

arrangement was presented by the *Lyttelton Times* on 8 June 1872:

There is an exceedingly good reason why evening papers should be excluded (from Mr Vogel's proposed new Press Telegraphic Association). If they were admitted the morning papers would simply be contributing a considerable sum annually to assist in the extremely delightful process of cutting their own throats. Thus, when the Anglo-Australian telegraph is completed, which it will be presently, the most important telegraphic messages will come from Australia by the weekly, or thereabouts, steamers. In a majority of instances these arrive either at Hokitika or the Bluff at such an hour as would allow the summaries to be transmitted in time for publication in the evening papers. It follows, therefore, that ordinary prudence compels the proprietors of morning papers to exclude evening journals from the Association.

This rationale was somewhat exaggerated. While arriving mail boats naturally chose to enter harbour if possible during daylight hours, their arrivals were determined by the tides and did, of course, occur during all daylight hours. Morning arrivals were to the advantage of the evening papers but from early afternoon any arrivals were too late for the evening papers to be able to print the news that day. It is possible that the restriction to morning papers was an application in New Zealand of an Australian Associated Press requirement. In Australia the services of that association were at first available only to the morning papers. Entry there to evening newspapers was offered only after New South Wales morning papers failed to get a legal monopoly for their cable service.⁵³ However, the New Zealand restriction to morning papers was short-lived. The rationale for the restriction became irrelevant from 1876 when the Australia-New Zealand sea cable was completed; but well before this, by the end of 1872, the Greville credit line had disappeared from the New Zealand press and Holt and McCarthy, the only press agency operating, counted amongst its members both morning and evening papers.

Not only was the Holt and McCarthy agency to become the only one in New Zealand handling overseas news: it was also to gain a monopoly control over internal news dissemination. The agency's rules of association do not survive and consequently it is not known if they followed the common pattern of not allowing subscriber newspapers to also receive competitive services. However, the *Otago Daily Times* service ceased, but not necessarily because it had been forced out of existence by the Holt and McCarthy agency. Expense was an everpresent impetus towards amalgamation—the logic of sending costly, and usually similar, long press telegrams to separate press associations had often been questioned.

The Holt and McCarthy agency did away with the duplication that had previously existed, by establishing 'a service of interprovincial news . . . available for all New Zealand papers that cared to