

MONOWAI MAY BE SOLD

The Union Steamship Company Ltd. is understood to have negotiated the sale of the former trans-Tasman liner Monowai with a Hong Kong firm for an undisclosed sum.

The vendor is awaiting Government approval for the deal. The matter is believed to be before the Prime Minister, Mr. Nash.

Under the Shipping and Seamen's Act the State must sanction sale of vessels off the New Zealand registry.

The Union Company withdrew the Monowai from service after a "bowing-out" cruise of the Pacific islands recently. The Government envisages replacing the Monowai with a State-owned and run vessel.

Mr. Nash investigated the possibility of Australian Government participation in this enterprise last month.

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