

political interests.<sup>43</sup> He was not only to replace the two press associations with a single organisation but was to have that organisation under his personal control for the next four years, until he resigned as Premier and left for London.

In April 1872 a mail steamer service between San Francisco, New Zealand and Melbourne was finalised with annual subsidies from the Victorian Government of £32,500, and the New Zealand Government of £27,500. From July 1872 Australia was also in telegraph communication with England.<sup>44</sup> It was the build-up to these events that led to the changes in the New Zealand press agencies. Vogel had been in Melbourne in early 1872 negotiating with the Victorian Government in regard to the mail steamer service, and while there he concluded an agreement with Hugh George, manager of the Melbourne *Argus* and the Australian Associated Press, for the sole Reuter agency for New Zealand.<sup>45</sup> The agreement was open as to whether Vogel acted as a Government Minister or a newspaper proprietor:

For the sum of five hundred pounds (£500) per annum this office is prepared to sell to your Government, to yourself, or to any agent appointed by you, for the use of the newspapers published in New Zealand, the exclusive right of treating with those newspapers for the publication of Reuters messages in New Zealand.<sup>46</sup>

The agreement was a final rather than an initial proposal and included completed practical arrangements:

I have today written to our London agent, instructing him to see Reuter, and to request that the price of New Zealand securities, New Zealand bank stock, New Zealand hemp, as well as any item of special New Zealand interest be included in the direct telegraphic reports from London.<sup>47</sup>

Montrose, the New Zealand manager of Greville's Telegram Company, which had up till then been the Reuters agency, saw the agreement as calculated to end his agency:

The object of the Associated Press is to drive the [Greville Telegram] Company out of the field. . . . With the same object it would, of course, be glad to contract with Mr Vogel on such terms as would drive the New Zealand branch of Greville's Telegraph Company out of the field.<sup>48</sup>

And so it was to prove, with the Greville telegraph credit line last appearing in New Zealand newspapers in November 1872. Montrose further argued there was a connection between the mail steamer negotiations with the Victorian Government and the press agency agreement with the Australian Associated Press: ' . . . in entering into this contract Mr Vogel has been making a bid for the support of the Melbourne *Argus* and *Sydney Morning Herald* in his negotiations with the Australian Governments'.<sup>49</sup>