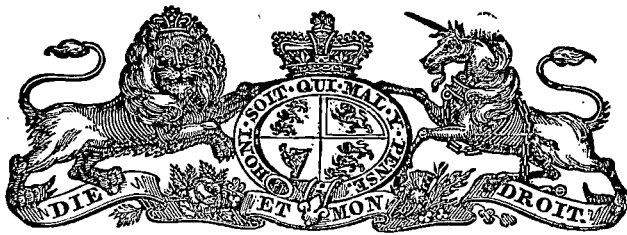


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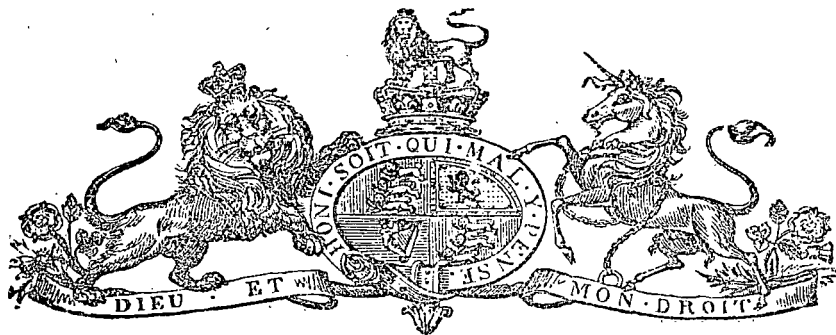
1870.

T A S M A N I A.

R I V E R M E R S E Y.

P A P E R S R E S P E C T I N G T H E D R A W B R I D G E.

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 22, 1870.



To the Honorable HENRY BUTLER, Esq., Minister of Lands and Works.

SIR,

WE, the undersigned Landholders and Settlers in the vicinity of the River Mersey, and some of those who some time ago memorialised the Government, after a most respectable and influential Public Meeting setting forth the opinions and wishes of the Settlers along the Coast from Port Sorell to Circular Head, and asking to have a Bridge which would not in any way impede navigation thrown across the River Mersey from the Northern boundary of Lot 278 on the West bank of the river in the Parish of Northam to the Northern boundary of Lot 293 on the East bank of the River in the Parish of Templeton, now that you have been pleased to visit this locality, beg most respectfully to be afforded the favour of an interview with you on this subject, and we do this through our not receiving any reply from the Government to our Petition. We afterwards deputed Mr. Robert Stewart, one of the largest property holders in the District, to proceed to Hobart Town to see the Government on this subject, where he received promises from the Honorable T. D. Chapman, Esq., M. H. A., the Colonial Treasurer, which have not been carried out; and are led to believe that, having used the right of petition and deputations without reply or success, we are yet to be instructed what course to pursue in order to carry out the great good to the public generally, and to the injury of no part of the Colony.

We would also point out to you, that while rivers and creeks from the Don River to Circular Head have been bridged by the Government at a large expenditure of public money (a large portion of which has been contributed by the persons who have asked to have this Bridge erected) in other parts of the District, no expenditure whatever has taken place in the locality above alluded to; although the importance of the place, the population, and the great public advantage of the Bridge bear no comparison with the insignificance of many of the places where larger sums of money have been laid out. Besides this, it has been attempted to be demonstrated by persons interested in the progress of the place, and for the advantage of the Government, that the construction of the Bridge and the sale of land in the vicinity would not only be a direct advantage to the public but to the Treasury of the Colony.

Awaiting the honor of a reply, and if possible the favour of an interview with you at such time as may be most convenient to yourself,

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

M. W. Loane, J.P.
R. Winspear.
W. Bennett.
James Watson.
W. Stephens.
John Crookes, junior.
W. Thomas, J.P.
W. F. Wright, J.P.
J. H. M'Call.
Jane Lamb.
R. H. Davies.
B. H. Rooke.

David Best.
George Best.
Michael Wood.
E. Rivington.
John Steer, junior.
Richard C. Fairlam.
Turton S. Thomas.
A. Dumbleton, Major.
G. Bishton.
F. Bishton.
E. Cummings.
Zeph. Williams.

(Copy.)

PUBLIC Meeting held at the Court House, Torquay, on Wednesday, 18th May, 1870, to take into consideration the best mode of proceeding to induce the Government to erect a Drawbridge over the Mersey, or Port Frederick.

It was proposed by Saml. H. Thomas, Esquire—

“That as the Minister of Lands on his visit to the North West Coast recommended that a Committee should be formed to take such measures as may be deemed necessary to facilitate the erection of a Drawbridge over the River Mersey, at the opening of the Reach, the following gentlemen do form that Committee :—

Chas. Oldaker.	A. M. Walker.
B. H. Rooke.	E. Cummings.
R. Stewart.	J. Steer.
J. Reynolds.	E. Rivington.
J. Noon.	George Best.
J. Griffiths.	B. W. Thomas.
Chas. J. Martin.	David Best.
W. Loane.	J. C. Ross.
R. Winspear.	J. H. M'Call.
J. D. Jowett.	James Watson.
Saml. H. Thomas.	John Crookes, junior.
Arthur Dumbleton.	R. H. Davies.”

Five to form a quorum.

Seconded by Major A. Dumbleton, and carried.

Proposed by Edwin Cummings, Esquire—

“That Major Dumbleton be requested to act as Chairman of the Committee now formed, and correspond on the subject with the Minister of Lands and Works, with a view to cause the Bridge to be erected.”

Seconded by A. M. Walker, Esquire, and carried.

Proposed by Rev. Charles A. Martin—

“That a General Committee Meeting be called for Saturday week, the 28th May, at the Schoolroom, Torquay, at 2 P.M. sharp, when all Members of Committee are requested to bring forward any proposition they may have to submit.”

Seconded by M. W. Loane, Esquire, and carried.

Proposed by Mr. Winspear—

“That the Chairman of this Meeting be requested to forward these Resolutions to the Minister of Lands and Works, with a request that he will furnish the Chairman of the Committee with a reply to the prayer of the Petition forwarded upon the subject from the North West Coast, and to the letter addressed to himself while at Torquay.”

Seconded by Mr. Robert Stewart, and carried.

B. W. THOMAS, *Chairman of the Meeting.*

(Copy.)

Office of Lands and Works, 27th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from you, as Chairman of Public Meeting held at Torquay, on the 18th instant, and in reply beg to inform you that the Government has taken into its consideration the application on the part of many of the inhabitants of the District for the erection of a Drawbridge and approaches over the Mersey, in the vicinity of Torquay; and that in view of the facilities at present available for communication in the district referred to, and the large expenditure that would be necessitated by the execution of the proposed

works, is not prepared to recommend to Parliament an appropriation of public money for the purpose, but that in the event of the inhabitants being still desirous of carrying out the project, and availing themselves of the provisions of the Act facilitating the construction of Local Public Works, (22 Vict. No. 33), the Government will issue instructions for the provision of plans and estimates of the Bridge and its approaches to the promoters of the public work in question.

I transmit herewith copy of the Act.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY BUTLER.

B. W. THOMAS, *Esq.*, *Appledore, near Tarleton.*

Latrobe, 13th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE been instructed by the Committee of the "Latrobe Improvement Association" to communicate with yourself, with the view of ascertaining whether a Petition has been presented to the Government with reference to a Drawbridge at Torquay, near the entrance of the River Mersey; and if so, what steps the Executive purpose taking in the matter.

I am further instructed to ask you to oblige the said Committee by furnishing them with a copy of such Petition if already presented.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. ROGERS, *Secretary, Latrobe Improvement Association.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

Office of Lands and Works, 25th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 13th instant, that a Petition has been presented to the Government with reference to the erection of a Drawbridge at Torquay, near the entrance of the River Mersey, and I beg to enclose a copy of my reply to the same.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

HENRY BUTLER.

J. ROGERS, *Esq.*, *Secretary Latrobe Improvement Association, Latrobe.*

Torquay, 7th June, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed Drawbridge over the Mersey at Torquay, in which you say, "in view of the facilities at present available for communication in the District, and the large expenditure that would be necessitated by the erection of the proposed works," the Government is not prepared to recommend the appropriation of public money for the purpose; and further, offering to place the District under Act 22 Vict. No. 33, should the inhabitants be still desirous of carrying out the project. The said letter having been put before a Meeting, I am instructed to reply as follows:—1st. With reference to "the facilities at present available for communication" between Torquay and Formby, the Don, the Forth, and other places to the westward of Torquay, they consist of ferry boats for foot passengers, and one punt for horses, cattle, and wheeled conveyances; the ferry being a private

concern is under no control ; the punt is often disabled, sometimes for weeks at a time, all the traffic for wheeled conveyances is then stopped, and horses and cattle can only cross the river by swimming. But supposing the punt to be always at work, the accompanying tariff of the ferry will show the great expense the public are put to in crossing the River at Torquay, amounting almost to a prohibition in the case of drays with produce ; the delay occasioned by crossing in a punt is also a serious consideration.

T A R I F F .

	s.	d.
Foot passengers, between sunset and sunrise	0	3
Ditto, from sunset to 10 P.M., each way	0	6
Horses, by punt.....	1	6
Ditto, if swam after the ferry boat	1	0
Team of bullocks and dray, both ways	15	0

2. With regard to the "large expenditure," it does not appear that more money would be required than has been appropriated from the public funds for the erection of bridges and approaches over the other rivers on this coast, the Forth, the Leven, the Inglis, for instance. The Meeting also respectfully beg to point out, that while so much public money has been expended on the North West Coast, at Latrobe, the Don, the Forth, the Leven, the Inglis, and the Penguin, nothing has ever been done for Torquay ; it is a much older settlement than any of the above, and as possessing the best harbour on the coast is surely of equal importance, and having been paying rates and taxes for so much longer a period, it would seem to have an equal claim on the Public Treasury.

3. Mr. R. Stewart informed the Meeting, that some few months ago he was delegated by certain of the inhabitants of Torquay to visit Hobart Town for the purpose of conferring with Government on the subject of the Bridge, and, in company with the Member for the county, had an interview with the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, then holding control over the Public Works Department, and was promised by that gentleman that a competent person should be sent to Torquay for the purpose of estimating the cost of a Bridge, and also (by enquiries made on the spot) of ascertaining, on the part of Government, whether a necessity for a Bridge did or did not exist. The Meeting deem that the Bridge would not only be for the benefit of Torquay, but for public communication on the North West Coast generally, by more directly connecting the main line of road from Launceston *viâ* Deloraine and Latrobe with the Don and other settlements to the westward, saving some two miles in actual distance between Latrobe and the Don, and avoiding a steep hill.

4. The Meeting generally expressed a hope that, from what has been said above, the Government might be induced to acknowledge the claims of Torquay on the public funds, and to reconsider the decision passed on the Petition for the Drawbridge, or at all events not to refuse public money for the purpose of its erection without first deputing a competent person to enquire into the merits of the case.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

A. DUMBLETON, *Chairman of the Meeting.*

*The Hon. H. BUTLER, Esq., Minister of
Lands and Public Works.*

(Copy.)

Office of Lands and Works, 26th August, 1870.

SIR,

ADVERTING to former correspondence on the subject of the erection of a Drawbridge over the River Mersey, I am instructed by the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works to inform you that the Government cannot undertake to recommend to Parliament a special appropriation of money for the purpose in question, but in a measure which it is their intention to submit to Parliament increased aid will be given to the erection of Bridges under the Public Works Act.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. W. BOOTHMAN.

A. DUMBLETON, *Esq., Torquay.*