

(No. 79.)



1864.

---

T A S M A N I A.

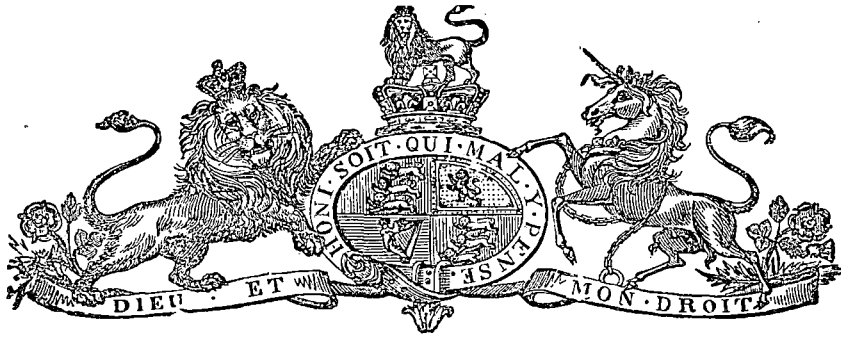
---

W E S T E R N R A I L W A Y.

P E T I T I O N S A N D C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

---

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 16 August, 1864.



To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Bath, Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The Memorial of the undersigned Colonists in the District of Launceston, in the said Colony.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT so long ago as the year 1857 large and influential Public Meetings were held in Launceston, and in other Towns of the Northern Division of the Island, with a view to promote the construction of a Railway from Launceston through Morven, Longford, and Westbury to Deloraine.

That, from the said year to the present, Resolutions and Petitions adopted at public meetings of the inhabitants, duly convened, have been from time to time addressed to the Government of the Colony, earnestly entreating that this great modern means of communication may be given to the Districts referred to; and Memorialists respectfully solicit Your Excellency's attention to these various Petitions and Resolutions.

That Memorialists respectfully represent to Your Excellency that the evidence and reports from time to time published by order of the Parliament are deserving of being deemed conclusive in favour of the project: that so complete a case has probably never been before a Legislature,—embracing, as it does, authentic statistics; a most carefully prepared survey and plans; and a tender to construct the line from the house of Peto, Brassey, & Co., whose position as contractors, and whose large resources, give ample security for the prompt and honorable fulfilment of any engagement they may enter into.

That every day's experience of the requirements of the Districts referred to, and of the Railway progress of the neighbouring Colony of Victoria, tends to confirm Your Excellency's Petitioners in the belief of the absolute necessity which exists for the introduction of Railway communication into the Northern Districts of this Colony.

That a singular unanimity exists in the Districts to be affected by the proposed Railway. That during the years 1862 and 1863 the Petitions in favour of the Railway were signed by 2342 and 3041 Colonists, whilst the Petitions against the project have been signed only by 51 persons in 1862, and 138 in 1863; and that these latter Petitions were not so much against Railway construction as against the principle of local responsibility, which the majority of the people are willing, under certain conditions, to incur.

Memorialists therefore pray Your Excellency to cause a Bill to be prepared and submitted to Parliament on its re-assembling, having for its object the early construction of the Launceston and Western Railway.

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

[Here follow 1309 Signatures.]

---

Similar Memorial from the District of Deloraine, with 583 Signatures.

Similar Memorial from the District of Westbury, with 288 Signatures.

Similar Memorial from the District of Longford, with 200 Signatures.

Similar Memorial from the District of Ringwood, with 187 Signatures.

Similar Memorial from the District of Evandale and Patterson's Plains, with 108 Signatures.

---

*To His Excellency Colonel GORE BROWNE, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of  
Tasmania, &c.*

The Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Launceston, in Council duly assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT Petitioners have marked with deep interest and sympathy the public efforts of their fellow Burgesses in the promotion of measures calculated to secure to the Northern Districts, of which Launceston is the recognised Capital, the great benefits of Steam communication between the said several Districts, and between them all and Launceston.

That Petitioners, understanding that the inhabitants of the said Districts are prepared to accept a Legislative enactment authorising the construction of a Railway between Deloraine, Westbury, Bishopsbourne, Longford, Perth, Evandale, and Launceston, which would involve an amount of local responsibility never yet sought to be imposed by the general government of any British Colony, are therefore of opinion that the said inhabitants have a peculiar claim upon Your Excellency's consideration.

That the agitation of this question commenced in the year 1857 ; and has therefore occupied the public attention for a period of Seven years, during which time a large amount of money has been subscribed and expended, and numerous Petitions have been presented to Your Excellency and your predecessors in the Government ; and, at this moment, the conviction of the people on this question not only remains unabated, but is increasing in intensity.

That Petitioners believe the early construction of the Western Railway is absolutely necessary to the existence of these Districts as agricultural communities.

That Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to adopt such measures as may be necessary to give to the people of these Districts, during the forthcoming Session of Parliament, such Legislative authority as may be necessary to give effect to their wishes as expressed in their numerous Petitions on the subject.

And Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(Copy.)

*Executive Council Office, 4th July, 1864.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Petition [together with one from the Inhabitants of Launceston generally], praying His Excellency the Governor to cause a Bill to be prepared and submitted to Parliament, having for its object the early construction of the Launceston and Western Railway, having been considered by the Governor in Council, I am directed by His Excellency to forward to you, by way of reply, an extract from the Minutes of the Council of this date.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL.

*The Mayor and Aldermen, Launceston.*

Similar letters (omitting the words in brackets) to—

The Hon. Sir R. Dry and the other Petitioners, Westbury.  
T. K. Archer, Esq., ditto, Deloraine.  
H. B. Nickolls, Esq., ditto, Longford.  
— ditto, Ringwood.  
John Ralston, Esq., ditto, Lymington.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

*Monday, July 4, 1864.*

MINUTE No. 184.

THE Governor lays before the Council Petitions from—

Launceston, signed by 1309 persons.  
Deloraine, ditto, 583 ditto.  
Westbury, ditto, 288 ditto.  
Longford, ditto, 200 ditto.  
Ringwood, ditto, 187 ditto.  
Evandale and Patterson's Plains, 108 ditto,

praying that His Excellency will cause a Bill to be prepared and submitted to Parliament,

having for its object the early construction of the Launceston and Western Railway; also a Petition from the Mayor and Aldermen of Launceston to the same effect.

The Council decline to advise His Excellency to comply with the prayer of these Petitions; and the Clerk is instructed to inform the Petitioners accordingly.

---

*Chamber of Commerce, Launceston, 18th July, 1864.*

SIR,

At a Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the Mechanics Institute in this place on 5th instant, it was unanimously resolved that a Memorial should be drawn up and signed by the Members of the Chamber, and forwarded to Your Excellency, in reference to steam communication between this place and the Western Districts. I beg, therefore, as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to enclose said Memorial, humbly trusting that it may receive Your Excellency's most favorable consideration.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

*To His Excellency Colonel GORE BROWNE, C.B.,  
Hobart Town.*

---

*To His Excellency Colonel GORE BROWNE, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania  
and its Dependencies.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Members of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:

THAT the commercial and agricultural progress of the Colony greatly depends upon the facilities afforded for rapid internal communication.

That the commercial and agricultural interests of the Northern Division of the Island, in particular, are at this moment seriously affected through the want of such means of communication.

That the proposals which have been submitted to Your Excellency and to the Parliament, relative to steam communication between Launceston and the Western Districts, are founded upon a just and moderate estimate of the wants, resources, and wishes of the said Districts.

That the terms upon which the Northern Colonists are willing to accept the construction of such a work by the Legislature are at once advantageous to the Government and honorable to themselves, the property guarantee being ample security against any possible contingency.

That under these circumstances, and believing that the Revenue of the Colony will be greatly enhanced, and the general commercial prosperity of every portion stimulated, your Memorialists humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased favourably to reconsider the claims of this important measure, with reference to Legislative action during the present Session of Parliament; and your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Ducroz and Co.  
James Peters.  
George Fisher.  
Adey Douglas.  
J. F. Hobkirk.  
A. M. Milligan.  
William Ritchie.  
W. W. White.  
John Crookes.  
Wm. Cleveland.

M. Gaunt.  
John Fawns.  
John Scott.  
Lewis Cohen.  
Richard Green.  
William Johnstone.  
William K. O'Keefe.  
Francis Evans.  
Ronald T. Gunn.  
John Atkinson.

C. Gaunt.  
C. J. Weedon.  
J. Aikenhead.  
W. S. Button.  
H. Dowling.  
Robt. De Little.  
James Hood Smith.  
James Robertson.  
C. T. Weetman.  
W. Williams, *Chairman.*

---

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 25th July, 1864.*

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, enclosing a Memorial from the Launceston Chamber of Commerce relative to Railway communication between that Town and the Western Districts; and to inform you that several Petitions of a similar tenor have been considered in the Executive Council, and that the Members declined to advise the Governor to accede to their prayer.

There is nothing in the Memorial forwarded by you to justify a different answer in the present instance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

W. M. WILLIAMS, *Esq.*, *Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Launceston.*