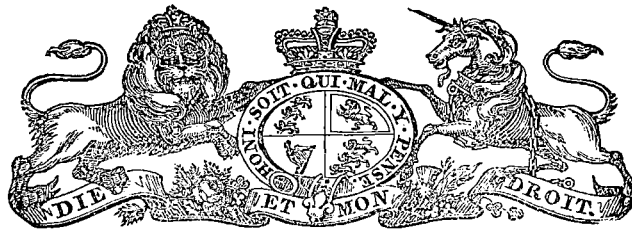


(No. 131.)



1881.

T A S M A N I A.

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

**PROPOSED WEST COAST STEAMBOAT AND
TRAMWAY COMPANY:**

**CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS
OF CONCESSIONS TO BE GRANTED.**

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, and ordered by the House to be
printed, November 1, 1881.



WEST COAST STEAM AND TRAMWAY COMPANY.

At a Meeting held at the Office of the West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Company, Collins-street, Hobart, it was resolved that it was desirable for a Deputation to wait upon the Government for the purpose of ascertaining what concession would be made, in the shape of granting land, on condition of a Company being formed to construct a Tramway from Macquarie Harbour to Mount Heemskirk, the said Company undertaking to convey goods and passengers at a fixed scale of charges to be hereafter agreed upon.

The concession asked for the Tramway to take the form of a grant of land along the whole line between Macquarie Harbour and Mount Heemskirk, of not less than two chains in width, necessary for the construction of the Tramway; five acres of land at the Terminus, Mount Heemskirk; five acres at the Terminus at Macquarie Harbour (in two sections of two acres and three acres) for the purpose of constructing jetties; and five acres of land between the two Termini. And a further free grant of land (such as the Company may select, not being mineral land, and not being distant more than ten miles from either Terminus), not exceeding one thousand acres.

It is proposed to construct the Tramway of a single line of rails, rails to be of iron, and the gauge not less than three feet six inches, and the Tramway to be suitable for being worked by steam power. The Company will further undertake to lay on steamers to trade between Macquarie Harbour and Hobart, making not less than one trip to and from Hobart in one month: steamers to convey passengers and freight at a scale not to exceed the following rates:—For passengers in the Saloon, Three Pounds sterling, and in the Steerage Two Pounds sterling each way per passenger. And for freight on goods, ore, merchandise, &c., charge not to exceed Two Pounds per ton dead weight to and from Macquarie Harbour.

The Company will further guarantee to provide steamers of sufficient power to maintain regular and efficient communication between Hobart and Macquarie Harbour.

In consideration of the Company complying with the above Regulations, we, the undersigned, petition the Government to grant as subsidy for the conveyance of Mails to and from Macquarie Harbour the sum of Seven hundred and Fifty Pounds per annum, payable quarterly.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.
WM. FERGUSON.
JAMES H. B. WALCH.
CHAS. E. FEATHERSTONE.
THOS. C. SMART.
CHAS. A. GUESDON.
JOHN MACFARLANE.

At a Meeting held at 49, Collins-street, September 2nd, 1881, it was resolved that it was desirable that a Deputation should wait upon the Government for the purpose of ascertaining what concession would be made, in the shape of granting land, on condition of a Company being formed to construct a Tramway from Macquarie Harbour to Mount Heemskirk, the said Company undertaking to convey goods and passengers at a fixed scale of charges to be hereafter agreed upon.

The concession asked for the Tramway to take the form of a free grant of land along the whole line between Macquarie Harbour and Mount Heemskirk, of not less than one chain in width, necessary for the construction of the Tramway; five acres at the Terminus at Mount Heemskirk, and five acres in two sections of two and three acres at the Terminus, Macquarie Harbour, and five acres about midway between the two Termini; and a further free grant of land such as the Company may select, not being mineral land, and not more than ten miles (10) from either Terminus, and not exceeding one thousand acres.

The Tramway to be of iron rails, and suitable for being worked by steam power.

The Company will undertake to furnish a Steamer to trade between Hobart and Macquarie Harbour, making not less than one trip per month to and from Macquarie Harbour from Hobart, carrying passengers and freights at a scale of charges not to exceed the following rates :—For passengers in the Saloon, Three Pounds, and in the Steerage, Two Pounds sterling each way per passenger. And for freight on goods, ore, merchandise, &c., charges not to exceed Two Pounds (£2) per ton dead weight or measurement, at the steamer's option, to and from Macquarie Harbour from Hobart.

The Company will further guarantee to furnish a steamer of sufficient power to maintain regular and efficient communication.

In consideration of the Company complying with the above Regulations, we, the undersigned, petition the Government to grant, as subsidy for the conveyance of Mails to and from Macquarie Harbour from Hobart, the sum of Seven hundred and fifty Pounds per annum, payable quarterly.

JOHN MACFARLANE.
NICHOLAS J. BROWN.
WM. FERGUSON.
JAMES H. B. WALCH.
CHAS. E. FEATHERSTONE.
CHAS. A. GUESDON.

Additional signatures—

J. WATCHORN.
W. H. GRAHAM.
JOHN BAILY.
WM. FERGUSON, JUN.
JOHN HAMILTON.

Lands and Works Office, September 22nd, 1881.

GENTLEMEN,

IN reply to your Petition on behalf of the proposed "West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Company," I have the honor to inform you that the Government have decided to recommend to Parliament to grant the following concessions to the Company in the event of its being formed, subject to the conditions herein specified—

1. To grant in fee such waste land of the Crown, of a breadth not exceeding one chain, as may be required for the purpose of constructing a Tramway between Mount Heemskirk and Macquarie Harbour.
2. To grant in fee three sections of waste land of the Crown, of an area not exceeding five acres each, for station purposes in connection with the said Tramway, such sections to be situate, one at each terminus of the said Tramway, and the other on the line of Tramway about midway between the termini; the site of each section to be approved by the Governor in Council.
3. To grant in fee a block not exceeding 1000 acres of waste lands of the Crown, not being gold or mineral-bearing land, and situate in such locality within ten miles of either terminus as the Governor in Council shall approve; such land to be distant not less than one mile from high water-mark and from the boundaries of any township.
4. To pay a subsidy of £750 per year, payable quarterly, for such period as Parliament may determine, for the conveyance of Mails to and from Hobart to Macquarie Harbour; such mail service to be performed at least once in each month by steamer, subject to the provisions of the Post Office Act.

The conditions upon which the above concessions will be recommended to Parliament are, amongst other things—

1. That iron rails shall be laid down on the said Tramway, and the same shall be constructed in such manner as to render it capable of being worked by steam power; the whole work to be substantially constructed and maintained in an efficient manner to the satisfaction of the Engineer-in-Chief.

2. The traffic charges and all working arrangements on the said Tramway, and the freight and passage rates and all working arrangements of the Company's steamer, to be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
3. The Government to have the right to purchase the whole undertaking, comprising steamer, tramway, &c., at such price as shall be fixed by arbitration.

I have, &c.

C. O'REILLY, *Minister of Lands and Works.*

*The Hon. N. J. BROWN, M.H.A., and other
Gentlemen signing the Petition.*

Hobart, 3rd October, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, referring to terms and conditions of concessions to be granted to the West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Company.

Your letter having been considered at a meeting of Provisional Directors, I was requested to ascertain from you whether the Government would consent to certain modifications in the terms set forth therein. These modifications are slight and unimportant as far as the Government is concerned, but will be of consequence to the proposed Company.

As to concession No. 2, it is desired that the Company may have the right to select the Five acres of land at Macquarie Harbour in two sections of, say, Two and Three acres each. I may remind you that this was expressly mentioned in the first communication to the Government, and the division of the Five acres has probably been overlooked as unimportant. It is further desired that these grants of land at the Macquarie Harbour terminus shall extend in both cases to a depth of not less than twelve feet of water at low tide.

It is also submitted that to make the site of these several sections subject to the approval of the Governor in Council would impose an unnecessary restriction, inasmuch as the selection of the termini and mid-way station must of necessity be determined by the result of an engineering survey of the proposed route of the Tramway; and if the Government is to retain an arbitrary power to fix the termini and station, the Company could not enter upon the construction of the Tramway with any assurance that their operations might not, at some future time, be hopelessly impeded by a dispute which might involve their abandonment of the whole undertaking.

As to concession No. 3, it is submitted that, considering the very small area of land of any value (other than gold or mineral-bearing land) which is available in the vicinity of Macquarie Harbour or Mount Heemskirk, the grant of the one thousand acres should, if it be so desired by the Company, be selected in two or more blocks, not exceeding four.

As to concession No. 4, it is desired that the contract for carrying a monthly mail to Macquarie Harbour may be placed on the same footing as other mail contracts; that is, that the term may be for Three years. On this point I may remark that the purchase and equipment of a steamer suitable for carrying out the contract will involve a large expenditure of capital; and the Company, in initiating an enterprise which is so certain to be beneficial to the Colony, may fairly claim that they shall be free for at least Three years from any competition in performing the Mail Service.

I am further desired to point out that the statement as to the conditions upon which these concessions will be recommended to Parliament is qualified by the words "amongst other things;" and the Provisional Directors, before proceeding any further in the matter, deem it essentially necessary, in order to secure the confidence of those who are expected to subscribe the capital of the Company, that it should be clearly understood that the Government does not seek to impose any other conditions than those you have enumerated; namely—

That iron rails shall be laid down on the said Tramway, and the same shall be constructed in such a manner as to render it capable of being worked by steam power; the whole work to be substantially constructed and maintained in an efficient manner to the satisfaction of the Engineer-in-Chief.

That the traffic charges on the said Tramway, and the freight and passage rates of the Company's steamer, be subject of agreement between the Government and the Company.

The Government to have the right to purchase the whole undertaking, comprising steamer, tramway, &c., at such price as shall be fixed by arbitration.

I assume that it is the intention of the Government to embody these provisions, and the maximum rate of traffic charges, in a Bill for submission to Parliament; and the Provisional Directors

will be glad to be assured that the Government will proceed in the matter as soon as a definite understanding is arrived at.

I respectfully submit that the conditions above mentioned are amply sufficient to conserve the public interest; and on behalf of the Provisional Directors I venture to express a hope that the Government will facilitate the preliminary operations of establishing this large and important undertaking by acceding to the modification of terms now submitted.

I have, &c.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.

*The Hon. C. O'REILLY, Esq., M.H.A.,
Minister of Lands and Works.*

Lands and Works Office, Hobart, 5th October, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and in reply thereto to inform you that I am unable at present to advise you that the Cabinet concurs in making any further concessions to the proposed Steamboat and Tramway Company. I would remind you that my letter of the 22nd ultimo informed you that the Government had decided to recommend Parliament to grant certain concessions which virtually gave the approval of the Government to all the proposals previously made by the Promoters of the Company, and I am of opinion that the general outlines of the arrangement to which Ministers will advise Parliament to give its sanction having been indicated, it is undesirable to enter into matters of detail until something more is done by the Promoters to give practical effect to their proposals.

I may, however, assure you that there will be no attempt on the part of the Government to hamper or embarrass the operations of the Company by unnecessary conditions; but that Ministers will give every assistance in their power, consistent with a due regard to the interests of the community generally, towards the establishment of any undertaking for providing communication with the mining districts of the West Coast of Tasmania.

Prior to the date of my letter of the 22nd ultimo the Government were led to believe that the Promoters were then about to conclude the purchase of a steamer, and my letter was written on that understanding; but it now appears that such purchase was not made.

I have therefore the honor to inform you that Ministers will not feel themselves bound to make any recommendation to Parliament in this matter unless the Company is formed within one month from this date.

I have, &c.

C. O'REILLY, *Minister of Lands and Works.*

The Hon. N. J. BROWN, M.H.A., Hobart.

REVISED Prospectus of the West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Co. (To be Registered under the Limited Liability Companies Act, 1869.)

CAPITAL: £50,000 IN 10,000 SHARES OF £5 EACH.

Provisional Directors.

Hon. N. J. Brown, Esq., M.H.A., Hamilton.
Hon. P. O. Fysh, Esq., M.H.A., Hobart.
W. H. Burgess, Esq., M.H.A., Hobart.
Colonel Garnet, Hobart.
Cecil J. Parsons, Esq., Hobart.
W. H. Graham, Esq., Hobart.
Wm. Crosby, Esq., Hobart.
Dr. Smart, Hobart.
James Walch, Esq., Hobart.
C. E. Featherstone, Esq., Hobart.

J. Macfarlane, Esq., Hobart.
Henry Dobson, Esq., Hobart.
Robert Snowden, Esq., Hobart.
R. D. Russell, Esq., Hobart.
W. F. Brownell, Esq., Hobart.
W. Ferguson, Esq., Hobart.
John Watchorn, Esq., Hobart.
J. Bailey, Esq., Hobart.
John Hamilton, Esq., Hobart.

Bankers.

Union Bank of Australia (Limited), Hobart.

Solicitors.

Messrs. Dobson & Mitchell, Hobart.

Brokers.

Messrs. Guesdon and Westwood, Hobart.

First issue 4000 shares, of which 1000 will be offered in Melbourne, if not taken up here prior to the 18th October, on which it is proposed to call up £2 10s. per share as follows:—Ten Shillings per share to be paid on application, Ten Shillings per share on allotment, One Pound Ten Shillings by promissory notes, as follows:—Ten Shillings at 2 months, Ten Shillings at 3 months, and Ten Shillings at 4 months, from date of allotment.

THIS Company is formed for the purpose of opening up Steam Communication with the West Coast of Tasmania, and to construct a Tramway between Mount Heemskirk and Macquarie Harbour, to ensure a cheap mode of transit of ore and goods to and from the Company's Boats.

It is also proposed to employ the Company's Steamers in trading in any other directions where inducement may offer.

The Provisional Directors have obtained from the Government their promise in writing to recommend Parliament to grant concessions to the Company, as follows:—

1. To grant in fee such Waste Land of the Crown, of a breadth not exceeding one chain, as may be required for the purpose of constructing a Tramway between Mount Heemskirk and Macquarie Harbour.
2. To grant in fee Three Sections of Waste Land of the Crown, of an area not exceeding five acres each, for station purposes in connection with the said Tramway, such sections to be situate one at each Terminus of the said Tramway, and the other about midway between the Termini.
3. To grant in fee a block, not exceeding 1000 acres of Waste Land of the Crown, not being Gold or Mineral-bearing land, and situate in such locality within 10 miles of either Terminus.
4. To pay a subsidy of Seven hundred and Fifty Pounds per year, payable quarterly, for the conveyance of Mails to and from Hobart to Macquarie Harbour, such mail service to be performed at least once in each month, by steamer, subject to the provisions of the Post Office Act.

After considerable enquiry, the Directors have at length succeeded in obtaining the offer of a suitable Steamer for the trade, as will be seen from the following particulars:—Iron screw, carrying 180 tons on a draught of 7ft. 3in.; speed, nine knots; compound engines; good passenger accommodation. Built three years ago; now in first-rate working order. At present in a neighbouring colony and procurable at once. Negotiations are now proceeding by which some of the Provisional Directors and other Shareholders propose to purchase this Steamer, and in the event of the purchase being completed the Steamer will be placed under offer to the Company at cost price and attendant expenses added, and Three hundred paid-up Shares in the Company to be apportioned *pro rata* to the purchasers.

The extensive and valuable mineral resources of the Mount Heemskirk district and its surroundings are well known, and offer ample inducement for the formation of such a Company. The prospect of a large population being attracted to these districts will doubtless be realised at no very distant date, and the importance of securing regular and reliable Steam Communication with Macquarie Harbour and West Coast generally must commend itself to the public.

APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To MESSRS. GUESDON AND WESTWOOD,

49, COLLINS STREET, HOBART,

AGENTS FOR THE

Provisional Directors of

West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Company,

HOBART, TASMANIA.

GENTLEMEN,

PLEASE allot me Shares in the above Company, for which I herewith send you £ being 10s. per Share on application, and I hereby agree to pay a further sum of 10s. per Share on allotment to me, and balance in terms of Prospectus. And I also undertake to accept the same subject to the Company's Deed of Association, which I agree to sign when called upon to do so, and to be bound by the Rules and Regulations contained therein.

Dated this day of 1881.

Signature in full—

Residence in full—

Occupation—

Witness to Signature—

71, *Macquarie-street, Hobart, 27th October, 1881.*

SIR,

REFERRING to the interview with the Government yesterday, on the subject of the concession to the West Coast Steam and Tramway Company, I have now the honor to forward reply.

It having been freely whispered about for the last few weeks, and repeated by Members of the Legislature, that the Government were desirous of constructing the tramway themselves in preference to the Company doing so, and that the Legislature would not therefore grant the concessions, the shares in consequence were not taken up as they would undoubtedly have otherwise been; but the Directors are confident of carrying the work to a successful result, once the concessions asked for, which must be admitted are very moderate, are granted by Parliament.

The work is one of considerable magnitude; and under the circumstances the Directors think they are fully entitled to ask for a further extension of time, say three months, to complete the necessary preliminary arrangements; nor would this place the Government in any false position, for they can very properly immediately ask the Legislature to confer the necessary power for the construction of the tramway by Government should the Company fail to do it.

Whilst fully relying upon the Government to carry out their expressed intention to submit the proposed concessions to Parliament, we would point out the loss which would accrue in connection with steamer should this not be done, as undoubtedly the shares already issued were taken upon the faith of the Government fulfilling this understanding.

In the event of the Government not obtaining for the Company the concessions asked for concerning the proposed Tramway, the Directors are of opinion that they are justified in asking that the subsidy for the steamer be increased to £100 per month for two years; and they trust that the Government will procure the sanction of Parliament this Session to this proposal.

In conclusion, the Directors will be glad to learn that the Government will at once obtain from Parliament the authority to grant the Company the proposed concessions, and give the Company the full term of three months asked for. Awaiting your reply,

I remain, &c.

JOHN. MACFARLANE, *for self and Co-Directors.*

To the Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

Treasury, Hobart, 28th October, 1881.

SIR,

I AM this day in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date referring to the proposed concessions to the West Coast Steam and Tramway Company, which has been fully considered by the Cabinet.

The Government are prepared now, and ever have been since the arrangement was made, to carry out fully all they have undertaken to do. They have deferred asking the approval of Parliament to the proposals submitted until you were able to state that the proposed Company had been actually formed and the necessary capital subscribed; and they regret that you have not ere this placed them in a position to submit the proposed concessions for the sanction of Parliament, with some substantial assurance that if the concessions were granted the work of constructing the proposed tramway would be at once undertaken and prosecuted with vigour to completion.

Strongly impressed as Ministers are with the importance of not losing the ensuing summer without this extensive work being entered upon, they have decided, upon consideration of the suggestions in your letter, to submit forthwith to Parliament the proposed concessions to your Company, and, in accordance with your suggestion, to ask Parliament for power to construct the tramway in the alternative (which, I trust, will not arise) of your Company not being in a position to do so.

They cannot recommend an extension of time for your Company to execute the contract proposed beyond one month from the time at which Parliament shall authorise the Government to enter into it; and Ministers are not prepared at the present time to discuss contingent proposals to take effect if your Company should fail to carry out the whole scheme of Steamboat and Tramway Service as originally submitted by you to the Government.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

J. MACFARLANE, *Esq., Macquarie-street, Hobart.*

THE WEST COAST STEAMBOAT AND TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

1. The name of the Company is "The West Coast Steamboat and Tramway Company, Limited."
2. The Registered Office of the Company will be situate in Hobart, at 49, Collins-street.
3. The objects for which the Company is established are the construction of a Tramway or Tramways on the West Coast of Tasmania, and for the conveyance of Passengers, Goods, and Mails in Ships, Boats, or Tramway between such places as the Company may from time to time determine, for the acquiring of Lands, and the doing of all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
4. The liability of Members is limited.
5. The Capital of the Company is Fifty thousand Pounds, in Ten thousand Shares of Five Pounds each.

WE, the several persons whose Names and Addresses are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into a Company in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association; and we respectively agree to take the number of Shares in the Capital of the Company set opposite our respective names:—

	<i>Shares.</i>		<i>Shares.</i>
John Macfarlane	150	P. O. Fysh.....	100
W. H. Graham	50	A. P. Garnett.....	50
Wm. Ferguson	100	W. H. Burgess	50
Cecil J. Parsons	100	Edward L. Crowther	100
Chas. E. Featherstone	200	J. Watchorn	100
John Hamilton	100	W. G. Grubb & Brothers.....	100
John Baily.....	50	W. A. Webb	50
Henry Dobson	100	Chas. A. Guesdon, in trust for the	
Nicholas J. Brown	100	Company	8500

Dated at Hobart this thirty-first day of October, 1881.

Witness to all the above Signatures—

CHAS. A. GUESDON, *Manager.*