

(No. 55.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

G O R D O N R O A D.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Butler, and ordered by the House to be printed,
September 1, 1870.



To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The humble Petition of the Ratepayers of the Gordon Road District.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

FIRSTLY.—That steam communication with Hobart Town by water having ceased, a considerable increase of traffic on the roadway from Oyster Cove to Three Hut Point has been the result ; and the present condition of the road, from that and other reasons, is such as to render it wholly impassable for wheeled vehicles, and in many parts dangerous for horse travelling.

Secondly.—That the District is not only favourable for the production of timber, but peculiarly adapted for the growth of small fruits for the jam market, and consequently for the settlement of emigrants, who by the cultivation of blocks of land (say ten acres) would maintain themselves comfortably if facility were afforded for the transmission of their produce to market by a good road ; and as consumers of imported goods they would benefit the revenue of the Colony.

Thirdly.—That the construction of a tolerable Main Road would induce settlers to improve the bye-roads leading into it, and thereby increase the trade and settlement of the District.

Fourthly.—That a road affording opportunity of visiting the beautiful bays of D'Entrecasteaux Channel would operate as an attraction to visitors from the adjacent Colonies, who would not encounter the hazard and discomfort of water travelling.

Fifthly.—That the funds accruing from Road Rates, &c. would maintain in good condition, but are wholly inadequate to the formation of, a road.

Sixthly.—That the expenditure of a sum of money, small in comparison with the outlay which has been made in the adjoining District of Franklin, would not only be beneficial to this District but to the trade of Hobart Town, where nearly the whole of the earnings in the District are expended.

Seventhly.—That the present state of the road militates against attendance at Schools and places of Public Worship.

Eighthly.—Your Petitioners therefore earnestly entreat the attention of your Excellency's Government to their prayer, that the representations of your Petitioners as to the state of the roadway in this District be verified by its inspection, and that some provision be made for its improvement. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 88 Signatures.]

Office of Lands and Works, 30th August, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Government have had under consideration the Petition addressed to His Excellency the Governor by yourself and other Ratepayers in the Gordon Road District, praying that some provision be made for the improvement of the Road between Oyster Cove and Three Hut Point. In reply, I regret to inform you, for the information of the Petitioners, that, in the present condition of the finances of the Colony, the Government are unable to apply to Parliament for a vote of money to be specially appropriated to the road in question.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. W. BOOTHMAN,
For Minister of Lands and Works.

The Rev. H. D. ATKINSON, Three Hut Point.