

MS 2082

[On the origin and progress of the Oceanic Electric Telegraph*]

- /1 - [Ms. note: 'The first recorded project for an Oceanic Telegraph dated the 16th of June 1845 & Novr 14th 1846 contemplated The Union of Canada & India with Great Britain "To establish a Telegraphic communication from the British Islands across the Atlantic Ocean to Nova Scotia & Canada & establishing Electric communication by Land & Sea with the Colonies"'. Mounted on card]
- /2 1845 Jul 23 A [printed] facsimile of the letter printed by the telegraph in 1845. Copy of a letter submitted to the government in July (1845). Printed by Brett's Electric Telegraph. To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart/J W & J Brett, 2 Hanover Square, [re submitting] a plan for general communication by means of oceanic and subterranean inland electric telegraphs ... and for their construction on cheap and efficient plans. [Mounted on card]
- /3 - [Ms. note: 'The Object recommended to the Government with this letter [i.e. /2 above], by John W Brett in July 1845, (before any Telegraph Co. had been incorporated), was That the Government should Establish the Electric Telegraph uniting Great Britain & the Colonies on a Post Office system of equal low charges (One shilling) without reference to distance, relying on the indirect returns which would result from Commerce & the Public service'. Mounted on card]
- /4 1845 Jul 25 [Letter] Whitehall [to] Messrs John & Jacob Brett/G[eorge] Arbuthnot, [one of Peel's private secretaries, acknowledging their letter (/2 above), and pointing out that 'the conduct of Telegraphic Communications is under the control of the Board of the Admiralty'; the Treasury must have its 'sanction and recommendation' before considering 'any project for improving it'. With printed copy, mounted on card]

- /5 1846 Nov 14 No.2864 [Printed] Certificate of provisional registration of the General Oceanic and Subterranean Electric Printing Telegraphic Company. [Certified by Francis Whitmarsh, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. Mounted on card]
- /6 1847 Mar 18 [Letter] Buckingham Palace [to] John Watkins Brett, 2 Hanover Square/Lt Col [Sir] C B Phipps, [private secretary to, and pp.] His Royal Highness Prince Albert, [enquiring whether 'the apparatus for showing the Electrical Telegraph' is of appropriate size for bringing to the Palace 'for the inspection of ... Prince Albert'. Mounted on card. With part of envelope for same]
- /7 1847 Jun 21 [Printed copy letter] Treasury Chambers, 29 Parliament Street [to] Mr Brett/[Sir] Charles Trevelyan, [assistant secretary to, and pp.] Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, [conveying their Lords' sanction re 'the establishment of Brett's electric telegraph between Dover and Calais'. Mounted on card]
- /8 1847 Jul 27 [Printed copy letter] Admiralty [to] J W Brett/W A B Hamilton, [pp.] Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, [stating that there is 'no objection, on the part of the Admiralty, to the passing the proposed telegraph from Dover to Calais', and applauding his 'active and enterprising ingenuity'. Mounted on card]
- /9 1847 Dec 9 Official Copy, sent by the Government of the Grant From Louis Phillipe King of the French To John W Brett and Jacob Brett. [In French, from Ministère de l'Intérieur, being 'autorisation d'établir une Communication card]
- /10 1849 Mar 6 [Printed copy letter] London [to] Minister of the Interior, Government of Prince Louis Napoléon/John W Brett and Jacob Brett, [informing him that they are 'now in a position to carry out and establish our Submarine Electric Telegraph between the coasts of Dover and Calais and ask, given their great financial outlay, for government protection for 'a term of years against any rival attempt to take advantage of our invention and laudable enter-

prise'. Mounted on card. A footnote on the card states that 'a prolongation of the privilege' would be assured if the attempt was successful]

Inv. no. 1862-175

N.B. All these items were originally mounted and framed as a single wall-mounted display entitled as *. Items /1 and /3 may have been written by a Museum 'curator' of the day