

1856-7.

VICTORIA.

RAILWAYS.

ADDITIONAL APPENDIX

TO THE

REPORT ON RAILWAYS,

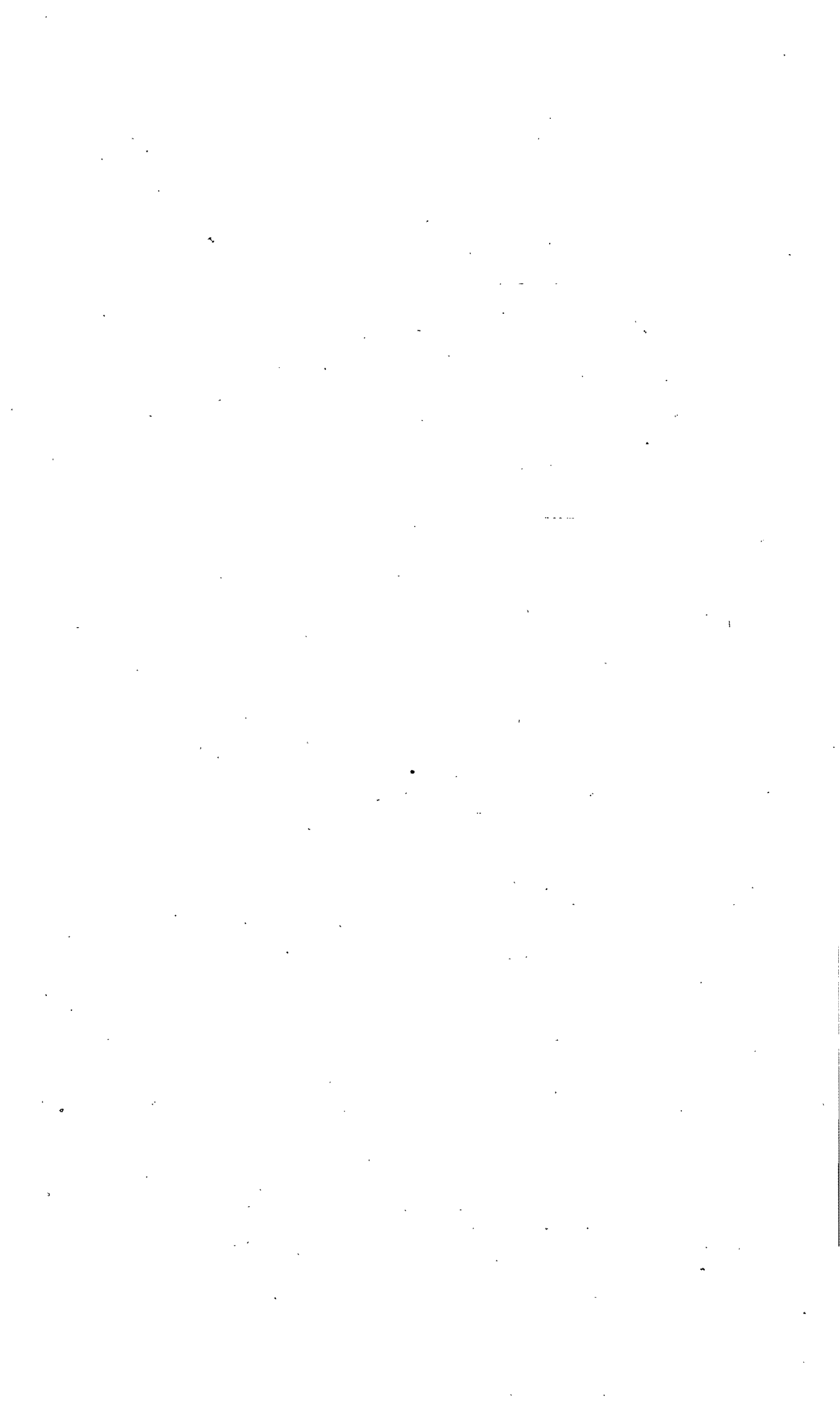
DATED 15TH NOVEMBER, 1856.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.
16TH JANUARY, 1857.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 45, a.



APPENDIX LXXIII.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER IN ENGLAND TO SUPERINTEND THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS FOR RAILWAY PLANT.

13, Gresham-street, Guildhall,
London, 15th September, 1856.

SIR,

We have the honor to inform you, that by the arrival of the *Sardinian* from Melbourne, we are in receipt of advices from our respective firms in the Colony, stating that conjointly with Messrs. Wm. MacKinnon and Co., of Glasgow, we have contracted for the purchase of railway plant, &c., for the Government of Victoria, and stating that we should receive from you notification of the appointment of an engineer, under whose supervision we are to execute this order; and as the time given us for the completion of this order is very short, every despatch must be used in issuing the advertisements for tenders. We therefore take the liberty of addressing you, to beg the favor of your causing the matter to be expedited, and of informing us of the appointment of the gentleman with whom we are to act.

We have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
(Signed) F. G. DALGETY.

To the Right Honorable
Henry Labouchere, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing-street, 16th September, 1856.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade, the enclosed copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Victoria, in which he requests that the aid may be obtained from the railway department in connection with their Lordships' Board, in the appointment of one of the railway inspectors, or of some other competent person, in superintending the carrying out in this country of contracts which have been entered into with the local Government for the supply of the materials necessary for the construction of a railway between Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and the River Murray.

I also enclose the instructions to the inspecting officer, and other explanatory documents; and Mr. Labouchere would be glad if their Lordships should find it practicable to afford the assistance desired by the local Government of Victoria in this important undertaking.

As the subject rather presses, Mr. Labouchere would wish to be favored by their Lordships' decision at their earliest convenience.

(Signed) J. BALL.

J. Booth, Esq.

13, Gresham-street, Guildhall,
London, 18th September, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

The arrival of the *Sardinian* on the 15th instant has put us in possession of the documents connected with the contract entered into by our correspondents in Melbourne with the trustees of the Mount Alexander Railway Company, and we are most anxious to carry out effectually the instructions and wishes of the trustees, but we fear some delay will occur in issuing the advertisements for tenders from the delay on the part of the Government here in the appointment of the surveyor or engineer, referred to in the contract, whose co-operation is necessary in any steps we take. We addressed the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 15th instant, urging him to expedite the appointment of this officer, as the time given us for the completion of the order is extremely limited, and if any delay occurs in his appointment, we must claim an extension of time from you, in accordance with the reservation in the contract to that effect.

We remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

{ F. G. DALGETY.
W. MACKINNON.
CHARLES CLEVE.

To the Trustees of the Melbourne and Mount Alexander
Railway Company, Melbourne, Victoria.

13, Gresham-street,
London, 1st October, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

We had the honor of addressing you on the 18th ultimo, to which we beg reference, and regret to inform you that we have since made no progress in the execution of the order for railway plant, in consequence of the delay, on the part of the Board of Trade, in appointing an officer to inspect the execution of the contracts, and without whose sanction and co-operation we cannot proceed to invite tenders.

We have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servants,
F. G. DALGETY,
For Self and Contractors.

To the Trustees,
Melbourne and Mount Alexander Railway Company,
Melbourne.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 3rd October, 1856,

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 16th ult., forwarding a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Victoria, requesting the aid of the railway department of this office in the appointment of one of the railway inspectors or of some other competent person in carrying out in this country contracts which have been entered into with the local Government for the supply of materials necessary for the construction of a railway between Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and the River Murray, and also to your further letter of the 20th of the same month, I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to request you to inform Mr. Labouchere that my Lords will be prepared to allow one of their engineer officers to superintend the execution of the contracts in question, and I am to request that Mr. Labouchere will direct the Colonial Agent to put himself in communication with this department in order to make the necessary arrangements.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES BOOTH.

John Ball, Esq., M. P.,
&c., &c., &c.

13, Gresham-street,
London, 18th October, 1856

GENTLEMEN,

Referring to our letters of the 18th ultimo and of the 1st of October, noting the delay on the part of the Board of Trade in appointing an inspector to superintend the execution of our contract, we have to advise you, that yesterday we were for the first time brought into communication with Captain Galton the officer so appointed.

We deem it but due to ourselves and for your satisfaction to state, in few words, the efforts which, prior to and since our last date, we have made in various ways to move the authorities at the Colonial Office and at the Board of Trade, to effect the appointment without delay. We have to regret, that as the specifications, with our advertisements for tenders, received but yesterday the sanction of Captain Galton, the necessity for an extension of time for the execution of our contract has become greater, and we beg to refer you to the reservation in the contract to that effect for your consideration.

On the 15th September we wrote Mr. Secretary Labouchere, requesting to be placed in communication with the inspector, and on the 21st we received a reply, stating that the matter had been referred to the Board of Trade with a request for an early reply.

On October 2nd we addressed Sir Henry Barkly, requesting an interview and soliciting his influence in inducing the Lords of the Privy Council for Trade to expedite the appointment of an inspector; Sir Henry replied on the 4th, promising to do all in his power to advance matters, and informing us that he had heard that Captain Galton, at that time on the voyage from Canada, would be appointed on his arrival in England. On the 7th we received a second letter from Mr. Labouchere's office, stating that the Board of Trade would be prepared to allow one of their officers to superintend the execution of the contract, and that instructions had been given to Mr. Barnard, the Agent General, to place himself in communication with us respecting the further particulars which we may require on this subject. On the 9th, in accordance with a request from us, we received a note from Mr. Assistant-Under-Secretary of State Elliot, inviting us to an interview on the 10th. At this conference we informed him of the particulars of our contract, and pointed out the urgent necessity of immediate action, to enable us to carry out the conditions of our contract within the time specified; and we urged him to aid in effecting the nomination of an inspector. On the 13th Mr. Barnard wrote us, that in accordance with instructions to that effect received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, he had placed himself in communication with the Board of Trade in order to carry out the contract entered into with us for the supply of railway plant, &c.; further, that he had received £10,000 for the payment of materials furnished by us. To this we replied, simply noting his advice of the sum received. On the 16th, having heard of the arrival of Captain Galton, we again wrote to Mr. Elliot, requesting to be placed without any further delay in communication with the officer already, or to be appointed. Yesterday we received a letter from Captain Galton, giving us notice that he had been appointed as inspecting engineer to superintend the execution of the contract, and offering at once to act with us. We immediately waited upon Captain Galton, who, with us, read and considered the specifications, &c.: those for the bridges at the crossings at Stony Creek and Saltwater River, and for the water pipes, he approved, and he sanctioned the insertion of an advertisement which invited tenders for them; this we sent yesterday to the *Times*, *Railway Times*, and *Herapath's Journal*, to be inserted in their next appearances.

Our interview with Captain Galton was most satisfactory to us. We believe him to be well-qualified to perform the duties which he has undertaken in reference to the contract; he seems to be familiar with business of this nature; and we trust fully to the readiness which he testified to act with and to aid us in the prompt performance of our engagements to the Trustees of the Victorian Railways.

We have the honor to remain,

— — — Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

The Trustees,
Melbourne and Mount Alexander Railway.

(Signed)

DALGETY AND COMPANY,

For Selves and Co., Contractors.

13, Gresham-street, 3rd November, 1856.

MY LORD,

Understanding from Captain Galton that you feel a doubt of the propriety of the Board of Trade undertaking the supervision of the execution of our contract for the supply of railway plant, for the Government of Victoria, in consequence of the restrictions under which they are laid by the instructions of that Government to adhere to the plans and specifications of the Colonial engineers, thereby impeding that free course of action which is essential to the most advantageous execution of the proposed works, we take the liberty of making the following remarks.

The great object of the Government of Victoria in requesting the supervision of an officer of the Board of Trade, has been to secure to the Colony the services of an engineer who would be free from any bias to his judgment from interested motives; and, we have it on good authority, that with this view they rejected all overtures that were made in Melbourne to place the office of inspecting engineer in the hands of any parties that were not in an official position.

It will, therefore, we feel be a disappointment in Victoria if Captain Galton's appointment, which we have notified to the Trustees of Railways in that Colony, should be rescinded; and though we cannot deny that the objections to the mode in which the matter has been left to the Board of Trade are entitled to the greatest weight, yet we think that the errors committed have been inadvertent, and that, when pointed out, they will gladly be amended. We would submit, moreover, that the fact of power to alter the plans and specifications not having been entrusted to the Board of Trade, must entirely free that department in the present instance from liability to blame, on account of the non-adoption of improvements or saving in cost which the rigidity of the instructions now preclude.

The main point, however, which we would respectfully urge is, that you would take into consideration our position, as having with all possible speed, in compliance with the urgency of the Government of Victoria, invited tenders for the material for the projected railway, which tenders have now come in, and it is a matter of great importance that we should be able to give the contractors an early reply.

We have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient servants,

DALGETY AND COMPANY,

For Selves, Messrs. Cleve, and MacKinnon, and Co.

(Signed)

To the Right Honorable Lord Stanley of Alderley,
President of the Board of Trade.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 7th November, 1856.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of 16th September, forwarding a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Victoria, requesting the aid of the railway department of this office in the appointment of one of the railway inspectors, or of some other competent person in carrying out, in this country, contracts which have been entered into with the local Government for the supply of materials necessary for the construction of a railway between Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and the River Murray, and to my reply of the 3rd ultimo, requesting you to inform Mr. Labouchere that the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade would be prepared to allow one of their engineer officers to superintend the execution of the contracts in question.

I am now to request you to inform Mr. Labouchere that my Lords accordingly appointed Captain Galton, R.E., to that service; but, that after a further consideration of the subject, in connection with the contracts and specifications (which were not at that time in their possession), it has not appeared to my Lords that this duty could be discharged by one of their officers with advantage to the public service, and Captain Galton having resigned the office to which he had been so appointed, my Lords have appointed Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Esq., C.E., to be the inspecting engineer for superintending the contracts in question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

JAMES BOOTH.

J. Ball, Esq., M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

13, Gresham-street, 11th November, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

In the concluding paragraph of our last advices (18th October,) we informed you of our first interview with Captain Galton, the inspecting engineer appointed on the 15th by the Board of Trade, and we noted his expressed readiness to act with, and aid us in, the prompt performance of our engagements towards you. Anticipating no official interruption to our progress, we put forth our advertisements calling for tenders for the two bridges and the water pipes, on the 1st November; and for rails, chairs, machinery, and switches, and crossings, on the 3rd. With these dates came very numerous tenders, many from houses of great eminence, which we on those days duly handed, sealed, to Captain Galton.

On the 3rd November, on the occasion of our handing to Captain Galton the tenders which had reached us on that day, we received from him the first intimation of a difficulty having arisen in reference to the action of an officer of the Board of Trade as inspecting engineer to superintend the execution of contracts for Railway Plant and of the probability of a civil engineer, unconnected with the Board of Trade being appointed as inspecting engineer.

The reasons which have moved the Board of Trade to this step will no doubt be officially communicated to you.

Immediately upon our return from Captain Galton we prepared, and same day caused the secretary to hand to Captain Galton, with copy for himself, a letter to the President of the Board of Trade, soliciting that existing arrangements might be permitted to remain undisturbed, stating the various reasons for our request, which you will find in copy of said letter forwarded herewith.

Having up to Friday, the 7th, received no reply to our letter, we again called upon Captain Galton, from whom we learned that he had resigned, and that that eminent engineer, Mr. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, has been appointed to the office of inspecting engineer. We hastened to Mr. Brunel's office, where we were informed—1st. That the tenders and documents connected with the contract were in his possession; 2nd. That he had not commenced the examination of the tenders; and lastly, that we might expect to hear from him shortly; next day Mr. Brunel communicated in writing his acceptance of the office. An arrangement to that effect having been settled, we met Mr. Brunel this morning, when having carefully considered the tenders for bridges and rails, we selected those which seemed generally most acceptable, and we have already addressed the parties whose tenders we have preliminarily accepted, and we doubt not that the conditions will soon be arranged, and that contracts will be signed without delay for the same, and we trust that our next advices will report works in active progress.

We would add that we are well satisfied with our interview with Mr. Brunel, his well known intelligence and activity preclude our doubting that the business of our contract will now proceed rapidly, and in every way satisfactorily. In conclusion, we observe that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the delay which has intervened between the 15th September and the day on which the seals were actually broken.

To the Trustees
Melbourne and Mount Alexander Railway Company,
Melbourne, Victoria.

(Signed.)

Gentlemen,
We are your obedient servants,
{ DALGETY AND COMPANY,
{ CHARLES CLEVE.

Downing-street, 11th November, 1856.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 7th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Trade, reporting that the Lords of the Committee had been unable to sanction the employment of one of their officers in superintending the carrying out in this country of the contracts entered into by the local Government of Victoria for the supply of materials for the railroads to the River Murray, and that their Lordships have selected Mr. I. K. Brunel, C.E., for executing that service.

I am, &c.,
H. MERIVALE.

Edward Barnard, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 6.
SIR,

Downing-street,
11th November, 1856.

I received the Acting Governor's Despatch, No. 65, of the 24th June last, in which he requested that aid might be obtained from the railway department in connection with the Board of Trade, in the appointment of one of the railway inspectors, or of some other competent person for superintending the carrying out in this country of contracts which had been entered into by the local Government for the supply of materials necessary for the construction of a railway between Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and the River Murray.

I immediately communicated on the subject with the Board of Trade, and I transmit to you for your information copies of the correspondence which has passed with that department, from which you will perceive that the Lords of the Committee have found a difficulty in delegating to one of their officers the duty in question, but that it has been entrusted to Mr. I. K. Brunel, C.E. I also transmit copies of the letters which have been addressed to the Colonial Agent General on the subject.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly,
&c., &c., &c.