

(No. 96.)



1886.

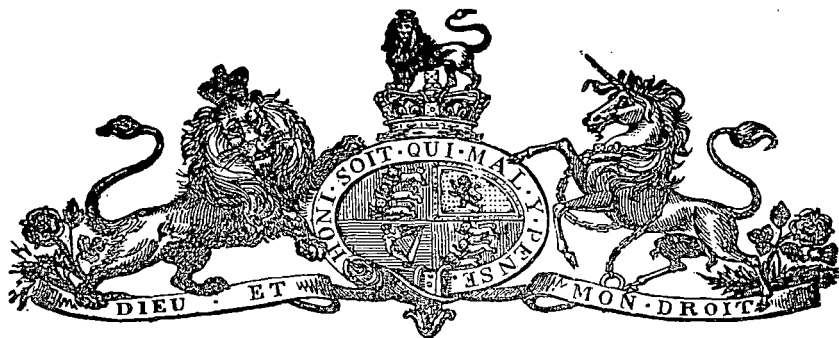
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HAMILTON HILL TO BARRINGTON ROAD :

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Return to an Address to His Excellency the Governor. (Mr. Braddon.)

Laid on the Table by Mr. Attorney-General, September 14, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, September 15, 1886.



To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Tasmania, in Council.

YOUR EXCELLENCY :

THE humble Petition of the undersigned residents and landowners of the Don Road District, sheweth :

That in the Parliamentary Session of 1884 a sum of £1000 was voted to the improvement of a road from Hamilton Hill to the Barrington Road.

That the Hon. the Minister of Lands has now finally decided, upon the advice of the Engineer of Roads and recommendation of a bare majority of the Don Road Trust, to apply this vote to the improvement of a road which commences at Howson's Hill, instead of the Hamilton Hill, such action being direct violation of the will of Parliament as expressed in the vote, and therefore illegal.

That the Hon. Minister of Lands visited the spot last summer, and saw for himself that the road proposed by the Engineer of Roads did not start from the Hamilton Hill.

That the road proposed by the Engineer of Roads is further objectionable for the following reasons, to which the Member for the District has called the Minister's attention ; viz., (1) that it would not accommodate the people as the other would ; (2) that it will be more expensive ; (3) that the grade by that road cannot be as favourable as that of the other.

That the first of these reasons has been demonstrated by the unanimous expression of opinion of the people interested in the road given in two Petitions to the Minister.

That the second is supported by the fact that the land for the Hamilton Hill Road will be given by the proprietors, while for the land to be taken up for the Howson's Hill Road, the proprietor (who will be materially injured by that road) will exact full compensation ; and that the third objection may be readily seen from the fact that the Howson's Hill route must ascend to a much higher level than the other, which, in fact, lies along an almost dead level throughout.

That while a bare majority of the present Don Road Trust, *i.e.* three out of five, are in favour of the Howson's Hill route, it may be confidently expected that after the next annual election of Trustees the majority will be the other way. Further, that the Engineer of Roads should not attach any importance to the recommendation of that body inasmuch as according to his experience the Chairmen of Road Trusts are almost invariably guided by self-interest. (Question 6330, Royal Commission on Public Works.)

That, finally, we respectfully protest against the Minister's decision to apply the vote contrary to its distinct terms, and in a manner which is strangely opposed and prejudicial to the interests of the people whom it was intended to serve.

[Here follow 40 signatures.]