

1853.

VICTORIA.

G E E L O N G M A I L S .

L A I D upon THE COUNCIL TABLE by THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 22nd November, 1853.

Despatch (No. 112) from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, dated 15th July, 1853, forwarding Letter from the Postmaster General to the Secretary of State, dated 8th July, 1853, relating to separate Mails for Geelong being made up in England and sent by all vessels bound to Port Phillip.

[112.]

No. 82.

Downing-street,
15th July, 1853.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 12, of the 18th January last, suggesting that separate Mails for Geelong should be made up in this country, and sent by all vessels proceeding to Port Phillip, such Mails to be delivered on demand at the Heads to an officer authorised to receive them.

I have referred a copy of that Despatch to the Postmaster General, and I transmit for your information a copy of the Reply, from which you will perceive that, although His Lordship considers that your suggestion under present circumstances cannot be generally adopted, the necessary instructions have been given for carrying it into effect whenever such a course may be found practicable.

8th July, 1853.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Lieutenant Governor La Trobe,
&c., &c., &c.

(COPY.)

General Post Office,
8th July, 1853.

SIR,

I have laid before the Postmaster General your letter of the 15th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, dated the 18th January last, suggesting that, if not inconsistent with the regulations of this Department, it would be very desirable that separate Mails for Geelong should be made up in this country for transmission by all vessels proceeding to Port Phillip, such Mails to be delivered on demand at the "Heads" to an officer duly authorised to receive them.

You are aware, by my Letter of the 14th May, 1852, that separate Mails for Geelong are already made up on the despatch of the *Packet* Mails for Australia, and by every private ship bound for Geelong, but, with respect to the present proposal, I am desired by Lord Canning to state, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, that the great objection which presents itself is the small number of letters, (probably not more than three or four) that would sometimes be comprised in the Mail for Geelong, if separate Mails for that District were made up for conveyance by every ship proceeding to Port Phillip, and the consequent liability of such mails to be lost or to get out of course.

Lord Canning thinks that the proposed arrangement may conveniently be adopted when large mails are despatched, such as on the departure of a steam vessel or a fast sailing ship expected to make a rapid voyage, but he is of opinion that, in other cases, the correspondence for Geelong may more properly be sent in the ordinary mails, and His Lordship has therefore issued instructions to his officers to the effect that whenever a large number of letters is despatched to Port Phillip by any particular ship not bound for Geelong, the correspondence for Geelong, provided it amounts to two hundred letters and newspapers, shall be sent in a separate Mail.

Lord Canning directs me to add that of course by every vessel bound for Geelong, as well as by the Mail Packets, separate mails will be despatched as heretofore.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. L. MABERLEY.

By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.