

(No. 49.)



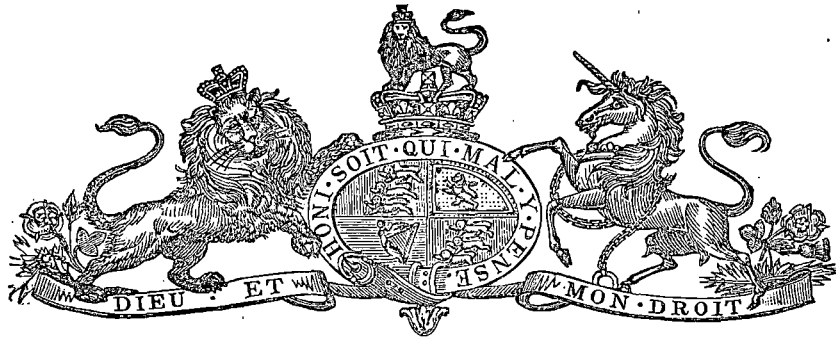
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

THE HOBART TRAMWAY COMPANY'S
AMENDMENT BILL :

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES
OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE.

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, July 12, 1889.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 10th day of July, to consider and report upon "A Bill to amend 'The Hobart Tramway Company's Act, 1884.'"

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

MR. COOTE.
MR. CROSBY.

MR. ROOKE.
MR. WATCHORN.

DAY OF MEETING:

Wednesday, 10th July.

WITNESSES EXAMINED:

Mr. J. W. Syme and Mr. C. H. Grant, Manager Main Line Railway Company.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1889.

The Committee met at noon.

Present.—Mr. Coote, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Rooke, Mr. Watchorn.

Mr. Coote was voted to the Chair.

The Bill, and the Petition praying for leave to introduce it, were laid upon the Table.

Mr. Cecil Allport was introduced as Counsel, and addressed the Committee in support of the Bill.

Mr. J. W. Syme was called in and examined.

Mr. Syme withdrew.

Mr. C. H. Grant was called in and examined.

Mr. Grant withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 1.5 P.M. until 4.30 P.M.

Present.—Mr. Crosby, Mr. Rooke, Mr. Watchorn, Mr. Coote (Chairman.)

The Bill was considered by the Committee.

Preamble agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 read, and amended by inserting after "shall," in line 34, "be commenced in a *bonâ fide* manner within twelve months, and shall"; line 35, by striking out "five" and inserting "four"; line 37, by striking out "five" and inserting "four"; line 38, by striking out "five" and inserting "four."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 9 agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

The Draft Report was presented and adopted.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee having considered the allegations contained in the Preamble of the Bill, and heard Counsel and taken evidence in support thereof, have the honour to report that the Preamble of the Bill has been proved to their satisfaction.

Your Committee having agreed that the Preamble should stand part of the Bill, then entered upon the consideration of its several Clauses.

Certain Amendments having been made, your Committee would now recommend the Bill thus amended to the favourable consideration of your Honourable Council.

AUDLEY COOTE, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, July 11, 1889.

E V I D E N C E.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1889.

MR. JOHN WEMYSS SYME, *examined.*

1. *By the Chairman.*—Your name? John Wemyss Syme.
2. Do you think the amendments in this Bill are necessary to the former Act? I do.
3. Will you explain the reason why? In the former Act the rates to be charged for passengers and goods were to be fixed under By-laws approved by the Governor in Council. Clause 37 empowered the Governor in Council to disallow these By-laws, and thereby gave no security to investors.
4. Do you think the Schedule which enables certain charges to be made is an improvement? I do.
5. Will you please look at Clause 8 of the Bill—will it meet the views of your Company? Yes; the old Act only contemplated the construction of horse or steam tramways, the cost of which was only provided for. It is now proposed to lay down cable trams, the cost of which will be considerably more; therefore the new Clause is asked for.
6. *By Mr. Crosby.*—The original Act was limited to three years, which have now expired? Time was extended by the Governor in Council under Clause 12 of the said Act.
7. *By Mr. Rooke.*—Is there any reason for hastening the passing of the present Bill? The syndicate who have made arrangements for placing the scheme upon the London market inform me that unless I can wire that the amendments have passed through Parliament within the ten days or a fortnight, the favourable time will have passed for dealing with the matter.

MR. C. H. GRANT, *examined.*

8. *By the Chairman.*—Your name? Charles Henry Grant.
9. Will you explain your views on this Bill? It is absolutely necessary that the old Act should be amended, because it was passed in view of the Company being formed locally and the works constructed in a very economical manner, correspondingly with the Line being worked by horse or steam motor; but now it is proposed to adopt the very costly but effective system of cable trams, the capital for which can only be obtained in a foreign market, and some alterations to the Act will have to be made in order to meet the views of English capitalists.
10. Do you think that Clause 8 provides all that is necessary for the Company borrowing? I think so, in general terms. It is in the usual form for giving power to a Company to borrow. The Deed of Association of the Company would necessarily provide the detail for the exercise of borrowing powers amongst the Company *per se*.
11. Do you think that the laying down of a cable is likely to interfere with any existing rights? I do not think so; any existing rights must be preserved.
12. *By Mr. Rooke.*—Will the passing of Clause 3 prejudice the rights of the Government? I do not think so.
13. *By Mr. Crosby.*—Would it affect the working of the Bill by striking out the word Railway? It would be an improvement, in my opinion.