

that does exist, in Vols 1, 10 and 11, and the draft biography in Box File (Red), Miscellaneous Papers, Documents, and Pamphlets, is both sketchy and fragmentary, though it appears to have been used by R. M. Burdon as the basis for some of the early chapters of his study of Vogel.<sup>3</sup> The draft biography is particularly interesting. It appears to have been written by a member of Vogel's family, from information given in the letters Vogel sent to his sister from Australia in the 1850s and during his early years in New Zealand. The letters themselves do not appear in either of the two collections of papers. Another item of minor interest in Box File 5 is a testimonial, dated 1852, from the Government School of Mines, London, recommending Vogel as an assayer.

## 2. *Vogel and the Agent-Generalship, 1876-1881*

This section of the collection is particularly rich in material, not so much on Vogel's record as Agent-General but on other matters connected with his period of office. Above all the correspondence, in Vols. 2 and 3, and the two Box Files (Red) containing the miscellaneous correspondence for the period 1871-1882, throws light on the complex circumstances that lay behind Vogel's tenure of the position. It includes material on his appointment, on the negotiations with Atkinson and Hall especially, over his desire to surrender the Agent-Generalship and become New Zealand Loan Agent in England, and the closely related manoeuvring over the issue of whether Vogel as Agent-General could serve on the boards of private companies or stand for election to the British Parliament. Apart from this, the two box files also contain a large number of long and detailed letters sent to Vogel each month by his friend and former private secretary, Ebenezer Fox. Fox was then Secretary to the Cabinet, and his letters report on the political situation in New Zealand in addition to passing on personal news and items of local gossip. Vogel's letters to Fox and his other correspondents appear in either the letter copy books or the two box files, and contain much that would seem to be of value to students of the politics of the late 1870s. In one long letter, especially, Vogel comments on all the leading politicians of the time and discusses their associations with him.<sup>4</sup>

## 3. *Vogel as an international businessman, 1881-1885*

During the early 1880s Vogel became involved in the affairs of a number of business enterprises whose interests lay in both Britain and Australasia. Most of them were connected with telecommunications, land and railway development, and electric lighting. His association with the companies he formed or helped control was an extremely vigorous and active one for several years, but by about 1885-6 they had either failed or his connection with them had ended.

Since land and public works development was one of the most important elements in colonial politics at the time, it is not surprising