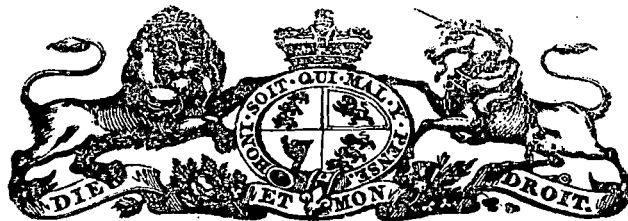


(No. 85.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

**RAILWAY EXTENSION FROM DELORAINE
TO THE MERSEY :**

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Braddon, August 10, 1882, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 15, 1882.



To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, Tasmania.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of the Electorates of East and West Devon.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT from time to time divers schemes have been laid before your Honorable House having for their object the extension of the Launceston and Western Railway to the North-West Coast of Tasmania, but none have yet become law.

2. That in the year 1880 a petition from residents of Launceston, Nook, Tarleton, Torquay, Formby, Don, Forth, Leven, Penguin, Emu Bay, and Mount Bischoff was presented to His Excellency the then Administrator of the Government, praying him to cause to be introduced a Bill for the construction of a Railway from Deloraine to Formby on the River Mersey (to which petition more than five hundred signatures were attached), and in accordance with the prayer of such petition a Bill was introduced for the construction of such Railway, but did not become law.

3. That since the presentation of such petition the North-West Coast has progressed, and continues to progress; and the reasons urged in the last-mentioned petition (which your Petitioners understand is now among the Records of your Honorable House) for the construction of a Railway to Formby, still exist, and are now entitled to greater weight by reason of the progress of the Coast.

4. That, among the advantages likely to accrue from the construction of the line to Formby, your Petitioners desire to bring prominently under your notice (1) the greater facilities thereby afforded for shipping would reduce the rates of freight and enable buyers of produce to give higher prices, which would stimulate production; (2) the line would pass the Coal Mines of Tarleton, and the coal would in all probability find a market in the district now traversed by the Launceston and Western Railway; (3) the construction of a line to Formby would have the effect of making the River Mersey the depôt for the Ports of Don, Forth, Leven, Blythe, and Penguin, and the necessity of constructing expensive harbour works at each of the last-mentioned rivers would be avoided for the present.

5. That at present large quantities of produce are carried in small vessels from the above-mentioned rivers to the River Mersey, to be transhipped into larger vessels for export, and such trade would be greatly increased were there greater facilities for loading and despatching vessels than now exist.

6. That your Petitioners believe it will eventually be necessary to connect Mount Bischoff with the existing railway system of the Colony, and that the nature of the country will necessitate a railway for that purpose coming *via* Formby and proceeding along the coast as far as the Penguin, and that such railway would convey rapidly and with certainty the produce of the smaller rivers to a suitable port such as Formby; and your Petitioners desire strongly to urge that in their opinion it is of the utmost importance to consider (in determining the present terminus of the extension of the Launceston and Western Railway to a deep-water shipping-place at the River Mersey), not so much the place which will suit the present trade, as the place which will be most convenient for the present trade and the requirements of the future.

7. That your Petitioners urge, as strong reasons against an extension of the railway to the Ballast ground, on the eastern side of the Mersey (about a mile and a half from Latrobe),—(1) the nature of the locality, which is the side of a steep hill unsuitable for building; (2) the difficulties attending the navigation of the upper reaches of the Mersey; (3) the exposed condition of vessels lying there without any protection from southerly, south-westerly, or westerly gales; and (4) the limited accommodation.

8. That the harbours of Torquay and Formby are land-locked, and of larger extent than the Ballast Ground.

9. That at the present time large vessels coming to the Mersey to load remain at Formby or Torquay, and cargo is brought to them in punts from Latrobe; and your Petitioners desire to point out that frequently vessels only partially load at the Ballast Ground, because of the nature of the navigation between there and Formby, and complete their loading at Formby.

10. That Mr. C. Napier Bell, C.E., recommends the construction of the railway to Formby, as being of more general use than the improvement of the upper parts of the Mersey.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will take into favourable consideration the matters contained in this Petition when discussing any scheme which shall be laid before your Honorable House for the construction of a Railway from Deloraine to a deep-water shipping-place at the River Mersey:

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 239 Signatures.]