

(No. 95.)



1871.

T A S M A N I A.

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

BOTHWELL.

P E T I T I O N A G A I N S T R A I L W A Y R A T E.

Presented by Mr. Swan, and ordered by the House to be printed, November 29,
1871.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders and Householders of the District of Bothwell, in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

First—That your Petitioners view with serious apprehension the alarmingly increasing amount of the Public Debt of the Colony, together with the decreasing Revenue derivable from the Land Fund.

Secondly—That your Petitioners can entertain no hope that a Main Line of Railway between Hobart Town and Launceston, if constructed, can prove remunerative in the present state of the Colonial Finances.

Thirdly—That, in addition to the existing rates of taxation, the extraction of a sum of £32,000 per annum to be paid in the shape of interest to Foreign Capitalists must prove ruinous to the holders of real property throughout the Colony.

Fourthly—That in support of these opinions your Petitioners respectfully desire to draw the attention of your Honorable House to the fact that the Launceston and Deloraine Railway is now being carried on at a serious loss to the Shareholders, a loss in which the Colonists as a body must inevitably participate. This Line is carried into a rich alluvial country, with a numerous population, while the proposed Main Line will, if carried out, pass through a less fertile country, thinly inhabited. These facts, coupled with the low prices of produce which have ruled for many years in the Tasmanian markets, render it hopeless to anticipate any approach to a remunerative amount of traffic on a Main Line of Railway.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House will give the subject your most serious consideration, and withhold your assent to any Amendment of the Main Line Railway Bill which may be asked for to enable the Government to carry out the scheme.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 35 Signatures.]