

(No. 51.)



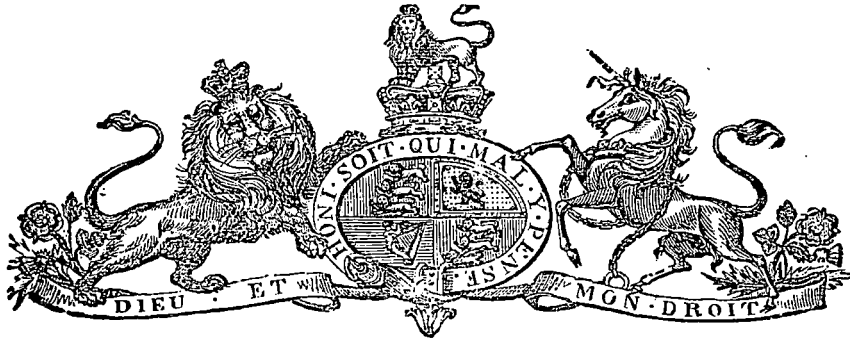
1870.

TASMANIA.

PORT CYGNET.

MEMORIAL OF LANDHOLDERS.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Butler, August 31, 1870, and ordered by the House
to be printed.



Port Cygnet, 19th August, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit the accompanying Memorial to His Excellency, adopted at a large and influential Public Meeting of the Ratepayers and Householders of the Port Cygnet District, held at Lovett on the 13th instant, and I have to request that the same may be laid before His Excellency. It is further my duty to add that, as Chairman of the Meeting and a long resident in the District, I am of opinion that the claims set forth in the Memorial are entitled to the most favourable consideration of the Executive and Parliament; and that a full and practical acknowledgment of them would be but a further development of the only policy ever likely to bring into profitable settlement, for either individuals or the State, the heavily-timbered but yet inaccessible forest lands of the Colony.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

C. O'REILLY, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

*To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Captain-General
and Governor-General of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Landowners, Landholders, Householders, and Residents in and about the District of Port Cygnet.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Memorialists, for want of any passable means of communication with the new road recently constructed between Hobart Town and the Huon, are practically cut off from all direct intercourse by land with Hobart Town; and since the steamer has ceased to trade to the Port, the great inconvenience and loss to this thickly-populated neighbourhood, caused by the want of ready access to the market for their produce, has become a serious grievance to your Memorialists, and must, if not provided against, retard, if it does not entirely check, settlement in this portion of the Colony.

That your Memorialists—considering the character of the soil; the enormous cost of even imperfectly preparing it for the reception of crops; the all but insuperable obstacles which the incumbrance of gigantic trees, growing and fallen, oppose to the labours of the Settlers; the difficulties of disposing, even at unremunerative prices, of produce, raised, too, at a cost of labour and time far in excess of any value such produce has for years past ever realized, or is likely to realize—taking, too, into consideration the fact that your Memorialists pay in labour, money, and time fully five hundred per cent. more for every acre they cultivate than the Settlers in any other Colony under the British Crown; and that, notwithstanding, they have always rated themselves for the purposes of road-making to the full extent of One Shilling in the Pound—feel themselves of right entitled to have the cost of constructing a main road connecting the District with the New Huon Road provided for as an item of public expenditure out of the General Resources of the Colony.

That your Memorialists respectfully suggest, that by following the present track from Port Cygnet to Cradoc, and thence along the coast to Victoria, a line of road the best suited to meet all the requirements of the Settlers, from the entrance into Port Cygnet to the junction at the New Huon Road, would be constructed at comparatively an insignificant expenditure, when the vast amount of good it would confer upon the Settlers is duly considered; and that such expenditure might be met by appropriating to the work a portion of the Land Revenue raised in the pastoral and open parts of the Colony where roads are comparatively not needed, and from whence agricultural settlement—the foundation of all national prosperity and progress—is apparently neither desired nor encouraged, but on the contrary, in many instances, persistently opposed, to the great loss and injury of the general community.

Your Memorialists further beg leave to state that they are unable to undertake such a work, as the maintenance of the purely local means of communication absorbs all their resources.

Regarding the circumstances herein indicated, your Memorialists respectfully pray that Your Excellency will give them your favourable consideration, and add the weight of your influence in support of the object of Memorialists when submitting their claims to the attention of Your Excellency's Responsible Advisers.

[Here follow 128 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.