

(No. 85.)



1875.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

M A I N L I N E R A I L W A Y C O M P A N Y.

P E T I T I O N F R O M M R . C . H . G R A N T.

Presented by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed,
September 1, 1875.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and the Members of the House of Assembly,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are now engaged in constructing the Main Line Railway, according to the terms of the Contract entered into between the Governor in Council and your Petitioners, dated the 15th day of March, 1872, which said Contract was based on Acts of Parliament passed by your Honorable House.

That your Petitioners are informed of the introduction of a Bill into your Honorable House, intituled "A Bill to make provision for the Inspection and Supervision of Railways," some of the provisions of which are of a highly restrictive and penal character.

That, by the second clause to the said Contract, the Government are vested with all necessary powers for the inspection and supervision of the Main Line Railway; and can make such regulations as they deem necessary, provided only that these are not more onerous upon, or less advantageous to, the Company than the conditions of such Contract.

That it appears to your Petitioners that the clauses of the Bill limiting the rights of the Company in respect to conveying passengers during the time of the construction of the Railway (a privilege which they have heretofore exercised), and imposing restrictions as to the conditions under which it may be opened for public traffic; the reference to the Supreme Court of such a subject when in dispute; the requirement of signals (considered unnecessary by the Company); and also the clauses imposing penalties, cannot fail to be more onerous upon, or less advantageous to, the Company than the terms of their present Contract, and therefore are at variance therewith.

That your Petitioners, while fully recognising the duty incumbent upon them of loyally fulfilling the terms of their Contract, feel assured that your Honorable House does not desire to pass a Bill which would alter the Contract most prejudicially to the Company, or might endow them with a right to make claims against the Government on account of such alterations, or else excuse them for breaches of its provisions.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will take this Petition into consideration, and will allow them to be heard at the Bar of your Honorable House in opposition to the Bill.

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

THE TASMANIAN MAIN LINE RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED,
By their Attorney, CHARLES H. GRANT.