

1853-4.

VICTORIA.

GEELONG MAILS.

LAI 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, 18th January, 1854.

LETTER of the Postmaster General to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, forwarding an Estimate for an Establishment at Shortland's Bluff for landing and shipping the Geelong Mails.

General Post Office, Melbourne, 28th November, 1853.

Sir,

Judging that it may probably be required for the information of the Legislative Council, I have prepared, and do myself the honor of forwarding herewith, an Estimate of the probable cost of an Establishment at Shortland's Bluff, in connection with this Department, equal to the duty of efficiently and promptly there landing and shipping Geelong Mails, inwards and outwards.

That an Establishment, exclusively devoted to that service, will be necessary, is evident, when it is considered that, as has been notified to me by the Agent here of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, the delay of their steamers at the Heads, for the purpose of landing and shipping the most important of the British Mails, the Overland, will be but an hour.

The data for the preparation of this Estimate, as respects the boats, their crew, and attendant expenses, I have found in the Estimate for the Outport Customs' Service of 1854, and in the absence of more precise information, I have assumed that, regarding the importance of the service and the circumstances and position in which it is to be performed, the maximum crew will be necessary.

For the conveyance of Mails once a day between Geelong and the Heads, a contract terminating 30th April next, at the rate of twelve hundred pounds per annum, already exists. The expense of conveying these Mails for the first four months of 1854, will therefore be four hundred pounds, and I estimate that the service for the remaining eight months will cost twelve hundred pounds.

Adding the sixteen hundred pounds as above to the two thousand one hundred and twenty-one pounds ten shillings of the Estimate, and taking into account also the cost of quarters for the Establishment at Shortland's Bluff, it appears that this partial accommodation to Geelong will entail an expenditure equalling the cost—(four thousand pounds)—of landing, shipping, and conveying to and from the General Post Office the entire Ship Mails for Melbourne and all the rest of the Colony.

| £ | s. | d. |
|-------|----|----|
| 1600 | 0 | 0 |
| 2121 | 10 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3721 | 10 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | |
| £ | s. | d. |
| 3721 | 10 | 0 |

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
A. McCRAE,
Chief Postmaster.

(Signed)

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary,
Melbourne.

ESTIMATE of Cost, for the year 1854, of an Establishment at Shortland's Bluff, for the purpose of landing Geelong Foreign Mails :—

| | SALARY. | | CONTINGEN- CIES. | | TOTALS. | |
|--|---------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Postmaster | 300 | 0 0 | | | | |
| Coxswain at 12s., and six Boatmen at 10s. } per diem | 1314 | 0 0 | | | | |
| Porter and Supernumerary Boatmen at 10s. } per diem | 182 | 10 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | 1796 | 10 0 |
| Two Boats | | | 150 | 0 0 | | |
| Fuel, Light, and Water | | | 50 | 0 0 | | |
| Stores | | | 100 | 0 0 | | |
| Incidentals | | | 25 | 0 0 | | |
| | | | | | 325 | 0 0 |
| | | | | | £2121 | 10 0 |

Quarters will also require to be provided. If this Establishment commence with 1854, provision for temporary quarters must be added to the above.

A. McCRAE,
Chief Postmaster.

General Post Office,
28th November, 1853.