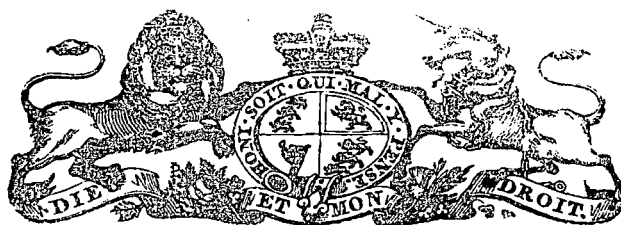


(No. 87.)



1881.

T A S M A N I A.

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

**STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH WEST
COAST:**

P E T I T I O N.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, August 9, 1881, and ordered by
the House to be printed.



To His Excellency the Governor in Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Cities of Hobart and
Launceston,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the existence of great mineral wealth in Tasmania has been sufficiently demonstrated by recent discoveries, and the results of practical mining, to warrant the belief entertained by your Petitioners that the Colony has entered on a career of mining prosperity which, if energetically pursued, cannot fail to prove a lasting source of wealth to the country.

That these discoveries offer a wide and hopeful field of enterprise to the capitalist, and a powerful inducement to the settlement of a large mining population.

That, while it is conceded that the acquisition of wealth by means of these discoveries is open to all, it is assumed, nevertheless, that it is incumbent on the State strenuously to promote every effort of private enterprise calculated to secure to the commonwealth a lasting prosperity.

That stanniferous discoveries of immense value have of late been made on the West Coast of this Island in the vicinity of Mount Heemskirk, on the development of which capital and labour have already been unsparingly expended with results which leave no question as to the future of that district; but, up to the present moment, the assistance rendered by the Government has not been at all commensurate with the magnitude of these discoveries as sources of national wealth.

That, owing to the distant and isolated position of these mineral deposits, the only practicable route for the conveyance of machinery, stores, tin ore, &c. is by water, and happily in this respect every facility offers for the successful opening up of a great mining industry did the necessary means of transit exist; but, in the absence of such means of transit, your Petitioners feel warranted on public grounds in making this appeal to Your Excellency's Government for such assistance as will secure to Tasmania the benefits which would arise from the realisation of her mineral resources.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take this matter into your most serious consideration, and promote, through your Government, such measures as will ensure, for a time at least, by subsidy or otherwise, regular Steam Communication between the West Coast and the Ports of Hobart and Launceston.

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

[Here follow 307 Signatures.]