

established its own news service which in 1870 the management re-established and expanded. The paper's own version of events after 31 July 1870 is as follows:

We made arrangement for supplying the foreign mail and interprovincial telegrams to the *Daily Times*, and to the principal newspapers in the other provinces. Agents were appointed in Melbourne and San Francisco to compile telegraphic summaries of the mail news; and agents were also appointed in every town and port of importance in New Zealand. The leading newspapers in the other provinces cordially approved of this system, and agreed to take their telegrams from our agents. The agreement was, in every instance but one, accompanied with a condition that we should not supply telegrams to any rival newspaper in the same town. These arrangements were purely a matter of business. Political considerations had nothing whatever to do with them. Ministerial as well as Opposition newspapers agreed to join. The *Lyttelton Times*, the *Press*, the *Evening Post*, the *Hawkes Bay Herald*, the *Nelson Colonist and Examiner*, the *Wanganui Chronicle*, the *Wairarapa Mercury*, the *Grey River Argus*, the *Marlborough Express*, the *Westport Times*, the *Timaru Herald* and the *Oamaru Times* are supplied with our telegrams.³²

Whether the *Press* does correctly appear in this listing is open to doubt. The statement that, 'The agreement was, in every instance but one, accompanied with a condition that we should not supply telegrams to any rival newspaper in the same town' runs at odds with the fact that two Nelson papers as well as the *Lyttelton Times* and the *Press*, two Christchurch papers, are in the listing. If the *Press* was in the *Otago Daily Times* group it was only for a short period, for it soon became part of a competing agency.

The telegraph credit line of the *Otago Daily Times* service appeared in newspapers in the weeks after the closing of the Government news service. Concurrently with the start of the *Otago Daily Times* service the telegraph credit line 'Greville's Telegram Company, Reuters Agents' began appearing in newspapers that were not receiving the *Otago Daily Times* summaries—principally the *Dunedin Star*,³³ the *Press*, and the *Wellington Independent*.³⁴

Greville's Telegram Company began as part of Reuter's developing international news carrier service. Greville obtained the agency for Reuters and also obtained his international news via that source. Greville was an Australian journalist and his was primarily an Australian press agency serving newspapers in that country,³⁵ of which the New Zealand agency was a branch. He appointed C. O. Montrose as the manager of the New Zealand central office which was in Wellington.

The two press associations ran as opposing agencies for two years. The *Otago Daily Times* remained a strong opponent to the Fox-Vogel Ministry and the revival of its press agency was, at least partly, an attempt to escape from what it saw as Vogel's political control of the compilation and dissemination of news summaries. However both associations were primarily business rather than