

QUEENSLAND.

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PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE,

VIA

NORMAN MOUTH AND JAVA.

---

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: JAMES C. BEAL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WILLIAM STREET.

---

1873.

*G.—Enclosure in No. 14.*

LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND TO THE CHAIRMAN, BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Queensland Government Offices,  
32, Charing Cross, London,  
17th September, 1872.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th instant, received yesterday.

From this I learn that your Board is still of the same opinion as it was in June last, with regard to the importance of the proposed extension of the cable from Port Darwin to Norman Mouth, and has resolved as then to carry its intention into effect.

From a subsequent portion of the letter, however, I conclude that owing to the interruption in the line between Java and Port Darwin, your original offer to lay a cable immediately between the Norman River and Port Darwin has been much modified, and that now you are only prepared "as soon as communication is re-established on the Java-Darwin line, to transmit me a statement of proposals," adding that as your Company expects no pecuniary assistance from any Government, that it is only right that the question of tariff be left now and at all times to the discretion of the Directors.

You express also your gratification that the Queensland Government will afford every facility for landing the proposed cable at Norman Mouth, and will provide office accommodation at that station.

With reference to the promise of the Queensland Government to give every assistance in landing cable, and affording office accommodation at the Norman, I would wish to point out that this promise only holds good in the event of your complying with the terms contained in your telegram, namely, to lay a cable immediately between the Norman River and Port Darwin, accompanied by statement of tariff proposed, and probable time of completion.

Should I not receive definite information on these points before the time for despatch of a telegram to Galle on the 20th, I shall not cease to negotiate for the Java-Norman route, on the basis of a guarantee of interest as advised by the Queensland Government.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Chairman, British Australian Telegraph Company.

*H.—Enclosure in No. 14.*

LETTER FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, TO THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

No. 5057—131.

British Australian Telegraph Company (Limited and Reduced),  
66, Old Broad street, London, E.C.,  
18th September, 1872.

SIR,

In the absence from town of Lord Monek, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, addressed to the Chairman of this Company.

You are correct in inferring from his letter of the 10th instant, that until the interruption now existing in our Australian cable is removed, we do not contemplate giving the order for the manufacture of the extension line.

The question of tariff on this portion of our cable is one that we cannot at present go into, even were we to admit the claim of your Government to interfere in such matters with a Company receiving no pecuniary assistance or guarantee of monopoly. The tariff we shall fix from time to time will, in our own interest, be such as will offer every inducement to the public to avail itself of the means of communication we afford, and the financial results of your Colony's line will thus be identified to a great extent with our own.

The Board of this Company will, I am sure, join me in regretting that, under the circumstances in which we are placed, and notwithstanding the assurances we give you of our intentions, you should deem it your duty, by fostering a competing line, to deal a severe blow to an enterprise which, though unaided, has been the first to bring a cable to Australian shores.

I have, &c.,

C. W. EARLE,  
Managing Director.

To the Agent-General for Queensland.

*I.—Enclosure in No. 14.*

LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Queensland Government Offices,  
32, Charing Cross,  
September 19th, 1872.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant.

In reply, I beg to state that as no definite time is fixed by you, either for the commencement or completion of a branch cable from Port Darwin to the Norman Mouth, I must conclude that your Chairman has declined to carry out the terms proposed in his original telegram, which reached Brisbane 30th June, 1872,

1872, viz., "to lay a cable immediately between Norman Mouth and Port Darwin;" and therefore the offer of the Queensland Government to afford every facility for landing the proposed cable at the Norman Mouth, and office accommodation, must be withdrawn until I receive farther instructions.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

C. W. Earle, Esquire, Managing Director, British Australian Telegraph Company,  
66, Old Broad street.

K.—Enclosure in No. 14.

TELEGRAM FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

September 20th, 1872.

To Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

British Australian Company temporise; they "do not contemplate giving order for manufacture of extension line until interruption in existing cable is removed."

I withdraw your offer to land cable until farther instructed, and advise acceptance of tender for direct route.

### No. 15.

LETTER FROM VISCOUNT MONCK to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

No. 0-211.

British Australian Telegraph Company, Limited,  
66, Old Broad street,  
London, 10th June, 1872.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that, on the 7th instant, I telegraphed to Galle, to catch the outgoing mail, as follows:—

"On application of Agent-General, British Australian Company intends to lay cable immediately between Norman River and Port Darwin."

—Which message, I trust, has been correctly forwarded to you.

With a view to allaying the anxiety that appeared to exist in Australia on the subject of this message, a copy of it was sent to the Company's officer at Adelaide, with instructions to publish the same in Australia.

I enclose copy of the letter from the Agent-General, containing the application referred to in my telegram.

The company trusts that this intended extension of its cable may secure for it an additional claim to the support of the colonies of Australia.

I have, &c.,

MONCK,  
Chairman.

To the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

### No. 16.

LETTER FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to VISCOUNT MONCK.

E.C., 72-238.

Queensland, Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 7th August, 1872.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th June last, relative to the telegraphic message transmitted *via* Galle on 7th June, intimating that, on application of the Agent-General, the British-Australian Company intended to lay cable immediately between Norman River and Port Darwin.

The Agent-General has been placed fully in possession of the views of this Government on the subject of the proposed extension, and he has been furnished with a copy of your Lordship's letter, with a request that he will place himself in communication with the Company of which your Lordship is chairman, with the view of making such arrangements, subject to the approval of this Government, as may be thought most advantageous for securing telegraphic communication with Europe.

I have, &c.,

A. H. PALMER.

Viscount Monck, G.C.M.G.,  
Chairman of the British-Australian Telegraph Company.

## No. 17.

LETTER FROM THE UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.  
E.C.—72-234.

Queensland,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 7th August, 1872.

SIR,

No. 0-215, 3903  
2886, 1872.  
E.C.—72-235, 715  
August, 1872.

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, copy of a letter received from Viscount Monck, Chairman of the British Australian Telegraph Company, together with a reply thereto, on the subject of a telegram despatched on the 7th June by the Managing Director of that Company, relative to the extension of their line from Darwin to Norman River; and I am directed to inform you that the Government approve of your action in at once repudiating, by letter addressed to Mr. Barle, all knowledge of the arrangements proposed to be entered into by the Company, and divesting yourself of all responsibility on account of the message transmitted.

Immediately on receipt of the message referred to, the following telegram was despatched to you in reply, but in consequence of the interruption in the cable between Port Darwin and Java, there is reason to believe that it never was sent through:—

"Agent-General for Queensland, London,  
" (via Adelaide and Port Darwin).

"Viscount Monck telegraphs they intend to lay cable from Darwin to Norman. If without guarantee, "right; will not guarantee branch line.

A. H. PALMER.

"8th July, 1872."

The subsequent correspondence by the last and the present outgoing mail will place you fully in possession of the views of the Government as to the means to be adopted for securing to Queensland telegraphic communication with Europe.

I have, &c.,

H. H. MASSIE.

The Agent-General for Queensland, London.

## No. 18.

LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.  
346-72.

Queensland Government Office,  
32, Charing Cross, London,  
12th July, 1872.

SIR,

At a meeting of the British Australian Telegraph Company on July 2nd, some statements were made by the Chairman which appeared in the money article of *The Times*, which I thought it necessary to comment on in the same publication the following day.

The Press notices of the same are attached for your information.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Honorable The Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

[ENCLOSURE.]

"*The Times*," 3rd July, 1872.

## BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH (LIMITED).

The third ordinary general meeting of this company was held yesterday at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon street; Viscount Monck, the Chairman, presided.

The report stated that since the last ordinary general meeting, the second section of the company's cable between Java and Port Darwin had been laid. This portion of the company's undertaking was completed on the 22nd of November, 1871, and had continued to work perfectly to the present date. Owing to the unexpected high temperature of the sea between Java and Singapore the insulation of the cable did not, in that section, strictly comply with the contract standard. The company's engineers, however, advised that the cable was substantially perfect, and the experience of nineteen months' working confirmed this view. The directors, nevertheless, arranged with the contractors that they should undertake all repairs in both sections of the cable for one year from the date of completing the last section, as a settlement of all questions arising upon the contract from that circumstance. The South Australian Government land line, intended (as a substitute for the company's proposed land line to Burketown) to connect the cable terminus at Port Darwin with Adelaide, and which the Government agreed to complete by the 31st of December last, remained still unfinished. The directors sincerely regretted that the difficulties of country and climate had seriously interfered with the completion of the work, which had now been delayed several months beyond the stipulated time. The directors had resolved to recommend to the shareholders the laying of a cable to the existing Queensland lines on the Gulf of Carpentaria, and to sanction for this purpose the raising of £33,000 preference stock. The balance sheet to the 31st December last, showed that £584,844 had been expended.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the various matters mentioned therein. He said it was rather fortunate for them that they had made the arrangement with the Telegraph Construction Company to maintain the lines for twelve months from the time the last section of the cable was laid. Since the report had been issued the directors had been informed that a fault had occurred in the company's

company's line between Java and South Australia. The Telegraph Construction Company had telegraphed that nothing should be done in respect of the fault until their own engineer, who was at Singapore, could attend to it. They would in due course be informed as to the nature of the fault in the cable. The current expenses of the company for the past two years amounted to £14,106, which, he thought, would compare favorably with those of other companies. They expected that the expenses of the current year would be about £20,000. It appeared that the difficulty of the South Australian Government in making the land line from Adelaide to Port Darwin was not so much in the construction of the line as in the maintenance of it when made. The Government had shown great energy and a strong desire to complete the telegraphic communication, but he believed they had undertaken to do a work which was almost impossible to accomplish, involving considerable expense. They had been asked on the part of the Queensland Government to extend their line of telegraph to Norman-town, a distance of about 1,000 miles.

Mr. Pender, M.P., seconded the resolution for the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. He believed there would be no difficulty in extending the submarine cable to the requisite point, or in raising the money to complete the line.

Resolutions were passed adopting the report; re-electing Lord W. M. Hay and Sir J. Anderson, the retiring directors; and also Messrs. Dever and Strong, the retiring auditors.

The meeting was then made special, and after considerable discussion the directors were authorised to increase the capital of the company by the issue of £320,000 in five per cent. preference shares, making, with the existing capital of £860,000, a total of £1,180,000. In consequence of certain ordinary shares having been cancelled, it was resolved to reduce the total amount from £1,180,000 to £1,070,160.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

*"The Times," July 4th, 1872.*

Queensland Government Office,  
32, Charing Cross, July 3.

SIR,

At the meeting of the British Australian Telegraph Company, reported in *The Times*, the chairman is made to state that "they had been asked, on the part of the Queensland Government, to extend their line of telegraph to Norman Town."

My original letter to them, dated May 16 last, was as follows:—"I am desirous of forwarding by this mail definite information as to whether your company will make a proposition to connect your cable at Port Darwin with the Queensland station at the mouth of the Norman River." Up to this date I have received no proposition whatever from them, and any proposal they may submit will, of course, be considered with those of other companies now submitted for the construction of a direct cable from Java to Norman Town. For this latter undertaking the Queensland Government have it in contemplation to guarantee interest on the cost; the 8th clause of the Governor's speech, delivered on the 16th of April, 1872, being as follows:—

"Looking at the uncertainty of the South Australian line being finished for months, and the almost certainty that even if completed communication cannot be continuously kept up, without which telegraphic communication becomes valueless, you will be asked to authorize my Government to open communication with some company for the construction of another cable from Batavia to Norman Mouth, on a guarantee of interest from this and, it is to be hoped, the neighboring colonies."

The interruption of the British-Australian Telegraph Company's cable at the present time will probably strengthen the feeling in Queensland to carry out the project mooted in the Governor's speech.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

RICHARD DAINFREE,  
Agent-General for Queensland.

## No. 19.

LETTER FROM THE UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

E.C.-72-263.

Queensland, Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 4th September, 1872.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the proceedings of the meeting of the British Australian Telegraph Company, held on 2nd July, forwarded under cover of your letter of 12th July 1872.

Some misunderstanding appears to exist in London as to the conditions on which the Government of this Colony are willing to allow the Company to land a cable at Norman Mouth from Port Darwin, and the Colonial Secretary observes with satisfaction that you lost no time in correcting a statement reported to have been made by the Chairman, that in proposing to the shareholders the extension of their cable from Port Darwin to Norman, he was responding to an application from the Queensland Government.

You have already been placed fully in possession of the views of the Government on the subject of the proposed extension, and of direct telegraphic communication, *via* Java, by means of an independent cable, should circumstances require it; it is unnecessary, therefore, here to do more than refer you to a previous letter from this office, of 5th August last, in which these views are embodied.

A copy of the letter is enclosed, in case the original should have miscarried.

I have, &c.,

H. H. MASSIE,  
Under Colonial Secretary.

The Agent-General for Queensland, London.

E.C. 72-263.

## No. 20.

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON, DATED 20TH SEPTEMBER, FROM RICHARD DAINTREE, LONDON, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, BRISBANE.

Reuter's Telegram Company, London,  
Galle, 26th September, 1872.

British Australian Company temporise; they do not contemplate giving order for manufacture of extension line until interruption in existing cable is removed. I withdraw your offer to land cable until further instructed, and advise acceptance of tender for direct route.

REUTER'S AGENTS.

## No. 21.

LETTER FROM AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

414-72.

32, Charing Cross,  
31st October, 1872.

SIR,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of negotiations with the British Australian Telegraph Company to extend their cable to the Norman, I have the honor to inform you, that on the morning of October 21st, I received intimation in Glasgow, from the Secretary of that Company, that their Java-Darwin Cable had been repaired, and that messages could, in consequence, be forwarded to all the Australian Colonies.

Under these altered conditions, I thought it advisable to ascertain whether the British Australian Company were then prepared to comply with the purport of Lord Monck's telegram; the correspondence which has been entered into, though semi-official, is attached. The directors met, but came to no definite conclusion; they meet again on Thursday next, the subject of their deliberation will be the proposal to lay a direct cable from Java to Norman *without guarantee of interest*, but an exclusive concession for a term of years; at the earliest moment I shall telegraph this proposal, as it may be considered one to meet the requirements of the Colony; the general terms of your printed circular of 11th May, as to tariff and general obligations, being complied with.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

*A.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY, BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

British Australian Telegraph Company (Limited and Reduced),  
55, Old Broad street, London, E.C.,  
October 21st, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to inform you that telegrams have been received, announcing the completion of the repairs to the cable between Java and Port Darwin, and that the land line from Port Darwin to Adelaide is now completed and open for the public. This Company is therefore now prepared to receive messages at the office, No. 74, Old Broad street, for transmission to all the Australian Colonies.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE LYONS,  
Secretary.

Richard Daintree, Esq.,  
Agent-General for Queensland,  
32, Charing Cross.

*B.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM R. DAINTREE, ESQ., TO GEORGE LYONS, ESQ.

Queen's Hotel, Glasgow.

Yours of yesterday received. Have you any proposals to forward in regard to Darwin-Norman branch? I return to town on twenty-eighth.

George Lyons, Esq.,  
British-Australian Telegraph Company,  
66, Old Broad street, London.

*C.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM — EARLE, ESQ., ADDRESSED TO R. DAINTREE, ESQ.

No further proposals to make at the moment; Board will give early consideration to matter.

R. Daintree, Esq.,  
Queen's Hotel, Glasgow.

*D.—Enclosure*

*D.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

No. 0-142.

British Australian Telegraph Company (Limited and Reduced),  
66, Old Broad street, E.C.,  
October 22nd, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

I received your telegram to-day, and replied by wire.

I have not seen the Directors since any repairs were effected, and can therefore say nothing definite about the future before another board can assemble.

The line to Adelaide is working well at present.

Yours truly,

C. W. EARLE.

R. Daintree, Esq., Agent-General.

*E.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to THE BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Queen's Hotel, Glasgow,  
October 23rd, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

Yours of October 22nd duly received. If you have anything to communicate in regard to Darwin-Norman Cable, before 28th instant, advise me here. I return to town on the 28th.

Yours truly,

R. DAINTREE.

C. W. Earle, Esq.,  
66, Old Broad street.*F.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

British Australian Telegraph Company,  
66, Old Broad street, London, E.C.,  
October 25th, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

Will you furnish me with a tariff list for messages from Norman Mouth to Brisbane, and other capitals of Australian colonies.

Yours truly,

C. W. EARLE,  
Managing Director.

R. Daintree, Esq., Agent-General.

*G.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Queensland Government Offices,  
32, Charing Cross,  
Oct. 26th, 1872.

Sir,

In reply to yours of the 25th instant, requesting me to be furnished with a tariff list for passages from Norman Mouth to Brisbane and other capitals of the Australian Colonies, I herewith send extract of letter on the subject, received from Colonial Secretary of Queensland, dated 5th August, 1872.

"According to our proposed tariff, a message twenty words passing through the colony, a distance of 1,455 miles, would be charged eight shillings (8s.), and the cost on transmission of a message from Norman to Melbourne would therefore be about fourteen shillings (14s.)."

Expecting to receive definite proposals for your branch line to the Norman at the earliest possible date,

I have, &amp;c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.C. W. Earle, Esquire, Managing Director, British-Australian Telegraph Company,  
66, Old Broad street.



*H.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

LETTER FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

No. 0-152.

British Australian Telegraph Company.  
66, Old Broad street,  
London, Oct. 31st, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

Immediately after our interview yesterday we telegraphed to Adelaide, proposing in continuation of a negotiation already commenced to enter into an arrangement for the division of receipts between the intended Norman Cable and the Government land line to Adelaide, as a means of establishing on a cordial and friendly footing the alternative line to Queensland.

We look upon the extension as preparatory to the duplication of the cable to Queensland.

Our associated companies have hitherto always shown their readiness to duplicate those sections upon which the correspondence attains an importance justifying the measure. They have thus already duplicated their means of communication between England and Egypt, and have now farther contracted for another cable to Lisbon. There can be no doubt that a similar increase of facilities will be afforded on other sections as circumstances require them, but it is felt that to lay another line to Australia would, at this moment, be premature and a mistake from both the Colonial and the Company's point of view.

As soon as a reply to the telegram referred to enables us to decide upon the course we shall adopt for going to Queensland, I will communicate with you again.

I am, &c.,  
C. W. EARLE,  
Managing Director.

R. Daintree, Esq.,  
Agent-General for Queensland.

*I.—Enclosure in No. 21.*

TELEGRAM FROM AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

November 1st, 1872.

Letter received. Wish to see you, if disengaged.

R. DAINTREE,  
32, Charing Cross.

C. W. Earle,  
66, Old Broad street, London.

*No. 22.*

TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY, BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, to W. J. CRACKNELL, BRISBANE.

London, 4th November, 1872.

Negotiating by wire with (?) Colony for amicable arrangement for extension. If succeeds, will submit proposal here.

C. W. EARLE.

*No. 23.*

TELEGRAM FROM AGENT-GENERAL to COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Melbourne, 8th November, 1872.

Telegram from London, 6th November, 6-10 Afternoon.—Palmer, Brisbane.—British Australian consults Adelaide before undertaking Darwin-Norman branch.

G. & Co.,  
Reuter's Agents.

*No. 24.*

TELEGRAM FROM S. KNEVETT, AGENT, BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, to COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

South Australia, 12th November, 1872.

I have received the following Telegram, undated, from Earle, London:—"Deliver following, from Dutton and Daintree, to Adelaide and Brisbane:—"Would negotiation on basis of joint purse be acceptable, equal rates to Brisbane and Adelaide from Darwin, Queensland, Adelaide and Company agreeing upon proportion each to receive? Company could then fix date for laying down Normantown cable. This suggestion proceeds from meeting, Company's office, to-day."

KNEVETT.



## No. 25.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to S. KNEVETT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Brisbane, 13th November, 1872.

Cannot understand telegram. Must be more explicit. What is a joint purse?

A. H. PALMER.

## No. 26.

TELEGRAM FROM S. KNEVETT to COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Adelaide, 23 November, 1872.

I am instructed by Mr. Earle, with permission of South Australian Government, to inform you of the following consideration of the South Australian Government, telegraphed by me to London on 18th instant:—This Government consider that, if an additional cable is desirable, the interests of Australia would be better served by an alternative cable from Java to Norman, with a telegraph convention in which all the Colonies may be invited to enter and subsidise lines and cables with a view to reduction of tariff, rather than laying a cable from Darwin to Norman. Mr. Earle's reply, received 21st, stated—"Government proposal satisfactory—we have received definite offer."

KNEVETT.

## No. 27.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL SECRETARY to S. KNEVETT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Brisbane, 25th November, 1872.

Cannot understand last paragraph. Would you send me Earle's reply in full?

A. H. PALMER.

## No. 28.

TELEGRAM FROM S. KNEVETT to COLONIAL SECRETARY, BRISBANE.

Adelaide, 25th November, 1872.

Earle's reply is, "Government proposal satisfactory"—have received definite offer. Ask Government allow message of 13th to be sent to Queensland with copy of above reply.

KNEVETT.

## No. 29.

SAMUEL KNEVETT to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

British Australian Telegraph Company, Limited,

Adelaide, 26th November, 1872.

Sir,

I beg to advise you that on November 12th, at 11-23 a.m., I sent you the following telegram:—

"Knevett to Chief Secretary, Brisbane.

"I have received the following telegram, undated, from Earle, London:—Deliver following from Dutton and Dalnre to Adelaide and Brisbane. Would negotiation on basis of joint purse be acceptable; equal rates to Brisbane and Adelaide from Darwin? Queensland, Adelaide, and Company agreeing upon proportion each to receive. Company could then fix date for laying down Normanston cable. This suggestion proceeds from meeting Company's Office, to-day."

On November 14th I received the following telegram from you:—

"A. H. Palmer to Knevett.

"Cannot understand telegram; must be more explicit. What is a joint purse?"

On the same date, immediately on receipt of the above message, I telegraphed to Mr. Earle:—

"Knevett to Earle, London.

"Received following from Chief Secretary, Brisbane, dated thirteenth. Cannot understand telegram; must be more explicit. What is a joint purse?"

On November 21st, I received the following from:—

"Earle to Knevett.

"Government proposal satisfactory; we have received definite offer; ask Government allow message 14th to be sent to Queensland with copy above reply."

Obtaining the consent of the South Australian Government to this request, and reading "14" as "13," and "colly" as "copy." I sent you the following message on the 22nd November:—

"Knevett to Palmer, Chief Secretary, Brisbane.

"I am instructed by Mr. Earle, with permission of South Australian Government, to inform you of the

the following consideration of the South Australian Government, telegraphed by me to London on thirteenth instant. This Government considers that if an additional cable is desirable, the interests of Australia would be better served by an alternative cable from Java to Norman, with a telegraph convention, in which all the Colonies may be invited to enter and to subsidise lines and cables, with a view to reduction of tariff rather than laying a cable from Darwin to Norman. Mr. Earle's reply, received twenty-first, states Government proposal satisfactory; we have received definite offer."

On November 25th I received following telegram from you.

"A. H. Palmer to Knevett.

"Can't understand last paragraph. Would you send me Earle's reply in full?"

This I did as follows, November 25th:—

"Knevett to Chief Secretary, Brisbane.

"Earle's reply is Government proposal satisfactory; have received definite offer; ask Government allow message of 13th to be sent to Queensland with copy above reply."

I have, &c.,

SAMUEL KNEVITT.

Honorable A. H. Palmer, Chief Secretary, Queensland.

### No. 30.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL SECRETARY to AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane, 26th November, 1872.

Can't understand Knevett's telegrams re cable.

A. H. PALMER.

### No. 31.

TELEGRAM FROM AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Melbourne, 2nd December, 1872.

London, 29th.—British-Australian and Adelaide, all further negotiations useless, and independent action advised.

G. & Co.,

Reuter's Agents.

### No. 32.

THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

32, Charing Cross,

London, November 27th, 1872.

SIR,

In continuance of the correspondence in regard to the negotiations with British Australian Telegraph Company for laying a Cable from Java to Norman, I have now the honor to inform you that since the 31st October last, the phases assumed have been as follows:—

No deliberation took place as to laying Cable from Java to Norman, without guarantee of interest as Mr. Earle advised, and as I intimated to you at the close of my letter of 31st October.

Copy of letter attached, dated October 31st, marked (A) explains their action.

I pointed out to Mr. Earle, that a division of receipt between the intended Norman Cable and the Adelaide Government land line, might be a means of establishing on a cordial and friendly footing, the alternative line to Queensland, so far as they were concerned, but that the tariff should be so arranged that a message to Brisbane should be delivered at the same cost as a message to Adelaide, a fair transit rate being credited to Queensland, and that unless something of this kind was proposed, I did not think Queensland would accept the arrangement, even though Adelaide and the British-Australian Company came to a friendly understanding to lay the Darwin-Norman Cable.

On this a meeting took place on the 8th November, at the Offices of the Telegraph Company, present, Mr. Pender, Sir James Anderson, Mr. Earle, Mr. Dutton, and myself, to try and devise a plan likely to be acceptable to all concerned.

Telegram (B) was the result.

Telegram (C) was your answer.

The meaning of a joint purse was that for every message passing from Port Darwin to Adelaide, via land line, or Port Darwin-Brisbane, via Darwin-Norman Cable.

	s.	d.
Adelaide should receive (say) ... ..	8	6
British Australia ... ..	8	6
Queensland ... ..	8	0

Supposing the tariff to be £1 either way, and that this arrangement should hold good even if the South Australian land line, or Darwin-Norman Cable was broken down for six months.

The reply to telegram (B) from Colonial Secretary, Adelaide, was as given in Telegram (D.)

To this the following telegraphic reply was sent by Mr. Earle, November 19th:—"Tell Government proposal satisfactory, we trust receive definite offer, ask Government to cause message of 14th, to be sent to Queensland with copy of above reply."

I supposed

I supposed this would lead to negotiations with Adelaide, your telegram of to-day, "cant understand Knocett's telegram re cable, disabused me of this idea, and I forwarded at once the following telegram, which I believe is the representation of the true state of affairs, British Australian and Adelaide one, all further negotiation useless, independent action advised."

It is perfectly useless continuing negotiations—Independent action alone remains.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,  
Queensland.

*A.—Enclosure in No. 32.*

British Australian Telegraph Company,  
66, Old Broad street,  
London, October 31st, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

Immediately after our interview yesterday, we telegraphed to Adelaide, proposing, in continuation of a negotiation already commenced, to enter into an arrangement for the division of receipt between the intended Norman Cable, and the Government land line to Adelaide as a means of establishing on a cordial and friendly footing the alternative line to Queensland.

We look upon this extension as preparatory to the duplication of the Cable to Queensland. Our associated Companies have hitherto always shown their readiness to duplicate those sections upon which the correspondence attains an importance justifying the measure; they have thus already duplicated their means of communication between England and Egypt, and have now further contracted for another Cable to Lisbon, there can be no doubt that a similar increase of facilities will be afforded on other sections as circumstances require them, but it is felt that to lay another line to Australia, would at this moment be premature, and a mistake from both the Colonial and the Company's point of view.

As soon as a reply to the telegram referred to enables us to decide upon the course we shall adopt for going to Queensland, I will communicate with you again.

I am, &c.,

C. W. EARLE,  
Managing Director.

R. Daintree, Esq., Agent-General for Queensland.

*B.—Enclosure in No. 32.*

TELEGRAM. (B.)

FROM RICHARD DAINTREE, DUTTON to ——— PALMER, COLONIAL SECRETARY, BRISBANE, to ———  
TREASURER, ADELAIDE.

November 8th, 1872.

Would negotiations on basis of joint purse be acceptable, equal rates to Brisbane and Adelaide, from Darwin; Queensland, Adelaide, and Company agreeing upon proportion each to receive; Company would then fix day for laying cable.

*C.—Enclosure in No. 32.*

COPY TELEGRAM RECEIVED (C) November 15th, 1872, following from Chief Secretary, Brisbane, 13th.

Cannot understand your telegram, must be more explicit, what is a joint purse?

*D.—Enclosure in No. 32.*

COPY OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED (D) November 14th, 1872, following from Chief Secretary, Adelaide, November 13th.

This Government consider that if an additional Cable is desirable the interest of Australia would be better served by alternative Cable from Java to Norman, with a telegraph convention in which all the Colonies may be invited to enter and subsidise lines with a view reduction of tariff rather than laying a Cable from Darwin to Norman.

No. 33.

THE AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Queensland Government Offices,  
London, 32, Charing Cross,  
January 23rd, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith what I take to be the conclusion of the correspondence in regard to the proposed Darwin-Norman cable.

The conversation referred to in my letter of 14th January to Mr. Earle, was a repetition on my part of the fact that the overland line must be entirely re-constructed to be permanently available for telegraphic purposes, and that at great cost; and asking a definite answer as to whether the British Australian Company had the least intention of laying the Darwin-Norman cable.

Mr. Earle's answer was of the same tenor as his letter of 15th instant, which was written after a discussion of the matter at a Board meeting.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

*A.—Enclosure*

*A.—Enclosure in No. 33.*

LETTER FROM RICHARD DAINTREE to THE MANAGING DIRECTOR BRITISH AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Queensland Government Offices,  
London, 32 Charing Cross,  
January 14th, 1873.

Sir,

With reference to our conversation to-day, I have the honor to request that you will inform me whether it is the intention of your Company to lay a branch cable from Port Darwin to Norman Mouth.

If not, you will be pleased to state the reasons that have caused you to withdraw from your repeated assertions that such was your intention.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Managing Director, British Australian Telegraph Company.

*B.—Enclosure in No. 33.*

LETTER FROM C. W. EABLE to THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

British Australian Telegraph Company, Limited,  
66, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.,  
15th January, 1873.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honor to inform you that this company is at present engaged in negotiations with the Australian Governments with a view of reducing the tariff on messages.

Until these negotiations shall have been brought to a close this company cannot give any definite answer to your enquiries, and looking to the very small amount of traffic to Queensland that has hitherto passed over the line, it is not in the power of the Board to give any assurance that they will be able to embark in so large an expenditure as would be incurred by the construction of the proposed extension to Queensland.

I have, &c.,

C. W. EABLE,  
Managing Director.

The Agent-General for Queensland,  
32, Charing Cross.

*No. 34.*

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 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 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 ten per cent. the Government may require that the rates shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten 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 for 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.

## No. 35.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL TREASURER AND POSTMASTER-GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 20th February, 1873.

Audley Coote has just written me that he has received telegram accepting our proposals. Have not yet seen telegram. Will communicate further to-morrow.

VOGEL.

## No. 36.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AND COLONIAL TREASURER AND POSTMASTER-GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 21st February, 1873.

Will you telegraph the formal ratification by your Government of the principal agreement on cable from New Zealand to Singapore. New South Wales intends at once to ask the approval of Parliament.

HY. PARKES,  
New South Wales;  
JULIUS VOGEL,  
New Zealand.

## No. 37.

TELEGRAM FROM COLONIAL TREASURER AND POSTMASTER-GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 22nd February, 1873.

Cabinet here agreed telegraph arrangement. Submit it Parliament Monday. Solicitor-General to prepare provisional agreement with Coote. Will Thomson sign for you. Siemens Brothers in accepting offer say only equivalent three (3) per cent guarantee. Coote not yet received the ten thousand (10,000) but confident he will. He sent separate telegram about it which miscarried. Expects answer to second telegram Tuesday.

VOGEL.

## No. 38.

MR. AUDLEY COOTE to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Petty's Hotel, Sydney,  
February 28th, 1873.

Sir,

Referring to our conversation at the Conference, and to the powers I hold; also to the gentlemen with whom I am associated for the purpose of constructing and laying a submarine telegraph cable to connect England with Australia and New Zealand—

I have now the honor to inform you these gentlemen are quite prepared to take that responsibility, upon the terms named at the Conference. I have now the honor to give you a list of their names, &c., &c.:

- THE HONORABLE ROBERT GRIMSTON, Chairman of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, and Director of several other Telegraph Companies.
- HENRY WEAVER, Esquire, Managing Director of the Atlantic Cable Company, also the French Atlantic Cable Company, and a Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.
- HENRY BARLOW, Esquire, C.E., a Member of the Council of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Official Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.
- BARON JULIUS REUTER, Managing Director of Reuter's Telegram Company, one of the most successful of Telegraph Companies.
- GEORGE VON CHAMMIN, Esquire, Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.
- WILLIAM ANDREWS, Esquire, General Manager of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.
- SEYMOUR CLARKE, Esquire, late General Manager of the Great Northern and Great Western Railway Companies.
- MESSRS. SIEMENS BROTHERS, Telegraph Cable Contractors, London and Berlin.
- MESSRS. WILSON, BRISTOWS, and CARPMARL, Solicitors, 1, Copthall Buildings, London.
- MESSRS. DAWES and SON, Solicitors, of Copthall Court, London.

The cables will be worked in connection with the land lines of the Government of India, and the Indo-European Telegraph Company. I may be permitted to add, no other Company could give the same facility for direct communication with England, without having a third cable between Singapore and Moulmain or Madras, at an extra cost of £500,000, without they were allowed to work in connection with the Port Darwin Cable Company.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to add, by the Government having a Company of so influential a character to deal with, they are guaranteed the completion of the cables, and the satisfactory working of the whole line.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

AUDLEY COOTE,

The Honorable A. H. Palmer, Colonial Secretary, &c., &c., Brisbane.

P.S.—I have the honor to enclose a map showing the route and connections through to England.—A.C.

## No. 39.

MR. AUDLEY COOTE to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Petty's Hotel, Sydney,  
March 3rd, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to state on behalf of the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company, and Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Telegraph Contractors of London and Berlin, that they are prepared to contract with the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, for the construction and laying of a Cable between New South Wales and New Zealand, and between Normantown, in Queensland, and Singapore, on the terms which I am given to understand the representatives at the late conference of the Governments of the three Colonies are willing to recommend to their Governments for submission to their respective Parliaments, namely:—

The three Governments, New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland, to guarantee five per cent. on the sum of one million pounds, for thirty-five years, for a cable between New Zealand and New South Wales, and for one between Normantown, in Queensland, and Singapore, the cable 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, the point of landing in Normantown to be approved of by the Government of Queensland, the point of landing in New South Wales to be approved of by the Government of New South Wales, and the point of landing in New Zealand to be approved of by the Government of New Zealand.

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 working order, two-thirds of the guarantee to be paid.

The cables to be used to be approved of by Engineers appointed by the Governments.

The cables to be constructed and laid with the utmost possible expedition.

The tariff between New South Wales and New Zealand not to exceed fifteen shillings for twenty words, and nine-pence for each additional word. The tariff between Normantown and Singapore not to exceed two pounds for twenty words, and two shillings for every additional word, for the first two years; and subsequently, thirty-five shillings for twenty words, and one shilling and ninepence for every additional word.

The guarantee to be paid whilst the two lines are respectively in working order; but if the lines remain out of order for an unreasonable time, the guarantee to cease altogether.

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 cent., the Governments may require that the rates shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten per cent.

This proposal, if approved of by the three Governments, to be submitted to their respective Parliaments, and if their Parliaments approve, an arrangement on the basis of this proposal to be made in London, by representatives appointed by the three Governments with my principals there; the details not herein set forth to be there arranged.

The Contractors to make proper provisions for the use by the three Colonies of a through line of communication between Singapore and London, at rates which shall not be more than the rates charged by any other line between Singapore and London.

I have, &amp;c.,

AUDLEY COOTE.

The Honorable A. H. Palmer, Colonial Secretary, &amp;c., &amp;c., Brisbane, Queensland.

A.—Enclosure in No. 39.

TELEGRAM FROM AUDLEY COOTE, SYDNEY, to SIEMENS BROTHERS, LONDON.

Delegates from New Zealand, Queensland, and New South Wales recommend their Governments to guarantee fixed sum equal five per cent. upon one million for thirty-five years, for cables Sydney to New Zealand, Normantown to Singapore, touching at Macassar, four weeks allowed for repairs per annum. Proposed tariff Sydney New Zealand, fifteen shillings, Normantown Singapore, two pounds twenty words; twelve thousand per annum allowed working expenses, receipts over that to reduce guarantee. All details to be arranged in London. This is final offer, subject to ratification of Parliament. Reply and repeat the conditions you agree to; other offers have been made, but have fair reason to believe I can secure it on these terms only. Inform Wilson Bristows. Conference breaking up.

AUDLEY COOTE.

TELEGRAM ACCEPTING TERMS.

SIEMENS BROTHERS, LONDON, to AUDLEY COOTE, SYDNEY.

London, eighteenth, six-twelve. "We accept terms" namely:—Guarantee fixed sum equal five per cent. upon one million for thirty-five years, for cables—Sydney to New Zealand,—Normantown to Singapore, touching at Macassar,—We have responsibility of forming company to raise necessary capital—four (4) weeks allowed for repairs per annum—Proposed tariff, Sydney New Zealand, fifteen shillings; Normantown Singapore, two pounds, twenty words—Twelve thousand per annum allowed working expenses; receipts over that to reduce guarantee. All details to be arranged in London—five per cent. on one million—will write,—only equal about three per cent. on capital—required you should therefore endeavour to get increase.

SIEMENS BROTHERS.

B.—Enclosure



MEMORANDUM of Agreements, Contracts, Powers, and Letters of Instructions held by Audley Coote.

1. A Contract entered into between Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Telegraph Engineers and Contractors, of the one part; and Baron Julius Reuter, Managing Director of Reuter's Telegram Company; Henry Weaver, Esquire, Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, and General Manager of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, William Henry Barlow, Esquire, Member of the Council of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Official Director of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, of the other part—three of the Directors of the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company—for the laying of a Submarine Telegraph Cable, to connect England with Australia and New Zealand £325,000.

2. A Contract entered into between Messrs. Siemens Brothers, of the one part, and the before-mentioned Syndicate, as Directors of the Indo-Australian Telegraph Company, Limited, for the land lines from Singapore to the frontier of the British possessions in India, and there to connect with the land lines of the Government of India, for the sum of £150,000.

3. An Agreement between the Honorable Robert Grimston, of 24, Mount street, Grosvenor Square, London, Chairman of the Indo-European Telegraph Company; Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Telegraph Engineers and Contractors; Seymour Clarke, Esq., of the Great Northern and Great Western Railway Companies; and Audley Coote. The Honorable Robert Grimston undertakes that the Indo-European Telegraph Company will be prepared to enter into traffic arrangements for the reciprocal advantage of the two Companies, to secure prompt transmission of messages in both directions, and undertakes the traffic arrangements shall be made upon the most favorable terms, consistent with the rules and provisions of the International Telegraph Convention. Siemens Brothers undertake to complete the negotiations for the land lines through Siam with Seymour Clarke, who holds the concessions from the King of Siam for all Telegraphs through his country for 99 years; and Audley Coote to take the necessary steps for soliciting from the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, Victoria, "or some or one of them," such Acts or Contracts upon the best terms and conditions he shall be able to secure.

4. An Agreement in which the before-mentioned Syndicate co-operate and combine together to establish direct communication with Australia, with Messrs. Siemens Brothers as the contractors, and authorises Audley Coote to negotiate on behalf of all parties.

5. A full power of attorney from all parties before-named to Audley Coote.

6. An Agreement with the Syndicate, the Indo-European Telegraph Company, Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Audley Coote, and others, for the security of all parties, having been executed under the common seal of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, also by the other parties to it, and duly verified under the City seal.

7. Letters of instructions authorising Audley Coote to accept five per cent. from the time the cable is laid.

8. Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, stating they are prepared to enter into arrangements on the most favorable terms, and signed by the Managing Director.

AUDLEY COOTE.

P.S.—I have the honor to inform you, copies of all powers, &c., &c., are coming on to you. Duplicates of all papers have gone on to each Government.—A. C.

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No. 40.

COPY OF TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED *re* INDEPENDENT CABLE, 22ND FEBRUARY TO 25TH APRIL, 1873.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE HONORABLE JULIUS VOGEL.

Brisbane, 22 February, 1873.

Please inform me what is the earliest date at which you can obtain the sanction of your Parliament to the Contract for Cable to Singapore.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Brisbane, 22 February, 1873.

The Government of Queensland fully approves of the proposed Contract for Telegraph Cable to Singapore; you are aware of course that Parliamentary sanction has to be obtained.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER, NEW ZEALAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 20 February, 1873.

Audley Coote has just written me that he has received telegram accepting our proposals. Have not yet seen telegram. Will communicate further to-morrow.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AND THE COLONIAL TREASURER, NEW ZEALAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 21 February, 1873.

Will you telegraph the formal ratification by your Government of the principal agreement on Cable from New Zealand to Singapore. New South Wales intends at once to ask the approval of Parliament.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

The proceedings of the delegates from Queensland at the Intercolonial Conference, at Sydney, in January and February of this year, have received the official sanction of the Queensland Government; also, the agreement with New South Wales and New Zealand for the construction of Telegraphic Cable. Copies of Executive Minute will be forwarded by next post.

AUDLEY



AUDLEY COOTE to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Hobartton, 20 March, 1873.

I have received reply to my telegram from my principals in London, dated yesterday, stating Company formed and registered for direct telegraphic communication between New Zealand, Australia, and London; they are also prepared with deposit of £10,000

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Brisbane, 9 April, 1873.

Do you intend obtaining sanction of Parliament to our arrangement with Coote re Telegraph Cable, and to the Resolutions mutually agreed to at Conference?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Brisbane, 24 April, 1873.

Will you please reply to my telegram of 9th instant herewith repeated.—“Do you intend obtaining sanction of Parliament to our arrangement with Coote re Telegraph Cable, and to Resolutions mutually agreed to at Conference?”

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NEW SOUTH WALES, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Sydney, 25 April, 1873.

I have to apologise for delay in replying to your message of the 9th. Delay has been caused by extreme pressure of public business and want of consultation with colleagues. The Governor in Council has approved of provisional agreement, and advises application to Parliament, which, however, will not be made before September.

# No. 41.

AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Queensland Government Offices,  
London, 32, Charing Cross,  
21st February, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of letter received from Mr. Gisborne, with reference to the telegraphic line to Queensland.

I have, &c.,  
RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Enclosure in No. 41.

Bruton street, W.,  
London, 18th February, 1873.

SIR,

A telegram from Sydney was published yesterday in the newspapers, stating that the Postal Conference now being held there has decided to recommend that the telegraph line to Australia shall be subsidised upon the condition that the existing tariff shall be lowered. It does not appear whether all the Companies holding the lines between Falmouth and Port Darwin, or only that which owns the line between Singapore and the latter place, are to benefit by the subsidy and to lower their tariffs, or whether the South Australian land line is also included; but as my remarks will affect the principle and the utility of the proposed subsidy in any form, the want of information upon these points will not be material. It is probable, however, that the subsidy, which is, I believe, to be annual, is intended to be distributed among all the Companies, as the lowering of the tariff between Singapore and Port Darwin, or Adelaide alone, would hardly prove of sufficient importance.

It will be evident that the Companies will expect to make up by the subsidy, what they lose by the tariff, and upon such a point they will probably, through their superior knowledge, make a good bargain for themselves. On the part of the Colonies the proposed expedient will amount to paying out of one pocket into the other, and to taxing the general community in order to enable Merchants, Shipowners, and Australian residents in this country to obtain their telegrams at a cheaper rate. Moreover, telegraph tariffs vary so considerably and within such short periods, that the tariff in question might become lowered of itself, and yet when the subsidy has once been given, it might prove almost impracticable to withdraw it.

It would surely be very much more advantageous to all the Colonies to encourage, by means of financial assistance, the proposed Java and Queensland line, which we have agreed to extend from Java to Calcutta, and to work in conjunction with the existing lines through Persia, Russia, and Prussia, and the Submarine lines between Germany and England, thus establishing direct competition between England and Australia, and ensuring a diminution in the tariff.

I trust Sir, that you will bring these considerations under the notice of your Government.

I have, &c.,  
F. GISBORNE.

The Agent-General, for Queensland.

## No. 42.

AGENT-GENERAL to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Queensland Government Offices,  
London, 32, Charing Cross,  
February 21st, 1873.

Sir,

I herewith forward Minutes of Proceedings at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the British Australian Telegraph Company held here February 7th, together with the fourth report of that company, for your information.

Present at that meeting, I gathered that the company had no intention whatever of completing the Norman-Darwin Cable, but were entirely occupying themselves with endeavoring to obtain a subsidy from the various Australian Colonies, in order to lower the rate for messages. Reuter's telegram, appended, refers to this matter as having been settled at the Conference, but no official intimation of the same has been received by any of the Australian Agents-General.

I have, &amp;c.,

RICHARD DAINTREE,  
Agent-General.

To the Honorable The Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

## No. 43.

MR. AUDLEY COOTE to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

Hobart Town,  
30th April, 1873.

Sir,

I had the honor to address you on the 20th ultimo, by telegraph, which I now beg to confirm.

With regard to the Submarine Cable negotiations at the Conference, I have now the pleasure to inform you I have received copies of the printed correspondence on this subject from the Honorable J. Vogel, who will, I have no doubt, bring this business forward in the early part of the Session.

Herewith I have the honor to enclose copy of a Telegram received from the Honorable Saul Samuel on the same subject.

I also enclose copy of my Telegram to you of the 20th ultimo.

Should you desire any information with regard to the contracts, powers, and agreements, and to the connections through to London, I shall be happy to supply any further information in my power.

I have, &amp;c.,

AUDLEY COOTE.

Honorable A. H. Palmer, Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

## A.—Enclosure in No. 43.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. AUDLEY COOTE to THE HONORABLE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND.

I have received reply to my Telegram from my principals in London dated yesterday stating company formed and registered for direct Telegraphic communication between New Zealand Australia and London they are also prepared with deposit of ten thousand pounds.

## B.—Enclosure in No. 43.

TELEGRAM FROM THE HONORABLE SAUL SAMUEL to AUDLEY COOTE.

This Government could not submit agreement respecting Cables to Parliament this Session will do so early next which will be nearly as soon as most other Colonies can submit to their Parliaments.

SAUL SAMUEL.

## No. 44.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, QUEENSLAND, to MR. AUDLEY COOTE.

E. C.  
73-146.Queensland,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane, 21st May, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 30th April, in confirmation of your Telegram of 20th March last, on the subject of the Submarine Cable negotiations at the late Intercolonial Conference, and I beg to assure you that the agreement respecting the construction of the Cable proposed by your Company will be at once submitted for the assent of Parliament in the ensuing Session.

I have, &amp;c.,

A. H. PALMER.

Audley Coote, Esquire, Hobart Town, Tasmania.

Price 1s.]