

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to enable the Governor to carry Title.
into effect a Postal Service with Great
Britain in conjunction with the
Colonies of Victoria New South
Wales Queensland South Australia
and Tasmania.

WHEREAS at a Conference held at Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria on Preamble.
the fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven and follow-
ing days of Delegates from the Governments of all the Australian Colonies
(excepting Western Australia) on the subject of Ocean Postal Communication
5 at which Conference such Delegates that is to say—for the Colony of Victoria the
Honourable James McCulloch and the Honourable George R. Verdon for the Colony
of New South Wales the Honourable Henry Parkes and the Honourable Joseph
Docker for the Colony of New Zealand the Honourable John Hall and Crosbie
Ward Esquire for the Colony of South Australia the Honourable James P.
10 Boucaut and the Honourable Walter Duffield for the Colony of Queensland the
Honourable Arthur Macalister and the Honourable Saint George R. Gore for
the Colony of Tasmania the Honourable Thomas Daniel Chapman undertook
that their Governments would be bound by such Resolutions of the Conference as
they themselves might individually assent to—it was unanimously resolved “That
15 in order to establish a postal system affording regular fortnightly communication by
three lines *via* Brisbane and Torres Straits to Singapore *via* Melbourne and South
Australia to Suez and *via* New Zealand to Panama with the necessary Branch
Services the six Colonies represented at the Conference should contribute a moiety
20 proportions namely Victoria one-fourth New South Wales one-fourth New Zealand

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one-fourth Queensland one-seventh South Australia one-twelfth and Tasmania one-fiftieth” And it was resolved that the list of Branch Mail Services required to connect the whole of the Australian Colonies with the three lines of postal communication between Great Britain and Australasia *via* Suez and King George’s Sound *via* Suez and Singapore and *via* Panama and New Zealand 5 should be as follows First—For the service *via* King George’s Sound On the arrival of the Suez steamer at Melbourne one branch steamer to leave for Launceston and another for New Zealand On the arrival of the same Suez steamer at Sydney a branch steamer to leave for Brisbane Return branch steamers to leave Brisbane New Zealand and Launceston in time to reach Sydney and Melbourne 10 respectively before the departure of the steamer for Suez The Adelaide mails by this line will be delivered by the Suez steamer at Kangaroo Island and conveyed to and from that island by a branch service Second—For the service *via* Singapore On the arrival of the Singapore steamer at Sydney one branch steamer to leave that port for a port in New Zealand and another for Melbourne On the 15 arrival of the latter vessel at Melbourne either the same or another vessel to proceed to Adelaide and a branch steamer also to proceed to Launceston Branch steamers to return to Melbourne and Sydney respectively in time to catch a return mail to Singapore Third—For the service *via* Panama On the arrival of the 20 Panama steamer at Wellington a branch steamer to leave for Melbourne On the arrival there either the same or another vessel to proceed to Adelaide and another branch steamer to proceed to Launceston On arrival of the Panama steamer at Sydney a branch steamer to proceed to Brisbane The branch steamers to return to Sydney and Wellington respectively in time for a return mail to Panama All the branch services to be performed at a speed of not less than nine and a half knots 25 per hour The several branch steamers to take their departure on the outward journey within six hours of the arrival of the Trunk Line steamer and if necessary to await her arrival for a period not exceeding three days beyond her due date And whereas a Memorial to Her Majesty the Queen setting forth the advantages of the proposed scheme of postal communication and praying that Her Majesty may 30 be advised to take such steps as may be expedient by terminating or re-adjusting present contracts or calling for fresh tenders for the performance of the main Services to establish the proposed United Australasian Postal system without drawing upon the resources of the Colonies beyond the sum which they undertake to pay was duly signed by all the said delegates and has been forwarded for presentation 35 to Her Majesty And whereas it was agreed at the said Conference that in accordance with the suggestion emanating from the Imperial Government the Colonies in combination should undertake to call for tenders and enter into the contracts necessary for connecting the Australian Colonies with the lines of postal communication maintained by the Imperial Government And that with a view to 40 the adoption of the measures requisite for this purpose and also for carrying out in other respects the resolutions of the Conference it was deemed expedient that a Federal Council comprising representatives from all the Australian Colonies should be established

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows—

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “The British-Australasian Mail Services Act 1867.”

Resolutions of the 4th March 1867 and subsequent days ratified.

2. The Governor with the advice of the Executive Council of the Colony may and he is hereby authorized by Order in Council on behalf of this Colony to confirm subject to any modifications hereby authorized to be made the arrangement adopted on behalf of the Colony at the Conference aforesaid by the said John Hall and Crosbie Ward and the same subject to such modifications being so confirmed shall be valid and effectual and shall bind the Government of the Colony as fully as if the said arrangement had been made under or by virtue of an Act of the 55 General Assembly.

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3. The Governor in Council may agree with the Governors of the Colonies of Victoria New South Wales South Australia Queensland and Tasmania to vary all or any of the stipulations of the said arrangement and to make provision for admitting the Colony of Western Australia to a participation in the benefits of the same And in the event of the said Colony of Western Australia declining to co-operate therein for contributing to supplement the sum needed to make good the present deficiency in the contribution to the sum of two hundred thousand pounds mentioned in the said arrangement and to make and enter into and execute any formal contract which may be deemed necessary or expedient for the ratification of the same.
4. The Governor in Council may in concert with the Governors of the Colonies represented in the said Conference call for tenders and enter into the contracts necessary for connecting the Australian Colonies with the lines of postal communication maintained by the Imperial Government.
5. The Governor in Council may appoint a suitable person or persons to represent the Colony of New Zealand in any Conference or Federal Council for the purpose of entering into and carrying out the said arrangement and any agreements or contracts connected therewith or in relation thereto.
6. Provided always that any such contracts for carrying out the main service or services shall be terminable by two years' notice to be given at any time not earlier than the expiration of five years from the commencement of the contract.
7. Provided always that the amount of money to be expended by or taken from the revenues of the Colony in any one year for the purposes of the said arrangement or contract or any alteration thereof shall not in any case exceed one-fourth part of the sum of £200,000 (two hundred thousand pounds) mentioned in the said arrangement with such further sum (if any shall be required to complete the said sum of two hundred thousand pounds) after the proportionate sums agreed to be contributed by the several Colonies shall have been contributed as may be equal to one-fourth part of the deficiency The Colonial Treasurer shall issue and pay a sum or sums not exceeding the proportionate sum or sums mentioned in the said arrangement or contract in any one year for the purposes of the said arrangement or contract upon such days and in such sums as the Governor by any warrant to be signed by him shall from time to time order and direct And every payment so to be made shall be charged upon and be payable out of the ordinary revenue of the Colony.
8. The Colonial Treasurer shall in his accounts from time to time be allowed credit for any sum of money paid by him in pursuance of any warrant issued by virtue of this Act and the receipt of the person to whom the same shall be so paid shall be a full and valid discharge to the said Treasurer in passing his accounts for any such sum as shall be mentioned therein Provided always that for or in respect of the time in respect of which any money shall become payable out of and from the revenue of the Colony of New Zealand under this Act no money shall be expended or taken from the revenue of the Colony of New Zealand nor shall such revenue be in any way liable to pay any money under or by virtue of "The Panama Mail Service Act 1864" or "The Panama Mail Service Act Amendment Act 1865."

The Governor in Council may agree to vary stipulations of the arrangement.

The Governor in Council in concert with Colonial Governors may enter into Contracts.

May appoint Representative of Colony in Postal Conference.

Termination of Contract.

Limit of sums to be paid in respect of Contract.

Colonial Treasurer to be allowed credit for sums paid under this Act.

No money to be paid under Panama Mail Service Acts while money payable under this Act.