

(No. 53.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A .

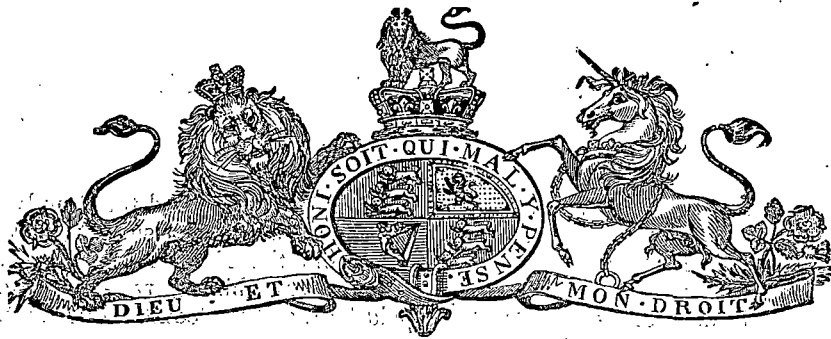
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GRANTS IN AID OF ROADS.

PETITIONS AGAINST WITHDRAWAL.

- (1.) From Oatlands. (*Mr. Bisdee.*)
 - (2.) From Forth and Leven. (*Sir R. Dry.*)
 - (3.) From Spring Bay. (*Mr. Whyte.*)
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Presented, September 5; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 6,
1865.



To the Honorable the President and the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council of the Island of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Chairman and Trustees of the Road District of Oatlands.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT it has come to the knowledge of your Petitioners that a Bill will shortly be laid before your Honorable House, the effect of the passing of which will be to withdraw the subsidy in aid of this and the other Road Districts of this Island, as granted to them by the 86th and 87th Clauses of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

That your Petitioners cannot but view with feelings of dissatisfaction the projected withdrawal, for the following reasons:—

That your Petitioners have been emboldened by the subsidy referred to to extend a Road towards the East Coast, and have thereby taken bolder steps than they otherwise would have done, on the distinct understanding that the assistance was secured to them by law, and would be continued.

Your Petitioners also draw the attention of your Honorable House to the fact that they have employed a Clerk and retained a Surveyor on the understanding that the said Grant in Aid would be continued, and thereby incurred some expense; and your Petitioners desire to inform your Honorable House that their operations will be seriously crippled by the withdrawal of so large a portion of their estimated funds as one-third.

Your Petitioners have been informed that many persons have purchased land in this District of Oatlands on the understanding that your Petitioners would be able to furnish them with good roads to the same land, and would also be able to keep the existing roads in good repair, which expectations your Petitioners will not have the power of fully realising unless the expected assistance is continued, as they do not feel justified in imposing heavier rates than those already existing, and which, although found burdensome, are submitted to the more willingly in consideration of the Government contribution and support.

Your Petitioners humbly pray that the subsidy may not be withdrawn.

Your Petitioners therefore pray the Honorable the President and Members of your Honorable House that you will be pleased to take the prayer of your Petitioners into your serious and just consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 7 Signatures.]

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Rivers Don and Forth.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners learn with regret that, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the year 1866, it is the intention of the Government to submit to your Honorable House a measure having for its object the withdrawal from the Road Districts of the Island the Contribution from the Land Revenue of Sixpence for every Shilling raised in such Districts by Assessment for Road purposes, as provided to be paid by the 87th Section of 27 Vict. No. 22.

That your Petitioners consider the diverting of this contribution from the maintenance of Roads will have a tendency to impede the spirit of self-taxation, and otherwise to materially affect the agricultural interests of the Colony.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to withhold your sanction from any measure having for its object the withdrawal of Grants in aid of Road Districts.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 65 Signatures.]

To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have viewed with amazement the proposal made by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer to your Honorable House to appropriate from the Land Fund, and pay over to the General Revenue, the sum of £9500 ; such amount being, as we believe, the property of, and secured to, the various Road Corporations throughout the Island, to be expended in the construction, repair, and maintenance of Roads, Bridges, &c.. by the 87th clause of "The Waste Lands Act."

We respectfully declare it to be our conviction that such an appropriation would be unprecedented, unconstitutional, and illegal, and destructive of legislation.

We have reason to believe that engagements have been entered into, both by Corporations and by individuals, on the faith of the permanency of the income secured as aforesaid by "The Waste Lands Act ;" and we entreat your Honorable House not to sanction a measure which, if carried, would prove so subversive of vested rights, and so extensively injurious in its operation.

[Here follow 9 Signatures.]