

1878.

VICTORIA.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION VIA JAVA.

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

The subjoined further correspondence respecting Telegraphic Communication through Java has been received from His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

(No. 24.)

SIR,

Downing street, 6 May 1878.

With reference to your despatch, No. 27, of the 1st March 1877, and to my predecessor's reply, No. 58, of the 9th July last, I have the honor to transmit to you copies of a further correspondence with the Foreign Office and Post Office on the subject of the resolution passed at the Sydney Cable Conference in January 1877, advocating the employment of English operators on the land lines in Java.

2. You will perceive, on reference to the enclosures in the letter from the Foreign Office of the 24th December last, that the Dutch Government prefer to await a more formal proposal on the subject before coming to any decision in the matter, and, from the enclosure to the Post Office letter of the 18th April, that the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, with whom the Post Office have been in communication, desire to defer for the present making any definite offer for working the Java lines by English operators, pending the result of the negotiations now being carried on in Australia by the Managing Director of the Company for the construction of a duplicate cable to Australia.

3. I take this opportunity of enclosing copies of a correspondence with the Company and the Foreign Office, which will inform you of the steps which Her Majesty's Government are taking with the view of pressing upon the Dutch Government the desire entertained in the Australian Colonies that, during the continuance of the present unsettled state of affairs, the telegraph here should be kept open for the transmission of messages throughout the night as well as the day.

4. I request that you will take such steps as you may think proper for communicating to the Governments of the other Australasian Colonies the information contained in the correspondence which I have enclosed to you.

I have, &c.,

M. E. HICKS BEACH.

The Foreign Office to The Colonial Office.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 17 July 1877.

With reference to your letter of the 26th of May last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for this department to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a despatch, with its enclosure, from Her Majesty's Chargé-d'Affaires at the Hague, containing the answer which has been returned by the Netherlands Government to the representations addressed to them respecting the telegraph lines in Java.

Mr. Fenton.
No. 53.
Commercial.

I am, &c.,

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Mr. Fenton to The Earl of Derby.

(No. 53.—Commercial.)

MY LORD,

The Hague, 13 July 1877.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch to Sir E. Harris, No. 37, Commercial, of the 2nd ultimo, instructing him to urge on the Netherlands Government the necessity for a general improvement in the telegraph lines in Java, and Sir E. Harris's despatch, No. 51, Commercial, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose a note from Monsieur de Willebois, stating that this subject has been brought to the notice of the Governor-General of the Netherlands-Indies, and calling attention to an error contained in the letter of the Postmaster-General to the Colonial Office. (Encl. 3 in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.)

His Excellency Monsieur de Willebois points out that the principal telegraphic bureaux in Java are open from 7 a.m. till 9 p.m., not from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m. only, as stated in the Postmaster-General's letter.

I have, &c.,

H. P. FENTON.

[Approximate Cost of Paper—Preparation, not given; Printing and Lithographing (790 copies), £6 11s. 0d.]

No. 70.

M. De Willebois à M. Fenton.

MONSIEUR LE CHARGÉ-D'AFFAIRES,

La Haye, le 12 juillet 1877.

Comme suite à ma communication du 23 juin dernier, No. 5,080, Direction Consulaire et Commerciale, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le contenu de l'office de l'Amiral Harris du 16 du même mois, concernant les service des télégraphes dans l'île de Java, a été communiqué par le Ministre des Colonies au Gouvernement Général des Indes Orientales.

En attendant les renseignements que ce haut fonctionnaire a été invité à faire parvenir au Gouvernement du Roi, mon collègue me prie de vous faire remarquer l'inexactitude de ce qui est avancé dans l'annexe No. 3 de l'office précité, notamment que les lignes télégraphiques dans la dite Colonie ne fonctionneraient que de sept heures du matin à six heures du soir.

D'après ce que me mande Mr. Alting Mees dès le 1 juin 1876, les principaux bureaux des télégraphes à Java sont ouverts de sept heures du matin jusqu'à neuf heures du soir, tandis que le règlement international faisant partie de la convention télégraphique de St. Pétersbourg n'exige l'ouverture des bureaux que de huit heures du matin à neuf heures du soir.

En me référant du reste à ma communication prérappelée, je saisis cette occasion, &c., &c.

v.D. DOES DE WILLEBOIS.

The Colonial Office to The Post Office.

SIR,

Downing street, 25 July 1877.

With reference to previous correspondence, as noted in the margin, respecting the mutilation to which telegraph messages are subjected in their transmission through Java, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Postmaster-General, a copy of the representation which has been made by the British Minister at the Hague to the Netherlands Government upon the subject, together with copies of two notes which have been received in reply from that Government.

In the second of these notes the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs states that the principal telegraph offices in Java are open from 7 a.m. till 9 p.m., and not from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m. only, as stated in the memorandum from the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, enclosed in your letter to this department of the 18th of May.

Lord Carnarvon desires me to request that he may be favored with the observations of the Postmaster-General upon the subject.

I am, &c.,

J. BRAMSTON.

The Foreign Office to The Colonial Office.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 24 December 1877.

With reference to my letter of the 17th July, I am directed by the Secretary of State for this department to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, a despatch from Mr. Fenton enclosing the reply of the Dutch Government to the representation of Her Majesty's Government as to the inefficiency of the telegraph arrangements in Java.

I am, &c.,

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Mr. Fenton to the Earl of Derby.

(Commercial.—No. 77.)

MY LORD,

The Hague, 19 December 1877.

With reference to my despatch of this series, No. 53, of the 13th July last, I have the honor to enclose herewith the copy of a further note from the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the representation made to his predecessor by Sir E. Harris in his note of the 16th of June last, respecting the inefficiency of the Telegraph Service in the Island of Java.

Baron Heeckeren encloses in his note a memorandum in the Dutch language—a translation whereof I have the honor likewise to transmit herewith—which has been drawn up on the subject in question at the Netherlands Department for the Colonies, and which is intended, as His Excellency states, to serve as an answer to the memorandum addressed to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, a copy of which was communicated to the Netherlands Government by Sir Edward Harris in his note above-mentioned.

Baron Heeckeren points out that it appears from the memorandum which he encloses, that if telegrams sent from Europe to Australia by way of Java are sometimes so mutilated as to render their meaning difficult of interpretation, it must be observed that those telegrams consist for the most part of incoherent words and of names which are unintelligible to the clerks employed by the Dutch-Indian Administration of Telegraphs, and that it also frequently occurs that the telegrams are already mutilated before they are received in the Dutch Colony; nevertheless, His Excellency states the Administration of Telegraphs in Java will not fail to take all such measures as may be within their reach with a view to remedying as far as possible the irregularities pointed out by Her Majesty's Government.

As regards the statements contained in the Eastern Telegraph Company's memorandum relative to the defective condition of the telegraph lines in the island of Java and the consequent interruptions to which telegrams are exposed in passing through that island, Baron Heeckeren observes that these allegations would appear to be founded on altogether incorrect information. And, with reference to the idea put forward by the Telegraph Cable Conference, and approved by Lord John Manners, respecting the employment of English operators for the service of telegrams passing through Java, His Excellency states, in conclusion, that his colleague of the Colonial Department will prefer, before coming to any decision on this subject, to await a more formal proposal in regard to it.

I have, &c.,

H. P. FENTON.

C.O.
10 April 1877.
P.O.
14 April 1877.
C.O.
28 April 1877.
P.O.
18 May 1877.
Sir E. Harris,
16 June 1877.
M. D. Willebois,
28 June 1877.
Do. Do.
12 July 1877.

Mr. Fenton,
No. 77.

From Baron
Heeckeren,
December 14,
1877.

Translation
accompanied by
a chart.

Baron Heeckeren à M. Fenton

M. LE CH.-D'AFFS.

La Haye, le 14 décembre 1877.

Comme suite à la communication de mon prédécesseur du 12 juillet dernier, concernant les plaintes formulées par la Cable Conference à Sydney, contre l'Administration des Télégraphes Indo-Néerlandaise, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, sous ce pli, un mémoire rédigé au Ministère des Colonies et destiné à servir de réponse au memorandum adressé au Grand Maître des Postes du Royaume-Uni par la Compagnie dite "Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company," et dont une copie accompagnait l'office de M. l'Envoyé de la Grande Bretagne du 16 juin dernier.

Vous voudrez bien relever de la pièce ci-annexée, M. le Ch.-d'Affs., que si effectivement les dépêches télégraphiques expédiés d'Europe en Australie, par voie de l'île de Java, subissent parfois des mutilations au point de rendre difficile d'en interpréter le sens à leur arrivée à destination il est à observer que, pour la plupart les dépêches sont composées de paroles incohérentes et de noms propres inintelligibles aux employés de l'Administration Indo-Néerlandaise, tandis que, très-souvent aussi, les dépêches en question sont déjà dénaturées avant d'être reçues dans nos Colonies.

Néanmoins, M. le Ch.-d'Affs., l'Administration des Télégraphes dans la dite île ne manquera pas de prendre toutes les mesures dont elle dispose, dans le but de remédier autant que possible à l'inconvénient que votre Gouvt. a bien voulu me signaler.

Quant aux faits avancés dans le dit memorandum, et desquels il résulterait que les lignes télégraphiques dans l'île de Java ne se trouveraient pas dans un état satisfaisant, et que les dépêches transitant par cette île subiraient sur leur parcours des fréquentes interruptions, il résulte du mémoire ci-joint, M. le Ch.-d'Affs., que ces allegations sont basées sur des données entièrement inexactes.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne l'idée émise par la Cable Conference prérappelée et qui, ainsi qu'il résulte du dit office de l'Amiral Harris, a obtenu l'assentiment de Lord John Manners, de confier le service des télégrammes transitant par Java à des employés ressortissants à la Compagnie Anglaise susdite, mon collègue des Colonies croit pouvoir se permettre d'attendre à cet égard une proposition plus formelle avant de prendre une décision quant à l'opportunité d'une pareille mesure.

Veuillez agréer, &c., &c., &c.

HEECKEREN DE KELL.

Summary of the Notes of the Indian Telegraph Administration.

It must be admitted that various mistakes are made in the telegrams to and from Australia in their passage along the Java lines. The chief reason for this is the use made in these telegrams of terms previously agreed upon by the parties corresponding (langage convenu), and these terms are a medley of very unusual words taken from all languages, and of names of persons and places but little known; words or names which the parties concerned do not themselves always know, and which they often spell in different ways.

The "word-code" will in all cases conduce essentially to a decrease in the number of mistakes.

It is moreover obvious that the risk of making mistakes is greater on land lines than on submarine lines, and greater also with Dutch than with English telegraph clerks, because a great number of the words used are taken from the English language, or are proper names which are well known in Great Britain or in British India, and with which the English clerks are therefore well acquainted, whereas almost all of them are new to the Dutch clerks.

It cannot, however, be ascertained whether more mistakes are made in Java than elsewhere in transmitting messages to and from Australia, and if so, to what extent, without comparing the telegrams sent with the telegrams received, and there is no possibility of doing so at Batavia.

There is no doubt that the service telegrams from the International Bureau at Bern are often received in Java in a mutilated condition. And if we only take into consideration that the above-mentioned telegrams relate to matters of notoriety, and are intelligibly expressed, we may reasonably assume that other telegrams do not arrive in Java in an un mutilated condition, although it cannot be proved to what extent this is the case.

In the memorandum of Colonel Glover, however, the insufficient knowledge of the English language possessed by the Netherlands-India telegraph clerks is put forward as only one of the causes of mistakes being made; and the principal reasons assigned are the bad state of the lines, and that the telegrams are copied and sent on twice between Batavia and Banjoewangie.

Colonel Glover asserts that the telegrams are transmitted just as often along the so-called "International Line" as along the other so-called "Omnibus Lines"; and further, that the telegrams along the north are copied and sent on at Samarang and Soerabaija and along the south or international line at Banjoemas and Soerabaija.

On what authority Colonel Glover makes both assertions cannot be discovered at Batavia, but it is certain that he has been misinformed.

The Head Inspector, Chief of the Post and Telegraphic Service in Netherlands-India, distinctly denies the bad condition of the telegraph lines. They might certainly be made still better if iron posts were uniformly employed and if all the trees and bushes on the sides of the roads along which the lines run were cut away; but the latter is of course out of the question, and the former would require a considerable outlay; and even then the causes which render messages transmitted along land lines more liable to mutilation than those transmitted by cable, and which arise from the nature of the climate and other circumstances, would not be removed. It appears, moreover, from the annual report of the Telegraphic Service, that by using all along the line a stouter sort of wire, and employing hanging isolators where practicable, all that is possible within reasonable limits will be done to improve the lines.

That the telegrams are just as often transmitted along the north (*i.e. viâ Samarang*) as along the south (*i.e. viâ Soerakarta*), and are often copied and sent on, is equally incorrect.

The rule is that the telegrams are transmitted along the south line assigned for International traffic and are copied and sent on at Soerabaija, to be transmitted thence to Banjoewangie. It is only when this line is interrupted that the telegrams are sent by the second south line or by the north line, and in the former case are copied and sent on at Soerakarta, and in the latter case at Samarang, because on those two lines there are more telegraph offices connected with each other, and because direct communication with Soerabaija is attended with difficulties.

It would to some extent certainly diminish the risk of making mistakes if the telegrams were not copied and sent on at Soerabaija but were transmitted direct from Batavia to Banjoewangie (as Colonel Glover proposes), but there is another objection.

As Colonel Glover himself said at the Australian Telegraph Cable Conference, the telegraphic communication with Australia is so small that if all the telegrams were to be sent continuously one after the other the work could be done in two hours per day. The line assigned for international traffic, for this reason, transmits not only the telegrams to and from Australia, but more especially the telegrams between Batavia and Soerabaija, and between Soerabaija and Pasaervean, and the line is by that means at work the whole day through. The direct telegraphic communication between Batavia and Banjoewangie, which sometimes takes place, does not, however, work nearly so rapidly as that between Batavia and Soerabaija, so that the telegrams are subject to delays, a disadvantage not outweighed by the advantage obtained by direct transmission.

Experiments will, however, be made to ascertain to what extent by means of a new system of relays received from Colonel Glover a more rapid transmission is possible.

That the information relied upon by Colonel Glover is incorrect is proved by the circumstance that he adduces Banjoewas as an office where the telegrams are copied and sent on, although this station is not even in connection with the south line, and that he asserts that the line is open till 6 o'clock in the evening only, while it has been open till 9 o'clock ever since June 1st 1876.

The Head Inspector will endeavour by strict control to diminish as much as possible the number of mistakes made by the Netherlands-India Telegraph clerks.

The Colonial Office to The General Post Office.

SIR,

Downing street, 9 January 1878.

With reference to the letter from this department of the 25th of July, and to previous correspondence, respecting the mutilation of telegraphic messages in their transmission through Java, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Postmaster-General, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, accompanied by the answer of the Netherlands Government to the representation which has been made by Her Majesty's Government upon the subject.

Lord Carnarvon would be glad to be favored with the views of the Postmaster-General upon the subject before taking any further action in the matter.

I am, &c.,

W. R. MALCOLM.

The Colonial Office to The Post Office.

SIR,

Downing street, 10 April 1878.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to request that you will draw the attention of the Postmaster-General to the letters from this department of the 25th of July and 9th of January last, respecting the improvement of the telegraph service through Netherlands-India, and that you will state to His Lordship that Sir Michael Hicks Beach would be glad to be favored with the views of the Post Office upon the subject as soon as possible, as the whole question is standing over pending a reply to the communication from this department.

I am, &c.,

W. R. MALCOLM.

[Telegraphs.]

The General Post Office to The Colonial Office.

SIR,

General Post Office, London, 18 April 1878.

With reference to your letters of the 25th July and 9th January last, and 10th instant, on the subject of the improvement of telegraphic communication through Netherlands-India, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company in reply to a communication from this office.

I am, &c.,

C. H. PATEY.

[Enclosure.]

The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company to Mr. Patey.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company (Limited),
66 Old Broad street, London, E.C., 16 April 1878.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 61-424) of the 16th January last, with enclosures, which but for an oversight would have been replied to earlier.

It is with pleasure we observe that the Netherlands-Indian Administration state they will endeavour to remedy the defects at present existing in their telegraphic system, and we have no doubt that the representations made on this subject by Her Majesty's Government will be the means of improving the service through Java.

It is with a view to attain this end, and not in any captious or complaining spirit, that we submitted the memorandum referred to in the correspondence.

Our Managing Director is at present in Australia negotiating for a duplicate line. Should this be established, the necessity for improved communication through Java will not be so urgent as far as we are concerned, and we would therefore defer for the present making any definite offer for working the Java lines by English operators, and simply urge upon the Netherlands-Indian Government the great desire the Colonies in Australia have that a continuous night and day service should be established, especially during the present political crisis. This has been very much impressed upon us by the several Colonies; and if the Netherlands-Indian Government would at the request of Her Majesty's Government give this service, we should be quite prepared to do the same on our lines, and at our own expense would work their offices at Batavia and Banjoewangie.

I have, &c.,
F. E. HESSE, Secretary.

The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company to Sir Michael Hicks Beach.

SIR, The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company (Limited),
66 Old Broad street, London, E.C., 3 April 1878.

I have the honor to inform you that I have received an application from the South Australian Government asking that a night and day telegraphic service might be given to the Australian Colonies during the continuance of the present unsettled state of political affairs in Europe.

My Company are quite prepared to comply with this request, but the Netherlands-Indian Government, over whose lines the messages have to pass, have refused to keep open beyond their usual hour of closing.

May I therefore beg of you to use your influence and have the goodness to ask the Foreign Office to use theirs to induce the Dutch Government to give a continuous service through Netherlands-India during the existing European crisis, in order that we may afford the Australian Colonies the privilege they seek.

I have, &c.,
JOHN PENDER, Chairman.

The Colonial Office to The Foreign Office.

SIR, Downing street, 10 April 1878.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company respecting the desire entertained in the Australian Colonies that, during the continuance of the present unsettled state of political affairs in Europe, the telegraph line should be kept open throughout the night as well as the day.

It appears that the Company are quite prepared to comply with the wish of the Australian Colonies, but that the Government of Netherlands-India, over whose lines the messages have to pass, have refused to keep open their lines beyond the usual hours.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach desires me to request that you will move the Marquis of Salisbury to instruct the British Minister at the Hague to bring the wish of the Australian Colonies to the knowledge of the Government of the Netherlands, and to express to that Government the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government that during the continuance of the present state of affairs a continuous night and day service may be granted over their lines in Netherlands-India.

I am, &c.,
R. G. W. HERBERT.

The Foreign Office to The Colonial Office.

SIR, Foreign Office, 16 April 1878.

I have laid before the Marquis of Salisbury your letter with its enclosure of the 10th instant, relative to a desire expressed on the part of the Australian Colonies, through the Eastern Extension Australian and China Telegraph Company, that the telegraph offices in Netherlands-India should be kept open for the transmission of their messages by night as well as by day; and I am now directed by His Lordship, in reply, to state to you, for the information of Sir M. Hicks Beach, that he will instruct Her Majesty's Minister at the Hague to recommend the above application to the favorable consideration of the Netherlands Government.

I am, &c.,
T. V. LISTER.

The Colonial Office to The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

SIR, Downing street, 18 April 1878.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, respecting the desire entertained in the Australian Colonies that, during the continuance of the present unsettled state of political affairs in Europe the telegraph line should be kept open throughout the night as well as the day.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach desires me to acquaint you that he has been in communication with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting the refusal of the Netherlands-Indian Government to keep open their lines beyond the usual hours, and His Lordship has instructed the British Minister at the Hague to recommend the application which you have made for a reconsideration of this decision to the favorable consideration of the Dutch Government.

I am, &c.,
W. R. MALCOLM.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

(No. 25.)

SIR,

Downing street, 15 May 1878.

With reference to my despatch, No. 24, of the 6th May, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a further letter from the Foreign Office, which will inform you that the Government of Netherlands-India have, in compliance with the wish entertained in the Australasian Colonies, established a Night Service on the International Telegraph Line in the island of Java, since the 29th April.

I request that you will cause this information to be communicated to the Governments of the other Australian Colonies.

I have, &c.,

M. E. HICKS BEACH.

The Foreign Office to The Colonial Office.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 11 May 1878.

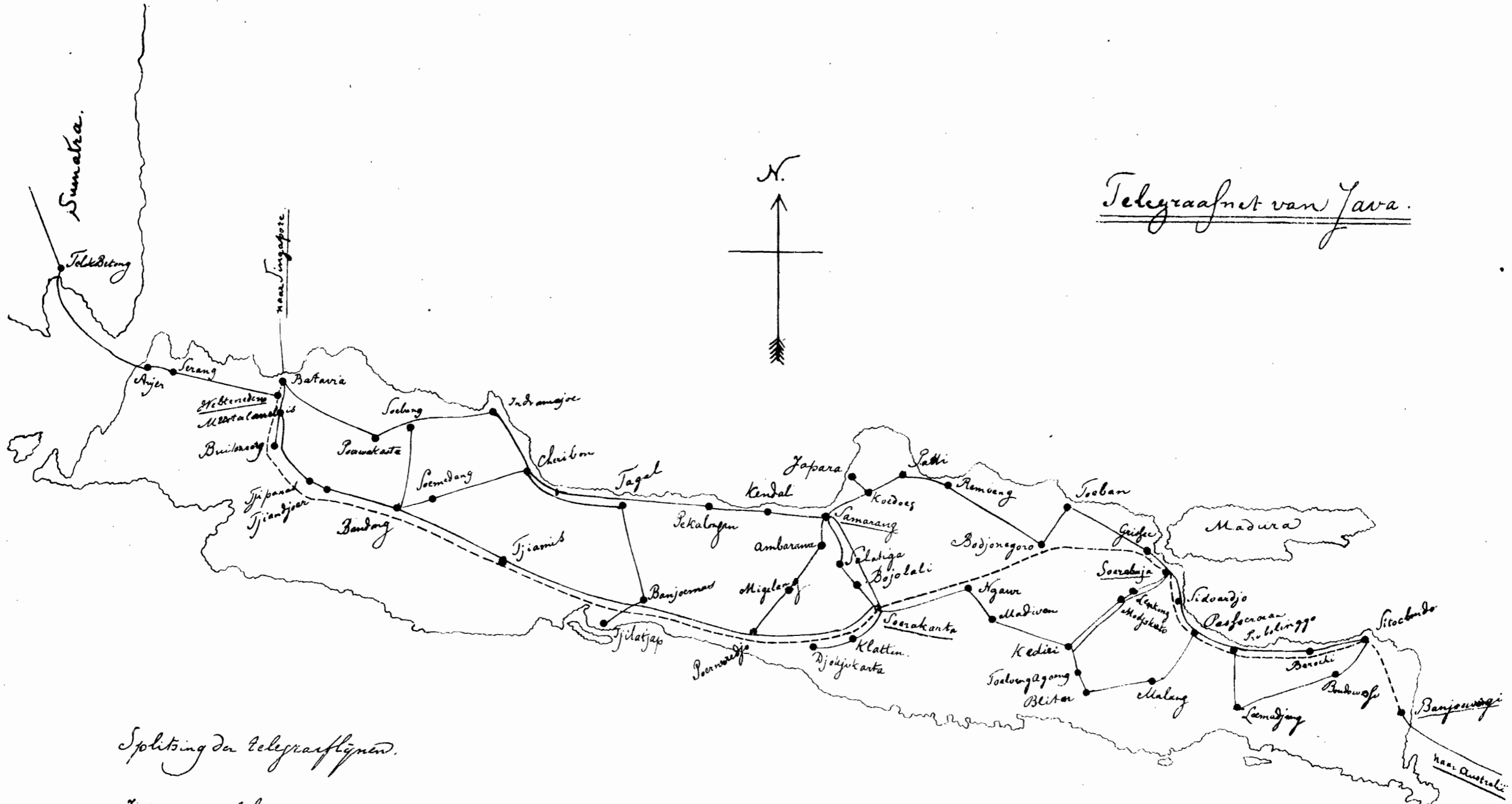
With reference to your letter of the 10th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to Sir Michael Hicks Beach that Her Majesty's Minister at the Hague has been informed by the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs that his colleague the Minister of the Colonies has lost no time in recommending by telegraph to the Government of Netherlands-India the desire expressed on the part of the Australian Colonies, through the Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Company, that during the continuance of the present unsettled state of political affairs in Europe the Telegraph Offices in the Netherlands-India should be kept open for the transmission of the Company's messages by night as well as by day.

The Minister of the Colonies has been informed in reply, by a telegram from the Colonial Government, that, in accordance with the above desire, a Night Service has been established since the 29th ultimo, on the International Telegraph line in the island of Java.

I am, &c.,

T. V. LISTER.

Telegraafnet van Java.



Splitsing der telegraaflijnen.

— Internationale lijn.
 (Wetterniden - Tjiamis - Soerakarta - Soerabaja - Banjoewangi.)

— Omnibus-lijnen. (Meerendels kleine trajecten, door de inschakeling van de verschillende aar de lijnen gelezen teke, graafkantalen.)

Red line on Original Plan shown thus - - - - -

J. Noone, Photo.

Steam Litho., Govt. Printing Office. Melbourne.