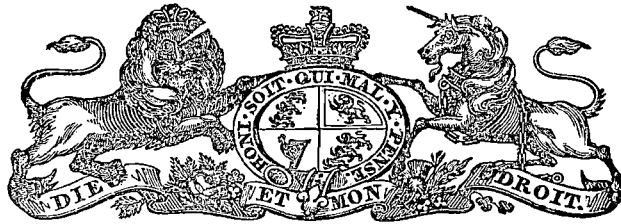


(No. 48.)



1865.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GRANTS IN AID OF ROADS.

PETITIONS AGAINST WITHDRAWAL FROM.

1. Mr. A. M. Milligan.
2. Trustees of several Road Districts. } (*Sir R. Dry.*)
3. Trustees of Carrick Road District. }
4. Glamorgan Municipal Council. (*Mr. Whyte.*)
5. Mr. John Thomson. (*Mr. Weedon.*)

Presented, August 25; and ordered by the Council to be printed, August 30, 1865.



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

Petition from the Dorset Road Trust.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT notice has been given by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer for a Motion to set aside the recent "Waste Lands Act," so far as assisting the several Road Districts with the Contribution in Aid of Assessments for making and repairing Roads.

That such a Motion, if carried, will involve the Dorset Road Trustees in difficulties, inasmuch as they have commenced works and entered into contracts depending on the good faith of the Government in carrying out the said law as respects the payment of the said Contribution in Aid.

That, in addition to this, the Main Road to George Town passes through the entire Road District, being also the road to the new Gold Diggings at the "Devil's Den," which road, by the additional traffic to said Diggings, is being sadly cut up and injured, requiring an immediate and extraneous outlay in consequence; and, by the withdrawal of the Contribution in Aid as provided by law, your Petitioners will be deprived of the means they have depended upon to carry out their engagements and the requirements of the Road District for 1865.

We therefore respectfully beg your Honorable Council not to annul the said law, as far as Road Districts are concerned, for this present year, in order that Road Trusts depending on such revenue may have reasonable notice given of such contemplated changes in the law some time prior to levying of Rates and expenditure of Trust Funds, by forming contracts, &c.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

For the Dorset Road Trustees,

A. M. MILLIGAN, *Chairman.*

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

The humble Petition of the Trustees of the Road Districts of Upper Meander, Chudleigh, Deloraine, and Midhurst.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners desire to direct the attention of your Honorable House to the fact that in 1863 Parliament, deeply impressed with the importance of the subject, and after most careful and intelligent enquiry and deliberation, passed "The Waste Lands Act, 1863," by the 86th Section of which one-fourth part of the proceeds of Waste Lands was set apart for the construction of roads, bridges, &c.

That your Petitioners do not think it just that the interests of the owners and occupiers of land in the settled parts of the Colony—many of whom have purchased land directly from the Crown

during the last two or three years—should be neglected, and that they should be deprived of the aid which Parliament has, in its wisdom, expressly provided for them out of the Land Fund; while, at the same time, the Land Fund is, as it were, pledged for the repayment of moneys expended in the construction of roads through unpopulated or sparsely populated Districts.

That your Petitioners request leave to point out to your Honorable House that the same reasons which exist this year, for withdrawing from them the grant provided by law in aid of the construction of their roads, may exist next year and the year following; and it may thus, finally, come to be absorbed into the General Revenue of the Colony.

That your Petitioners are fully confident that, by the withdrawal, even for one year, of the Grant in aid of the construction of roads, bridges, &c., very serious injury will accrue to the roads in the Road Districts of which your Petitioners are Trustees, owing to the insufficiency of the Road Rates, even at the high rate of one shilling in the pound, to maintain in good repair the parts of the roads already made, and to construct those portions which are not made.

That your Petitioners therefore, for the foregoing reasons, and for others which might be stated, humbly pray that your Honorable House will not sanction the repeal or suspension of the provisions of the 86th and 87th Sections of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

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

[*Here follow 24 Signatures.*]

To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Trustees and Ratepayers of the Road District of Carrick.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners have heard with surprise and alarm the projected withdrawal of the annual Grant in aid to the several Road Districts, contrary to the provisions of the 86th and 87th Sections of "The Waste Lands Act."

That the withdrawal of the said Grant in aid will amount to a great injustice, as the Trustees of the Road District of Carrick have already anticipated the sum by the execution of works on the roads.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable Council will not sanction the withdrawal of the said Grant.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[*Here follow 67 Signatures.*]

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

The Petition of the Warden and Council of the Rural Municipality of Glamorgan.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners, as Councillors of the Municipality of Glamorgan, also perform the duties of Road Trustees therein.

That Section 87 of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863," provides that a certain portion of the Land Fund shall be applied to assisting the several Road Districts in the Island with a contribution therefrom of an amount equal to Sixpence for every Shilling raised in such Districts by assessment for road purposes.

That the working of such Section, whilst causing a fixed portion of the Land Fund to flow through a legitimate channel, has given universal satisfaction; and that the annual receipt of such moneys by the various Districts is now looked upon almost as a matter of right.

That your Petitioners cannot but view with feelings of regret and dissatisfaction the proposal of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer to strike off from the amount guaranteed to the Road Districts by the above recited Section the sum of Nine thousand five hundred Pounds (£9500), for the purpose of applying the same towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the year 1866.

Your Petitioners, in common with all other inhabitants of the Colony, deplore the necessity which has suggested such a proposition; but, knowing from practical experience the value of assistance to the utmost possible extent in the formation and repair of roads, they would respectfully submit their opinion that it would be unwise to disturb an arrangement which has always worked satisfactorily, and would beg to express a hope that some other and less objectionable method may be devised to raise the amount necessary for carrying on the general Government.

That your Petitioners therefore earnestly pray that your Honorable House will refuse to sanction the passing of any measure having for its object the withdrawal of any portion of the moneys at present secured to the several Road Districts by Section 87 of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

A. GRAHAM, *Warden.*

FRANCIS COTTON,
J. P. KING,
JOHN AMOS,
WM. LYNE,
ADAM AMOS,

} *Municipal Councillors.*

Affixed the Common Seal this 15th day of
August, 1865.

ALFRED T. MAYSON, *Council Clerk.*

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

The humble Petition of the Trustees of the West Tamar Road District.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have been made aware of the intention to ask your Honorable House to assent to a measure which will have the effect of diverting from its purpose the fund created under provisions of the 86th Section of 27 Victoria, No. 22, to other purposes.

That the heavy assessment upon the West Tamar Road District consequent upon the expenditure of a large sum of money in constructing a bridge over the South Esk River, in addition to the usual road rates, will render the imposition of any further rate most oppressive.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to withhold its assent from any measure having for its object the diversion of this fund from its proper application as directed by the 87th Section of the Statute above quoted.

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

JOHN THOMSON, *Chairman pro tem.*