

No. 42.

The Hon. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, November 19th, 1878.

FRISCO contract.—Insist four steamers. Table seventy-nine old basis forwarded Contractors.

The Agent-General, London.

G. GREY.

No. 43.

Messrs. GILCHRIST, WATT, and Co., to the Hon. the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Wellington.

SIR,—

Sydney, 27th November, 1878.

We have the honor to advise the receipt by us of a letter from Messrs. Williams, Blanchard, and Co., dated 24th October, and to draw your attention to the following extracts therefrom:—

“*Re Change in Australian Service—*

“DEAR SIRS,—By the present schedule for the Australian Line Service, each steamer on each voyage is detained fifty-six days in port, and four steamers are consequently required to do what can readily be performed by three, and allowing ample time for discharging and receiving cargo at each port, also for docking at Sydney.

“This unusual stoppage in port has attracted the notice of our President, who has directed us to make up a schedule for 1879, and forward same to you, showing that the service can be effectually performed by three steamers, fully meeting all the requirements of the trade, with due regard for the transmission of the mails on schedule time.

“We accordingly enclose with this such a schedule for the coming year, designed for performance by these vessels, giving sixteen lay days at Sydney, and twelve days here.

“The President requests us to solicit your good offices with the Postmasters-General of the two colonies, to obtain their consent to this change in the mail contract.

“You can assure the Postmasters-General that it is wholly for our interest to make the service as complete and perfect as possible; also that we feel sure of our ability to perform it on this proposed new schedule.

“We have practically found that, on the China route, three steamers can perform a monthly service with the most perfect regularity, the time required for a trip being about the same (twenty-seven days) as on the Sydney route.

“The schedule herewith submitted can be moved forward or backward a week, as may be deemed requisite to meet the necessities of the service.

“It is intimated that very soon the time by rail between this and New York will be reduced twelve, and possibly twenty-four, hours. This reduction will ensue to the advantage of the Australian route.”

We commend the foregoing for your consideration, and trust that you may enable us to send a favorable reply at an early date.

We have, &c.,

GILCHRIST, WATT, AND Co.,

General Agents for the Contractors, San Francisco Mail Service.

The Hon. the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

DEPARTURE OF STEAMERS, AUSTRALIAN LINE, 1879.

From San Francisco.			From Sydney.		
Australia.	P. M. S. S. Co.	Zealandia.	P. M. S. S. Co.	Zealandia.	Australia.
Jan. 13	Feb. 10	March 10	Jan. 1	Jan. 29	Feb. 26
April 7	May 5	June 2	March 26	April 23	May 21
June 30	July 28	Aug. 25	June 18	July 16	Aug. 13
Sept. 22	Oct. 20	Nov. 17	Sept. 10	Oct. 3	Nov. 5
Dec. 15	Dec. 3