

**STEAM TO AUSTRALIA, ITS GENERAL  
ADVANTAGES CONSIDERED; THE DIFFERENT  
PROPOSED ROUTES FOR CONNECTING  
LONDON AND SYDNEY COMPARED; AND THE  
EXPEDIENCY OF FORMING A SETTLEMENT AT  
CAPE YORK, IN TORRES STRAIT, POINTED OUT  
IN A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL GREY**

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Steam to Australia, its general advantages considered; the different proposed routes for connecting London and Sydney compared; and the expediency of forming a settlement at Cape York, in Torres Strait, pointed out in a letter to the right Hon. Earl Grey by Adam Bogue

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**ADAM BOGUE**

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11/16

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AT

CAPE YORK, IN TORRES STRAIT,

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A LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL GREY,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

By ADAM BOGUE.

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TO THE  
RIGHT HONORABLE EARL GREY,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

MY LORD,

*Maggs Aug. 16, 1946*  
I take the liberty of addressing you on subjects which concern the paramount interests of the British Empire, as well as those of the Australian Colonies: not the particular interests of individuals.

That which will redound to the immortal honour of Great Britain, will tend materially to strengthen and consolidate her power, will treble the wealth and develop the already great resources of Australia; and will at the same time be of incredible benefit to the whole family of man, cannot but be interesting to a patriotic minister of the Crown, I therefore make no apology for addressing your Lordship on such important topics. In the following pages will be considered, first, steam communication with Australia and the different proposed routes.

Then the expediency of forming a settlement at Cape York, in Torres Strait.

The first subject has been agitated to a considerable extent in England, by those interested in this portion of Her Majesty's dominions. It has also received a

share of your Lordship's attention, and I understand you only wait the result of colonial opinion, as to the best route, and of the trial voyage of a vessel propelled by the auxiliary screw, which is now about to leave London for Sydney, by the Cape of Good Hope, before deciding which line Government will adopt.

At this particular juncture of the question, a pamphlet written by a colonist, and which expresses the opinions and views taken of the matter by the majority of the thinking portion of the inhabitants of New South Wales, may not be totally unacceptable to your Lordship. The latter portion of this paper is devoted to a subject, which, although intimately connected with the first, has not occupied much attention either here or in the Mother Country; but I think the present a good opportunity of bringing it before the Imperial Government and the public.

It can scarcely be said that the writer of these pages is entirely incompetent to speak of the questions therein considered, or that his experience is inadequate to the task he has imposed on himself. Surely, my Lord, some weight may be attached to the opinions of an individual in colonial affairs, who has resided eight years in the different settlements of Australia; and those years spent in the various pursuits which attend the founding of new countries. Surely some weight, in matters of commerce, may attach to the opinions of a merchant of this City, extensively engaged in the trade with China, Manila, and India, as well as with the Parent Country. Neither can it be said that the writer is ignorant of nautical affairs: his early years



were spent in the naval service of the East India Company, on those seas described in this pamphlet.

Last year he visited China, and during that voyage he paid particular attention to the question which had been mooted of extending steam navigation from Singapore to Sydney, having passed through Torres Strait; and having circumnavigated New Holland, he is not entirely unacquainted with the nature of the localities, seas, and winds, regarding which he has taken the liberty to address your Lordship.

With these remarks I shall at once proceed to the task.

*Of the advantages of Steam Communication with Australia generally.*

When we take into consideration the many conflicting advocations of schemes to be adopted by the different parties in England interested in the various Australian Settlements, each jealous that the route chosen by the Government may not be that one, which would serve the interests of the particular Colony in which they have a stake, and may not therefore serve their own. When we consider the ignorance that still prevails in the Parent Country, even among those who have given the matter their serious attention, of the nature of the seas to be traversed by this proposed line of steam ships, the winds that prevail, the expenses incurred by the formation of coal depôts, and various other details attending the establishment of this communication, which can only be known to those well acquainted with the Colonies, and the seas which wash the shores of this vast Island Continent,

When we also bear in mind the opposite views of this question taken by the Legislatures of some of the other Australian Colonies, which could easily be shown, have been expressed, not so much in consideration of the general good of Australia or the Empire at large, as for the more confined idea of benefiting their own particular localities, we cannot but appreciate the wisdom displayed by your Lordship in withholding your decision till more authentic information is afforded—that information must come from the colonists themselves, and it is with this view that I have taken up my pen on the present occasion, to express, as far as I think I am justified, the opinions of the people of New South Wales: that by so doing it may be shown that the inhabitants are by no means indifferent to the general advantages attending this establishment.

In considering the wishes of the different Colonies on this subject, and before deciding finally as to which route Government will adopt, your Lordship will no doubt be influenced in a great measure by the wishes of that Colony, which is older, of greater extent, more densely peopled, wealthier, and of greater importance in every respect to Great Britain than any of the other settlements in this quarter of the globe, and in which is situated the metropolis and chief seat of Government.

It must be deemed wise that your Lordship should pause before hastily adopting a route, which might turn out to be not the best, or giving Government

assistance to a Company got up in ignorance of the difficulties to be overcome: which might not be able to carry out the objects for which it had been formed, and for which it had received the public money. This, my Lord, would entail a useless waste of capital, and would by no means serve the Australian Colonies.

It is the desire of the Colonists that that route should be fixed upon which is for the present most feasible, which would entail least expense, which can be brought into immediate operation, and which it can be pointed out, may be established without any chimerical results, and with certainty as to success.

It is this certainty which would command a preference in New South Wales, over the other schemes, which might perhaps have apparently greater advantages, but less assurance of success. It is by no means the wish of the people of this Colony, to induce the reckless embarkation of British capital in a gigantic undertaking, without some prospect of profit; and it is for this reason that I will hereafter draw your Lordship's special attention to that route, as being the most eligible,—the one recommended by that indefatigable gentleman, Lieutenant Waghorn, from Singapore, by Torres Strait.

I think it needless here to discuss, at any length, the paramount importance of connecting by steam navigation the distant Provinces of the empire with the seat of Government.

The ancient Romans seem to have been well aware of the value of rapid intelligence in maintaining the supremacy of the Empire, for we find that during the