

(No. 32.)



1865.

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T A S M A N I A.

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QUEENBOROUGH ROAD TRUST.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, 1 August, 1865, and ordered by  
the House to be printed.



*Sandy Bay, Queenborough, 16th June, 1865.*

SIR,

As Chairman of the Road Trust I have been requested to point out to you the unfair position which the Queenborough District is placed in by the present state of the law, and to urge upon the Executive Government its just claim to some assistance from the public funds.

When the Queenborough District was first established, and the Roads handed over to the charge of Trustees, it was found that a Toll-bar had already been erected by the Government; and the Trustees, seeing that the main line to Brown's River was much used both by the citizens of Hobart Town and the Kingborough settlers, concluded that it would be unjust to burden the property within the District with the whole expense of the annual wear and tear, and therefore decided upon continuing to levy, in preference to an assessment, a toll whereby all those who used the road should contribute to its maintenance. This system, the equity of which cannot be questioned, has ever since continued in operation; and under it the annual sum of about Three hundred and fifty Pounds has been raised. Of this amount, by far the larger portion has been contributed by the actual residents in the District, who have thus, in fact, paid more than they would have been compelled to do under an assessment of nine-pence or ten-pence in the Pound.\*

Unfortunately, however, for the interests of the District, the 87th Section of "The Waste Lands Act" only entitles Districts to assistance from the Land Fund which have raised contributions by assessment. Consequently, whilst every other Road District in the Island has been in the receipt of aid from the Government, Queenborough alone—notwithstanding that it has in reality taxed itself for road purposes above the average rate—has never received the smallest assistance from the Treasury. Even the money received for Dog Licences, although granted to other Districts, has been withheld from Queenborough.

The injustice of this exclusion of our District from all participation in the public moneys laid aside for road purposes is so obvious, that I feel assured that it will at once be admitted by the Government; and as the funds at the disposal of the Trustees are not equal to the demand upon them, they confidently trust that the Executive, under the circumstances, will not hesitate to recommend to Parliament a Special Vote in favour of the Queenborough Road District of Two hundred Pounds.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN DICKENSON.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd June, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to inform you that the question therein raised by you as to the claim of the Queenborough District to a Grant from Public Funds was mooted in Parliament during its last Session, and decided in the negative; and that, therefore, the Government feels itself constrained to decline to entertain your application.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

JOHN DICKENSON, *Esquire, Sandy Bay.*

\* By the Assessment Roll now in force the annual value of property in the Queenborough Road District is £6330.