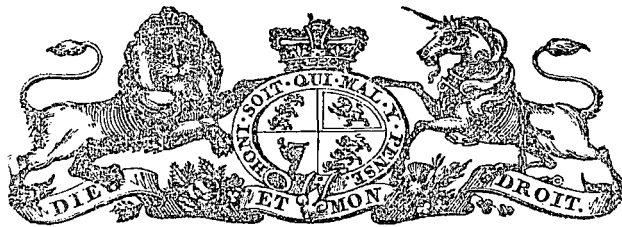


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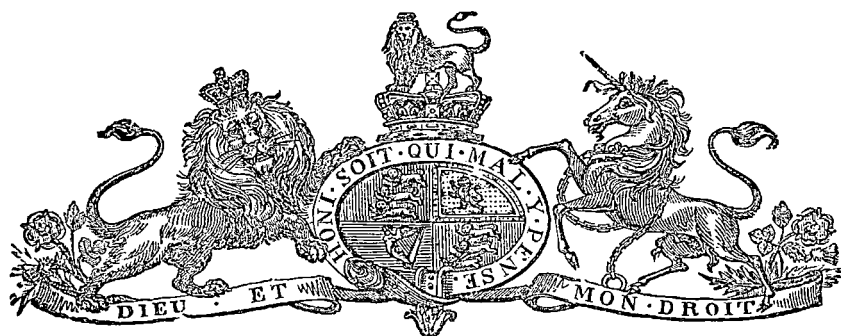
1861.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N No. 211.

AGAINST THE GREAT WESTERN ROAD BILL.

Presented by Mr. Gregson, and ordered by the House to be printed,
25 October, 1861.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of THOMAS FIELD, Esquire, Member of the House of Assembly of the Parliament of Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioner is a Proprietor of Landed Estates situate within the Road Districts of Deloraine, Exton, Westbury, and Carrick.

2. That your Petitioner has observed with alarm that a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House by His Excellency's Ministers, by which it is proposed to authorise "the Colonial Government to guarantee the payment of Interest, not exceeding Eight per cent. per annum upon any sum or sums of money, not exceeding One thousand Pounds Sterling per Mile, to be borrowed by the Road Trustees of any of the said Districts of Deloraine, Exton, Westbury, and Carrick, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the (so called) *Great Western Road*." That the money to be guaranteed by the Colonial Government is proposed by the said Bill to be "a first or primary charge upon the Tolls (if any) and Special Rate on the security of which such money may be borrowed." That the payment of the money so borrowed, and the Interest so guaranteed by the Colonial Government is, by the Bill aforesaid, to be "secured by a Special Rate upon the property within the Road District in which such Rate is made, in the manner provided by *The Cross and Bye Roads Act, 1860*."

3. That your Petitioner respectfully submits that, the "Bill to provide for the Construction and Maintenance of the *Great Western Road* between the Town of Launceston and Deloraine" is unnecessary and uncalled for by the circumstances or exigencies of any of the aforesaid Road Districts. That *The Cross and Bye-Roads Act, 1860*—a carefully considered and elaborately drawn measure of consolidation, passed in the last Session of Parliament—confers generally upon the Road Trustees amply sufficient powers for all the purposes contemplated by the said Bill; and that it is extremely undesirable that any exceptional legislation in favour of any particular District or section of the community should be sanctioned by Parliament, when the latest amendment and consolidation of the Law on the same subject provide generally and adequately for the ordinary and legitimate requirements of the public interests affected by such proposed enactment.

4. That your Petitioner desires further to draw the attention of your Honorable House to the fact that, while the Road Trustees are elected by the Ratepayers generally, including Tenants as well as Proprietors, under the provisions of *The Cross and Bye-Roads Act, 1860*, the capital sum borrowed and the guaranteed interest thereon are made "a first or primary charge upon the property of your Petitioner;" so that, in fact, the Leaseholders and other Tenants of your Petitioner may, by the proposed Bill, pledge and mortgage for an indefinite period the property of your Petitioner for Loans and Interest guaranteed thereon, for the purposes of the said Bill, against the will and consent, and in a manner seriously detrimental to the interests of your Petitioner, and of many other Proprietors of Landed Estates situate within the said Road Districts.

5. That your Petitioner regards the Bill aforesaid as a dangerous and unnecessary innovation, and calculated to inflict loss and damage on your Petitioner and on the Proprietors of Landed Estates situate within the Road Districts enumerated in the Preamble of the said Bill.

Your Petitioner prays your Honorable House not to pass the Bill, intituled "A Bill to provide for the Construction and Maintenance of the *Great Western Road*, between the Towns of Launceston and Deloraine."

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

THOS. WM. FIELD.