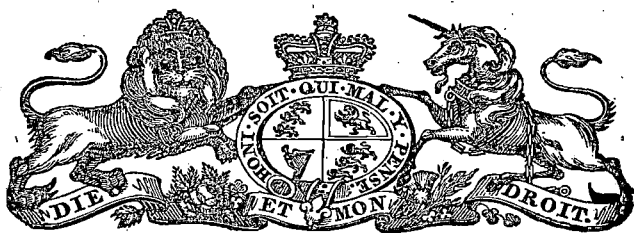


(No. 89.)



1883.

T A S M A N I A.

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

IMPROVEMENT OF THE FORTH HARBOUR:

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Braddon.)

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 9, 1883.



To His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, in Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned residents of Hamilton-on-Forth, Leith, Kindred Plains, Don, and neighbourhood,

SHOWETH :

THAT the natural and cheapest outlet of the produce grown in the country about the Forth (including at present an area of about 60 square miles) is by water carriage from the Forth River.

That at the present time 3000 tons of potatoes and 60,000 bushels of grain grown in the country already opened up would find its outlet at the Forth if the mouth of that harbour were improved; and that hereafter, as settlement progresses southwards in the trans-Wilmot country and elsewhere, many thousand acres of first-class agricultural land will be added to the supply area of the Forth.

That in consequence of the extreme shallowness of the Forth at its entrance it is now impossible to ship produce on conditions favourable to the grower, whereby the farmer is put to an extra charge of from 15 to 20 per cent. for carriage of all his produce.

That the inhabitants of the Forth and surrounding country are put to considerable inconvenience and expense in consequence of the s.s. *Devon*, the only steamer regularly plying between Launceston and the North-West Coast, not being able to enter the Forth.

That the Report of Mr. Bell has shown that, at a cost of about £4000, the channel at the entrance of the Forth can be permanently deepened to an extent which would admit of the *Devon* and sufficiently large vessels entering the river, and that at the present time there exists excellent harbourage in the estuary,—vessels drawing 13 feet being able to lie and swing there at low water.

That your Petitioners therefore pray that a sufficient sum may be placed upon the Estimates of 1884 to admit of this work—the deepening of the Forth Entrance—being effectually undertaken

And your Petitioners shall ever pray.

William Mulligan.
James Tillens.

Edw. J. Beecraft.
C. B. M. Fenton.

And 166 others.