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(Hon. Mr. Vogel.)

Telegraph Cables Subsidy Agreement Ratification.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITLED

AN ACT to authorize the Governor to agree with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland for jointly subsidizing Lines of Telegraph between New Zealand and New South Wales, and between Queensland and Singapore. Title.

WHEREAS certain Articles of Agreement were on the fourteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, made and entered into between the Honorable Henry Parkes and the Honorable Saul Samuel on behalf of New South Wales, and the Honorable Julius Vogel and the Honorable William Hunter Reynolds on behalf of New Zealand, and the Honorable Arthur Hunter Palmer and the Honorable J. Malbon Thompson on behalf of Queensland, which articles are as follows, that is to say— Preamble.

- 10 (1.) The three Colonies shall jointly enter into an arrangement for the construction of an Electric Cable, to be laid between some point in New Zealand and some point in New South Wales, and also a cable to be laid from Normantown, in Queensland, to Singapore: the latter to be a through cable, touching only at such points as may be agreed on, and to be entirely distinct the whole distance from the line between Port Darwin and Singapore.
- 15 (2.) The arrangement to be for a guarantee of five per cent. for a term not exceeding thirty-five years, upon a sum not exceeding one million pounds, for the cost of the two lines.
- 20 (3.) Twelve thousand pounds per annum to be allowed, to cover in full all expenses. All receipts above twelve thousand pounds to pass in reduction of the guarantee. The contractors to retain receipts in excess of the guarantee; but if the profits are more than ten per cent. the Governments may require that the rate shall be lowered to amounts calculated to reduce the profits to ten per cent.
- 25 (4.) The guarantee to be paid only whilst the lines are in working order: Provided that four weeks in each year will be allowed for repairs. If the New Zealand line only be in order, one-third of the guarantee to be paid; if the Singapore line only be in order, two-thirds of the guarantee to be paid. If the lines are not kept in order with due diligence, or if communication should permanently fail, the guarantee to cease.
- 30 (5.) The two lines to be commenced and constructed simultaneously.
- 35 (6.) The cost per message of twenty words, from New Zealand to New South Wales, not to exceed fifteen shillings, the charge for each word above twenty being ninepence; and
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the cost per twenty words from Normantown to Singapore not to exceed forty shillings for the first two years, and thirty-five shillings afterwards, the charge for each word above twenty being two shillings.

- (7.) Queensland to undertake to keep the land line to Norman- 5
town open for the use of the other contributing Colonies,
at rates not to exceed at any time seven shillings for
twenty words.
- (8.) The three Governments to act in unison, and to jointly 10
arrange the details.
- (9.) This agreement, after being approved of by the respective 15
Governments, to be subject to ratification by the respec-
tive Parliaments; and the details to be arranged in
London, by representatives appointed by the three
Colonies.
- (10.) The Governments will require to be satisfied that the con-
tractors have made proper provision for the use of a
through line of communication between Singapore and
London.

And whereas the said agreement has been approved of by the Govern- 20
ments respectively of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queens-
land; and it is expedient that the same should, on the part of New
Zealand, be ratified by the General Assembly of New Zealand:

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New 25
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 Telegraph Cables
Subsidy Agreement Ratification Act, 1873.”
- Authority to ratify 2. The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council of 30
contract. New Zealand, may, subject to and with the modifications (if any)
hereby authorized to be made, ratify the said Articles of Agreement;
and the same, subject to and with such modifications (if any),
being so ratified, shall be binding on New Zealand.
- Authority to vary 3. The Governor in Council, or any person authorized by the 35
terms. Governor in Council in that behalf, may, subject to the provisions of
this Act, agree with the Governments of New South Wales and
Queensland respectively, or any person or persons duly authorized to
act for such Governments respectively, for any modifications of the
said agreement.
- Authority jointly 4. The Governor in Council, or any person authorized by the 40
with New South Governor in Council in this behalf, may, subject to the provisions of
Wales and Queens- this Act, jointly with the Governments of New South Wales and
land to contract with Queensland respectively, or any person or persons duly authorized to
Company, &c. act for such Governments respectively, agree with any company or
person for the construction and maintenance of the said Telegraph 45
Cables on the terms and conditions contained in the said Articles of
Agreement, subject to and with the modification of the same (if any)
agreed upon under the powers contained in the preceding section of
this Act.
- Expenditure not to 5. It shall not be lawful, by any modification of the said recited 50
exceed £17,000 agreement, or by any agreement with any company or person entered
annually for into under the provisions of the preceding section, to stipulate for the
thirty-five years. expenditure of any money from the revenue of New Zealand for the
purposes of any such agreement as aforesaid, exceeding seventeen
thousand pounds in any one year, nor shall any such modification or 55
agreement be made stipulating for such expenditure during a period
exceeding thirty-five years.
- Appropriation of 6. For the purposes aforesaid, there shall and may from time to 60
£17,000 annually time be issued and applied, in each and every year during the period
for thirty-five years. of thirty-five years, commencing from the time of the completion of
the said lines of telegraph, out of the Consolidated Fund, any sum or
sums not exceeding seventeen thousand pounds.