

(No. 91.)



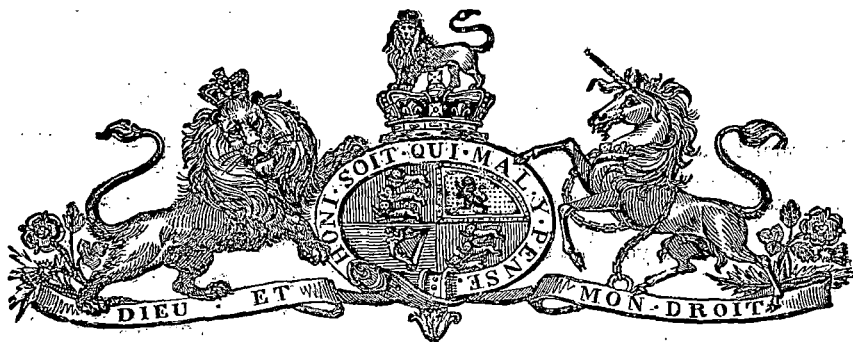
1868.

T A S M A N I A.

RAILWAY LOANS.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Davies, and ordered by the House to be printed, September
10, 1868.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 30th July to enquire into the course that has usually been adopted by the Parliaments of the Australian Colonies when raising Loans for Railway purposes.

MEMBERS.

MR. WALKER.	MR. PRATT.
MR. CANDELL.	MR. BALFE.
MR. JOHN LORD.	MR. LETTE.
MR. DAVIES.	

DAYS OF MEETING.

4th August.	20th August.
5th August.	26th August.
6th August.	10th September.

REPORT.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report to your Honorable House that they have enquired into the subject remitted to their consideration, and have gathered information through the Honorable the Colonial Secretary from the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland.

Your Committee find that in one instance only, in one Colony—Queensland—was power given by Parliament to the Government to borrow money for the construction of a Railway—that from Ipswich to Little Liverpool—before the Survey had been made and Estimates of cost prepared. In all other instances in Queensland, as well as in every instance in the other Colonies, it has been the practice to make the Surveys, and lay before the respective Parliaments Engineering plans of the proposed lines, with Estimates of the cost of their construction, before power to borrow money has been asked.

JOHN DAVIES, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, House of Assembly,
10th September, 1868.*

Railway Department, Secretary's Office, William-street, Melbourne, 8th August, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Commissioner of Railways, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and in reply to inform you that Surveys for the lines of Railway constructed by the Government of Victoria were made before the Legislature authorised any loan for the purpose. The expense of these Surveys was paid out of the ordinary revenue of the Colony; and when the Government had determined on the lines which they would recommend for construction, Bills defining the routes, and conferring the necessary powers on the Board of Land and Works to proceed with the works, were submitted to Parliament, together with the Bill authorising the Government to raise the necessary loan.

I beg to forward herewith copies of the two earliest Reports on the subject issued by the Department, which will, I think, furnish you with some useful information.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
W. N. WRIGHT, *Secretary.*

J. DAVIES, *Esq., M.P., House of Assembly,
Hobart Town, Tasmania.*

SIR, *Victoria,*
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 11th August, 1868.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, requesting that you may be informed if it has been the practice of this Government to take powers for borrowing money in connection with Railway undertakings before a Survey of the proposed lines has been made.

In reply, I have to inform you that such has not been the practice in Victoria.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

J. MOORE.

SIR, *South Australia,*
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 20th August, 1868.

I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Hamley, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to inform you in reply, that it has not been the practice of this Government to take powers for borrowing money for Railway purposes before the Survey of the proposed line has been made.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

HENRY AYERS.

SIR, *Queensland,*
Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 20th August, 1868.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, wherein you request to be informed whether it is usual in this Colony to obtain Legislative authority to raise loans for Railway purposes previous to the Survey of the lines for which such loans are raised, and in reply to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Memorandum from the Works Department in reference thereto.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(In the absence of the Colonial Secretary) A. W. MANNING.
The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

MEMO.

THIS Colony affords no precedent in this matter, moneys having been authorised to be raised by loan before Parliamentary Surveys were made, and after such Surveys had been completed.

For example : on the passing of the Railway Act, 1863, (assented to 3rd of September, 1863) a Loan Act was passed (assented to 22nd September, 1863) in which £250,000 was authorised to be raised for a line from Ipswich to Little Liverpool, the Surveys for which were not made until about the middle of 1864. Again—a Loan Act was passed in 1864 (assented to 13th September, 1864) after the Surveys were completed, in which £647,000 was authorised for the line to Dalby, and £200,000 for the line Rockhampton to Westwood,—the Surveys for which line had also been made.

In the case of the Warwick line no moneys were raised until 1866, a period subsequent to the execution of the Surveys and the letting of the contract for the construction of the line.

As the best course to be adopted, there can be no question, if circumstances permit, but that it is certainly highly desirable that Surveys and Estimates should be obtained under reliable engineering knowledge before a loan is taken, so as to avoid if possible the necessity for authority being asked subsequently for fresh loans.

19th August, 1868.

A. O. H.

SIR, *Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 31st August, 1868.*

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, enquiring whether it is the practice of the Government of this Colony to take powers for borrowing money for Railway purposes before a Parliamentary Survey of the proposed lines has been made ; and to inform you in reply, that the custom here is to apply to Parliament for a vote to cover the expense of making Trial-surveys, before asking it to vote money for the construction of Railways. On the completion of the Trial-surveys and Estimates the plans are laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly, and an application is then made for provision to enable the Commissioner of Railways to construct the various works. Power to borrow money has not been granted by the Assembly until the plans and sections of the proposed Railways have been laid before the Parliament.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY HALLORAN,

For the Colonial Secretary.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.