

(No. 68.)



1870.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

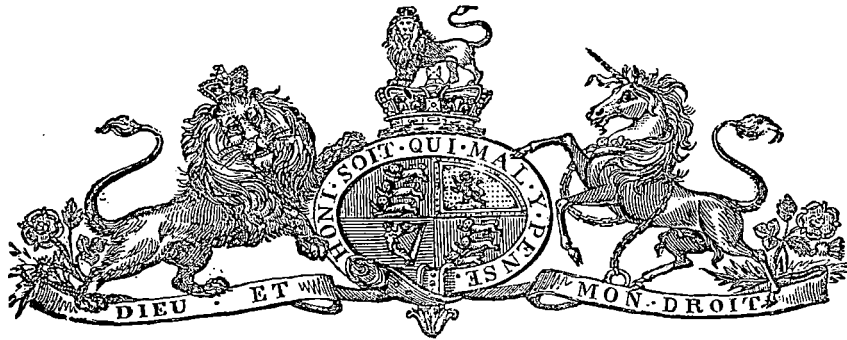
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MAIN LINE RAILWAY.

PETITION FROM NORTH-WEST PORTION OF TASMANIA.

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Presented by Mr. Clerke, September 23; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 28, 1870.



*To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Proprietors and Occupiers of Land in the North-west portion of Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners beg respectfully to state that for a series of past years they have been struggling under the prevailing depression consequent on the low prices obtainable for their produce, and that their difficulties have been greatly enhanced by the bad and dangerous state of the roads throughout the District.

And also that your Petitioners have perceived that a Bill has been introduced into Parliament for authorising the construction of a Main Line of Railway from Hobart Town to Launceston, concerning which they beg to solicit the attention of the Members of your Honorable House to the circumstance that from the remoteness of the proposed Line of Railway from the parts of the country in which your Petitioners reside, however great the advantage and convenience may be to the inhabitants in the two Capitals, and those in the Midland Districts, it cannot be participated in by your Petitioners; also to the contingency of the returns from the Line not paying its working expenses, that the Government will have to make good the guaranteed interest to the Company at the rate of five per cent. per annum upon £650,000 for thirty years, amounting in the aggregate to £975,000. Whether this sum has to be provided by the Colony in the shape of interest, or the funds for the subsequent purchase of the Railway, it will equally entail additional taxation.

Your Petitioners therefore beg to represent that it will be most oppressive and ruinous to impose on them increased imposts for a work from which they will derive no advantage; and therefore pray that in passing the Bill into law a Clause may be introduced exempting them from being taxed on account of the proposed Line of Railway.

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

*[Here follow 66 Signatures.]*