

We conclude our Report by submitting the following statement, which shows what would be the probable financial result of accepting the Orient tender, and paying poundage rates, namely, 12s. per lb. of letters, 1s. per lb. of books and packets, 6d. per lb. of newspapers, and 2d. per lb. of parcels, on mails forwarded by the P. & O. or other steamers.

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To Colonial share of subsidy to Orient Company ... ..	£37,500
„ Estimated payments to P. & O., or other Company, at above rates ...	28,000
„ Transit of mails of Contracting Colonies through European Countries, &c. ... ..	11,000
„ Overland transit of mail matter through Australian Colonies ...	3,000
	£79,500

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By Estimated postages that would be collected in the Colonies ... ..	£52,000
„ Estimated amount of Australian land transit rates on mails from Europe, &c. ... ..	2,500
„ Estimated receipts from non-contracting Colonies, &c. ... ..	1,500
	£56,000

Approximate net cost per annum to contracting Colonies ... .. 23,500

The present net cost per annum is about ... .. £31,500

Approximate saving... .. £8,000

The poundage rates mentioned above are, in the case of letters, in excess of the postage being, with European transit rates added, equal to about 3½d. per single-rate letter, and although the present saving would be, approximately, as stated, the loss would increase with the growth of correspondence, whereas the reverse would be the result in the case of fixed subsidies.

S. H. LAMBTON.  
C. TODD.  
JOHN M'DONNELL.

General Post Office, Sydney, 17th November, 1896.

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TABLE showing possibilities of mail communication between Australia and the United Kingdom by the several lines of steamers now running—other than the two lines at present subsidised, namely, the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient—and giving an illustrative return trip in each case.

## 1.—QUEENSLAND ROYAL MAIL LINE—4-Weekly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Adelaide ...	Tue., Nov. 3...	London	Tue., Dec. 22...	49	London	Fri., Dec. 25 ...	Brisbane...	Sat., Feb. 13...	50
Melbourne.	Wed., „ 4...	„	„ 22...	48	„	„ 25 ...	Sydney ...	Mon., „ 15...	52
Sydney ...	Thu., „ 5...	„	„ 22...	47	„	„ 25 ...	Melbourne	Wed., „ 17...	54
Brisbane ...	Sat., „ 7...	„	„ 22...	45	„	„ 25 ...	Adelaide...	Thu., „ 18...	55

Mails shipped and landed at Brisbane.

## 2.—CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Sun., Nov. 8 ...	London	Thu., Dec. 17...	39	London	Fri., Dec. 25 ...	Sydney ...	Mon., Feb. 1 ...	38
Adelaide ...	Fri., „ 6 ...	„	„ 17 ...	41	„	„ 25 ...	Melbourne	Tue., „ 2 ...	39
Melbourne	Mon., „ 9 ...	„	„ 17 ...	38	„	„ 25 ...	Adelaide...	Wed., „ 3 ...	40
Sydney ...	Tue., „ 10 ...	„	„ 17 ...	37	„	„ 25 ...	Brisbane...	Tue., „ 2 ...	39

Mails shipped and landed at Sydney.

## 3.—UNION COMPANY'S LINE, VIA SAN FRANCISCO—4-Weekly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Fri., Nov. 20...	London	Wed., Dec. 30	40	London	Sat., Jan. 23...	Sydney ...	Tue., Mar. 2...	38
Adelaide ...	Thu., „ 19...	„	„ 30	41	„	„ 23...	Melbourne	Wed., „ 3...	39
Melbourne	Sat., „ 21...	„	„ 30	39	„	„ 23...	Adelaide ..	Thu., „ 4...	40
Sydney ...	Mon., „ 23...	„	„ 30	37	„	„ 23...	Brisbane ..	Wed., „ 3...	39

Mails shipped and landed at Sydney.