

NEW LINER FOR TASMAN SOUGHT

AUCKLAND, June 19 (P.A.).—Preliminary discussions about a replacement vessel for the Monowai were held between the Minister of Marine, Mr. Fox, and the Australian Federal Minister of Transport and Marine, Mr. H. Opperman, in Melbourne, last week.

Mr. Fox announced this on Saturday on his return from an eight weeks' world tour.

Mr. Fox said that as a result of his discussions with Mr. Opperman, he would confer with the Prime Minister, Mr. Nash. Further discussions could then take place to get agreement between the Australian and New Zealand Governments to seek a replacement.

Mr. Fox attended the conference on safety of life at sea in London and the International Labour Organisation conference in Geneva. Much of the remainder of his visit was taken up in studying housing problems.

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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