

(No. 116A.)



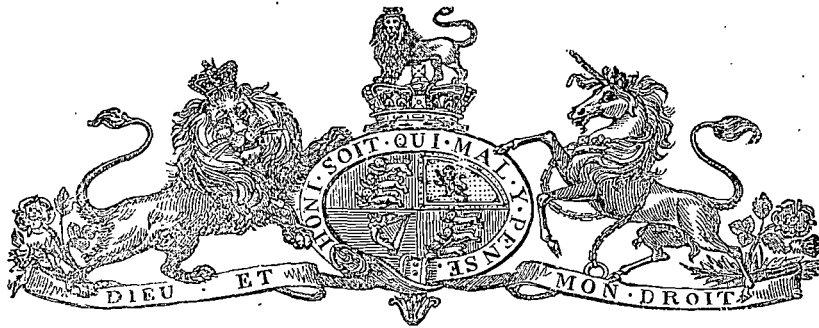
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAWDER HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS :

PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF ZEEHAN AND STRAHAN.

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, September 22, 1891, and ordered
by the House of Assembly to be printed.



To His Excellency SIR ROBERT HAMILTON, K.C.B., Governor of Tasmania.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, the undersigned Residents of the West Coast of Tasmania, and Shareholders in important mining claims there, respectfully pray that Your Excellency in Council will give consideration to this our humble Petition.

Whereas, during the present Session of Parliament several matters of the utmost importance to this portion of the Colony will be discussed and decided, we presume to place before you our views upon a requirement the most important and urgent, upon which depends greatly the success of this district, viz., *the opening up of these great mineral fields to the markets of the world.*

We are aware that several projects are on foot to promote this desideratum—Railways from Zeehan to Waratah; *viâ* Mole Creek to Ulverstone; Extension of the Derwent Valley Line to Zeehan; and lastly, removing the Bar at Macquarie Harbour. All these works are much to be desired, and as our fields develop *must necessarily be constructed*; but we trust that the main object, now so necessary for this development, will not be lost sight of, and that the project likely to advance the success of the mines most rapidly will be sanctioned without loss of time. This project, there cannot be any doubt, is *the removal of the Macquarie Bar.*

We are shortly to have railway connection between Dundas, Zeehan, and Strahan, but at Strahan there must be a block until the port is opened for large ships *suitable for the conveyance of ore and coke.* It will readily be admitted that these materials must, with so near a seaboard, be carried by water and not by railway, and a moderate estimate of the expected traffic will prove that even a large fleet of the present sized steamers could not convey the ore, and they are quite unsuited for coke; and without the latter, smelting on the field cannot be maintained. We believe that the Port of Strahan has sufficient depth of water for the largest ships, and the Bar is the only obstruction, and this is capable of removal within a short time.

We need not remind Your Excellency of the rapid and great prosperity of the whole Colony which will follow when such a natural and easy outlet is provided for the vast wealth of so many rich mines, now practically shut in, and the possible calamity which any undue delay may cause.

We do not presume to indicate to Your Excellency the agency by which this work may be carried out, but we most respectfully pray that prompt measures may be adopted to secure its accomplishment with the least possible delay.

And we will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 359 Signatures.]