

(No. 62.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GRANTS IN AID OF ROADS.

PETITION AGAINST WITHDRAWAL.

Presented by Mr. Innes, September 12; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 13, 1865.



*To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council
of Tasmania.*

The humble Petition of the Ratepayers of the Southern Macquarie River Road District, in
Public Meeting assembled.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have seen with surprise and regret that the Colonial Treasurer, in the House of Assembly, on the 16th day of August last past, proposed "That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the year 1866, there be applied in aid of the General Revenue so much of the fourth part of all Moneys received in 1865 on account of Purchase-money, Rent, or Licence Fees of Waste Lands of the Crown as is now set apart by law for the purpose of assisting the several Road Districts with a contribution therefrom of an amount equal to Sixpence in the Shilling raised in such Districts by Assessment for Road purposes," and that such was carried in that House. The effect of such Resolution, if sanctioned by your Honorable House, would be virtually to repeal or suspend the operation of Section 87 of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

That your Petitioners would say the Road Tax is by no means generally popular with the landed proprietors in the various Road Districts, and they in most cases record the greatest number of votes at the election of Trustees, and are therefore not by any means likely to place men in office who will inflict a Tax on them for making and repairing Roads for general public use unless the Tax is to be as heretofore supplemented out of the Land Funds.

That the loss of the amount of the supplemented Tax will be most severely felt by the labouring population in this District, which is to a very great extent dependent on the Road Trust for employment during the winter months of the year.

That in this District alone not less than 40 miles of road lie yet unformed and unimproved, and on which large sums of money must necessarily be expended to render them anything better than mere tracks.

That your Petitioners have no reason to believe that the resources of the Colony are likely so to improve (at least for years to come) as to render the exigencies of the Government less pressing for general purposes than they are at the present moment, and consequently that the proposed appropriation of that portion of the Land Fund which by Act of Parliament has been ceded to the Road Districts will be as likely to be appropriated by the House of Assembly for an indefinite period as for one year.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will reject the Resolution aforesaid as unjust to the Road Districts, and utterly subversive of all confidence in the Legislature of the Colony.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.,

[Here follow 62 Signatures.]