

(No. 34.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY ROUTE :

PETITION FROM OATLANDS.

Presented by Mr. Maclanachan, November 15 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed, November 16, 1877.



The Honorable the President and the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of your Petitioners, Residents and Landholders in the District of Oatlands.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT when the scheme of the Main Line of Railway was first laid before your Honorable House by the Executive Government of the day, for the sanction and approval of your Honorable House, and for power and authority to make and enter into a Contract with a Company for the construction of a Railway, your Honorable House imposed certain conditions. The route called Wylie's route agreeing with the conditions of your Honorable House was made the basis of a Contract accepted and agreed to by the Main Line Railway Company, which was to run as near as practicable to the centres of population along the Main Line of Road from Hobart Town to Launceston, thus indicating that it was the intention of your Honorable House that all those centres of population should receive the advantages of Railway communication.

2. That as it was absolutely necessary for the Executive Government to obtain the consent and authority of your Honorable House before making and entering into such Contract with the Main Line Railway Company, it was also equally necessary before in anywise altering the construction of that Contract that the consent of your Honorable House should be first had and obtained,—especially such an important alteration as that involved in a change of route; therefore, the consent of your Honorable House never having been asked or given to such alteration of the Main Line Railway Contract, the question of route as contained in that Contract still remains an integral part thereof, and ought to be kept in view in conjunction with the vast vested interests of those centres of population on the south side of the Island now cut off from Railway communication and the monetary interests of the Colony in the settlement of the Main Line Railway dispute.

3. That your Petitioners have just cause of complaint to your Honourable House of the grievous wrong inflicted on them by the present divergence of the Main Line Railway route from that known as Wylie's route, inasmuch as it cuts off and shuts out some of the most important centres of population along the Main Line of Road on the south side of the Island from all the advantages of Railway communication, and becomes distinctive of the vast vested interests of such centres of population and a great annual monetary loss to the Colony.

4. That as the practicability or otherwise of Wylie's route is a question of such vital importance to the whole Colony, and as Parliament has no authoritative data for its guidance in the settlement of so important a question, (on the final settlement of which so much depends), in satisfactorily adjusting the differences between the Main Line Railway Company and the Colony,—

Your Petitioners would therefore respectfully point out the desirability of a thoroughly reliable re-survey of that part of Wylie's route diverged from by the Company, namely, from Bridgewater to York Plains, which has been most carefully surveyed by Mr. D. Climie, an Engineer engaged by the Railway Association for that purpose, the correctness of whose work would only have to be tested; and such re-survey would be of great service to your Honorable House in the settlement of the Main Line Railway dispute.

Your Petitioners would therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House may adopt such measures to protect their interests and those of the Colony at large as your Honorable House may deem necessary.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 164 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.