

(No. 60.)



1864.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPRODUCTIVE WORKS.

PETITION OF MR. W. S. BUTTON.

Presented by Sir R. Dry; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 15, 1864.



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

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Launceston, in Public Meeting assembled.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT a Select Committee of the House of Assembly appointed during the Session of 1862, to enquire into and report upon the best means of inter-communication by Roadways throughout the Colony, reported to the House, "that the interests of the already settled and populated portions of any districts where it is proposed to establish Roadways should be the first consideration, and not the mere extra value to be given to unsold lands of the Crown, which appears to constitute the leading principle of the system now being acted upon."

That the Ministerial Scheme of Reproductive Works now before your Honorable House seeks, in a great measure, to continue the principle thus condemned, rather than to provide relief to already settled districts.

That no reliable estimates of the cost of the proposed works are before the country.

That, in the absence of such estimates, the cost must be uncertain; and should the proposed measure become law, the Colony may be burdened with a heavy debt, involving serious taxation, wholly unaccompanied by any permanent commercial advantages, or by any relief to the struggling agricultural settler.

That Petitioners, therefore, pray your Honorable House to refuse your sanction to the proposed measure, until you have before you reliable information of cost, and such a reconstruction of the Scheme as will ensure the expenditure in localities already settled and populated, as recommended by the Select Committee above referred to.

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

W. S. BUTTON, *Chairman.*