

No. 11.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington. 8th October, 1909.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, asking that mails for Australia received at Auckland by vessels of the Weir line be transferred to steamers of the Union Steam Ship Company or the Huddart, Parker, and Company Proprietary when such transfer will expedite their delivery.

In reply, I beg to refer you to your letter of the 21st November, 1907 [No. 30, F.-6, 1908], in which you disclaimed responsibility for the transshipment at Auckland of American mails for Australia. I communicated, as you suggested, with the Washington Post Office, applying for payment of the gratuity for the New Zealand - Australia transit in cases in which the mails had been transhipped, and inquiring whether similar transshipments should be made if it was certain that time would be gained thereby. The Washington Post Office paid the gratuity, but requested that the mails should be transhipped only when their delivery in Australia would be *materially* expedited. When the mails received by the "Fœneric" and "Yeddo" on the 30th September and 28th October, 1907, respectively, were transhipped, this office was asked by Washington for the assurance that the gain in time had been material. As regards the mails despatched from Auckland to Melbourne by the s.s. "Tymeric" on the 1st ultimo, the Department having been informed that the vessel was expected to reach Melbourne on the 8th or 9th idem, it was considered that there was not likely to be a gain in time much in excess of a day in the case of the mails for Sydney, or any gain in the case of the mails for Melbourne, in the event of their being shipped from Wellington to Sydney in the "Ulimaroa" on the 3rd. It was therefore decided, as the delivery of the mails would not be, as particularly required by Washington, *materially* expedited, to allow them to remain on board the "Tymeric."

I have, &c.,

D. ROBERTSON, Secretary.

The Acting-Secretary, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.

WELLINGTON - RAROTONGA - TAHITI ROUTE.

No. 12.

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

SIR,—

General Post Office, Wellington. 10th June, 1909.

In continuation of my letter of the 28th ultimo [not printed], in reference to the exchange of mails between your office and Rarotonga, I have the honour to inform you that the Postmaster at Rarotonga is despatching a mail to London regularly by the contract steamers leaving Wellington for Tahiti.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MORRIS, for the Postmaster-General.

The Secretary, General Post Office, London.

[P.O. 09/311.]

No. 13.

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

Post Office Department, Second Assistant Postmaster-General,

SIR,—

Washington, 13th August, 1909.

By direction of the Postmaster-General, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th June last [No. 62, F. 6, 1909] relative to compensation for the intermediary transit from Tahiti to New Zealand of the British closed mails for New Zealand despatched *via* New York, San Francisco, and Papeete.

In reply, I am to inform you that for the conveyance in question, as well foreign closed mails as mails of United States origin, this department settles direct with conveying steamship company at the rate of 4 francs a kilogram of letters and post-cards, and 50 centimes a kilogram of other articles, calculated on the actual weights of the mails conveyed.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH STEWART,

Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

[P.O. 09/4193.]