

(No. 110.)



1885.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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TASMANIAN MAIN LINE RAILWAY :

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO STATEMENT OF COLONEL  
GREY AT A MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



Premier's Office, Hobart, 28th August, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to *Herapath's Railway (and Commercial) Journal* of the 11th July last, page 716, where, in the Report of the General Meeting of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, the Chairman is reported to have said:—"I would observe that Mr. Grant assures me these engines were ordered after consultation with and approval of every member of the Government."

I shall feel obliged by your informing me if the above statement is correct, and, if so, what members of the late Government you consulted, and when such consultation took place?

C. H. GRANT, Esquire, Manager of the Tasmanian  
Main Line Railway Company, Limited.

I have, &c. ADYE DOUGLAS.

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Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited,  
Hobart, 1st September, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, in which you refer to a report in *Herapath's Railway Journal* of the last General Meeting of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited, and ask as to the correctness of the statement therein supposed to have been made by the Chairman, to the effect that the locomotive engines supplied in 1884 were only ordered after my assurance that I had consulted with and obtained the approval of every member of the Government to their being procured.

In reply, I have to state that, supposing these exact words to have been spoken, the Chairman must to some extent have misunderstood my information to the Directors, and given it a more definite character than I intended to convey.

My advices towards the close of the year 1882 were to the effect that the members of the Ministry were cognisant of my having indented for new engines, and had raised no objection whatever to such a proceeding; and since many public complaints were made about that time as to the deficiency of rolling-stock, it was my custom to informally mention to Ministers, on each convenient occasion, my earnest endeavour to meet the public requirements in that respect. In my official letter to the Hon. the Treasurer, dated the 14th April, 1883, being the time at which the engines were ordered to be manufactured, occurs the following remark:—"I take this opportunity to assure the Government and yourself that the inconvenience the public have latterly experienced from the want of rolling-stock, both passenger and goods, has caused me much regret, but was wholly unavoidable with the existing resources of the Company. Every effort is now being made to overtake the proper maintenance of this rolling-stock, and to provide against the serious disadvantage both to the Colony and the Company the deficiency in this respect must necessarily entail."

In subsequent official letters I have alluded to the supply of additional rolling-stock in similar terms; and have been careful to keep both the Government and the Company informed of the extra railway accommodation I was providing.

Having referred to other press reports of the last General Meeting contemporaneously published I do not find any such expression as is credited to Colonel Grey, and therefore presume that the statement you enquire into the accuracy of is merely a reporter's summary of what, considering the extreme importance of the subject to the shareholders then assembled, must necessarily have been a long and detailed explanation.

The Hon. ADYE DOUGLAS, M.L.C., Premier  
and Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.

C. H. GRANT.