

subscribe to it'.<sup>54</sup> For the first time the communication difficulties for newspapers within New Zealand were met by establishing a system of cooperative mutual exchange of news among all newspapers.

The Holt and McCarthy agency was soon to be accused of political bias. Vogel was the dominant New Zealand politician of the day and the Holt and McCarthy agency was at times accused of being more interested in supporting him and the Waterhouse Ministry than in its ostensible role of news supporting. On 13 November 1872 the *Nelson Examiner*<sup>55</sup> observed:

It is important to notice that the telegrams of the New Zealand Press Association<sup>56</sup> omit to mention the destruction by the natives of the Wanganui Bridge. We have noticed other omissions. The defeats of the Ministry during the last few days of session were passed over in silence. . . . The frequency and character of these omissions show that the telegrams are supervised with paternal care in high quarters, nothing coming out through their instrumentality which could impair the trust and filial piety of a loving party.

Similar accusations were made throughout the six years when Holt and McCarthy was the sole New Zealand press agency. Vogel was, furthermore, to exacerbate the concern felt by his opponents by the successful moves he made to control the *Wellington Independent*.

Vogel had purchased the *Southern Cross* in Auckland immediately prior to his move to Wellington, when he took national political office. The paper proved to be too distant from his seat of operations, and although the *Southern Cross* was not sold until 1876, Vogel had earlier disposed of his interest in it, and found a Wellington base for his journalism. McKenzie's *Independent* was the obvious paper for him to look toward. It was a prestigious paper, being the only morning daily and the oldest paper in the city, as well as the administrative centre of the Holt and McCarthy agency. Moreover, it was his political supporter. Vogel formed in 1873 the New Zealand Times Company which that year took over the *New Zealand Mail*<sup>57</sup> (the *Independent*'s weekly stablemate), and at the end of January 1874 also purchased the *Independent*. The *Independent* was renamed the *New Zealand Times*.

McKenzie, who, with the *Independent*, the *Mail* and his printing business, was head of a large and successful concern, was under no financial need to join with Vogel. Nor, although he had been running the *Independent* since 1845, was he an old man. To quote Scholefield: 'McKenzie was only 46 years of age, vigorous in mind and body and under no necessity to think of retirement, but he succumbed to the blandishments of Vogel and merely retained a sizeable interest in the new company'.<sup>58</sup> McKenzie may have succumbed to Vogel's eloquence, but, equally, he may have shared