

50·33 days from Dunedin, and in 53·5 days from Wellington. The shortest delivery was accomplished in 48 days from the Bluff and Dunedin, and in 50 days from Wellington. The longest transit from the Bluff occupied 54 days, from Dunedin 55 days, and from Wellington 57 days.

The outward mails from London *via* Brindisi were delivered on the average in 47·12 days to the Bluff, 47·5 days to Dunedin, and 49·62 days to Wellington. The quickest transit to the Bluff was 44 days, to Dunedin 45 days, and to Wellington 46 days. The longest delivery occupied 54 days to the Bluff, 55 days to Dunedin, and 57 days to Wellington.

Comparing the several performances of the two services, it is found that, notwithstanding the acceleration which has been effected on the Brindisi line, the service *via* San Francisco more than holds its own with the rival line. The following comparison may be read with interest; the groups of figures represent the maximum, minimum, and average number of days within which mails have been delivered by each service:—

	San Francisco Service.	Brindisi Service.
London to Auckland	43—38=40·33	60—50=53·37
„ Wellington	47—41=43·33	57—46=49·62
„ Dunedin	49—42=44·75	55—45=47·5
„ Sydney	48—43=45·83	48—41=43
„ Melbourne	50—47=48·58	45—38=40·44
Auckland to London	43—39=40·17	57—50=53
Wellington „	45—41=42·17	57—50=53·5
Dunedin „	46—43=43·92	55—48=50·33
Sydney „	48—44=45·25	50—44=46·17
Melbourne „	50—46=47·25	47—41=43·17

The net cost to the colony in respect of the San Francisco and Galle mail services is shown by the following statement:—

RECEIPTS and Payments on account of the San Francisco and Galle Mail Services for the Year 1879.

San Francisco Service.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subsidy to Pacific Mail Company	32,500	0	0			
Estimated bonus due contractors	1,250	0	0			
Interprovincial services, Mail Agents, &c.	7,793	18	6			
				41,543	18	6
CR.						
Postages from London Post Office	14,821	19	1			
Postages collected in the colony	16,448	3	4			
Receipts from non-contracting colonies	3,046	13	0			
				34,316	15	5
Net cost to the colony				£7,227	3	1

The estimated net cost of the service for 1878 was £12,432 16s.

Galle and Suez Service

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to Victoria	9,016	3	9			
Intercolonial service, &c.	5,331	11	0			
				14,347	14	9
CR.						
Postages from London Post Office	3,815	9	8			
Postages collected in the colony	3,006	1	0			
				6,821	10	8
Net cost to the colony				£7,526	4	1

The estimated net cost for 1878 was £7,391 12s. 1d.

The payment made for the year for the transmission of correspondence by the Torres Straits mail service was £97 15s. 2d.

By the San Francisco service 415,275 letters were received from and 385,055 letters despatched to the United Kingdom.

The number of letters despatched to and received from the United Kingdom by the Galle service was 67,913 and 93,715 respectively.

The services—Wellington, Kaikoura, and Lyttelton, and Wellington and Patea—have ceased to be subsidized, and a saving of £540 a year effected.

By a rearrangement of the West Coast of the Middle Island service a saving of £2,800 a year is secured. The service as performed at present by the “Maori” ceases next month; and from July next the settlements south of Hokitika will be served by a steamer starting every four weeks from Greymouth and Hokitika, and returning to the same ports. This service will cost £1,200 a year, and a twelve-months’ contract has been entered into.