

— No. 40. —

Mr. *John Burns* to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

My Lords,

London, 3 December 1867.

IN making the arrangements now concluded with Her Majesty's Government, for the conveyance of the North American mails, I beg to state that I have been actuated by a desire to meet the wishes of the Government, and have accordingly agreed, on the part of my firm, to conduct the service between Liverpool and New York, upon exceptional terms, adapted to meet the exigencies of the public service, and to relieve the Government from a difficulty which had arisen, owing to the American Post Office not having acceded to the proposition of Her Majesty's Government for an arrangement with them for the carriage of the homeward mails, and which necessarily prevented Her Majesty's Government from completing an agreement for a more permanent service; and I take this opportunity of stating that, whilst I have cheerfully acquiesced in the views of the Government, I do not wish these arrangements, which have been made to meet a special case, to form a precedent for any future action which it may be incumbent upon my firm to take in regard to postal contracts.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Burns.*

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

— No. 41. —

The Secretary to the Treasury to Mr. *John Burns*.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 3 December 1867.

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that my Lords readily admit that your firm have met the Government with regard to the conveyance of the North American mails in a spirit whereby they have been enabled, in a position of considerable difficulty, to conclude a Contract that will, in their judgment, be advantageous to the public, and they are willing to put on record their opinion that, in any future negotiation, your firm ought not to be prejudiced by the terms upon which the present Contract has been based.

I am, &c.

(signed) *George Ward Hunt.*

John Burns, Esq.,

on behalf of

Messrs. Cunard, Burns & MacIver.