

16/h (1)



May 20/99

Dear Sir,

I write this as  
a reply to yours of May 12<sup>th</sup>  
but not as a letter to  
your paper though you  
are quite at liberty to  
use the information such as  
it is that I can give you  
& quote me as your authority  
if you so desire - It is  
of course unprovable for me

to attempt to frustrate the  
 action of a Federal Parliament  
 which is not yet in being in  
 regard to its <sup>(Sunday to be)</sup> preferred  
 Railway routes - One can  
 only point to the fact that  
 though the several trans-  
 continental lines you mention  
 will all be crushed in  
 course of time the interests  
 of N.S.W., Vic, Tas, & S.A.  
 across the South of Land  
 are certain to be better served  
 by the improvement of the  
 existing western mail route  
 to the old world than by any  
 other - The narrow gauge <sup>by</sup> lines  
 should be much more dangerous

16/20

& the time of raising through  
hysical heats longer than  
the Freemantle - Besides  
speaking in myself I have  
more than once publicly avowed  
the crushworth of the line  
from Adelaide to Perth as  
one of the first necessities  
of the Community - <sup>to always find the suggestion applauded</sup> -  
worst weather in the voyage  
to Europe at present is  
generally in the North &  
around the Leewin which  
could all be avoided by  
taking ships at Freemantle -  
I speak of course simply  
my own opinion but it seems  
to me so plain that this  
particular line is required  
in mail purposes in commerce

& for defence, as well as  
 for another means of opening  
 up your mining country that  
 so far as I can judge it  
 has a long lead of any other  
 similar proposal - If W.A.  
 joins the Union it will be the  
 interest of the Union to make  
 the best-use of her geographical  
 advantages (which will then  
 be the Union & as much as  
 as yours) in the sake of the  
 Union - It is my interest  
 as much as yours that the line  
 should be built - & it is upon  
 his fact of my joint-interest  
 in it that renders me so hopeful  
 of its early construction  
 by your way

J. W. Kerwan Esq. District Officer  
 Kalsvorhen