

the one manager.

Mr. C. W. Turner was sent to England to inaugurate the London business. He bought three or four sailing ships and established the London business on a sound footing, appointing Mr. C. R. Strickland as the manager, and he remained manager in London for many years.

Steam was introduced a little later by the chartering of the first ship "British Queen", and this was the first direct steam communication between England and New Zealand. She arrived at Lyttelton as her first port of call and this was also her port of departure. Other steamers followed. Now no steamer ever arrives from England direct to Lyttelton and no steamer ever leaves Lyttelton for London direct.

Perhaps the day may come, when the Otira Tunnel is completed and the northern trunk railway further extended, when Christchurch will take her place as a railway centre, and we may yet see ships bound for Lyttelton and outward bound for England and elsewhere.

Later on the Companies bought and built several very fine ships and finer ones still followed. It is a matter for regret that although the New Zealand Shipping Company's offices are still in the same old building in Hereford Street, it is no longer controlled here, but is part and parcel of the P. & O. amalgamation.

The original Cobb & Co's