

I would mention that this proposal is in no way intended to interfere with the prospect of the Vancouver steamers calling at Auckland, which in view of the recent negotiations I think may be looked upon as certain, though it may not be possible to commence the call for twelve months.

If we are fortunate in securing the contract for the Vancouver service, we propose to arrange for a fortnightly service between New Zealand and North America, *via* Vancouver and San Francisco alternately.

For your information I append details of the route and mileages, and projected running.

It may be interesting to note that the proposed service is practically the same distance as from Auckland to San Francisco *via* Samoa and Honolulu, and less than the Vancouver service from Auckland, the distances being as follows:—

Wellington to Rarotonga	...	...	...	...	1,800	
Rarotonga to Tahiti	...	...	...	...	630	
Tahiti to San Francisco	...	...	...	...	3,600	
						6,030
Auckland to Samoa	...	...	...	...	1,596	
Samoa to Honolulu	...	...	...	...	2,250	
Honolulu to San Francisco	...	...	...	...	2,100	
						5,946
Auckland to Fiji	...	...	...	...	1,140	
Fiji to Honolulu	...	...	...	...	2,760	
Honolulu to Vancouver	...	...	...	...	2,430	
						6,330

In the event of your taking the proposal into favourable consideration, we propose starting the service from Wellington on 23rd September next or four weeks later. This, with prompt advertising, would cater for the autumn passenger-traffic from America and England.

If there are further points you wish information about, I shall be glad to place myself at your disposal.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Sir J. G. Ward, Wellington.

C. HOLDSWORTH.

[Wn.—S.F. 10/17.]

Enclosure in No. 4.

San Francisco Service from Wellington, via Tahiti, at Thirteen Knots.

Port.	Times of Arrival and Departure.	Distance.	Steaming-time.	Time in Port.	Difference in Time (about).
		Miles.	Days hrs.	Days hrs.	Hrs. min.
Wellington ...	Depart noon, Friday, 23rd September ...	1,800	5 19	0 3	1 40
Rarotonga ...	Arrive 9 a.m., Wednesday, 28th September ...				
" ...	Depart noon, Wednesday, 28th September ...	630	2 1	1 3	0 40
Papeete ...	Arrive 2 p.m., Friday, 30th September ...				
" ...	Depart 5 p.m., Saturday, 1st October ...	3,600	11 13	...	1 50
San Francisco	Arrive 1 p.m., Thursday, 13th October ...				
		6,030	19 9	1 6	
San Francisco	Depart 2 p.m., Thursday, 20th October ...	3,600	11 13	1 0	1 50
Papeete ...	Arrive 6 a.m., Tuesday, 1st November ...				
" ...	Depart 6 a.m., Wednesday, 2nd November ...	630	2 1	0 12	0 40
Rarotonga ...	Arrive 6 a.m., Friday, 4th November ...				
" ...	Depart 6 p.m., Friday, 4th November ...	1,800	5 19	...	1 40
Wellington ...	Arrive 11 a.m., Friday, 11th November ...				
		6,030	19 9	1 12	

In Cabinet, 8th August, 1910.

Union Company's offer for monthly service to San Francisco, *via* Papeete: Offer £20,000 for one year—steamers to arrive Wellington and depart Auckland.

J. HISLOP, Acting-Secretary.

No. 5.

The Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER (at Christchurch) to the GENERAL MANAGER, Union Steam Ship Company, Dunedin.

(Telegram.)

Christchurch, 9th August, 1910.

Your letter, 3rd August, *re* proposal for the establishment of service from Wellington *via* Papeete to San Francisco, and return to New Zealand same route: the Government is prepared to