

weekly mail service to and from New York, for a period of 12 months, on the understanding that the whole amount received by them for sea postage of homeward mails shall be paid over to this Department, and I am to transmit, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, a copy of the reply received from Messrs. Cunard, accepting this offer.

I am, at the same time, to enclose, for the approval of the Lords Commissioners, a draft contract which has been prepared for this service.

George Ward Hunt, Esq., M.P.,  
&c. &c. &c.  
Treasury.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Tilley.*

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Enclosure in No. 37.

Sir,

London, 30 November 1867.

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter to us of this date, and hereby to intimate that we accept the offer therein made to us, for the performance by us of a weekly service from Liverpool to and from New York direct (calling at Queenstown on the outward and homeward voyages) during one year after the termination of our present mail contract, for a payment of Eighty thousand pounds sterling (80,000 *l.*), we undertaking to pay over to Her Majesty's Postmaster General the entire amount of any sea postage which we may receive on account of the conveyance of the homeward mails.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *Cunard, Burns & MacIver,*  
per *John Burns.*

The Secretary of the Post Office.

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— No. 38. —

The Secretary to the Treasury to the Postmaster General.

My Lord Duke,

Treasury Chambers, 3 December 1867.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have considered the Draft Contract, enclosed in your letter of the 30th ultimo, with Messrs. Cunard, Burns & MacIver, for the conveyance of mails to New York.

They direct me to signify to your Grace their approval, and I am to authorise you to execute the said Contract without further delay.

The Postmaster General,  
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *George Ward Hunt.*

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— No. 39. —

The Secretary to the Treasury to the Postmaster General.

My Lord Duke,

Treasury Chambers, 3 December 1867.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have considered the reasons upon which you found your recommendation, that they should not accept the tender of the Hamburgh American Steamship Company, and they acquiesce in your Grace's opinion.

*See Letter from  
Postmaster General  
of 19 November,  
No. 21.*

Their Lordships understand further that if the public desire to make use of the vessels of the Company, they can do so by specially addressing their letters for such vessels.

I am therefore to authorise your Grace to intimate to the said Company that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to accept their offer for the conveyance of mails to New York.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *George Ward Hunt.*

His Grace the Postmaster General.