

1862-3.

---

VICTORIA.

---

# REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF

# ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH,

ON THE

ADVANCEMENT AND CONDITION OF HIS DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1862.

WITH FOUR APPENDICES AND A CHART.

---

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

---

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

# REPORT.

Department of Electric Telegraph,  
Office of the General Superintendent,  
Melbourne, 28th February, 1863.

SIR,

At the date of my Report detailing the advancement and general condition of this department up to the end of 1861, the following new lines and extensions of the existing communication had been decided upon, and votes for the necessary expenditure (£34,250) were subsequently passed by Parliament on the 18th June following:—

Removal to, and re-erection of lines along the routes of the railway between Geelong and Ballarat, and between Melbourne and Sandhurst (including special provision of a distinct wire for railway service).

A second (intercolonial) wire between Albury, New South Wales, and Mount Gambier, South Australia (including the extension of telegraphic communication to Colac and Camperdown).

A branch line from Ballarat to Smythesdale.

A line from Avoca to Red Bank (including Moonambel).

An extension of the Inglewood line, from that place to Swan Hill.

Tenders were invited and contracts accepted for the several works above mentioned, as soon as possible after the requisite expenditure had been sanctioned by the Legislature; but the wet season had then so far advanced that the progress of the contracts was materially interrupted, and, I may say, almost entirely suspended, until the opening of the present summer. I now anticipate, however, that within the ensuing month I shall be able to render available the additional extent of communication above detailed.

## OFFICES OPENED DURING 1862.

The undermentioned offices have been opened for business during the past year, on the dates respectively mentioned:—

Rutherglen	...	...	...	25th August.
Buninyong	...	...	...	27th October.
South Geelong (Railway Station)	...	...	...	21st April.
West Geelong	do.	...	...	21st April.
Werribee	do.	...	...	19th April.
Williamstown	do., and Geelong Junction...	...	...	19th April.
Little River (Railway Station)	...	...	...	19th November, 1862.

## LINES FOR CONSTRUCTION DURING 1863.

Provision has been made for the following extensions, &c., to be carried out within the present year:—

1. A line connecting Melbourne with Sale and Port Albert (Gipps Land).
2. A branch line from Castlemaine to Newstead.
3. A branch line from Hexham to Mortlake.

Including provision for alterations, improvements, &c., to existing lines, and for repairs, additions, &c., to stations (£7,500), the total expenditure has been set down at £18,500, showing a decrease of £17,000 on account of similar expenditure for 1862.

In the item for alterations and improvements, &c., to existing lines, is embraced the cost of effecting an alteration in a section of the Western line (contingent on the opening of the new intercolonial wire), which, when completed, will afford doubly increased facilities for the maintenance and working of the main, local, and intercolonial communication; there will be then two distinct and independent lines between Melbourne and Portland, and thence by double wires on single posts to Mount Gambier; *thus*—one line direct to Portland and

Mount Gambier *via* Geelong, Colac, Camperdown, Warrnambool, and Belfast; and a second or independent line *via* Geelong, Ballarat, Beaufort, Streatham, Hexham, Penshurst (Mount Rouse), and Hamilton, to Portland, and thence by independent wire to Mount Gambier.

The advantages of this arrangement in maintaining the communication are, I think, sufficiently obvious; a double security against interruption will be thereby attained, and the principal towns in the interior as well as those on the sea-board will enjoy greatly increased telegraphic facilities.

It has been strongly recommended that the route of the Gipps Land line should follow the main road *via* Oakleigh, Dandenong, and Cranbourne, thence *via* Sawtell's Creek, crossing to the southward of the Koo-we-rup, or Great Swamp, keeping the best track thence to Rosedale, Sale, and Port Albert, in preference to the old track *via* Pakenham and the Bunyip; but the selection of the route will only be decided upon, after the most accurate information may have been collected with reference to the nature of the country, through those best acquainted with its peculiarities, and most conversant with the several requirements of the case.

The instructions for the guidance of the surveyor specially direct that, in marking the route for the telegraph line, the facilities attainable for the eventual formation of a permanent road on the same survey, are to be constantly kept prominently in view; by this means, it is hoped that both services may be practically benefited—such a result having already accrued under similar conditions in other portions of the colony.

The importance of telegraphic communication to the Jordan Gold Fields has not been overlooked, and with your sanction I purpose recommending that the necessary provision for that work should be made during the ensuing year.

#### LOCAL TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

On the 14th July last, I had the honor of submitting to yourself and honorable colleagues, a proposition for establishing a system of telegraphic communication between the several departmental offices of the Government, in Melbourne (*vide* papers, Appendix A), based on the same general principles as those on which the operations of the London District Telegraph Company would appear to have been carried out. This proposition was approved, and the requisite steps were adopted for importing the necessary instruments, wire, &c., through the intervention of the Honorable H. C. E. Childers, at present acting as Agent-General for this colony, in connection with the importation of railway materials.

Advices recently addressed to me by Mr. Childers (Appendix A.) convey, I am happy to state, most satisfactory intelligence with reference to the execution of the order transmitted hence, through the Honorable the Treasurer. Instruments of a superior description (Professor Wheatstone's patent) had been selected, and these, with the remainder of the materials ordered, would be despatched for Melbourne with the least possible delay.

The completion of the intended system of local communication will, I consider, supply to a considerable extent increased facilities for the transaction of public business between the several departments, and tend to remove many of the difficulties under which some of the departments at present labor owing to the widely separated positions of many of the offices. It is also probable that the working of the local system of communication under mention, if successful results are attained, may eventually lead to its being generally adopted for economically extending the advantages of the Electric Telegraph to outlying Suburban localities, such as Brighton, St. Kilda, Prahran, Richmond, Collingwood, Pentridge, &c., where such an accommodation could not be provided under our general system of telegraphs, without incurring an expenditure quite disproportioned to the probable revenue returns.

#### COMBINATION OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGER OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH, WITH THE DUTIES OF POSTMASTER AT COUNTRY STATIONS.

Combined telegraphic and post office duties are now conducted by the managers at thirty-four (34) stations, *viz.*:—Portland, Belfast, Warrnambool, Hexham, Streatham, Stawell, Beaufort, Creswick, Buninyong, Daylesford, Clunes, Talbot, Carisbrook, Avoca, Maldon, Dunolly, Tarnagulla, Inglewood, Echuca, Kyneton, Taradale, Gisborne, Sandridge, Snapper Point, Heathcote, Kilmore, Longwood, Benalla, Wangaratta, Belvoir, Yackandandah, Chiltern, Rutherglen, and Wabgunyah.

It is intended that the services shall be combined at Ararat, and at the offices about to be established at Smythesdale, Moonambel, Red Bank, Swan Hill, Colac, and Camperdown.

At most of the stations where the two services have been combined, the duties, in so far as they relate to this department, are satisfactorily performed; but I regret having again to express my opinion that at several of the stations above named, the work of each service could be more advantageously rendered in all respects, were the offices conducted as originally, under distinct management; my reasons for this belief are fully detailed in a paragraph on the subject in page seven (7) of my last Annual Report (Parliamentary Paper, No. 111.)

#### WORKING OF THE LINES.

During the last year the lines generally have continued in good working order, the repairs required on the section of the western line between Warrnambool and the South Australian boundary were found, on close inspection, to be of a more extensive character than was at first supposed necessary, the contract expenditure was therefore supplemented to the extent of £2000, which amount will suffice to complete the work in a thoroughly efficient manner. The accompanying Return (Appendix B) prepared from the daily records noted at the Central Office, Melbourne, gives details as to the locality, &c., of the various interruptions on lines in this colony, and also a statement showing the interruptions which have occurred on the Intercolonial circuit beyond the termini of the Victorian lines during 1862.

The Interruptions on the local lines were thirty-two (32) in number, causing a loss of (9) nine full days, and loss through partial interruptions at intervals amounting in all to (183) one hundred and thirty-three hours.

The intercolonial communication was interrupted (beyond the boundaries of this colony) on nineteen (19) occasions, ten (10) in New South Wales and nine (9) in South Australia, involving a loss of six (6) full days and at various intervals a loss of seventy-eight and one-half ( $78\frac{1}{2}$ ) hours, viz.: three (3) days and thirty-five (35) hours on the South Australian division, and three (3) days and forty-three and one-half ( $43\frac{1}{2}$ ) hours on the New South Wales division.

The foregoing statistics with reference to the working of the lines during the past year, although marking frequent interruptions to the communication, compare favorably with those during 1861, exhibiting as they do a decrease of loss from interruptions amounting to ten (10) days and thirteen (13) hours in favor of 1862. When the peculiar features of the country over which the lines are for the most part extended (beyond the localities in which railways and regularly formed roads have an existence) are duly considered, I do not think that either the number or duration of the several interruptions can be looked upon as being other than moderate, and as the progress of improvement in the interior of the country gradually advances, it may be reasonably anticipated that a proportionably increased amount of freedom from interruption will eventually be secured.

#### SUBMARINE COMMUNICATION WITH TASMANIA.

Since the date of my last Report, no practical advance has been made towards renewing or re-establishing the telegraphic connection across Bass's Straits. In the month of March last, a gentleman, bearing the authority of the Tasmanian Government (endorsed by yourself, on behalf of this colony), proceeded to England, empowered to receive propositions from competent and responsible persons in that country for the renewal or repair of the communication, on the basis of the recommendation conveyed by my Report of the 30th April, 1861; but no official intimation has yet been received, so far as I am aware, with reference to the action taken in the matter under the authority above mentioned; it would therefore, I think, be advisable that a communication on the subject should be forwarded to the Government of Tasmania.

The advantages of renewing or re-establishing telegraphic connection with Tasmania have been already so fully advocated in my previous Reports, that I do not deem it necessary at present to re-discuss the subject.

#### LINES IN OTHER COLONIES.

I am indebted to Mr. Todd, Superintendent of Telegraphs in South Australia, for his most interesting and detailed Report, dated 29th March, 1862, on the progress and

general condition of the Electric Telegraph Department in that colony, up to the 31st December, 1861; by which it is shown that at the last named date, there were 597 miles of lines, with 914½ miles of wire, and twenty-nine (29) telegraph stations available to the public in South Australia; and that 112 miles of additional lines, in various lengths, were in course of erection. I am not in receipt of any official reports relative to telegraphic progress in New South Wales later than the 30th September, 1860, but during the past year lines have been extended and offices opened at Braidwood, Wollongong, Windeyer, Wellington, Forbes, Kiama, Grafton, Seone; and further extensions are in progress of construction from Sydney to West Maitland, East Maitland to Morpeth, Deniliquin to Hay, Wellington to Dubbo, and from Braidwood to Queanbeyan.

I have no information from Queensland with reference to further extensions in that colony.

#### TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH ENGLAND *via* INDIA.

On the 22nd September last, I had the honor to report upon the renewed proposition submitted by Mr. Francis Gisborne, on behalf of the promoters of the telegraph to India Company (Correspondence attached, Appendix C.). Since the date of my Report above mentioned, I have not received any further communication on the subject from your office.

I am aware that Mr. Todd, in South Australia, in his able Report of the 8th October last, on the same proposition, advocates the extension of an overland line northward from Adelaide to the waters of Torres Straits, in preference to a sea line *via* Cape York to either Broad Sound or Brisbane; but while fully admitting the force of his argument in support of the views he has expressed, it will, I think, be conceded that arguments equally strong may be adduced in favour of the course specially proposed by the agent of the company. Mr. Todd also suggests that a conference on the subject generally should be held between the permanent heads of the Electric Telegraph Departments in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland respectively, and that a joint Report should be agreed upon for the action of the several colonial Governments; but, while concurring in this recommendation, I consider that, until some decided intention may have been authoritatively expressed on the part of each Government to which the projected scheme has been submitted, it would be premature to convene the proposed conference.

In making my observations on Mr. Gisborne's proposition, I was, to some extent, influenced by the knowledge that the company's scheme had been carefully matured and fully considered in its many important and extended bearings; that it had received the approval of two highly competent engineers in England, by whom plans and estimates had been prepared and accurately determined after much thought and investigation; and finally, that as the company had offered to accept the *entire responsibility* on the basis of the scheme they had proposed, it would be injudicious to disturb their preconceived arrangements, provided that the benefit and convenience of the colonies had been duly considered; and as I believed that these conditions had been fairly met, so far as the plans of the company would admit (consistent with the successful accomplishment of their projected enterprise within a stated period), I felt justified on these and other grounds in making the recommendations conveyed by my Report now under remark.

In the absence of direct telegraphic communication with Great Britain *via* India, my views are strongly in favor of a westward extension to King George's Sound. A connection between Adelaide and King George's Sound would place the colonies within from (18) eighteen to (21) twenty-one days "correspondence distance" of England (after the completion of the Bagdad and Kurrachee line now decided upon). The maximum cost of the entire line would not exceed £120,000, completed in working order, and the perfect practicability of the work being performed within a comparatively moderate space of time is unquestionable.

#### FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

In the following returns, prepared from the record books at my office, will be found a detailed account of the general business of the department for the past year:—

STATEMENT showing the actual Cash Revenue derived from each Electric Telegraph Station in Victoria, during the Year 1862.

[illegible]

Dr.		DEBTOR AND CREDIT STATEMENT.		Cr.	
1862.	1863.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To total cost for working and maintenance of lines, from 1st January to 31st December, 1862—					
Salaries and Wages	.. .. .	25,083	5 7	25,083	5 7
Contingencies	.. .. .	7,806	16 8		
To Balance	.. .. .	8,540	18 2	24,281	0 5
				24,281	0 5

Department of Electric Telegraph, General Superintendent's Office,  
Melbourne, 28th February, 1952.

W. R. EUCHANAN, Accountant.

Certified correct.

SAM'L. W. McGOWAN, General Superintendent of Electric Telegraph.



STATEMENT showing the Amount chargeable for Government Business, and the Working Expenses of each Office in the Department, during the Year 1862.

Names of Stations.	Total Cash Revenue.	Value of Messages on Public Service.	Number of Messages		Total Number of Messages Transmitted	Amount paid for Salaries and Wages.	Contingencies.	Total cost for Maintenance of each station.
			Private.	O.H.M.S.				
General Supervision, including Maintenance and Repairs of 1,975 1/2 miles of line ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	..	..	..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	..	..	..	..	..	1,670 13 7	2,667 10 5	4,138 4 0
Melbourne .. ..	12,378 19 4	5,483 3 10	52,704	7,110	59,814	3,634 4 0	840 14 3	4,474 18 3
Geelong .. ..	1,282 13 8	395 9 11	10,743	1,038	11,841	1,036 18 0	274 15 8	1,333 13 8
Ballaarat .. ..	1,951 19 19	448 16 10	14,547	1,560	16,107	852 3 0	249 17 10	1,102 0 10
Banahurst .. ..	1,290 6 9	222 15 9	8,221	958	9,179	778 13 0	108 12 1	887 5 1
Beechworth .. ..	692 19 9	275 5 11	4,168	382	4,550	778 13 0	133 9 0	972 2 0
Castlemaine .. ..	889 4 4	763 11 2	7,584	1,792	9,376	658 13 0	95 13 3	724 6 3
Araucan .. ..	309 16 10	377 1 9	1,972	981	2,953	561 18 6	78 15 8	580 14 2
Maryborough .. ..	321 9 5	142 5 6	3,029	495	3,523	561 18 6	62 9 8	564 8 2
Dunolly .. ..	227 14 2	47 19 6	2,428	319	2,747	561 18 6	30 17 7	592 16 1
Portland .. ..	603 14 8	174 17 6	2,868	428	3,296	558 18 6	89 7 2	616 5 8
Echuca .. ..	146 18 9	431 4 3	812	300	1,112	422 14 6	95 15 7	518 13 1
Raglan .. ..	97 2 3	62 7 2	911	147	1,058	422 13 6	79 2 1	502 15 7
Warmanwood .. ..	464 8 2	186 13 6	2,969	435	3,404	378 5 0	42 8 7	420 13 7
Kyneton .. ..	293 18 2	75 2 2	2,429	360	2,789	378 5 0	64 2 11	442 7 11
Queenscliff .. ..	169 2 3	210 15 2	3,682	879	4,561	361 18 6	67 7 9	569 6 3
Williamstown .. ..	166 16 7	150 17 8	1,850	684	2,534	376 14 6	67 3 1	443 17 7
Bolton .. ..	397 19 19	117 0 6	2,113	371	2,484	376 18 6	71 1 7	598 0 1
Creswick .. ..	228 7 7	236 6 3	2,534	309	2,843	351 15 0	28 17 7	430 12 7
Malden .. ..	154 14 5	178 16 7	1,460	465	1,925	353 5 0	62 8 4	465 13 4
Belvoir .. ..	33 9 8	68 12 10	313	226	539	353 5 0	41 4 7	394 9 7
Talbot .. ..	278 5 0	71 9 5	2,608	356	2,964	353 5 0	46 3 0	399 8 0
Wangaratta .. ..	297 4 6	271 6 3	1,861	606	2,467	398 13 6	54 4 4	452 17 10
Daylesford .. ..	384 0 3	336 17 7	3,577	864	4,441	398 13 6	62 5 6	460 19 0
Kilmore .. ..	106 1 9	456 12 4	1,802	942	2,744	432 0 2	77 1 1	509 1 3
Gibson .. ..	42 9 3	87 12 3	496	89	585	398 13 6	30 19 2	429 12 8
Hexham .. ..	71 3 9	110 11 8	438	177	615	398 13 6	134 0 10	532 19 4
Benalla .. ..	75 10 3	558 12 6	436	789	1,445	398 13 6	64 13 6	465 7 0
Longwood .. ..	45 5 8	80 13 6	361	162	563	398 13 6	138 8 2	537 1 8
Clunes .. ..	219 1 6	124 8 3	2,302	224	2,526	398 13 6	38 6 2	436 19 8
Chiltern .. ..	293 19 0	233 13 0	2,532	406	2,938	398 13 6	103 19 1	502 12 7
Heathcote .. ..	111 5 8	210 12 5	799	339	1,138	448 13 6	35 5 5	483 16 11
Streatham .. ..	73 15 8	7 2 10	453	29	482	398 5 0	103 13 4	438 18 4
Tarnagulla .. ..	123 14 5	24 12 11	1,416	120	1,536	328 5 0	48 7 8	376 12 8
Wahgunyah .. ..	168 10 7	53 14 6	1,942	122	2,064	328 5 0	45 14 5	373 19 5
Yackandandah .. ..	163 0 8	54 18 5	1,970	223	2,193	328 5 0	41 3 9	369 8 9
Snapper Point .. ..	52 6 6	12 3 5	533	45	583	278 5 0	57 7 3	335 12 3
Sundridge .. ..	113 16 2	68 9 4	686	113	799	260 0 0	43 17 7	243 17 7
Hamilton .. ..	453 16 2	91 14 2	2,695	330	3,015	328 13 6	50 12 9	379 7 3
Avoca .. ..	120 2 8	61 11 1	1,885	368	2,463	448 13 6	45 16 6	494 30 0
Stawell .. ..	182 5 9	60 10 6	1,919	232	2,181	398 5 0	24 9 0	402 14 0
Inglewood .. ..	361 14 8	46 10 4	3,167	248	3,415	278 5 0	38 0 11	416 5 11
Entheglen .. ..	86 15 2	15 12 2	708	42	750	114 16 8	154 17 0	269 13 8
Carisbrook .. ..	77 10 4	130 11 9	909	428	1,337	278 5 0	28 8 11	306 13 11
Taradale .. ..	83 8 1	120 14 7	913	243	1,156	278 5 0	30 7 3	308 12 3
Cape Schanck .. ..	59 15 6	4 8 1	97	38	135	200 0 0	78 17 11	278 17 11
Buninyong .. ..	12 9 5	196 17 4	92	141	233	55 10 8	97 13 5	153 4 1
Albury* .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	450 0 0	85 8 10	535 8 10
Mount Gambier* ..	..	..	..	..	..	450 0 0	77 5 2	527 5 2
Cape Otway* .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	268 13 6	110 19 5	509 12 11
Point Lonsdale† ..	..	..	..	..	..	80 0 0	9 8 7	89 8 7
<i>Railway Circuit.</i>								
Woodend .. ..	188 5 11	229 12 10	2,127	800	2,927	180 0 0	34 2 0	214 2 0
Spencer-street Station ..	78 3 3	365 19 8	649	4,162	4,750	..	14 7 5	14 7 5
South Geelong .. ..	20 14 10	283 6 8	104	3,179	3,274	..	86 17 9	86 17 9
West Geelong .. ..	6 7 10	343 3 3	56	4,681	4,647	..	69 6 8	69 6 8
Little River .. ..	1 0 11	39 12 11	13	1,169	1,182	..	79 17 3	79 17 3
Werritee .. ..	9 11 3	329 2 9	144	4,456	4,600	..	77 11 0	77 11 0
Geelong Junction .. ..	1 14 2	199 19 4	51	2,725	2,746	..	72 17 0	72 17 0
Total .. ..	£35,883 2 2	£15,446 0 9	162,647	62,638	211,685	£25,833 5 7	£7,866 16 8	£33,340 2 3

\* Boundary repeating station. † Look-out shipping station.

No revenue collected.

THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS IN ACCOUNT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Cr.

Dr.

1862. 1st January to 31st December	To value of Charges on Telegrams (for Railway Service only) transmitted from the unmentioned Railway Telegraph Office:—	£	s.	d.	1862. 1st January to 31st December	By Cash revenues collected for the transmission of private Telegrams from the unmentioned Railway Telegraph Office:—	£	s.	d.
	Woodford .. .. .	58	11	10		Woodford .. .. .	188	5	11
	Spencer street, Melbourne .. .. .	333	10	5		Spencer street .. .. .	75	3	3
	South Geelong .. .. .	233	4	8		South Geelong .. .. .	20	14	10
	West Geelong .. .. .	540	3	3		West Geelong .. .. .	6	7	10
	Little River .. .. .	59	12	11		Little River .. .. .	1	0	13
	Warrabee .. .. .	228	3	5		Warrabee .. .. .	9	11	3
	Junction .. .. .	179	19	4		Junction .. .. .	1	14	2
					1,653	7	10		
	To value of Shares (Shalbourne, Asella, &c.) supplied to the above-mentioned Offices* .. .. .				424	19	1		
	To Salary of Operator, Woodford, 1st January to 31st December, paid out of Vote for Telegraph Department .. .. .	130	0	0		By Balance paid from Railway Vote for Operators at the above-mentioned Offices .. .. .			
	To Salary of Operator, Spencer street Station, from 1st January to 28th June, paid out of Telegraph Vote .. .. .	75	0	0					
	To Salary of Operator, South Geelong, from 1st March to 28th June, paid out of Telegraph Vote .. .. .	60	0	0	31st December .. .. .	By Balance carried down due to the Electric Telegraph Department .. .. .			

1862.

31st December.—To Balance brought down due to Electric Telegraph Department .. .. . £1,038 15s. 5d.

\* In valuing the Shares, full allowance has been made for the interest on the Railway Department.

Department of Electric Telegraph,  
General Superintendent's Office,  
Melbourne, 28th February, 1863.

W. R. BUCHANAN, Accountant.

Certified correct.

SAML. W. MCGOWAN,  
General Superintendent of Electric Telegraph.



## PERMANENT EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

The charges under this head are as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure for lines, stations, &c., as per previous statement, up to 31st December, 1861	168,884	1	9

## EXPENDITURE DURING 1862.

	£	s.	d.
Removal to and re-erection of lines along the railways	11,800	0	0
Intercolonial (or second) wire, Albury to Mount Gambier	15,000	0	0
Avoca to Moonambel and Redbank	750	0	0
Ballaarat to Smythesdale	553	17	11
Inglewood to Swan Hill	6,100	0	0
Alterations and additions	1,099	12	11
Rent of offices in Exchange Building	450	0	0
		35,753	10 10
Total	£204,137	12	7

## REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

I feel much pleasure in being able to inform you that the cash revenue of the department for the year 1862, £25,883 2s. 2d., exhibits an increase on the same account as compared with the previous year to the extent of £1,521 6s. 9d., and as compared with 1860 an increase of £1,442 7s. 1d.

I entertain the hope that these gratifying results may be progressive in their character, and that as the lines are extended and additional facilities provided for the benefit of the public, a practical appreciation of the valuable advantages of such a means of communication will continue to be observable in the same relative degree, as the department gradually extends its operations to several important outlying localities in some districts of the colony, as yet without the provision of a telegraph station.

The total number of messages transmitted on the service of the Government amounted to 49,038, while of private messages the number was 162,647, being respectively 8,220 and 18,777 in excess of the number transmitted during 1861, and showing the total number transmitted for the year 1862 as 211,685.

The value of messages on service amounted to £15,446 0s. 9d., which, added to the amount collected on paid messages, £25,883 2s. 2d., and the sums receivable from other colonies, £951 17s. 6d., brings up the transactions of the department for the year to the sum of £42,281 0s. 5d.

The total expenditure on account of salaries and expenses contingent on the maintenance of offices, stations, batteries, apparatus, and lines amounted to £33,340 2s. 3d., leaving a balance, accounted for as above, of £8,940 18s. 2d. in favor of the department, but as between actual cash revenue and cash expenditure, showing a deficit of £6,505 2s. 7d., thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Total cost of working and maintenance	33,340	2	3
Cash revenue	£25,883	2	2
Receivable from other colonies	951	17	6
		26,834	19 8
Deficiency	£6,505	2	7

I have in several of my previous reports expressed my opinion so strongly on the actual injustice under which my department is laboring, owing to the pressure of unpaid or free messages (classed as "On Her Majesty's Service"), that I have now little further to add on the subject, except to reiterate my oft repeated observation, that the true financial position of this important branch of the public service can never be properly determined until the existing system of passing free messages be entirely abolished, and that the same rule should

apply here as with the telegraph department in other colonies, viz., "that all messages shall be paid for at the authorised scale of charges, whether their transmission be on the service of the Government or of private individuals."

In the month of April, 1861, an attempt was made to establish a system of payment (on a very reduced scale) for messages transmitted by or on behalf of the several Government departments (the results of which were fully set forth in my report for 1861), but at the end of that year the system was discontinued, and I was instructed to revert to the original practice of passing free all messages on general service. Since the 1st of January, 1862, I have caused a daily record to be kept of the business transacted with my department by each ministerial and subordinate department in the colony.

The following is the result:—

RETURN showing the Amounts actually chargeable to each Government Department for Telegrams transmitted during the year ending 31st December, 1862.

DEPARTMENTS UNDER CONTROL OF CHIEF SECRETARY.

	£	s.	d.
Chief Secretary's Office .. .. .	306	6	4
Legislative Assembly—Library and Shorthand Writer .. .. .	7	6	9
Registrar-General .. .. .	7	9	3
Goals and Penal Establishments .. .. .	2	17	3
H. M. Steamer <i>Victoria</i> .. .. .	2	8	3
Police .. .. .	3,799	17	5
Medical and Lunatic Asylum .. .. .	28	3	2
Magnetic Survey .. .. .	8	16	2
Botanic Gardens .. .. .	0	15	1
Audit Office .. .. .	15	7	3
Education .. .. .	10	10	10
Electoral .. .. .	15	14	2
Total .. .. .	£3,198	11	11

DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

	£	s.	d.
Crown Law Officers .. .. .	220	15	4
Prothonotary .. .. .	3	15	3
Commissioner of Insolvency .. .. .	0	13	4
Sheriffs .. .. .	87	3	8
Judges .. .. .	33	2	4
Master in Equity .. .. .	0	8	2
Total .. .. .	£335	15	1

DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

	£	s.	d.
Police Magistrates .. .. .	50	2	3
County Courts .. .. .	53	3	7
Clerks .. .. .	26	3	5
Total .. .. .	£129	9	3

DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE TREASURER.

	£	s.	d.
Volunteers .. .. .	117	14	3
Government Stores .. .. .	17	5	7
Treasury .. .. .	233	4	2
Government Printer .. .. .	9	8	4
Military .. .. .	5	19	8
Royal Engineers .. .. .	20	8	6
Total .. .. .	£414	0	6

DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS AND SURVEY.

	£	s.	d.
Crown Lands and Survey .. .. .	388	13	11
Geodetic Survey .. .. .	28	11	3
Total .. .. .	£417	5	2

DEPARTMENTS UNDER COMMISSIONER OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS.

	£	s.	d.
Customs .. .. .	306	5	2
Distilleries .. .. .	45	14	6
Immigration .. .. .	41	3	5
Total .. .. .	£392	3	1

DEPARTMENTS UNDER POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

	£	s.	d.
Mines .. .. .	134	5	9
Post Office .. .. .	305	16	7
Total .. .. .	£440	2	4

DEPARTMENTS UNDER COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

	£	s.	d.
Hallways .. .. .	1,909	7	5
Roads .. .. .	57	13	11
Total .. .. .	£1,967	1	4

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Departments under the Chief Secretary .. .. .	3,198	11	11
.. .. . Attorney General .. .. .	335	15	1
.. .. . Minister of Justice .. .. .	129	9	3
.. .. . Treasurer .. .. .	414	0	6
.. .. . Commissioner of Lands and Survey .. .. .	417	5	2
.. .. . Commissioner of Public Works .. .. .	255	12	5
.. .. . Commissioner of Trade and Customs .. .. .	392	3	1
.. .. . Postmaster-General .. .. .	440	2	4
.. .. . Commissioner of Railways and Roads .. .. .	1,967	1	4
Miscellaneous, including free transmission of shipping intelligence to fourteen stations .. .. .	1,825	16	8
Total .. .. .	£15,446	0	9

Certified correct.

W. R. BUCHANAN,  
Accountant.

SAM'L W. MCGOWAN,  
General Superintendent of Electric Telegraph.

Department of Electric Telegraph,  
General Superintendent's Office,  
Melbourne, 23rd February, 1863.

I would again earnestly beg to urge this subject on the serious attention of yourself and your honorable colleagues, with the view of procuring the adoption of my recommendation, before submitted, that public and private business should be placed on the same footing, so that all messages transmitted over the lines should be alike paid for *in cash*.

The remarks of Mr. Todd, in his last report on the electric telegraph department in South Australia, in alluding to the statistics of my previous report, are so much to the

point, and so applicable at the present time, that I take the liberty of quoting a paragraph from the document under mention. Mr. Todd says:—

“The value of the service messages (in Victoria) in 1860 was no less than £21,270 12s., clearly showing the consequences of the public departments not having to pay for their messages, as is the practice here and in New South Wales, where the proportion of service telegrams is comparatively trifling. It is scarcely necessary to remark that this extensive use of the telegraph on service must greatly add to the pressure on the lines, and the consequent delay of payable business.”

These conclusions, I need not observe, are undeniable; and the facts having now been placed before you in a fair and reasonable light, I leave the matter in your hands, with the hope that you will, as soon as possible, see fit to adopt the requisite remedial measures therein. I may add, in closing my remarks on this subject, that, through enquiries made with reference to the practice in England, I have been informed, on reliable authority, that all telegrams on the service of the Government in that country are paid for on the same scale as private messages; and also, that all shipping reports transmitted by electric telegraph are paid for either at press rates when intended for publication, or as private messages when specially addressed.

#### **LINES AND STATIONS AT PRESENT IN OPERATION.**

I have appended to this report a statement (Appendix D) showing the extent of the several lines, and the number of electric telegraph stations at present available in the colony.

An outline chart, showing the routes of the respective lines and their various connections throughout the country, is also attached.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SAML. W. McGOWAN.

The Honorable

The Postmaster-General,

&c.,      &c.,      &c.