

1882.

VICTORIA.

DESPATCH OF HOMEWARD MAILS

BY THE

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.'S VESSELS.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE RECENT ALTERATION OF
THE TIME-TABLE BETWEEN MELBOURNE AND GALLE.

(*In continuation of Paper No. 23, Session 1882.*)

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

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

Victoria.—No. 61.

MY LORD,

Downing street, 21st September 1882.

I referred your Lordship's Despatch, No. 72, of August the 16th, enclosing a copy of a memorandum from your Government on the subject of the arrangements for the departure of the mails, to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

I have now the honor to enclose a copy of the reply which I have received from their Lordships, transmitting a report from the Postmaster-General, and I have to add that I concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Fawcett.

I have, &c.,

Governor The Most Honorable
The Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(Sd.) KIMBERLEY.

Enclosure.

No. 15443.

Treasury to Colonial Office.

SIR,

Treasury Chambers, 18th September 1882.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, a copy of a Report, dated the 11th instant, from the Postmaster-General on the Despatches from the Government of Victoria, of which copies were transmitted with Mr. Bramston's letter of the 23rd ultimo, proposing that the time-table for the despatch of the mail steamers from Melbourne should be altered for the ensuing year.

I have, &c.,

R. G. W. Herbert, Esq., C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office.

(Sd.) J. H. COLE.

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No. 23*.

Sub-Enclosure.

Post Office to Treasury.

MY LORDS,

General Post Office, 11th September 1882.

I have the honor to return the enclosed reference from your Lordships, No. 14563, of the 29th of last month, on the subject of a renewed suggestion of the Victorian Government that the Eastern Mail Service during 1883 should be entirely accommodated to the demand made by that Government in regard to the service for the present year.

Your Lordships are aware that this matter was very fully discussed last year, and finally considered by a departmental committee, at which one of your Lordships presided, and that the committee recommended a compromise whereby the service should be arranged as much in accordance with the Victorian views as possible without unduly sacrificing other interests.

The recommendations of the committee having been adopted with your Lordships' full approval, and with the concurrence of the Secretaries of State for India and the Colonies, and the conditions of the service being in no way altered since the solution was arrived at, I do not think there is any room for re-opening the question in the sense of considering whether further concessions can be made to Victorian interests, and exacted from those whose interests are different.

I submit that it should be sufficient for the Earl of Kimberley to be informed, in reply to the communication addressed to the Treasury, that the question of further modifying the Eastern Main Line Service to admit of different arrangements in connection with the Australian Branch Line cannot usefully be revived, seeing that the whole question has been so recently and so thoroughly gone into, and that the circumstances have not undergone any change.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) HENRY FAWCETT.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.