

— No. 4. —

CORRESPONDENCE relative to the PROPOSED CONTRACTS with the ATLANTIC ROYAL MAIL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, for the Conveyance of Mails to the *United States* and *British North America* *viâ* *Galway*.

The Directors of the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, tendering for the Conveyance of Mails to the *United States* and *British North America*, *viâ* *Galway*.

40, Cannon-street, London,  
18 January 1859.

My Lords,

WE, the Directors of the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, have now the honour to make the following tender to convey mails between this country and America :—

We beg respectfully to inform your Lordships that we have completed the contracts for the building of five steamships, which will be possessed of all the advantages and improvements that modern science can confer. Such vessels are to be 2,359 builder's tonnage; and are guaranteed, by contract, to run 20 miles an hour in smooth water.

The route that we propose to follow is well known to your Lordships to be the most direct between this country and North America, and offers the advantages of travelling a part of the journey by railroad, which necessarily lessens the time of transit, and effects a saving of about 420 miles in the sea voyage.

The harbour of Galway can be entered at all hours, so that no delay will arise from the state of the tide.

The time thus saved will, we consider, be four clear days in the out and home trip, and the public will also secure the advantage of an additional period of eight days for sending correspondence by the return mail.

We, therefore, propose to contract to carry the mails from Galway to Portland, Boston, or New York, *viâ* St. John's, Newfoundland, or otherwise, for the sum of 3,000 £. per voyage, such voyage being the passage out and home.

These voyages to be, at the outset, fortnightly or weekly, as the Government may require. The contract to be for seven years. The Company will undertake to provide every accommodation for those who are to take charge of and sort the mails.

We propose to contract with the Government for the conveyance of troops to and between any of the ports at which our vessels touch, at 50 per cent. less than the existing rates recently adopted by the Government.

We will also undertake to convey telegraphic messages from the United Kingdom to British North America and the United States in six days, casualties excepted. It is quite needless to expatiate on the great advantages thus obtained by both the Government and the public.

We beg to submit that there would be in the harbour of Galway one or two large and powerful steamers always at the command of Government within an hour's reach of Athlone, one of the chief military stations in Ireland.

The Directors call the attention of your Lordships to the fact that the contract which has just been concluded by the Government with the North-Western Railway Company, for a postal service between London and Kingstown in eleven hours, twice a day each way, will, when the contract comes into operation, accelerate the transmission of the mails through the Galway route, and will thus enable the Company to place the mails on board their vessels in the harbour of Galway (being nearly 400 miles nearer America than Liverpool), in 15 hours after leaving London.

As some evidence of the desire of the public for the establishment of this line, we have the honour to refer to the memorials from the principal towns and commercial bodies in the United Kingdom in favour of the same.

The Board have given their anxious consideration to the subject of the subsidy they should ask for this service, being desirous of performing such service on terms which might be considered acceptable to the Government; but it is proper to add that these terms would not be remunerative if the Company did not possess other advantages.

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