

(No. 58.)



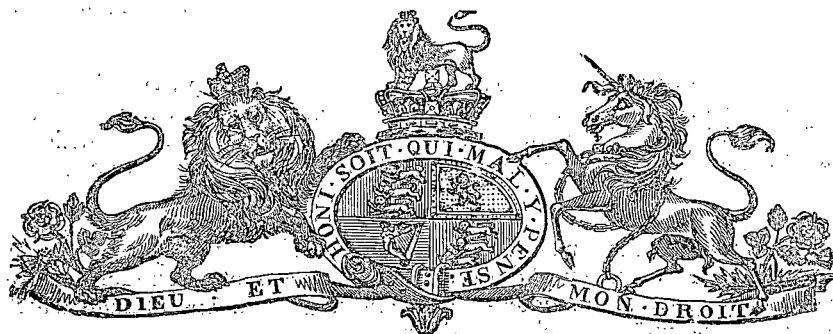
1866.

T A S M A N I A.

KANGAROO POINT FERRY BOAT.

PETITION AND REPLY.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 22 August, 1866.



Bellerive, 21st July, 1866.

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

The Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are residents of the Districts of Clarence, Cambridge, Sorell, and other localities, as well as of Hobart Town, who are all more or less interested in the transit of produce and passengers by the Steam Ferry Bridge *Kangaroo*.

That your Petitioners have heard with regret that, in consequence of the losses of the present Proprietor, there is a probability of the said Steamer being taken off the Ferry during the midwinter and spring months.

That such a result would be a matter of serious public inconvenience, preventing the free interchange of passengers, vehicles, goods, and produce between Hobart Town and the outlying Districts bordering on Kangaroo Point and the eastern parts of the Colony.

That your Petitioners respectfully represent to Your Excellency, that the fares and rates of freight by the said Steamer are at present at their maximum; and your Petitioners humbly consider the desirability of a moderate pecuniary aid being voted by Parliament to assist in retaining the said Steamer on the Ferry.

That Parliament, recognising the necessity of such an assistance as now applied for, in the year 1860 voted the sum of £500 for the maintenance of the Steamer on the Ferry, on the motion of the then Member for Clarence, (Edward Abbott, Esq.)

That as soon as that important work "The Sorell Causeway" is completed, which probably will be in about eighteen months, when the traffic of the entire East Coast will be opened to Hobart Town through Kangaroo Point, it is anticipated the present Steamer will more than pay its expenses.

That the Parliament during last Session voted upwards of £100,000 for useful Reproductive Works and Bridges; and we trust that a moderate amount may be granted in aid of the Steam Bridge now plying between Hobart Town and Kangaroo Point.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take the above matters into your consideration, and place such a sum on the Supplementary Estimates for this year in aid of the Kangaroo Point Steam Ferry Bridge as Your Excellency may be advised.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 78 Signatures.]

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th August, 1866.

GENTLEMEN,

IN reply to the Petition to His Excellency the Governor, praying that a sum of money may be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the current year in aid of the Kangaroo Point Steam Ferry Bridge, I have the honor to inform you that the Petition has been duly laid before the Governor, and the subject brought under the consideration of His Excellency's Ministers.

The Government fully recognise the importance, indeed I may say the public necessity for the retention of the Steamer on the Ferry; but they cannot recommend the adoption of the principle of subsidising private individuals, who, entering upon speculations which they deemed would prove remunerative, unfortunately find the result unsatisfactory.

However desirable it may be to relieve the present owner from the consequences arising from the absence of sufficient traffic to render a Steamer a profitable concern, the Government, if they sanctioned the payment of a Grant-in-aid in the present case, would be liable to claims arising from similar results in speculations of a like nature, and they could not, therefore, advise His Excellency to comply with the prayer of the Petition.

I have, &c.

JAMES WHYTE.

JOHN MURDOCH, *Esq.*, and
the other Subscribers to the Petition.