Brussels, Madrid, Stockholm, and Tunis.]

No. 159.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the UNDER-SECRETARY FOR STATE of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Paris.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 25th July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th May last, advising that you were still unable to agree either to the proposed exchange of letters between our respective countries at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce or to the receipt without surcharge of such letters from New Zealand.

I learn with regret that your Administration is unable to see its way to accept our letters at the reduced rate.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

For the Postmaster-General.

The Under-Secretary for State of Posts and Telegraphs, Paris.

[Letters of a similar text addressed to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, The Hague, Netherlands; and the Director-General of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Sofia, Bulgaria.]

No. 160.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, Congo Free State, Department of Foreign Affairs, Brussels, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

État Independant du Congo, Departement des Affaires Étrangères,
Bruxelles, le 5 Août, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE MAÎTRE-GENERAL DES POSTES,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la reception de votre lettre du 11 Juin dernier, par laquelle vous demandez que les bureaux de l'Administration des Postes de l'Etat Independant du Congo considerent comme regulièrement affranchies, à leur arrivee à destination, les correspondances emanant de votre office revêtues d'un timbre de fr. 0.10 par 15 grammes.

Je me suis empressé de faire examiner la proposition nouvelle que vous voulez bien me soumettre et j'ai le regret de vous informer que je ne puis reserver un accueil favorable à votre demande. En effet, toutes les correspondances que nous recevons des offices de l'Union, sont traitees, à leur arrivee dans nos perceptions, d'une façon identique et la situation actuelle du service postal de l'Etat ne lui permet pas d'accorder un traitement differential aux correspondances originaires de votre Administration.

Je vous serais obligé de vouloir considerer cette decision comme un corollaire de celle qui faisait l'objet de ma dépêche du 17 Avril dernier.

Veuillez agreer, &c.,

Le Secetaire General,

General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th June last, in which you requested that offices of the Administration of Posts of the Congo Free State should consider as regularly prepaid on their arrival at destination correspondence emanating from your office prepaid with a stamp of 10 centimes per 15 grammes.

I hastened to examine the new proposal which you were good enough to submit, and regret to inform you that I am unable to comply with your request. In fact, all the correspondence which we receive from the offices of the Union is treated on its arrival within our territory in an identical manner, and the present situation of the postal service of the State does not permit of according a differential treatment to correspondence originating from your Administration.

I should feel obliged if you would kindly consider this decision as a corollary of the one which formed the subject of my mail of the 17th April last.

 No. 161.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 15th August, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th June last, asking whether this Department was in a position to give your office full particulars of the result of the negotiations with foreign Administrations in respect of the proposal for establishing penny postage.

The request in your letter of the 12th October of last year had not been overlooked, and the matter was noted for attention during the present month, when, in the ordinary course, a report would be submitted to the Parliament of this colony. The Postmaster-General, however, regrets that, owing to pressure of parliamentary business, he is unable to reply fully by this mail, but hopes to do so by the Suez mail due London on the 30th proximo, and to enclose copies of all letters which have passed between this office and foreign Administrations. In the meantime I am to say that, in addition to the countries concerned in the Imperial penny-postage scheme, Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Portuguese colonies, Servia, Siam, and Switzerland have agreed to consider our penny letters as fully prepaid.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

 No. 162.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, London.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 16th August, 1901.

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 13th June last, requesting information in regard to the negotiations concerning this Department's proposals for the reduction in the letter postage to 1d. per half-ounce, and, in reply, I beg to enclose herewith copies of the correspondence which has been exchanged between the General Post Office, Wellington, and foreign offices in the matter. Apart from the offices which were previously parties to the penny-postage scheme, the Administrations which have agreed to accept our penny letters as fully prepaid were advised to you in the Secretary's letter of yesterday. The arrangement, as you will observe, is unilateral, except as regards Servia, which has agreed to the reduced rate in both directions. As further replies come to hand I shall be pleased to forward you copies of any that may be of interest.

I regret that it has not yet been possible to come to any arrangement with the Australian Commonwealth, which still refuses to accept our penny letters. It was hoped that with the meeting of the Federal Parliament the difficulties which existed would disappear, but so far this has not been the case.

I would add that the Department can scarcely be held responsible for newspaper reports in connection with postal matters affecting this colony, which in many instances appear to be based on altogether inaccurate information. I mention this, as I notice it is alleged, quite erroneously, in a London publication that New Zealand has been affixing the amount of deficient postage in stamps to letters for countries which have not agreed to the reduced rate.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

 No. 163.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Constantinople, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

Direction Generale des Postes et des Telegraphes, Constantinople, le 21 Août, 1901.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Me referant à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 22 Mai dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que vu les dispositions de ma lettre du 23 Mars, il ne m'est pas possible de faire considerer comme regulierement affranchies les lettres originaires de la Nouvelle-Zelande et soumises au tarif de un penny.

Agreez, &c.,

Monsieur le Postmaster-General, Wellington.

pr. Le Directeur-General,

M. FUAD.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to the letter which you were good enough to address me on the 22nd May last, I have the honour to inform you that, in view of the statements made in my letter of the 23rd March, it is not possible to consider as regularly prepaid letters originating in New Zealand and posted at the penny rate.

No. 164.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS and TELEGRAPHS, Tokio.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 31st August, 1901.

I have the honour, by direction, to ask that you will kindly favour the Postmaster-General with a reply to his letter of the 23rd November last, suggesting that a restricted union might be formed between our Administrations for the establishing of penny postage, or that, at least, letters from New Zealand might be accepted at the reduced rate.

I may add that since the letter above quoted was written the Administrations of Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and Portuguese Colonies, Servia, Siam, and Switzerland have agreed to admit letters from this colony prepaid 1d. per half-ounce. In one case, that of Servia, letters in the opposite direction will be charged at the reduced rate.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Tokio, Japan.

No. 165.

The POSTMASTER, Apia, to the GENERAL POST OFFICE, Wellington.

Kaiserlich Deutsches Postamt, Apia (Samoa), 12 September, 1901.

SCHON längere Zeit gehen hier Briefsendungen aus Neu Seeland ein, welche unzureichend frankirt sind—meistens nur mit 1d.—jedoch in den weitaus meisten Fällen mit dem "T" Stempel nicht bedruckt sind (Art. VIII., 5, der Vollzugsordnung zum Weltpostvertrag).

Indem das Kaiserlich Deutsche Postamt sich beeht, das General Post Office von der unrichtigen bezw. ungenügenden Frankirung der Briefe in Kenntniss zu setzen, knüpft es daran das ganz ergebene Ersuchen, gefälligst dafür Sorge tragen zu wollen, dass in Zukunft in Fällen ähnlicher Art das Bedrucken der Briefe mit dem "T" Stempel nicht unterbleibt.

General Post Office, Wellington.

TRAULE.

[TRANSLATION.]

FOR some time past letters from New Zealand have been received here which are insufficiently prepaid, mostly 1d. only, yet in almost all cases such letters are not stamped "T" (Article 8, clause 5, of Detailed Regulations of Postal Union Convention).

The Imperial German Post Office has the honour to notify the General Post Office in respect to the insufficient prepayment of the letters in question, and would add a request that in future cases the omission of the stamp "T" on letters be not continued.

No. 166.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 26th September, 1901.

I have the honour to forward under separate cover 100 copies of the Postmaster-General's report for last year, which I shall be glad if you will distribute to Chambers of Commerce, the editors of newspapers, magazines, &c., with a request that they will take particular notice of the result so far of the efforts of New Zealand to establish a universal penny post. The paragraph will be found on page iv.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

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

No. 167.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Berlin.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 18th October, 1901.

Referring to my letter of the 23rd November last, and subsequent correspondence, on the subject of the penny post, I find that I omitted to bring under notice that, prior to the introduction of the penny post, letters for Samoa had for many years been subject to the same rates of postage as those subsisting in this colony for inland matter. When the Reichs Postamt took over the Post Office at Apia, letters continued to be sent at the inland rate, and apparently this has not been questioned until the present time. I am now, however, in receipt of a letter from the Postmaster,

Apia, calling attention to the fact that letters from New Zealand to Apia should be prepaid at Postal Union rates. Considering the proximity of Samoa to this colony, and that Postal Union rates had not been considered to apply to Apia, I should be much obliged if your Administration would agree to a special arrangement under which letters might still continue to be forwarded at the New Zealand inland rate.

In this connection, I would refer to that portion of your letter of the 15th February last, in which you remark that the German public would be unable to comprehend why the letter postage to distant New Zealand should be reduced, and yet for the nearer countries, more especially those in the immediate vicinity, the present rate retained, and express the hope that this difficulty will not apply to the German possessions in Samoa.

I have, &c.,

The Director-General of Posts, Berlin.

J. G. WARD, Postmaster-General.

No. 168.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the POSTMASTER, Apia.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 21st October, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo, stating that letters from New Zealand for Apia are frequently received insufficiently prepaid, but, nevertheless, are not impressed with the "T" stamp.

In reply, I have to inform you that, prior to the introduction of the penny postage, letters for Samoa had for many years been subject to the same rates of postage as those subsisting in this colony for inland matter, and this does not appear to have been questioned until the present time. The Postmaster-General is now in communication with the Imperial Post Office at Berlin on the matter.

I have, &c.,

The Postmaster, Apia, Samoa.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 169.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 6th November, 1901.

I have the honour to inform you that a local newspaper publishes a recent article from the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* on the subject of letters from New Zealand to New South Wales bearing 1d. postage being surcharged 2d. at Sydney. The article contains the following:—

"Some time ago the New Zealand Government, in introducing the penny-postage system, intimated that it would make up the deficiency of 1d. on each letter posted to a State where the New Zealand system was not recognised. Unfaithful to its promise, New Zealand, after leading its people to believe that 1d. was sufficient, causes a surcharge on every letter of 2d. to be made by the Federal postal authorities. We have been shown several letters of recent date marked 'Double deficient postage,' and upon which the tax has had to be paid. On a previous occasion the matter was brought before Mr. J. Dalgarno (Deputy Postmaster-General), and after making inquiries that gentleman explains: 'With regard to the statement that it was understood that the New Zealand Department would pay any deficient postage on New Zealand letters for Australia, I may state that it would seem, from a paragraph which appeared in your paper on the 9th February last, that the authorities there intended doing so, but no official intimation to that effect has been received by this Department.'"

I should be obliged if you would kindly say if the newspaper is correct in attributing the statement in question to you.

I have, &c.,

The Deputy Postmaster-General, Sydney.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 170.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 7th November, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th July last, on the subject of the adoption of the universal penny postage by this colony.

I note that you are of opinion that a simple administrative agreement with the countries which have agreed to accept our penny letters is not sufficient, and steps are therefore being taken to procure diplomatic action in the matter. When this has been completed you will again be communicated with.

In accordance with your request, I have to advise you, in regard to footnote (40) New Zealand (a), page 26 of the summary of general interest, that the following are the names of the colonies now forming the Australian States—namely, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia. These are known collectively as the Australian Commonwealth.

As suggested by you, the British nomenclature "Protectorate of the Niger Coast" and the "Niger Territory" will be adopted in including these places in the list of countries accepting letters from New Zealand at the reduced tariff.

The Director, International Bureau of the Universal
Postal Union, Berne.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 171.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Sydney, 18th November, 1901.

Referring to your communication of the 6th instant regarding the remark made in an article from the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, published in a New Zealand paper, that I had stated that it would seem, from a paragraph which appeared in that paper on the 9th February last, that the New Zealand authorities intended paying any deficient postage on New Zealand letters for Australia, but no official intimation to that effect had been received from your Department, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of my letter in which that statement was made, as well as one of the newspaper paragraph referred to.

I have, &c.,

J. DALGARNO,

The Secretary, General Post Office, Wellington.

Deputy Postmaster-General.

Enclosure 1 in No. 171.

The DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Sydney, to the EDITOR, *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Sydney, 16th May, 1901.

With reference to the surcharge of 2d. made on a letter posted in New Zealand bearing a 1d. postage-stamp only, addressed to Mrs. Hugh McKenzie, 6, Douglas Street, Waterloo, and readdressed to Marsh Street, Arncliffe, the cover of which was submitted by Mr. Nall of your office, I have the honour to inform you that the correct amount of postage on letters from New Zealand to Australia is 2d. per half-ounce, and this Department was advised by the New Zealand Post Office in February last that instructions had been given to its officers to see that all letters posted in that colony to places in Australia were so prepaid prior to their despatch.

As, however, such action was not taken in respect to the letter under notice, the surcharge of 2d. was imposed.

Regarding the statement that it was understood the New Zealand Department would pay any deficient postage on New Zealand letters for Australia, I may state that it would seem, from a paragraph which appeared in your paper on the 9th February last, that the authorities there intended to do so, but no official intimation to that effect has been received by this Department.

I have, &c.,

J. DALGARNO,

The Editor, *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney.

Deputy Postmaster-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 171.

[Extract from *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, 9th February, 1901.]

Wellington, Friday.

Postal and Telegraphic Proposals.

SPEAKING with regard to the penny postage, Mr. Seddon said if the States of Australia follow their present course of surcharging penny letters there is nothing to prevent the authorities here seeing that all letters are fully stamped before they leave. The cost will be only the ink and paper upon which the stamps are printed. Of course, the stamps would have to be accounted for, but a vote could be passed by Parliament to meet that. This course would be preferable to allowing individuals to whom letters are sent being penalised in the manner indicated, although, of course, it would be infinitely better if avoided. The existing practice was not in accordance with the Federal spirit which he had found prevailing throughout Australia.

* * * * *

No. 172.

The DIRECTOR, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—

Berne, le 4 Decembre, 1901.

En reponse à la lettre du 21 Mai dernier, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me faire connaître que la taxe d'affranchissement des lettres de la Nouvelle-Zelande pour le Royaume-Uni, pour un certain nombre de colonies et protectorats britanniques et pour les pays suivants : Chili, Costa Rica, Egypte, Italie, Mexique, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perou, Portugal et colonies portugaises,

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

Anträge auf Einführung des Portos von 1 penny für den Verkehr Neu-Seelands mit allen anderen Ländern des Weltpostvereins dargelegt worden sind.

Wenn in dem dortseitigen Schreiben auf die nahe geographische Lage der deutschen Samoa-Inseln zu Neu-Seeland hingewiesen wird, so ist dem gegenüber zu bemerken, dass allgemein für den Verkehr der deutschen Besitzungen mit dem Auslande, und selbst für den Verkehr zwischen weit näher zu einander gelegenen überseeischen Gebieten, als zwischen Samoa und Neu-Seeland der Fall ist, die Weltpostvereinstaxen gelten. Ein besonderes Bedürfniss zu einer abweichenden Behandlung der Korrespondenz zwischen Neu-Seeland und Samoa kann diesseits nicht anerkannt werden.

Jm Auftrage des Staatssekretars,

General Post Office, Wellington.

[TRANSLATION.]

By a letter of the 18th October last, P.O. 01/43(57), the General Post Office proposed the conclusion of a special agreement for the introduction of the New Zealand inland postage for letter communication between New Zealand and Apia.

The Imperial Post Office has the honour to reply that it regrets not being in a position to agree to the proposal, as similar objections are opposed thereto as those mentioned in the letter of the 15th February, 1901, in respect to the proposal for introduction of penny postage between New Zealand and all other countries of the Universal Postal Union.

In regard to the argument in the letter of the nearness of the geographical position of the Samoan Islands to New Zealand, it may be remarked that the Universal Postal Union postages are applied in all communications of German possessions with other countries, and even for such over-sea territories as are much closer together than the distance between Samoa and New Zealand. The special need for a Convention for differential treatment of correspondence between New Zealand and Samoa is therefore not recognised at this end.

No. 175.

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

Imperial Penny Postage.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 27th March, 1902.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd ultimo, informing me that from the 15th idem the rate of postage applicable to letters passing between Hongkong and the United Kingdom and British colonies and possessions would also apply to the British postal agencies at Shanghai, Liu Kung Tau, Hankow, Ningpo, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, and Hoihow.

I note that the letter rate of postage now chargeable at the agencies named is 4 cents per half-ounce.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS ROSE,

For Secretary.

The Acting Postmaster-General, Hongkong.

No. 176.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA, Melbourne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 23rd April, 1902.

I ACCEPT your proposal for New Zealand halfpenny terminal rate Australian traffic Pacific cable, and agree to accept your letters prepaid penny rate, Government having agreed to accept such letters from all parts British Empire.

No. 177.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA, Melbourne.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 23rd April, 1902.

YOUR cablegram in reference to the halfpenny terminal rate received. I heartily congratulate you upon the decision to admit letters at the penny rate from New Zealand and all parts of the British Empire into the Commonwealth of Australia. It is a great postal movement in a forward direction, and will give universal satisfaction to all countries which are affected. The halfpenny terminal rates will be gazetted for the New Zealand terminal traffic at once.

[Read here Nos. 124/3, F.—8, 1902, Telegraph Cables: Reciprocal concession of 1d. postage in Australia for ½d. terminal cable-rate in New Zealand.]

No. 178.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 24th April, 1902.

NEW ZEALAND letters prepaid penny rate now admitted Australian Commonwealth, and from other parts Empire.

No. 179.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to Mr. J. HENNIKER HEATON, M.P., London.
 (Telegram.) Wellington, 24th April, 1902.
 COMMONWEALTH Australia now agrees admit New Zealand letters prepaid penny rate, and from other parts Empire.

No. 180.

SCHEDULE TO ORDER IN COUNCIL DATED THE 28TH APRIL, 1902.

Letters and Letter-cards.

THE prepaid rates of postage on letters and letter-cards posted in New Zealand for Australia are 1d. for each half-ounce or fraction thereof.

No. 181.

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

SIR,— Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W., 28th April, 1902.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your cablegram advising that New Zealand letters prepaid at the penny rate will now be admitted by the Australian Commonwealth.

The announcement to this effect which has appeared in the newspapers of this country has been made the subject of much favourable notice.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

W. P. REEVES.

No. 182.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 30th April, 1902.

OUR Order in Council fixing penny letter-rate to Commonwealth Australia has been issued.

No. 183.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the SECRETARY, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 6th May, 1902.

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of an Order in Council published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the 28th ultimo, authorising the despatch of letters and letter-cards from New Zealand to Australia at 1d. per half-ounce or fraction thereof.

The Postmaster-General of this colony highly appreciates the action on the part of the Commonwealth of Australia in agreeing to accept without surcharge New Zealand letters prepaid at the above-mentioned rate.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

The Secretary, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.

No. 184.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to Mr. E. F. BLACK, Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, U.S.A.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 4th June, 1902.

I have to acknowledge, by direction, the receipt of your letter of the 26th April last [not printed], and to inform you, in reply, that the charge made on the delivery in your country of letters posted in New Zealand prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce is, I regret to say, owing to the United States Post Office not having yet decided to accept New Zealand penny letters without surcharge. Mexico, on the other hand, has agreed to the reduced postage rate, hence the apparent anomaly.

I enclose herewith, for your information, a list of places the Postal Administrations of which have agreed to deliver without surcharge letters from this colony prepaid 1d. per half-ounce.

Yours, &c.,

E. F. Black, Esq., Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, U.S.A.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 185.

Translation of Letter from Mr. JOSEPH WANKA, Imperial House Councillor, Prague, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, 12th June, 1902.

ACCORDING to newspaper reports Your Postal Administration is pursuing a further lowering of letter rates in the international tariff.

I permit myself, therefore, to submit to Your Excellency, under special cover, a copy of the second part of my work "Postal Arrangements in Austria," and would draw the attention of Your Excellency to the part "Requirements" at page 101 of the said work.

"Requirements."

"At the next World's Congress there should be reduced (considering that the modern post is an institution for general welfare: see first book, second edition, page 8)—for the further improvement of correspondence communications in the international postal traffic—the letter rate of 25 centimes (10 kr.) down to 10 centimes (5 kr.); the charge on post-cards from 10 centimes (5 kr.) to 5 centimes (2 kr.); and the charge for printed matter, commercial papers, and samples from 5 centimes (2 kr.) to 2 centimes (1 kr.), with minimum charge of 5 centimes (2 kr.); and free transit should be instituted—i.e., all transit rates should be abolished. All the States who admit of registration (i.e., levy registration fees) should become responsible for registered articles, and pay indemnity in case of loss (compare page 82, annotation 1)."

No. 186.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 13th June, 1902.

I have the honour to inform you that on the 28th April last the postage on letters from New Zealand to Australia was reduced from 2d. to 1d. per half-ounce by virtue of an agreement entered into between this colony and the Commonwealth of Australia.

The postage from Australia to New Zealand remains as heretofore at 2d. per half-ounce.

I beg to request that you will advise Administrations in the usual way.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY, Secretary.

The Director, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne.

No. 187.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne, to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL,—

Berne, le 15 Juillet, 1902.

Me referant à la correspondance échangée entre nos deux offices en 1900 et 1901, plus spécialement à vos lettres des 23 Novembre, 1900, 10 Mai, 1901 (P.O. 01/43, 22), et 8 Août 1901, (P.O. 01/43, 45), ainsi qu'aux miennes des 11 Janvier, 1901 (No. 868/2), 23 Février, 1901 (No. 868/8), et 20 Juin, 1901 (No. 868/13) au sujet de la taxe d'affranchissement des correspondances originaires de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Suisse, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître ce qui suit:—

Par ma communication du 11 Janvier, 1901 (No 868/2), qui répondait à la vôtre du 23 Novembre, 1900, je me suis déclaré d'accord de faire délivrer jusqu'à nouvel ordre aux destinataires sans perception de taxe, à la condition qu'elles ne portent aucun signe les designant comme insuffisamment affranchies, les lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Suisse affranchies d'un penny par 15 gr. ($\frac{1}{4}$ once).

Au nom du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne, de l'Irlande et des possessions britanniques, la Légation d'Angleterre en Suisse a demandé au Conseil fédéral de la Confédération suisse, en date du 25 Juin dernier, de vouloir bien ratifier cet arrangement. Après avoir mûrement examiné cette question, le Gouvernement suisse est arrivé à la conclusion qu'ensuite de la position prise par les Administrations postales des pays voisins, comme aussi pour ne pas engager l'avenir, il ne convenait pas de maintenir la concession faite par l'Administration des postes suisses. En conséquence, il a décidé de revenir à l'état de choses existant avant le 1er Janvier, 1901, en ce qui concerne la taxe des lettres de la Nouvelle-Zélande à destination de la Suisse.

Afin de ne pas porter préjudice aux expéditeurs ou aux destinataires, la taxe réduite d'un penny par 15 gr. ($\frac{1}{4}$ once) sera toutefois encore considérée comme valable pour les lettres provenant de la Nouvelle-Zélande qui seront mises à la poste jusqu'au 30 Septembre, 1902, inclusivement.

Passe ce délai, l'Administration des postes suisses devra, en revanche, taxer toutes les lettres provenant de votre pays qui ne seraient pas affranchies au tarif fixe par la Convention postale universelle de Washington, du 15 Juin, 1897.

En vous notifiant les décisions qui précèdent, je vous prie de vouloir bien donner les instructions nécessaires aux organes de votre service et m'accuser réception de la présente.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

Le Directeur-General,

General Post Office, Wellington, Nouvelle-Zélande.

LUTZ.

[TRANSLATION.]

REFERRING to correspondence exchanged between our two offices in 1900 and 1901, more especially to your letters of the 23rd November, 1900, 10th May, 1901, and 8th August, 1901, as well as of mine of 11th January, 1901, 23rd February, 1901, and 20th June, 1901, on the subject of prepayment of correspondence originating from New Zealand and addressed to Switzerland, I have the honour to inform you as follows:—

By my communication of the 11th January, 1901, which replied to yours of the 23rd November, 1900, I declared myself agreeable to deliver until further order to addressees without surcharge, on condition that they bore no mark designating them as insufficiently prepaid, letters from New Zealand addressed to Switzerland prepaid at 1d. per 15 grammes (half-ounce).

In the name of the Government of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Ireland, and British possessions, the English Legation in Switzerland requested the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation on the 25th June last to kindly ratify this agreement. After having fully examined this question the Swiss Government has arrived at the conclusion that, owing to the position taken up by the postal administrations of neighbouring countries, as well as not to anticipate the future, it would be best not to continue the concession made by the Administration of the Swiss Posts. Therefore it has been decided to revert to the state of affairs existing before 1st January, 1901, in respect of the charge on letters from New Zealand addressed to Switzerland.

In order not to prejudice senders or addressees, the reduced charge of 1d. per 15 grammes (half-ounce) will therefore still be considered as valid for letters from New Zealand which may be posted up to 30th September, 1902, inclusively.

After that date the Administration of Swiss Posts will on its part charge all letters coming from your country which are not prepaid at the tariff fixed by the Universal Postal Convention at Washington on the 15th June, 1897.

In notifying you of the preceding decisions, I beg of you to kindly give the necessary instructions to branches of your service and to acknowledge receipt of this letter.

No. 188.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of SWISS POSTS, Berne.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 22nd October, 1902.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th July last, advising that after the 30th ultimo the special arrangement between our Administrations for the delivery without surcharge of letters from New Zealand addressed to your country prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce would be terminated, as the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation had not ratified the agreement.

The Postmaster-General of this colony has learned with much regret the determination of your office not to accept our penny letters in future, but he hopes to be allowed to take an early opportunity of reopening the question. In the meantime notice have been given to our offices that the postage charge in force before the 1st January, 1901, will again be applicable. Public notice has also been given.

I have, &c.,

The Director-General of Swiss Posts, Berne.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 189.

The Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington, to the DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POSTS, Lima.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington, 12th January, 1903.

On the 23rd November, 1900, I had the honour to write to you (copy of letter attached) proposing a reduction to 1d. per half-ounce in the charge for the transmission of letters between our respective countries, in reply to which you were good enough to inform me on the 31st January, 1901 (copy of letter herewith), that you could not agree to the despatch of penny letters from Peru to New Zealand, but that you would accept our penny letters without surcharge. I also enclose copy of my letter of the 10th April, 1901.

I now learn from a communication from the British Embassy at Lima that your office is unable to trace the agreement contained in the letters referred to. It is suggested that time would be saved if your Administration would again give its formal consent to deliver without surcharge letters from New Zealand prepaid at the rate of 1d. per half-ounce.

I have, &c.,

W. GRAY,

The Director-General of Posts, Lima, Peru.

For Postmaster-General.

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