

(No. 106.)



1869.

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TASMANIA.

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MERSEY BRIDGE.

PETITION.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, September 28, 1869; and ordered  
by the House to be printed.



*To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esq., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents in the vicinity of the River Mersey, and in the District of Port Sorell, and Settlers on the North-west Coast of Tasmania.

SHOWETH UNTO YOUR EXCELLENCY :

THAT the population on this part of the North-west Coast has been of late years, and is now, rapidly increasing, and that the interests on both sides of the River Mersey have become, as they should be, identical.

That your Petitioners are seriously inconvenienced in consequence of the want of a Bridge across the River Mersey at the northern portions of Lot 278, in the Parish of Northam, purchased by Joscelyn Thomas, and Lot 293, in the Parish of Templeton, purchased by Tasman Parker, in the District of Port Sorell.

That the River Mersey at the place indicated may be easily crossed by a Bridge at the banks on either side, and the bottom of the river offers great facilities for such a work.

That the shortest and best line of road along the Coast from the Parish of Forrabury to the Bridge at the River Don can be had by crossing the Mersey at the locality noted.

That your Petitioners are now obliged to use a ferry, which is both expensive and troublesome, for the passage of vehicles, and dangerous for the passage of horses and other stock ; and that the number of individuals passing and re-passing across the River Mersey is very large indeed, and has been steadily increasing.

That your Petitioners would recommend that a small Toll be placed on the Bridge, which will be readily tendered for at a rental : the work will thus become not only reproductive, but the supervision of the Bridge will be ensured.

That your Petitioners would not wish to impede the traffic of the upper portion of the River Mersey, and would therefore respectfully recommend that either two drawing centres, to be coupled when set with strong irons, or a swing-bridge be erected in the centre of the Bridge, or otherwise as may be decided upon by competent ability, to admit of the passage of vessels.

That your Petitioners would also respectfully recommend that the Bridge be at such a height from the highest tide mark as to admit of the free passage of punts without the removal of the centre swing or draw-bridge.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to order a Survey to be made of the locality above mentioned with a view to the River Mersey being bridged at that place. And further, that Your Excellency will be pleased to have such Bridge constructed with as little delay as possible.

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

[Here follow 227 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.