

(No. 73.)



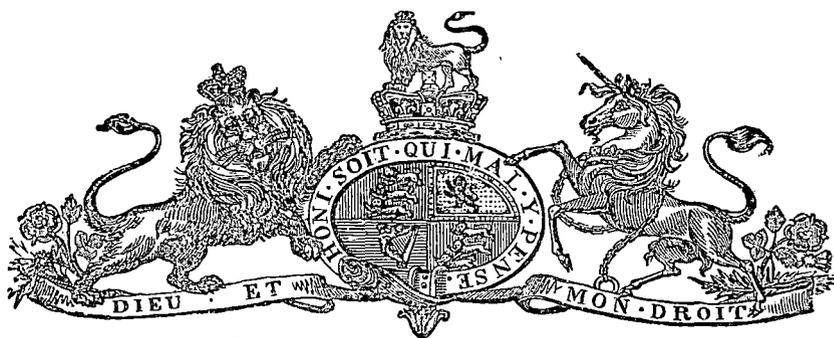
1866.

T A S M A N I A.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

PETITION FROM LAUNCESTON FOR AMENDMENTS IN THE
ACT.

Presented by Mr. Douglas, and ordered by the House to be printed, 30 August,
1866.



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

The Petition of the undersigned Landholders of the Launceston and Western Districts.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT a Bill is before your Honorable House entitled "A Bill to amend the Launceston and Western Railway Act."

2. That another Bill, entitled "The Railway Companies Bill," is also before you, comprising Clauses to repeal the said Western Railway Act.

3. That the construction of the Launceston and Western Railway, intended to pass from Launceston to Deloraine, through or near the important Townships and Districts of St. Leonards, Breadalbane, Evandale, Perth, Longford, Bishopsbourne, Hagley, Westbury, and Exton, has been earnestly desired by the inhabitants for a period exceeding nine years.

4. That the population directly interested in the proposed work comprise nearly one-third of the whole population of the Colony,—they produce more than one-half the agricultural produce of the Colony,—are the proprietors of nearly one-third of the live stock of the Colony, and the assessed value of their freeholds amounts to nearly one-third the entire value of the property of the Colony.

5. That, during the aforesaid period of nine years and upwards, a large amount of the private funds of the said inhabitants, besides a Parliamentary grant-in-aid, has been expended in making the necessary surveys and statistical enquiries.

6. That the result of these enquiries has been an increasing conviction year by year of the necessity for this work to the said Districts, and of its importance to the Colony at large.

7. That on a poll of the freeholders, taken in December last, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," these deep convictions were exhibited in the practical result of a majority of 1712 against 545 votes, representing a majority of 901 to 163 landholders on the important question that the interest of the Loan required to be guaranteed by Government should be a charge upon the lands of the District; thus effectually providing against any contribution being made from the public funds.

8. That the landholders of the said Districts in adopting this responsibility on account of a work in the benefits of which they cannot exclusively participate, but which must be realized in great measure by the country at large, is an unprecedented evidence of earnest self-reliance on the part of the Northern people with reference to a great public work, and entitles them to the most liberal consideration of your Honorable House.

9. And further, that upwards of 300 of the said landowners, in addition to the said responsibility, are prepared to raise the sum of £50,000 towards the construction of the said Railway, in further proof of their confidence in the reproductive nature of the work.

10. That the financial arrangements necessary to secure economical Tenders from Contractors, and which arrangements are partially entered into, can only be completed by the Parliament sanctioning the aforesaid amendments.

Petitioners therefore pray that the said Bill for amending "The Launceston and Western Railway Act" may receive the sanction of your Honorable House, and that the Clauses of "The Railway Companies Bill," intended to repeal the said Railway Act, may not pass into law.

[Here follow 94 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.