

1874.
QUEENSLAND.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS
ON THE CONDITION OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

Electric Telegraph Department,
Superintendent's Office,
Brisbane, 13th June, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following Report on the progress and condition of the Department under my supervision during the past year:—

EXTENSIONS COMPLETED.

The extensions completed since the date of my last report are as follows:—

1. From Maryborough *via* Gin Gin to Teningering. This section consists of forty-eight miles of new line, and twenty-five miles of additional wire stretched on the existing poles between Maryborough and Gayndah.

The Teningering line is built of ironbark, bloodwood, box, and gum of good quality. It was completed and opened for business on the 1st of May last year.

The line has worked well from the commencement, and has already proved a great convenience to the inhabitants of Mount Perry and those interested in the rich copper mines of that district.

2. A line from Gin Gin to Gladstone, 10½ miles in length, was completed on the 27th of October last. This section has been well built, of bloodwood, gum, and ironbark, and its completion opened up a second through line between Brisbane and Rockhampton, much required for the large northern business.

3. A line within the railway fences from Toowoomba to Dalby, fifty-two miles in length, was completed on the 24th February in the present year. This line consists of three wires. Iron poles are erected on the plains in order to secure the lines from the effects of atmospheric electricity unusually prevalent and destructive during the summer months on this portion of the Darling Downs.

4. A branch line from Gin Gin to Bundaberg, 30½ miles long, was completed and opened for business on the 7th of last March.

5. A line from Springsure to Tambo, 144½ miles in length, was completed on May 27th. The timber employed on this section consists of ironbark, bloodwood, cypress pine, and gum of good quality, and will last for many years.

6. A second wire, 177½ miles in length, has also been erected on the existing poles between Brisbane and Maryborough. The line was completed and opened on 24th March.

All these lines have been substantially built in accordance with our usual specification.

New stations were opened during the year at Yandina, Mount Perry, Gin Gin, Bundaberg, Tiaro, Ipswich Railway, Walloon, Grandchester, Ladley, Gatton, Murphy's Creek, Highfields, and Toowoomba Railway.

We have 3,203 miles of line, 3,931 miles of wire, and seventy-four stations at present in operation, and 181 officers permanently employed by the Department.

The first line erected in Queensland (twenty-five miles in length), from Brisbane to Ipswich, was opened for public business on the 13th of April, 1861. The progress of the Department year by year, together with the approximate population, is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	No. of Stations.	No. of Officers.	Total Number of Messages Transmitted.	Gross Receipts Cash.	"O. H. M.S." Business.	Approximate of Free Business, Shipping &c.	Gross Expenditure.	Population.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1861	169½	169½	7	13	5,678	938 14 9	122 12 2	...	1,452 5 6	34,367
1862	169½	169½	7	18	16,833	3,724 10 0	701 12 10	...	3,560 13 4	45,077
1863	221	221	8	21	19,219	4,152 1 10	945 6 8	...	5,662 13 0	61,640
1864	298	298	11	25	27,246	5,713 3 10	1,405 5 7	...	6,604 12 1	74,036
1865	1,042	1,131½	25	52	47,697	10,343 9 5	3,039 2 5	...	12,226 14 11	87,775
1866	1,476	1,565	33	66	55,610	11,120 4 3	4,158 10 5	...	14,001 1 1	96,172
1867	1,663	1,752½	33	66	56,143	10,985 2 6	4,459 3 8	...	15,382 6 11	99,849
1868	1,722	1,811½	35	69	59,632	11,256 7 1	5,791 0 2	...	15,601 9 5	107,427
1869	2,039	2,182½	41	74	70,112	11,634 19 10	6,776 11 7	...	16,100 12 8	109,897
1870	2,132	2,221½	43	78	81,483	11,774 16 8	5,424 6 6	9,000 0 0	17,121 9 9	115,567
1871	2,525	2,614½	51	91	82,630	11,601 12 10	3,956 2 6	9,000 0 0	19,073 17 11	125,146
1872	2,618	3,368	59	122	121,998	18,794 7 3	5,094 11 11	9,000 0 0	24,081 3 9	133,553
1873	3,059½	3,609½	73	150	156,268	20,759 1 3	6,386 12 0	9,000 0 0	27,776 8 5	146,690

This result is very satisfactory, and speaks well for the energy displayed in telegraphic enterprise by the inhabitants of this large but sparsely populated country.

LINES IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The extension from Roma to Charleville—about 180 miles—commenced on the 7th June, 1873, is not yet completed.

The cause of delay may be explained by scarcity of labor in the western districts; however, 150 miles of poles are now erected, two construction parties are employed, and the contractor is doing his utmost to carry the work to completion.

On the 4th of April a contract was entered into for constructing a branch line of 120 miles from Roma *via* Surat to St. George, the work to be completed and handed over to the Government within eight months from the notification of the tender being accepted.

Arrangements were also entered into on the 16th of April for erecting a second wire on the line from Rockhampton to the Burdekin, a distance of 493 miles. This wire is much required in order to relieve the overcrowded single line between these stations.

On the 23rd of last month tenders were invited for the construction of lines from Brisbane, *via* Beenleigh and Nerang Creek, to connect with the New South Wales system, near the River Tweed; from Brisbane to Ipswich, within the railway fences; and from Ravenswood to Millchester.

PROPOSED EXTENSIONS.

Provision is made for the erection of lines from Charleville to Cunnamulla; from Bundaberg to the Pilot Station, Burnett Heads; from the Pilot Station, Keppel Bay, to Cape Capricorn; from Charleville to Tambo; and sufficient money is available for surveying lines from Junction Creek Telegraph Station to the Palmer River Gold Fields, and from the Palmer River to Cooktown. It is also proposed to extend the lines from Watervale to the Lower Herbert, from the Burdekin Telegraph Station to Cape Bowling Green, from Mackay to Flat top Island, from Gladstone to Bustard Head, from Woody Island to Sandy Cape, from Tiaro to Inskip Point, from Gympie to Tewantin, from Ipswich to Nanango, from Cunnamulla to New South Wales boundary, and from Springsure to Blackall, at an early date.

SHIPPING, Etc.

Shipping intelligence from stations within the colony, also from Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, is still transmitted as regularly as the large business will permit, and posted for public information.

I may mention that too much time is taken up on the busy lines by free messages, to the injury of legitimate traffic.

In order to obviate this inconvenience to some extent, I would suggest that shipping telegrams passing between the several sea-port towns should in future be charged for at press rates: at the same time, similar messages from Bay stations to their respective ports might be forwarded free as heretofore.

Meteorological observations continue to be taken by our officers at Cape Moreton, Toowoomba, and Warwick, transmitted to Brisbane daily, and posted at the central office.

The rainfall is likewise registered by all the station masters at 9 every morning, and, together with wind and weather reports, regularly sent to Brisbane and other principal stations free of charge.

WORKING OF LINES.

The several lines in Queensland have, on the whole, worked well throughout the year: serious damage, however, was caused to the sections between Hawkwood and Camboon, and between Maryborough and Gayndah, by heavy storms and bush fires in the month of November last.

Many miles of the line were also injured between Marlborough and Nebo by a cyclone, in January, this year; and, although every exertion was made to repair the line, communication was interrupted for several days.

Arrangements are in progress to form a school in connection with the Central Office, for the purpose of training efficient operators for service of the Department.

The school will be managed by a qualified instructor, appointed by the Government, at a fixed salary.

Candidates, before admission, will be required to comply with the following conditions, namely:— They must be between fifteen and twenty-four years of age, in a perfect state of health, capable of writing a clear legible hand, of composing and spelling correctly, and well grounded in geography, grammar, and arithmetic.

The course of instruction, after admission as learner, will embrace everything connected with the efficient working of a Telegraph Office, to which will be added sufficient technical training to enable the candidate to detect and remedy ordinary faults, both in the offices and on the lines.

The junior officers at present employed will also be required to submit to the preliminary examination before they are recommended for promotion.

An examination of learners, by two officers of the Department, will take place from time to time; and to those who may complete the course of study satisfactorily, and prove themselves efficient, certificates will be issued.

No salary will be given to a learner when attending the school; but, on receipt of a certificate, he will be entitled to the first probationer's appointment that may become vacant.

I would take this opportunity of again drawing attention to the inefficient working of those offices where the duties of Telegraph Station-master and Postmaster are combined. In my report, dated 1st May, 1867, I pointed out that it would be injudicious to amalgamate the offices in question, and, if persisted in, would result in disappointment and failure. Subsequent experience has strengthened this belief, and I have no hesitation in recommending that they should again be placed under separate management and control.

The railway telegraph between Brisbane and Toowoomba is now worked by Morse's recording instruments, under the supervision of this Department. The system works well and will be extended to every railway station in the colony when the instruments ordered for that purpose arrive from England.

The premises in William street at present occupied by the central office are inadequate for our requirements, and no time should be lost in erecting a suitable building within easy distance of the principal Government offices and the centre of the city.

It is satisfactory to remark that the officers of the Department in every grade have, with few exceptions, been regular in attendance and attentive to duty throughout the year.

Since the date of my last report the lines from Gladstone to Raglan, from Cardwell to Cashmere, from Dalby to Banana, from the south end of Moreton Island to Cape Moreton, from Rockhampton to St. Lawrence, from Brisbane to Cleveland, from the junction to Lytton, and from Yandina to Gympie, have been placed in thorough repair, and the undergrowth removed where required.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Department, from all sources, during the year 1873, was—Cash receipts, £20,648 4s. 1d.; value of messages on Government service, £6,386 12s.; and proportion due to Queensland on account of international business, £108 15s.;—total, £27,143 11s. 1d.

On the other hand, the amount expended was—for salaries, £16,610 12s. 9d.; contingencies, £9,351 18s.; and refundments to other colonies, £1,811 15s. 6d.;—total, £27,774 6s. 3d., showing the expenditure in excess of revenue, £630 15s. 2d.

156,608 messages were transmitted from the several stations during 1873, against 121,998 in the previous year; showing an increase of 27,297 in the paid messages, and of 7,313 in the number of messages forwarded on Government service—total, 34,610 in favor of the latter year. 1,465 messages, value £281 16s. 8d., were also forwarded on Savings Bank business; together with shipping and meteorological reports, free of charge.

On the 17th of June last year, resolutions passed the Legislative Assembly in favor of reducing the tariff to a uniform rate of one shilling for ten words, exclusive of address and signature, and one penny for each additional word, to and from all stations south of Bowen; press messages not to exceed half rates. The reduced charges came into operation on the first of November following, and were extended to every station in the colony on the 10th of January, this year.

A considerable reduction has also taken place in the intercolonial rates. The present charge from all stations in Queensland to stations in New South Wales is two shillings for ten words, and twopence for each additional word.

To Victoria, three shillings for ten words, and threepence for each additional word; and to South Australia, three shillings for ten words, and threepence for each additional word, excepting to stations on the Port Darwin line, where much higher rates are demanded.

The charge to Tasmania is four shillings for ten words, and fourpence for each additional word, with a cable rate of four shillings for ten words, and two shillings for every five words additional.

For the six months previous to the reduction of charges, on 1st November last, there were 58,542 paid messages transmitted, for which £10,700 0s. 3d. was received, being a cash revenue of about £22,000 per annum. For the six months following a reduction in the charges, the number of paid messages sent was 96,130, being an increase of 65 per cent. on the previous half-year, for which £9,691 19s. 8d. was received, being a cash revenue at the rate of £20,000 per annum; thus showing that, at present, reduced charges have entailed a loss of revenue to the extent of £2,000 per annum.

There is, however, reason to believe that the habit of constant use of the wire will soon cause a further increase in the business. The number of messages transmitted from Brisbane and other principal stations is more than double what it was before the reduction; while, for stations where there is little population, the number sent remains about the same. On the other hand, the expenditure necessary to provide for the increase of business at the principal stations is increased by about £3,400 per annum.

Every effort has been made from the first to provide for the large increase of business suddenly thrown on the long lines of this colony, and, so far, with satisfactory results.

Only 340 international messages were forwarded and received by the several stations in Queensland during the twelve months ending 31st of December last. This is far from encouraging, and may be accounted for by the almost prohibitory charges still in force for this business.

Detailed information relative to the receipts and expenditure, together with the number of messages transmitted, &c., is contained in the tables appended, to which I would invite attention.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

The South Australian Overland Line, between Adelaide and Port Darwin, has worked well throughout the year; the interruptions were less frequent than anticipated, and not more than on other lines of a similar length in the Australian colonies.

However, notwithstanding the efficient working of this line, the heavy cost of construction—on which £400,000 is said to have been expended, and £80,000 more required to complete the work—will prevent a reduction in the excessive charges for international messages until a competing line is established, when the present high tariff, namely, £9 16s. 6d. for a message of twenty words from Brisbane to London, will be considerably reduced.

I mentioned in my last annual report that negotiations were in progress for the purpose of establishing a second and independent line from Australia to Europe *via* Normanton and Singapore, and, before concluding, I would briefly refer to the origin and progress of this important undertaking. In a letter addressed to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, dated 9th of December, 1872, I recommended that the proposed cable, in lieu of being taken from our terminal station at Carpentaria to Java, as at first proposed, should be carried to Singapore, in order to open up a through duplicate line between Australia and Europe, and, by avoiding the Netherlands Indian Government lines in Sumatra and Java, English operators would be employed throughout. (See Appendix, No. 1.)

On the 3rd of February, last year, this proposal was submitted, by the Colonial Secretary of Queensland, for consideration of the Intercolonial Conference, then assembled in Sydney, when a resolution was passed in favor of a cable being laid between Normanton and Singapore without delay.

On the 10th of the same month the Queensland, New South Wales, and New Zealand delegates mutually agreed, subject to the approval of their respective Parliaments, to guarantee 5 per cent. per annum on the cost of constructing submarine lines between Normanton and Singapore, and from New South Wales to New Zealand. (See Map and Appendix No. 1.)

Resolutions passed the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Queensland sanctioning the construction of these lines in June last year, and the proposal was assented to in New Zealand by the passing of the Telegraph Cables Subsidy Agreement Ratification Act in the following month. (See Appendix, No. 1.)

Although approved by the Executive Council, no action was taken by the Legislature of New South Wales until the 27th of May last, when resolutions in favor of the cables were passed by the Assembly; and the resolutions were confirmed by the Legislative Council of that colony on the 11th of June, 1874.

Now that the necessary authority is obtained to construct these important lines, steps will be taken to commence the work without delay.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CRACKNELL,

Superintendent Electric Telegraphs.

The Honorable The Postmaster-General.

APPENDICES.

Appendix No. 1.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, HELD AT SYDNEY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1873.

Mr. Palmer gave notice of the following motion:—

“That in view of the serious inconvenience which would arise to the whole of the Australian Colonies in the event of interruption to Telegraphic communication with Europe, it is desirable that a cable should be constructed between Java or Timor and the terminus of the Queensland Telegraph lines at Norman Mouth.

“That this conference, or the members of it, agree to these resolutions, recommend their various Governments to obtain Parliamentary sanction, to a guarantee of five per cent., on the cost of construction of such cable.

“Recommendations contained in the letter of the Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs, herewith annexed, to be taken as a basis in any agreement with a Cable Construction Company. The Government of Queensland to enter into the necessary arrangements, and receive and pay all claims under such agreement, either with the Construction Company or the subscribing Colonies.”

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Electric Telegraph Department, Superintendent's Office,

Brisbane, 9th December, 1872.

SIR,

I have the honor to return, with schedule annexed, the several offers lately received from England to lay a cable from East Java to the terminus of the Queensland lines at Carpentaria.

I am informed that the British Australian Company's Directors have declined to connect their cable with the lines of this Colony, although pledged to do so. Under these circumstances, I would strongly recommend, as most suitable for the general interest of Australia, that the promoters of the Indo-Australian Company's offer be accepted, subject, however, to the following modifications, namely:—That the cable, in lieu of being taken to Java, as at first proposed, should be carried north of Timor, to a point on the southern coast of Celebes, near Macassar, a distance of 1,550 nautical miles; thence to the South-west coast of Borneo, 700 miles: total length of cable 2,250 miles; for which Queensland and New South Wales should jointly guarantee five per cent. on the cost of construction.

A cable from thence to Singapore, 350 miles, to be provided for by the Company without a Colonial guarantee. If this route is followed, the land lines in Sumatra and Java will be avoided; the important islands of Borneo and Celebes placed in circuit, and on completion of the Calcutta and Singapore Company's line, which will be at once commenced, independent communication with the United Kingdom, *via* the Indo-European and Submarine Companies lines, will be secured.

In the event of this proposal being favorably considered, the Imperial authorities should be requested to take soundings between Celebes and Carpentaria, without delay; and much time and trouble might be saved by sending a competent person to London, with full power from the Queensland and New South Wales Governments, to enter into necessary arrangements for manufacturing, submerging, and working the cables.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CRACKNELL,

Superintendent Electric Telegraphs.

7th February, 1873.

The consideration of Mr. Palmer's Resolutions on the subject of Telegraphic Communication with Europe by Singapore and Norman Mouth was resumed; and, after discussion, the first paragraph, as amended, was put by the Chairman, and carried on the following division:—

<p>Ayes. Mr. Vogel, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Samuel, and The Chairman.</p>	<p>Noes. Sir Henry Ayers, Mr. Barrow, Mr. Barlee.</p>
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The resolution was accordingly agreed to as follows:—

"That in view of the serious inconvenience which would arise to the whole of the Australian Colonies in the event of interruption to Telegraph communication with Europe, it is desirable that a cable should be constructed between Singapore and the terminus of the Queensland Telegraph lines at Norman Mouth."

The representatives of Victoria and Tasmania declined to vote.

The further consideration of the said resolutions was postponed until Monday next.

10th February, 1873.

The further consideration of Mr. Palmer's Resolutions on the subject of Telegraphic Communication with Europe by Singapore and Norman Mouth was then resumed, and, after some discussion, Mr. Palmer withdrew the same on the ground that the three colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, had come to an agreement which rendered the resolutions unnecessary.

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1873.

PAPER ON THE SUBJECT OF A PROPOSED CABLE FROM NORMAN MOUTH TO SINGAPORE.

[Laid before the Conference by Mr. Palmer.]

Sydney, 5th February, 1873.

MEMO. TO THE HONORABLE A. H. PALMER, SYDNEY.

It is considered necessary to carry the proposed cable from Norman Mouth direct to Singapore, in order to avoid the two opposition cables belonging to the British-Australian Telegraph Company, and the lines in Java, which latter are worked by Dutch operators.

By extending the cable from Norman Mouth to Singapore (excepting the Indian Extension Company's Cable, 1,800 miles in length), we should open up a second route from Australia to Europe, the lines being worked throughout by English operators; and, on completion of the projected line between Calcutta and Singapore, an independent means of communication with the United Kingdom would be secured.

If this proposal is carried out a considerable reduction in the charges of international messages will necessarily follow.

The present charge for a message of twenty words, from Brisbane to London, is £9 16s. 6d.

By the proposed line as follows:—

From London to Madras by Indo-European line	... ..	£3 12 5
„ Madras to Singapore	... ..	1 13 2
„ Singapore to the Norman (proposed rate)	... ..	2 0 0
„ Norman Mouth to Brisbane	... ..	0 2 6
		£6 8 1

Or, £3 7s. 5d. less than the rate charged on the existing line, and a further reduction would doubtless take place were the proprietors of the submarine and Indo-European lines communicated with.

A proposal has been made to offer the British-Australian Company a subsidy of £30,000 per annum, in order to induce the Directors to lower their rates. This is not at all necessary, as the line recommended would not only secure constant communication with Europe, but also be the most direct means, by competition, of reducing the charges to a minimum.

The 2,600 miles of cable required for the Norman-Singapore section, as per the Indo-Australian-Company's offer for a Java cable, would cost £904,461, and the 5 per cent. guarantee would amount to the sum of £45,200 per annum.

The proposed cable, as Messrs. Siemens and Co.'s offer, No. 2, could be manufactured and submerged for £892,700, and the annual 5 per cent. guarantee asked for by that firm would slightly exceed £44,600. It should be understood that the colonies interested would not be called upon for payment unless the receipts were less than 5 per cent. interest on the capital invested after paying working expenses, and then only in proportion to the deficit.

W. J. CRACKNELL.

MEMORANDUM OF CONDITIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELEGRAPH CABLE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES, AND ONE BETWEEN NORMANTON, IN QUEENSLAND, AND SINGAPORE.

The following conditions for the construction of a Telegraph cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and one between Normanton, in Queensland, and Singapore, are those which the Representatives of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland agree to recommend their Governments to submit for the approval of their respective Parliaments.

1. The three colonies shall jointly enter into an agreement for the construction of an Electric cable, to be laid between some point in New Zealand and some point in New South Wales, and also a cable to be laid from Normanton, in Queensland, to Singapore; the latter to be a through cable, touching only at such points as may be agreed on, and to be entirely distinct the whole distance from the line between Port Darwin and Singapore.

2. The arrangement to be for a guarantee of five per cent. for a term not exceeding thirty-five years, upon a sum not exceeding one million pounds for the cost of the two lines.

3. Twelve thousand pounds per annum to be allowed to cover, in full, all expenses. All receipts above twelve thousand pounds to pass in reduction of the guarantee. The contractors to retain receipts in excess of the guarantee, but if the profits are more than 10 per cent. the Government may require that the rates shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to 10 per cent.

4. The guarantee to be paid only whilst the lines are in working order, provided that four weeks in each year will be allowed for repairs. If the New Zealand line only be in order, one-third of the guarantee to be paid; if the Singapore line only be in order, two-thirds of the guarantee to be paid. If the lines are not kept in order with due diligence, or if communication should permanently fail, the guarantee to cease.

5. The two lines to be commenced and constructed simultaneously.
6. The cost per message of twenty words, from New Zealand to New South Wales, not to exceed fifteen shillings, the charge for each word above twenty being nine pence; and the cost of twenty words from Normanton to Singapore not to exceed forty shillings for the first two years, and thirty-five shillings afterwards, the charge for each word above twenty being two shillings.
7. Queensland to undertake to keep the land line to Normanton open for the use of the other contributing Colonies, at rates not to exceed, at any time, seven shillings for twenty words.
8. The three Governments to act in unison, and to jointly arrange the details.
9. The agreement, after being approved of by the respective Governments, to be subject to ratification by the respective Parliaments, and the details to be arranged in London by Representatives appointed by the three Colonies.
10. The Governments will require to be satisfied that the contractors have made proper provision for the use of a through line of communication between Singapore and London.

HENRY PARKES.
SAUL SAMUEL.
JULIUS VOGEL.
WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS.
A. H. PALMER.
J. MALBON THOMPSON.

Sydney, 14th February, 1873.

PROCEEDINGS OF QUEENSLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ON 18TH JUNE, 1873.

On the motion of Mr. Palmer, the Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, for consideration of Resolutions relative to Extension of Telegraph Cable communication.

The Chairman having reported that the Committee had come to certain Resolutions, the same was then read to the House *at length* by the Clerk, as follows:—

1. That this House approves of the following memorandum of conditions for the construction of a Telegraph Cable between Singapore and Norman Mouth, and between New South Wales and New Zealand, as agreed upon by the Representatives of the Colonies of New Zealand, New South Wales, and Queensland, in Sydney, on the 14th February, 1873, and empowers the Government to enter into a contract in conjunction with the other Governments named, upon the terms therein stated, for the purpose of carrying out this undertaking.

2. That this Resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Council, for their concurrence, by message in the usual form.

Mr. Palmer then moved, "That these Resolutions be now agreed to by the House."

Question put and passed.

PROCEEDINGS OF QUEENSLAND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ON 25TH JUNE, 1873.

RESOLUTION WITH MEMORANDUM ON CONDITIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELEGRAPH CABLE BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND NORMAN MOUTH, AND BETWEEN NEW SOUTH WALES AND NEW ZEALAND.—On the Order of the Day being read, the Honorable the Postmaster-General moved, "That this House do now concur in the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly, respecting the construction of a Telegraph Cable between Singapore and Norman Mouth, and one between New South Wales and New Zealand."

Question put and passed.

The Honorable the Postmaster-General then moved, That the following Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly:—

"MR. SPEAKER,

"The Legislative Council having this day considered the Legislative Assembly's Resolution respecting the construction of a Telegraph Cable between Singapore and Norman Mouth, and one between New Zealand and New South Wales, as agreed to at the late Intercolonial Conference, and transmitted by Message on the 18th June, beg now to intimate their concurrence in the same.

"DANIEL F. ROBERTS,

"Chairman of Committees,

"Acting for the President.

"Legislative Council Chamber,
"Brisbane, 25th June, 1873."

NEW ZEALAND.

TRICESIMO SEPTIMO.

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 36.

Title.

An Act to authorise the Governor to agree with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland for jointly subsidising Lines of Telegraph between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Queensland and Singapore. [29th September, 1873.]

Preamble.

Whereas certain Articles of Agreement were on the fourteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, made and entered into between the Honorable Henry Parkes and the Honorable Saul Samuel on behalf of New South Wales, and the Honorable Julius Vogel and the Honorable William Hunter Reynolds on behalf of New Zealand, and the Honorable Arthur Hunter Palmer and the Honorable J. Malbon Thompson on behalf of Queensland, which articles are as follows, that is to say,—

- (1.) The three colonies shall jointly enter into an arrangement for the construction of an electric cable to be laid between some point in New Zealand and some point in New South Wales, and also a cable to be laid from Normantown in Queensland to Singapore; the latter to be a through cable, touching only at such points as may be agreed on, and to be entirely distinct the whole distance from the line between Port Darwin and Singapore.
- (2.) The arrangement to be for a guarantee of five per centum for a term not exceeding thirty-five years, upon a sum not exceeding one million pounds for the cost of the two lines.
- (3.) Twelve thousand pounds per annum to be allowed to cover in full all expenses. All receipts above twelve thousand pounds to pass in reduction of the guarantee. The contractors to retain receipts in excess of the guarantee; but if the profits are more than ten per centum the Governments may require that the rate shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten per centum.
- (4.) The guarantee to be paid only whilst the lines are in working order, provided that four weeks in each year will be allowed for repairs. If the New Zealand line only be in order, one-third of the guarantee

guarantee to be paid; if the Singapore line only be in order, two-thirds of the guarantee to be paid. If the lines are not kept in order with due diligence, or if communication should permanently fail, the guarantee to cease.

- (5.) The two lines to be commenced and constructed simultaneously.
- (6.) The cost per message of twenty words from New Zealand to New South Wales not to exceed fifteen shillings the charge for each word above twenty being ninepence; and the cost per twenty word from Normantown to Singapore not to exceed forty shillings for the first two years, and thirty-five shillings afterwards, the charge for each word above twenty being two shillings.
- (7.) Queensland to undertake to keep the land line to Normantown open for the use of the other contributing colonies, at rates not to exceed at any time seven shillings for twenty words.
- (8.) The three Governments to act in unison, and to jointly arrange the details.
- (9.) This agreement, after being approved of by the respective Governments, to be subject to ratification by the respective Parliaments, and the details to be arranged in London by representatives appointed by the three colonies.
- (10.) The Governments will require to be satisfied that the contractors have made proper provision for the use of a through line of communication between Singapore and London.

And whereas the said agreement has been approved of by the Governments respectively of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland; and it is expedient that the same should, on the part of New Zealand, be ratified by the General Assembly of New Zealand.

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows—

Short Title.

1. The short title of this Act shall be "*The Telegraph Cables Subsidy Agreement Ratification Act 1873.*"

Authority to ratify contract.

2. The Governor with the advice of the Executive Council of New Zealand may subject to and with the modifications (if any) hereby authorised to be made ratify the said articles of agreement and the same subject to and with such modifications (if any) being so ratified shall be binding on New Zealand.

Authority to vary terms.

3. The Governor in Council or any person authorised by the Governor in Council in that behalf may subject to the provisions of this Act agree with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland respectively or any person or persons duly authorised to act for such Governments respectively for any modifications of the said agreement excepting always as regards the third article of the said agreement.

Authority jointly with New South Wales and Queensland to contract with company &c.

4. The Governor in Council or any person authorised by the Governor in Council in this behalf may subject to the provisions of this Act jointly with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland respectively or any person or persons duly authorised to act for such Governments respectively agree with any company or person for the construction and maintenance of the said telegraph cables on the terms and conditions contained in the said articles of agreement subject to and with the modification of the same (if any) agreed upon under the powers contained in the preceding section of this Act.

Expenditure not to exceed £17,000 annually for thirty-five years.

5. It shall not be lawful by any modification of the said recited agreement or by any agreement with any company or person entered into under the provisions of the preceding section to stipulate for the expenditure of any money from the revenue of New Zealand for the purposes of any such agreement as aforesaid exceeding seventeen thousand pounds in any one year nor shall any such modification or agreement be made stipulating for such expenditure during a period exceeding thirty-five years.

Appropriation of £17,000 annually for thirty-five years.

6. For the purposes aforesaid there shall and may from time to time be issued and applied in each and every year during the period of thirty-five years commencing from the time of the completion of the said lines of telegraph out of the consolidated fund any sum or sums not exceeding seventeen thousand pounds.

Agreement to contain stipulations for expeditious construction and proper maintenance of cable.

7. Any agreement entered into under the authority of this Act for the construction and maintenance of the said telegraph cable shall contain a stipulation for the expeditious construction thereof and a stipulation that in accordance with the terms contained in a letter dated the third day of March last addressed by Mr. Audley Cooté to Mr. Vogel the cables to be used shall be such as shall be approved of by an engineer appointed or approved of by or on behalf of the respective Governments of New South Wales New Zealand and Queensland and also a stipulation that if either of the lines is not kept in order with due diligence or if communication through either of the two lines should permanently fail the guarantee shall cease.

Agreement to contain provisions by which any of the Governments may purchase lines.

8. Any agreement entered into under the authority of this Act shall contain if the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland agree to such modification provisions in virtue of which all or any of the Governments may purchase either or both of the lines.

If no agreement entered into under section 4 agreement may be entered into for telegraph cable between New Zealand and Australia.

9. The Governor in Council or any person at any time authorised by the Governor in Council in this behalf may in the event of no agreement being entered into under the fourth section of this Act agree by way of guarantee of interest on outlay with any company or person for the construction maintenance and working of a submarine electric telegraph cable between New Zealand and any of the Australian Colonies on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council or such person so authorised as aforesaid as the case may be may think fit subject to the following conditions—

Agreement not to involve expenditure exceeding £20,000 for thirty-five years.

- (1.) That such agreement shall not involve an expenditure out of the revenue of the colony exceeding the annual sum of twenty thousand pounds nor for such expenditure during a period exceeding thirty-five years commencing from the date of such agreement
- (2.) That the agreement shall contain stipulations to the following effect—
 - (a) A sum per annum shall be fixed in the agreement as allowance to cover in full all expenses In the event of the agreement being made by an agent or agents appointed by the Governor in Council the sum fixed in the agreement shall not be in excess of a sum to be fixed by the Governor in Council in instructions to be given to the agent or agents but it shall not be incumbent upon the contractors to call for a perusal of such instructions All

All receipts above the sum fixed to pass in reduction of the guarantee. The contractor to retain receipts in excess of the guarantee but if the profits are more than ten per centum the Government to be empowered to require that the rates shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten per centum.

- (b) For the expeditious construction of the line and that if the line is not kept in order with due diligence or if communication by the line should fail the guarantee to cease
- (c) That the guarantee shall be payable only whilst the line is in working order and that four weeks in each year will be allowed for repairs and that the cables to be used shall be subject to approval by an engineer to be appointed or approved of by the Governor or such person as shall be authorised to enter into the agreement
- (d) That the cost per message of twenty words from New Zealand to Australia do not exceed fifteen shillings and the charge for each word above twenty not to exceed ninepence
- (e) That the line may be purchased by the Government of New Zealand on terms to be specified in the agreement

Appropriation for the purpose.

In the event of an agreement being entered into under the authority of this section of this Act there may for the purpose of such agreement be issued and applied in each and every year during the period mentioned in the first subsection of this section out of the Consolidated Fund any sum or sums not exceeding twenty thousand pounds.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

On 2nd June, 1874, the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales agreed to resolutions similar to those passed by the Queensland Parliament, and these were further agreed to by the Legislative Council of that Colony on the 11th of same month.

APPENDIX No. II.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Table No. I.

RETURN of MILES of LINE, MILES of WIRE, NUMBER of STATIONS, NUMBER of OFFICERS, NUMBER of MESSAGES TRANSMITTED, and RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE in each Month during the Year 1873.

Months.	No. Miles Line.	No. Miles Wire.	No. of Stations.	No. of Officers, not including Construction or Maintenance Parties.	RECEIPTS.								EXPENDITURE.				
					PAID MESSAGES.		O.H.M.S. MESSAGES.		International Messages.		TOTAL.		Refundments to other Colonies, being proportion due to them for Intercolonial Business.	Salaries.	Contingencies.	Total Expenditure.	
					No. of Messages.	Amount.	No. of Messages.	Value.	No. of Messages.	Proportion due to Queensland.	No. of Messages.	Amount.					£ s. d.
1873.						£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
January ...	3,059½	3,609½	73	150	8,669	1,650 5 5	2,610	503 10 4	19	5 5 0	11,298	2,159 0 9	...	1,131 12 5	471 9 5	1,603 1 10	
February ...					8,578	1,779 11 4	2,375	585 14 3	25	7 12 6	10,978	2,372 18 1	...	1,230 5 0	257 13 5	1,487 18 5	
March ...					6,458	1,860 16 2	2,362	507 3 11	24	7 7 6	11,844	2,375 7 7	463 9 11	1,533 7 6	1,144 7 1	3,141 4 6	
April ...					9,203	1,766 1 7	2,094	463 2 4	28	10 0 0	11,325	2,239 3 11	...	1,304 1 5	629 14 9	1,933 16 2	
May ...					9,521	1,809 13 2	2,292	502 0 1	16	4 10 0	11,829	2,316 3 3	...	1,366 7 11	692 16 6	2,059 4 5	
June ...					9,479	1,694 8 4	2,387	539 19 1	33	9 17 6	11,898	2,244 4 11	495 13 11	1,508 14 7	1,315 9 7	3,319 18 1	
July ...					10,203	1,843 8 4	2,797	599 13 4	43	15 10 0	13,043	2,458 11 8	...	1,321 10 11	665 18 5	1,987 9 4	
August ...					9,576	1,767 2 4	2,444	531 2 11	47	16 10 0	12,067	2,314 15 3	...	1,262 7 10	344 5 0	1,606 12 10	
September ...					9,872	1,784 15 5	2,686	613 16 3	30	8 12 6	12,588	2,407 4 2	455 3 5	1,466 18 11	1,134 2 7	3,056 4 11	
October ...					9,891	1,800 12 8	3,220	737 4 1	22	7 5 0	13,133	2,545 1 9	...	1,449 14 6	475 11 4	1,925 5 10	
November ...					14,494	1,392 6 5	3,133	400 19 6	27	8 2 6	17,654	1,801 8 5	...	1,406 9 8	560 7 11	1,966 17 7	
December ...					15,520	1,499 2 11	3,404	402 5 11	27	8 2 6	18,951	1,909 11 4	397 8 3	1,620 2 1	1,660 2 0	3,686 12 4	
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	124,464	20,648 4 1	31,804	6,386 12 0	340	108 15 0	156,608	27,143 11 1	1,811 15 6	16,610 12 9	9,851 13 0	27,774 6 3

REMARKS.—Up to 31st October, total Revenue in excess of total Expenditure, £1,321 15s.

For the year, total Expenditure in excess of total Receipts, £630 15s. 2d.

Received from Australian Colonies, 19,500 messages, value to £5,761 9s. 7d.

Total amount received in Queensland for International messages, £2,447 3s. 3d.

Savings Bank business sent free, 1,465 messages, value £281 16s. 8d.

Approximate value of Shipping and Meteorological Messages sent free, £9,000 per annum.

1873, December 31st—Amount expended to date in construction of Lines and Stations, £195,205 12s. 1d.

APPENDIX No. 2—continued.

Table III.

RETURN showing AMOUNT EXPENDED in EACH MONTH during the Year 1873.

1873.	SALARIES.	CONTINGENCIES.								
		Incidental Expenses.	Maintenance and Repair of Lines.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Travelling Expenses.	Forage.	Bent.	Allowance to Officers on Gulf Line, Extra Cost of Provisions, &c.	Protection of Stations on Gulf Line.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ..	1,131 12 5	345 9 10	61 19 9	0 2 8	63 17 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	471 9 5
February ..	1,230 5 0	118 4 5	94 9 0	.. ..	34 10 0	.. ..	2 10 0	.. ..	8 0 0	257 13 5
March ..	1,533 7 6	170 11 1	357 1 3	31 3 9	1 4 0	393 6 8	107 4 3	35 16 1	48 0 0	1,144 7 1
April ..	1,304 1 5	131 5 10	320 12 11	11 13 6	43 7 6	38 0 0	7 10 0	21 5 0	56 0 0	629 14 9
May ..	1,366 7 11	170 15 3	360 3 4	3 19 0	55 9 2	11 16 6	6 10 0	12 3 3	72 0 0	692 16 6
June ..	1,508 14 7	162 6 8	281 11 5	42 3 5	67 13 0	417 6 2	132 5 0	96 11 8	115 12 3	1,315 9 7
July ..	1,321 10 11	157 9 0	392 3 9	22 15 6	16 13 0	2 17 2	.. ..	10 0 0	64 0 0	665 18 5
August ..	1,262 7 10	104 0 8	175 2 2	2 4 0	23 8 2	.. ..	7 10 0	.. ..	32 0 0	341 5 0
September ..	1,466 18 11	145 12 7	238 2 6	52 4 6	70 9 0	400 19 2	120 11 9	64 7 1	41 16 0	1,134 2 7
October ..	1,449 14 6	166 3 7	74 5 0	39 16 0	74 17 0	30 0 0	35 15 0	13 3 10	41, 10 11	475 11 4
November ..	1,406 9 8	161 17 1	144 10 6	11 11 6	133 3 0	3 6 8	25 0 0	3 6 8	77 12 6	560 7 11
December ..	1,629 2 1	312 2 11	318 7 1	82 17 9	149 15 6	449 13 5	167 15 0	82 15 0	96 15 4	1,660 2 0
Total..	£ 16,610 12 9	2,145 18 11	2,818 8 8	300 11 7	734 6 6	1,747 5 9	612 11 0	339 8 7	653 7 0	9,351 18 0

Table IV.

DEBIT and CREDIT STATEMENT.

Dr.

Cr.

1873.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1873.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To total Expenditure—			By cash paid into the Treasury on account of Collections	20,648 4 1	
Sakries	16,610 12 9		By cash paid into the Treasury on account of International Business	108 15 0	
Contingencies	9,351 18 0				20,756 19 1
		25,962 10 9	By value of Messages transmitted as on Her Majesty's Service .. ..	.. ..	6,386 12 0
To refundments to other Colonies, being proportion due to them for Intercolonial Business—			By amount refunded by other Colonies, being proportion due for Intercolonial Business—		
New South Wales	1,555 13 3		Tasmania .. .. .	.. ..	2 2 2
Victoria	145 16 0		By balance .. .. .	.. ..	630 15 2
South Australia	52 11 6				
Tasmania	1 2 11				
Tasmania Cable Company	58 14 0				
		1,813 17 8			
		27,776 8 5			27,776 8 5

NOTE—In this return credit is not taken for free shipping and meteorological telegrams, approximate value, £9,000 per annum; nor for free messages on Savings Bank account, value £281 16s. 8d.

Table No. V.

RETURN showing the STRENGTH and DISTRIBUTION of the STAFF of the TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT, during the Year 1873.

STATION.	Superintendent.	Assistant Super- intendent.	Chief Clerk and Accountant.	Instrument Fitter.	Station Masters.	Operators in Charge.	Operators.	Clerks.	Line Repairers in Charge.	Line Repairers.	Messengers.	Laborers.	Total.
Superintendent's Office	1		1	1								1	3
Brisbane Central Station					1		8	3		1	7		20
Ipswich					1		1			1	1		4
Toowoomba					1					1	1		3
Warwick					1					1	1		3
Stanthorpe					1					1	1		3
Tenterfield					1					1	1		3
Brisbane Signal Station						1	3						4
Lytton						1							1
Cleveland						1							1
Dunwich						1							1
South Passage						1							1
Pilot Station, Moreton Island.						1							1
Cape Moreton						1							1
Leyburn									1				1
Inglewood									1				1
Goondiwindi						1			1				2
Dalby						1				1			2
Condamine									1				1
Roma						1				1			2
Goodna							1						1
Ipswich Railway Station						1							1
Walloon							1						1
Grandchester							1						1
Jaidley							1						1
Gatton							1						1
Helidon							1						1
Murphy's Creek							1						1
Highfields							1						1
Toowoomba							1						1
Drayton													1
Allora							1						1
Dunah									1				1
Camboon									1				1
Banana									1				1
Dee River									1				1
Westwood							1						1
Sandgate							1						1
Cabulure									1				1
Maroochie									1				1
Gympie						1				1			2
Maryborough							3			1	1		5
Gayndah						1				1			2
Hawkwood						1				1			2
Taroo									1				1
Woody Island						1							1
Woody Islands, South						1							1
Gin Gin						1				1			2
Bundaberg						1							1
Teningering						1				1			2
Gladstone						1							1
Rockhampton						1				1	1		3
Keppel Bay							4	1					5
Mariborough							1			1			2
St. Lawrence										1			1
Nebo						1				1			2
Clermont						1				1			2
Copperfield									1				1
Springure									1				1
Mackay						1				1			2
Bloomsbury									1				1
Bowen		1					2			1			4
Burdekin									1				1
Ravenswood									1				1
Townsville						1	1			1			3
Waterview									1			1	2
Cardwell						1				1			2
Cashmere									1			1	2
Junction Creek									1			1	2
Georgetown						1				1			2
Gilbert River									1			1	2
Green Creek									1			1	2
Normanton						1				1			2
Kimberley									1			2	3
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	25	25	20	7	23	25	13	8	150