

No. XXIX.

An Act to enable the Government of this Colony to re-establish a regular and expeditious Postal Communication by Steam with Great Britain. [22nd November, 1855.]

STEAM POSTAL
SERVICE.
—

WHEREAS it is of great importance to Her Majesty's Australasian Preamble.
Colonies to establish a regular frequent and expeditious Postal Communication by steam between Great Britain and those Colonies And whereas it is proposed that the Government of this Colony should co-operate for that purpose with the Governments of the several other Australasian Colonies or that in default of and until the making of such co-operative arrangements the Government of this Colony should enter into contracts for the monthly conveyance of Mails by steam to and from Singapore in connection with the Steam Mail Packets from that

Steam Postal Service.

that port Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

Governor with the advice of the Executive Council may make arrangements with the Governments of the other Australasian Colonies for the establishment of a monthly Postal Communication with Great Britain provided the expense to be borne by this Colony shall not exceed the amount limited by this Act.

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor of this Colony with the advice of His Executive Council to make or cause arrangements to be made with the Governments of the other Australasian Colonies or any of them for the establishment of a monthly or half-monthly Postal Steam Communication with Great Britain as aforesaid and as to the proportion of the expense thereof to be borne by this Colony during any term not exceeding five years provided that such proportion shall not in any one year exceed the sum of twenty thousand pounds and also to join or cause the Postmaster General of this Colony to join in any contract with any person or persons for any term not exceeding five years for the conveyance of the Post Office Mails in manner aforesaid between Great Britain and the said Colonies respectively and also in concurrence with the Governments of the said other Colonies or any of them to enter into or cause to be entered into such arrangements as may be required to be made with Her Majesty's Imperial Government or with the Postmaster General of England in respect of any such contract of conveyance and the terms and conditions thereof and with respect to the proportion of the expense of such conveyance to be borne by Great Britain and in like manner to make or cause to be made in concurrence with the said other Colonial Governments or any of them arrangements with Her Majesty's Imperial Government as to the distribution between Great Britain and the said Colonies respectively of the amounts to be received by the Postmasters General of England and of the said Colonies respectively for postages on all letters packets and parcels which shall be thereafter conveyed by post between Great Britain and the said Colonies or any of them.

Until such arrangements made Government of this Colony may separately contract for conveyance of mails to and from Singapore.

2. In default of and until the making of any such co-operative arrangements with the several other Australasian Colonies or any of them for the purposes aforesaid it shall be lawful for the Governor of this Colony with the advice of His Executive Council to enter into contracts with any companies or individuals for the conveyance of Post Office Mails by steam to and from Singapore once in every month for any term of years not exceeding five provided that the amount of payment to be made out of the Public Revenues of this Colony upon any such contract shall not in any one year exceed the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds nor shall in any portion of a year exceed a sum at the rate of twenty-five thousand pounds for the whole year and also to enter into or cause to be entered into such arrangements as may in such case be required to be made with Her Majesty's Imperial Government or with the Postmaster General of England as to the distribution between Great Britain and this Colony of the amount to be received by the Postmasters General of England and of this Colony for postages on all letters packets and parcels which shall be conveyed between Great Britain and this Colony by way of Singapore as aforesaid.