

(No. 160.)



1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**PROPOSED RAILWAY THROUGH GREEN
PONDS AND BAGDAD :**

PETITION AND PAPERS.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Pillinger.)

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, October 2, 1884 ; and ordered by
the House to be printed, October 17, 1884.



*To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, R.A., K.C.M.G.,
Governor, in Council, of Tasmania, &c.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders and Ratepayers of the Municipality of
Green Ponds,

PRAYETH :

That Your Excellency will be pleased to place on the Estimates at the next Session of Parliament a sum of money sufficient for the construction of a branch line of Railway through this Municipality by way of Bagdad.

That you will be pleased to take into consideration that the proposed branch line in so far as it concerns this Municipality is a thoroughly practicable one, it being the one originally intended by Parliament in the construction of a main line of railway through the centre of population,—surveyed by Mr. Wylie, and afterwards by Mr. Climie, Mr. Zeal, and Mr. Green,—whose reports were all favourable to this line, and therefore we ought to have been enjoying with other districts the benefits conferred by railway communication.

That, in consequence of the deviation of the Main Line of Railway from this district, we labour under the great disadvantages of a depreciation of property, increased taxation to support railways without corresponding benefits, and also depression in both agricultural and pastoral pursuits, because, being shut out from the means of cheap and rapid communication, the cost of transit of produce is so great that we are unable to compete with other more favoured districts, or grow with a sufficient profit to encourage increased cultivation.

That you will consider that out of about 83,515 acres of freehold property in this Municipality only about 3697 have this year (1883) been cultivated,—an amount much smaller than former years,—mainly in consequence of the want of cheaper and easier means of transit.

That the amount of grain, &c. grown this year (1883), with other ascertained carriage, and the travelling of fat stock to market, is estimated to cost at present rates and means £7224 15s. 7½d., an amount more than sufficient to pay our estimated share in the cost of construction and annual working expenses of a branch line of railway; while it is stated by competent judges that the traffic of all sorts on a railway from this Municipality only would soon reach the sum of £10,000 per annum,—an amount that would give considerable profit over the cost of construction and working expenses, the cost of such traffic being estimated at the prices now charged by the Main Line Railway Company.

That the Municipal Council of Green Ponds have gathered statistics, admittedly reliable; which show that a large development of agricultural pursuits would surely ensue if a branch line is constructed through this district, not only in opening up new lands but also by recultivation of thousands of acres of rich land, while other industries, such as hop and orchard cultivation, would be stimulated. An almost unlimited supply of stone for flagging and freestone for building purposes, of the finest quality, as can be shown in the fine buildings built for and known as *Ellis's Hotel*, which has stood the test of 40 years' exposure with the result that the stone is now as good as when first built, and the stone is capable of taking a fine polish; while forests of blue-gum, peppermint, and stringy-bark of the best quality abound, suitable for sleepers and building purposes,—as can be instanced in the bridge across the Jordan at Brighton,—the timber for which was brought from Constitution Hill in preference to that much nearer in the Brighton district. Firewood in abundance could be sent to market, while coal has been found near the township and other parts contiguous to the proposed branch line. Also, that if a branch line of railway were constructed by any other route the important townships of Brighton and Green Ponds would be again entirely left out. Also, that you will take into consideration that we, as owners of the land through which the proposed branch line will run (excepting such land as used for orchards or gardens or damaged by severance), are willing to forego any claim to compensation for such land as is necessary for the construction of such branch line of railway.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 70 signatures.]

ESTIMATE made by Railway Committee of probable Returns, based on present traffic and Railway Commissioners' Report, of Green Ponds District only.

	£	s.	d.
Fruit.....	37	10	0
60,000 bushels Grain	700	0	0
Passenger traffic	700	0	0
3000 tons Hay, at 6s.....	900	0	0
700 tons Bark.....	211	0	0
577 Bales Wool, at 2s. 6d. per bale.....	72	0	0
Cattle, 40 trucks	30	0	0
Sheep, 153 trucks	120	0	0
230 Bales Rabbit-skins.....	30	0	0
Timber, posts and rails, and firewood.....	1500	0	0
Goods inward, 800 tons	300	0	0
Parcels	200	0	0
Mails	200	0	0
	£5000	10	0

Not including traffic from Bothwell, Spring Hill, part of Black Marsh, Bagdad, Upper Brighton.

STATISTICS gathered for Municipal Council by application personally to each Landholder or Occupier.

1883.

Whole area of land occupied, acres	83,515
Under cultivation this year, acres	3697
Amount of grain of all sorts produced, bushels	59,455
Hay, tons	1076
Potatoes, tons.....	273
Mangolds, tons	173
Fruit, bushels.....	500
Fat Stock only—	
Sheep	7680
Cattle	336
Pigs	231
Wool, bales.....	577
Rabbit-skins, bales.....	230
Bark, tons	700

Amount likely to be produced if Railway accommodation were provided.

Grain, bushels.....	154,835
Hay, tons	3000
Potatoes, tons.....	2003
Mangolds, tons	348
Fruit, bushels	13,882
Sheep, fat	13,800
Pigs.....	630
Wool, bales.....	604
Bark, tons	850
Rabbit-skins, bales.....	230
Posts and Rails	11,000
Firewood, tons (annually).....	3000
Butter, tons	8
Carriage for shops, &c., tons.....	1460

Extra amount producible if Railway accommodation were provided.

Grain, bushels.....	95,380
Hay, tons	1924
Potatoes, tons.....	1730
Mangolds, tons	175
Fruit, bushels	13,382
Fat Sheep	6120
Cattle	235
Pigs.....	399
Wool, bales.....	27
Bark, tons	150
Firewood, tons	3000
Posts and Rails.....	11,000
Butter, tons	8
Carriage for Stores, &c., tons.....	800

Estimated cost of transit of Grain, &c. grown this year, at present charges.

	£	s.	d.
59,455 bushels Grain, at $4\frac{1}{2}d.$	1114	15	$7\frac{1}{2}$
2882 tons, at 20s.	2882	0	0
Wool, Rabbit-skins, Fat Stock, &c.	3228	0	0
	<u>£7224</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>$7\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Cost of amount producible by Railway.

	£	s.	d.
154,835 bushels, at $2\frac{1}{2}d.$	1612	17	3
11,005 tons goods	4402	0	0
Firewood	750	0	0
Posts and Rails, &c.	2700	0	0
Fruit.....	37	10	0
	<u>£9502</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>