

Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser (SA : 1878 - 1922), Friday 26 November 1886, page 2

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article216326834>

**Filename:** 216326834

**Synopsis:** Complaints about use of government special trains

**Summary:** To convey Todd and Premier to Melbourne Postal Conference

IN THESE days of retrenchment, when it is desirable to economise in every possible direction, we are from time to time led to wonder at the apparent extravagance of those who are conducting the ship of State. A short time ago a large outcry was raised in the Parliament and out of it, in reference to the almost indiscriminate use of free railway passes. It appears to us there is another point to which the Commissioner of Public Works might direct his attention, that is, the frequent and utterly unnecessary and wasteful expenditure involved in the running of special trains to suit the convenience or whim of persons in authority. The other day, when the members of the Postal Conference went to Melbourne, we are told they went by special train, which must have cost a good round sum. Why could not Mr. Downer and Mr. Todd travel by the ordinary train ? The State pays both men for their time, and the small saving of time by travelling in the special train would nothing like compensate for the expense of running a special train over 500 miles for a mere whim. Then, again, we notice that certain railway officials who came from Melbourne this week must have a special train, under the pretence of examining and inspecting the line, as if this could not be done from the ordinary train. We should like to know the cost of one of these special trains, and the object gained in running them. If the object is simply one for exclusiveness, then the country has no right to pay for it, nor the Government to sanction it. <clip>