

THE SAN FRANCISCO AND AUSTRALIA STEAMSHIP SCHEME.

Washington, May 18.—Colonel F. A. Bee, managing agent of the New York and San Francisco steamship lines, and the well-known projector of the telegraph from the Atlantic to the Pacific, had an interview with the President to-day, in relation to the establishment of a line of steamships for several points in the Australian colonies to San Francisco, touching at the Fiji Islands and Hawaii, and from San Francisco to take the passengers by rail to New York, and from thence to Liverpool. The time saved by this route is between fourteen and sixteen days less than by a direct water route from Sydney to Liverpool. Mr. Bee informed the President that an American Company was ready to place first-class steamers on such a line, if the Government would give them a small subsidy and the contract to carry the mail. He also says that the English companies have now placed two steamers on this line temporarily, so as to frighten off the American Company, or prevent Congress from voting them any subsidy. One of these vessels arrived in San Francisco several days since, from Australia, with 250 first-class passengers, who, he estimates, will expend 100,000 dollars before they leave New York for Liverpool. He also states that the Australian colonies have pledged themselves to give the same amount of subsidy the American company that Congress may give. Mr. Bee goes before the Congressional Committee during the week, and will have another interview with the President before he leaves for home.