

tection and encouragement of our legislature, no less than they require the control of our laws?

"To effect this object, which circumstances almost daily brought under my notice, appear to me to render imperatively necessary; the draft of an ordinance will be prepared with as little delay as circumstances, and the collection of all the requisite preliminary information, will permit.

"Not altogether unconnected with this subject is that of a projected railway communication between Colombo and the coffee districts. I have every reason to believe that such an undertaking, to the extent in the first instance of 32 miles, will be not long delayed. I have received the authority of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, to submit for your consideration an Ordinance, having for its object the facilitating this desirable undertaking, and to give to its projectors such privileges and power as cannot fail to secure the ultimate accomplishment of the end in view, with advantage to the public and to the shareholders.

"As soon as I have received information that the arrangements of the company are sufficiently matured, and the requisite proportion of the subscribed capital has been paid up, I shall not fail to submit to you such an Ordinance as may be required for the purpose.

"Increased facilities of postal communication with England will, I hope, be shortly afforded by an arrangement with the Directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which has been already sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury, according to which one of the steamers of that company will be despatched monthly from Galle to Bombay, touching at Colombo, and returning by the same route. I am in communication with the Government of Bombay, upon the subject of the regular transmission of the English mails by this opportunity, by which means the Government steamer, "Seaforth," may in future be employed upon the more legitimate objects of its original equipment."

#### NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY.—The diminished supply of tallow from this Colony during the last year, as compared with the previous one, no doubt assisted in some degree in raising the price to the height it had at-

tained in the English market at the last advices. The export in 1846 could hardly, we think, have been more than one-third of the quantity sent home in 1845. The probable export of this year we have heard estimated at 10,000 tons, nearly three times the quantity exported in 1845; and for the whole of this, more particularly if a large portion of it be sent home early, a higher average price will no doubt be obtained than has yet been realised in any one year for Australian tallow. There are some amongst us who are disposed to lament in rather a lachrymose vein over the general and extensive preparations which are making for rendering a number of our fat stock into tallow. We confess that we can only see in this process the means of adding to the income of our stockholders, and through them to that of the community. It would doubtless be better if we could obtain for consumers those at home who have no beef or mutton to consume; if this could be accomplished, those parties would be better fed, and our graziers would be better paid for stock rearing. But many years will elapse before the demand for animal food in this country will press upon the supply; and in the meantime, the only question to determine is, to what purpose can stock be converted so as to return the largest remuneration to the breeder. Experience has determined that for the present the tallow trade affords the best market for our fat stock, in seasons like the present, when the supply exceeds so greatly the wants of our own population for food. And we hope that the settlers generally will take advantage of the present favourable season to convert their fat stock freely into tallow. By doing so they will sustain the value of cattle and sheep required for home use; they will lighten the increasing demand for labour in the pastoral districts, and thus check the rise of wages to an exorbitant rate; and they will be adding to their own incomes, and also enriching the Colony without trenching in any injurious way on its future capabilities. The extent to which boiling down can be safely carried on may be left to the stockholders themselves. They are in the best position to judge whether an addition to their stock-in-trade, or to their annual incomes, is likely, under existing circumstances, to be most profitable to them; and whichever