

(No. 120.)



1869.

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TASMANIA.

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HENRY DOWLING.

PETITION.

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Presented by Mr. Giblin, October 14, 1869, and ordered by the House to be printed.



*To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of Henry Dowling of Launceston.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT the Report of the Joint Committee on the Launceston and Western Railway contains the following paragraph (page iv.) :—

“ Mr. Dowling has stated in his evidence, that he always considered it would require £400,000 to complete the Railway, and that he took his Shares in the Company in that belief. At the same time, as Secretary to the Company, he was representing to the Government that it could be constructed for £350,000. Taking into consideration the fact, that Mr. Dowling was constantly in the habit of communicating with the Government on the most important questions connected with the Company's affairs without reference to the Board of Directors, to whom he afterwards submitted his communications for approval as disclosed in his evidence, your Committee conclude that the Secretary was largely trusted by the Directors, and consequently is proportionately responsible.”

2. That this paragraph is said to be founded on the evidence of Petitioner before the said Committee.

3. That the questions asked by the Committee, and the answers given by Petitioner, on the construction cost of the Railway are to be found in Nos. 209, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 222, 223, 229, 230, 398, 399, and 400 in the printed papers attached to the said Report.

4. That the evidence of Petitioner contains nothing to justify the statement that he always considered it would require £400,000 to complete the Railway.

5. That, on the contrary, the evidence shows that Petitioner, relying on the report of the Company's Engineers,—and, he might have added, of the Commissioners,—believed that the sum of £350,000 would prove sufficient “to make a perfectly efficient Line of Railway and Works, with rolling-stock sufficient to meet the traffic of the Districts;” but that he also believed that additional capital would be required for the future economical working of the Line.

6. That Petitioner has been, in his capacity of Secretary to the Company, under the direction of the Chairman and Directors, and his conduct in connection with the management of the business of the Company has had their approval; and, therefore, that the personal responsibility endeavoured to be thrown upon Petitioner in the Report is inconsistent with his position as an Officer of the Company whose official acts have been approved by the Directors.

Petitioner therefore appeals to the justice of Parliament, and humbly prays your Honorable House not to adopt the said paragraph of the Report.

HENRY DOWLING,  
October 14, 1869.