

(No. 59.)



1870.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY.

PETITION OF MR. HENRY IVEY.

Presented by Mr. Kennerley, September 20; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 21, 1870.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned resident of the City of Hobart Town, Tasmania.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner has studied carefully the proposal before the Legislature of Tasmania for constructing and maintaining a Main Line of Railway from Hobart Town to Launceston, by means of a guarantee Company or Person in Contract with the Governor in Council, subject to conditions mutually agreed.

That your Petitioner is alarmed at the fact that the passage of the Main Line Railway Amendment Act now before the Legislature will place the Railway destinies of this country in the hands of strangers whose interests can never become identified with our own ; whose immense influence as a Railway Constructing Company will be brought to bear upon the political and commercial relations of the country to such an extent as shall exclude all attempts of an elected Representative Government to control, however carefully drawn any Contract may be, the complications inseparable from the relations of parties thereto subjecting the capital and propertied interests of Tasmania to very considerable exposure.

That your Petitioner has learnt the Act now submitted to your Honorable House, if passed into law, will enable the Governor in Council to close already agreed proposals with Captain Coote, to the exclusion of other persons or Companies with other proposals ; upon which they most respectfully submit that, should the Government proposal be adopted by the Legislature, the best and true interests of Tasmania will be compromised.

That your Petitioner has ever been, and now is, a true and firm advocate for Railway construction in Tasmania, of such a character and in such a manner as shall best conserve to the general interests of the community.

That your Petitioner further represents a body of Tasmanian resident capitalists willing to treat for the construction of the proposed Main Line Railway under the Government guarantee upon a possible capital of £650,000 (Six hundred and fifty thousand Pounds) upon terms more favourable to the Colony than those submitted by the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company (Limited), and are prepared to establish the *bona fides* of their offer to an extent equal with the aforesaid Company.

That your Petitioner further represents practical Tasmanian competent Contractors, as distinct from other proposed Companies or Persons in this or the adjacent Colonies, who tendered for the construction of the first Tasmanian Railway (the Launceston and Deloraine Line) ; and your Petitioner therefore most respectfully prays the prejudice then operating to the exclusion of home endeavour may find no place in the considerations of your Honorable House, inasmuch that the employment of strangers has not realised the objects and advantages contemplated in their selection.

That your Petitioner would respectfully submit that rival interests contending for the honor of constructing the proposed Main Line Railway will place the Governor in Council in a most advantageous position to secure conditions in the proposed Contract between a Company and the Country favourable to the community at large.

That your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Honorable House will be pleased to cause such an amendment in the proposed amended Main Line of Railway Act as will justify, enable, and compel the Executive Government for the time being to treat with other Persons or Companies in addition to Captain Coote, and further be pleased to adopt such measures as shall effectually secure fair and open competition to all willing to enter into negotiation with the Governor in Council for the construction and maintenance of the proposed Railway.

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

HENRY IVEY.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.