No 7.

An Act to promote the establishment of direct Monthly Communication with England.

[Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to encourage the establishment of a more frequent and rapid postal communication between this Province and England, and it is believed that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company will, if due encouragement be afforded to them, provide for the Monthly Delivery of Mails in this Province from England, within the period hereinafter specified—Be it therefore Enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of the same, as follows:

1. It shall be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer, and he is hereby required, in each and every year, during six years, from and after the first day of January next, to appropriate and set apart, from and out of the General Colonial Revenue, the sum of Six Thousand Pounds, and to pay and apply the same, or such part thereof, as may become payable under the provisions hereinafter contained, in the manner and on the conditions hereinafter set forth.

2. After it shall have been notified to the Colonial Treasurer, by the Postmaster-General, that arrangements have been made by and with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for a direct Monthly Postal Communication from and to England, by the way of the Red Sea, the said Colonial Treasurer shall pay a sum not exceeding Five Hundred Pounds for every steam-vessel of the said Company, employed in conformity with such arrangement, bringing Mails from England by the route aforesaid, without having touched
touched at any Australian port to the eastward of Port Adelaide:
Provided that the full sum of Five Hundred Pounds shall be paid in
respect of every such vessel bringing English Mails, which shall de-
lay her Mails within the period of fifty-eight days from the day of
their being dispatched from England, and that a sum of One Hun-
dred Pounds shall be deducted from the said sum of Five Hundred
Pounds in respect of every day beyond such time of fifty-eight days
which shall elapse before the delivery of such Mails: Provided also,
that no such sum shall be paid unless the arrangement for such
Monthly Postal Communication shall be subsisting and carried out.

3. Such sum as aforesaid shall be paid to the Agent of the said
Company, upon production of a certificate from the Postmaster-
General that such an arrangement for Monthly Postal Communica-
tion is subsisting and carried out, and of the time of the dispatch and
delivery of the said Mails; and such certificate, and the receipt of the
said Agent, shall be a full discharge to the said Treasurer for all
moneys paid by him in conformity with the provisions hereinbefore
contained.

4. No such sum as aforesaid shall be paid in respect of any
steam-vessel delivering any such mails, unless the said mails shall be
so delivered by the same vessel by which they shall have been dis-
patched from the last port of departure beyond the limits of the
Continent of Australia.