

(No. 26.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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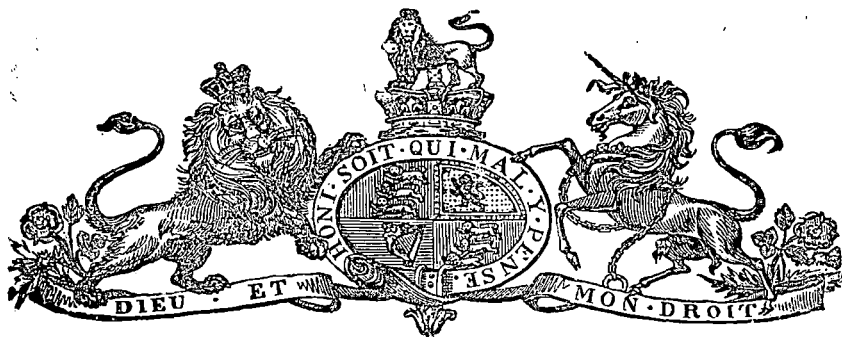
**MAIN LINE RAILWAY ADVANCES:**

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

*Return to an Order of the Council dated November 1, 1877. (Mr. Chapman.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
November 8, 1877.



*Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited,  
General Manager's Office, Hobart Town, 4th August, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to address you, being under the apprehension that the usual custom of adjourning Parliament for some weeks may be followed before any arrangement can be made for a settlement of the Main Line Railway question; and as this proceeding might involve the closing of the Line for public traffic, I have to request that some arrangement be made to provide against what would be a great calamity, both to the Colony and to the Company.

At a personal interview, I had the honor to furnish you with evidence—which is at your disposal—that the Main Line Railway Company urgently required funds with which to keep open the Line; and the loan of £14,900 being exhausted, I have no alternative but to request that the Government will continue the advances—of about Two thousand pounds monthly—such being our actual expenditure over income at this season of the year.

The amount now claimed by the Company for guaranteed interest is Forty-three thousand one hundred and forty pounds eight shillings and five pence (£43,140 8s. 5d.), against which may be placed the loans of £17,900, leaving a large balance due to the Company.

That you are aware of the extreme urgency of the matter must be my apology for intruding upon you at the present time, which I do most unwillingly; but it is my duty to press this subject to your immediate and earnest consideration, since, unless the advances are arranged for, I am of opinion that the Railway must of necessity be closed within the next four weeks.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

CHARLES H. GRANT.

*Hon. THOS. REIBEY, M.H.A.,  
Premier and Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th August, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, requesting that some arrangement might be entered into for the continuation of the advances lately made by the Government to the Company during the probable adjournment of Parliament.

In reply, I have to inform you that the present Ministry having placed their resignations in the hands of the Governor, and His Excellency having been pleased to accept the same, they are not prepared to undertake pecuniary responsibilities in connexion with the Main Line Railway which have not received the sanction of Parliament. It must rest with their successors to consider the question of continuing financial assistance to the Company.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*C. H. GRANT, Esquire, Manager  
Tasmanian Main Line Railway.*