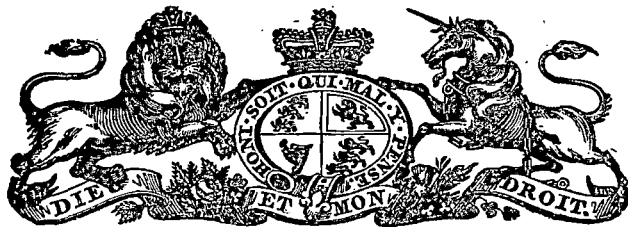


(No. 41.)



1873.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY CONTRACT.

**LETTER FROM MR. HIGINBOTHAM, ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF TO
VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.**

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, June 25, 1873.



I AM not able to recommend an Engineer to supervise the execution of the Main Line Contract in Tasmania for the Government. Assuming that the papers which are attached to the note of the Hon. Mr. Innes contain all the stipulations connected with the Contract, I cannot see of what use to the Government of Tasmania an Engineer could be; no such Officer is provided for or even mentioned in the Contract, and he could therefore have no control over the Company's Engineer.

The provisions as to the strength of the bridges on the Line, and as to their complying with the regulations of the Board of Trade, are very vague; and the only test provided cannot be applied till the bridges are built, and the rolling-stock is on the Line to test them with.

I am of opinion, from the information before me, that it would be a waste of money for the Government to employ an Engineer to supervise the construction of the works, because, however much he might disapprove of it, he would be powerless to control the Company's Engineer.

When the works are finished, and before the Railway is opened for traffic, it would probably be prudent for the Government to obtain a report from a competent Engineer on the security and state of the works.

(Signed) T. HIGINBOTHAM.
27th March, 1873.