

No. 67.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Ottawa.
SIR,— General Post Office, Wellington, 1st December, 1903.

It is observed by this Department from the columns of the newspapers that a contract has been entered into between the Dominion of Canada and the Maritime Transport Company for a mail-service between Canadian ports and France. I shall be obliged if you will favour this Department with a copy of the contract.

I have, &c.,

The Deputy Postmaster-General, Ottawa.

W. GRAY, Secretary.

No. 68.

The SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington, to the GENERAL MANAGER, Union Steam Ship Company, Dunedin.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 24th December, 1903.

HAVE been advised that "Moura's" trip to Fiji 30th instant cancelled, and "Rotokino" substituted. Latter vessel does not leave until 5th proximo. This precludes our connecting with Vancouver mail leaving Brisbane 31st, and probably will give rise to adverse comment by business firms. Regularity in Fiji running essential. In any case, this office should be advised of any material change such as now mentioned.

No. 69.

The GENERAL MANAGER, Union Steam Ship Company, Dunedin, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Dunedin, 25th December, 1903.

REGRET you were not advised promptly regarding altered sailing-dates steamers for Fiji. Am inquiring regarding this omission. The substitution of "Rotokino" for "Moura" has been necessitated by advices from Fiji that, as fruit for New Zealand has unexpectedly increased, latter cannot carry all offering, and, as we have nothing else available, have to utilise "Rotokino." While regretting that latter will not connect with outgoing Vancouver steamer at Fiji, delay in departure from Auckland is unavoidable, as she only gets back from Tahiti and Rarotonga on second January. The "Taviuni," which is our regular Fiji steamer, is at present laid up undergoing extensive overhaul, and cannot be substituted for "Moura."

No. 70.

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

SIR,—

Post Office Department, Canada, Ottawa, 5th February, 1904.

With reference to your communication of the 1st December last, requesting a copy of the contract for the steamship subvention between Canada and France, I beg to say that as the contract in question has not yet been submitted to the House of Commons, the Department is not in a position to furnish you with a copy of it for the moment, but as soon as that technical difficulty is removed, no time will be lost in complying as far as possible with your request.

I have, &c.,

W. SMITH,

Acting Deputy-Postmaster-General.

The Secretary, General Post Office, Wellington.

No. 71.

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

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 1st March, 1904.

UNDER what conditions do non-contracting Commonwealth States make use of Vancouver service, including payment for transit of mails? What annual subsidy paid by your State to contractors?

No. 72.

The SECRETARY, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 11th March, 1904.

YOUR cable Brisbane re Vancouver service: Annual subsidy, Queensland ten thousand two hundred and twenty-seven pounds five and sixpence. All non-contracting States pay twelve shillings per pound for letters, one shilling per pound for newspapers.

No. 73.

The SECRETARY, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne, to the SECRETARY, General Post Office, Wellington.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 15th March, 1904.

YOUR cable to-day [not printed] re Vancouver service: Mine of eleventh should have stated one shilling per pound for books, sixpence per pound for newspapers. Error made in quoting.