

1878.
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VICTORIA.

PROPOSED TELEGRAPH CABLE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND
AND AMERICA.

(In continuation of previous Papers laid before Parliament.)

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 11th December 1877.

I had the honor to forward to you, on the 20th July last, copies of a Parliamentary paper containing memoranda prepared by this Government in discharge of the duty confided to its representative at the Conference held in Sydney early this year, of endeavoring to ascertain whether the Government of the United States would permit to be landed on its shores a telegraph cable connecting New Zealand with America, and would contribute liberally towards the cost of that important work, by which a second and independent line of communication between the United States, Australasia, and India would be established, and means of communicating with important groups of islands in the Pacific would be supplied.

I have now the honor to forward, for the information of your Government, six copies of Despatches received by His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, showing the progress which has been made in the correspondence with the United States Government which the Conference directed this Government to initiate.

I have, &c.,

G. S. WHITMORE.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

1877.
NEW ZEALAND.

TELEGRAPH CABLES

(FURTHER PAPERS RESPECTING NEGOTIATIONS FOR).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor.

MY LORD,

Downing street, 25th June 1877.

I have received your Despatch, No. 20, of the 10th April, enclosing a memorandum from your Ministers, requesting the aid of Her Majesty's Government in bringing under the consideration of the Government of the United States the resolution passed at the recent Intercolonial Conference at Sydney, authorizing your Government to ascertain whether the Government of the United States would be prepared to aid in the laying of a telegraph cable between the United States and New Zealand, and to contribute liberally towards the cost.

In compliance with the request of your Ministers, I will forward copies of all the papers in the case to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and will request his Lordship to transmit them to the British Minister at Washington, with instructions to bring the wishes of your Government under the consideration of the Government of the United States.

I have, &c.,

CARNARVON.

Governor the most Honorable the Marquis of Normanby, K.C.M.G., &c.

No. 19.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor.

MY LORD,

Downing street, 23rd August 1877.

With reference to your Despatch, No. 20, of the 10th of April, and to my reply of the 25th of June, No. 27, relating to the wish of your Government to ascertain whether the Government of the United States would be prepared to aid in the laying of a telegraphic cable between the United States and New Zealand, I have the honor to inform you that, in consequence of instructions from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington duly brought this matter to the notice of the United States Government.

From a Despatch recently received from Mr. Plunkett, it appears that Mr. Seward, the Acting Secretary of State, informed him that the question would receive consideration; but that, as the matter was one which would require the action of Congress, the Secretary of State would wish to confer with him further in regard to it, at some time before the assembling of Congress in October.

Mr. Plunkett subsequently took an opportunity to inquire of Mr. Seward whether there was really any prospect of the United States Government contributing materially to the carrying out of the scheme, or whether they only proposed to give it moral support. Mr. Seward said that that would depend entirely on the cost, and on the manner in which the scheme was to be carried out; but he understood Mr. Seward to be of opinion that, great as would be the benefit of such a cable to general commerce, there could not be much hope that Congress would vote any considerable sum of money towards the completion of such an undertaking.

I have, &c.,

CARNARVON.

Governor the most Honorable the Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., &c.