

No. 36.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the PRIME MINISTER.

Westminster Chambers, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
30th January, 1904.

SIR,—

I have the honour to enclose for your information an amended estimate of receipts and expenditure of the Pacific cable for the financial year 1903-4, now nearly at an end. You will note that the amended estimate puts both the revenue and the working-expenses somewhat higher than the original estimate. The revenue is now expected to be £2,900 higher, and the working-expenses £1,052 higher. Personally, I shall be surprised if the receipts do not exceed £77,000.

I also enclose estimates of revenue and expenditure for the next financial year—that of 1904-5. You will note that the deficit for that year is estimated at £89,810. I hope, however, that the improved condition of Australia may cause an increase of business there, and so reduce the actual amount of the deficit to be met.

You will be glad to know that the two last months' record of business on the line shows an improvement. The New Zealand business from your end has from the first been excellent, and remains so. What we require is better support in Australia and in London, and we ought also to secure our share of continental business. How much we shall get of the last-mentioned will depend upon the view you take of our policy in regard to the agreement with the German Atlantic Cable Company.

The Hon. the Prime Minister, Wellington, New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

W. P. REEVES.

Enclosure 1 in No. 36.

PACIFIC CABLE ESTIMATES, 1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	£	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£
Through traffic per week at present rate	1,200			Second annuity-payment	77,545	
Weekly allowance for Atlantic companies' charges for insertion of date and time	50			Head office	5,000	
				Stations	29,722	
				Ship	19,250	
Weekly receipt on through traffic ..	1,150			Renewals and depreciation	35,000	
Yearly receipt on through traffic		59,800		Royalty on instruments	500	
Yearly receipt on local traffic		13,600		Engineers' fees	300	
Allowance for additional receipts		5,600		Provident Fund	1,493	
Estimated deficit		89,810				
			£168,810			£168,810

Enclosure 2 in No. 36.

THE PACIFIC CABLE BOARD: COMPARISON OF ESTIMATES FOR 1903-4 AND 1904-5.

1903-4 Estimate.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£
Traffic revenue	73,400		Annuity-payment and renewals	113,045	
Deficit	92,100		Working-expenses	52,455	
		£165,500			£165,500

1903-4 Amended Estimate, after six months' working.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£
Traffic receipts	76,300		Annuity and renewals	113,045	
Deficit	90,258		Working-expenses	53,513	
		£166,558			£166,558

1904-5 Estimate.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Expenditure.</i>		£
Traffic revenue	79,000		Annuity and renewals	112,545	
Deficit	89,810		Working-expenses	56,265	
		£168,810			£168,810

No. 37.

The Hon. the PRIME MINISTER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Prime Minister's Office, Wellington, 1st February, 1904.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum of the 26th November last, in reference to the payment by you of this colony's contribution of £10,057 11s. 7d. towards the cost of the Pacific cable for the year ended the 31st March last, and also forwarding copy of letter from the Colonial Office on the matter.

2—F. 8.