

(No. 50.)



1870.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY.

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Grubb, September 7; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 9, 1870.



To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders of Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have heard with great concern and surprise that it is the intention of Government to press on the proposed Scheme of the Main Line of Railway, so as to secure the completion of the arrangement by the mail steamer on Thursday next.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that this haste is incompatible with the due consideration of a matter involving such grave consequences to the Colony, and entirely prevents any expression of opinion by persons living at a distance, especially the landholders and those who have a fixed stake in the Country.

That, notwithstanding your Honorable House gave its sanction last Session to a Railway Scheme, your Petitioners are nevertheless persuaded that its adoption was premature; and, after more thought and experience, are still more strongly impressed that, though the present Scheme may present some advantages over the last year's Scheme, it is quite inconsistent with the present resources and population of the Colony, and, if carried out, must end in the declension for a long period of every Colonial interest.

That your Petitioners, from long residence, are acquainted with the general resources of the Colony, and especially its landed resources, and they submit that all attempts hitherto made to exhibit them to public favour are in a great degree theoretical and fallacious.

That your Petitioners cannot conceal from themselves that the only valid security for the debt about to be contracted is the land, and that personal property can escape at any time from the burden.

That your Petitioners do not consider it unreasonable to refer to the North-western Line as a warning to the advocates of the Main Line in so far as the predicted results of the North-western Line have made no progress towards fulfilment in the form of increased cultivation, and that it is matter of notoriety that many of the strongest supporters of the North-western Line look with favour on the Main Line as a sure means of making the Western Line a national concern.

That your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Scheme introduced by the Government may not receive the sanction of your Honorable House until all classes of the community have had time to consider it.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 8 Signatures.]