

(No. 76.)



1869.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

M A I N L I N E O F R A I L W A Y .

P E T I T I O N F R O M A . F . R O O K E , E S Q .

Presented by Mr. Clerke, October 7; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 8, 1869.



*To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in
Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the Landholders in the Municipalities of Westbury and Deloraine, in Public Meeting assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are Landholders in those parts of the Launceston and Western Railway District which would derive no local benefit from the construction of a Main Line of Railway from Hobart Town to Launceston.

That your Petitioners have to pay not only the interest on the public loan of £300,000, but also the Salaries of Commissioners appointed to protect the interests of the Government, making a total of £19,200 a year, which is equal to Twelve Shillings and Nine-pence a head per annum on the population of the Railway District, estimating it at 30,000 souls; that, besides this amount, they have to pay the interest on the capital (£50,000) which the Launceston and Western Railway Company was compelled by statute to invest in the Railway from Launceston to Deloraine, the interest of which at 6 per cent. per annum is £3000—equal to Two Shillings a head more,—making Fourteen Shillings and Nine-pence a head in all.

That under the Main Line of Railway Bill your Petitioners would be liable to an additional amount of interest of about £5400 a year, raising their annual burden of interest to Sixteen Shillings and Four-pence a head, besides the interest on the Shares in the Launceston and Western Railway Company.

That about 15,000 of the Inhabitants of the Launceston and Western Railway District, including your Petitioners, have no local interest in the proposed Main Line of Railway, for which they would, nevertheless, have to pay (if it should be constructed) interest equal to Three Shillings and Seven-pence a head per annum, in addition to Fourteen Shillings and Nine-pence a head per annum for the construction of the Launceston and Western Railway.

That, if the Government were to take over the Launceston and Western Railway with its liabilities, the interest thereon, together with that on the cost of the Main Line of Railway, would only amount to about Eight Shillings and Sixpence a head on the whole population of the Colony.

That your Petitioners bring the foregoing facts under the notice of your Honorable House in full confidence that you will give them your impartial consideration; and they pray, thereupon, that your Honorable House will enquire fully into all the circumstances of their case, and that in carrying out, as regards the proposed Main Line of Railway, the principles of a "National Railway Policy" you will take care that their interests are duly protected, and that they are admitted to a participation in the advantages resulting from the application of those principles to the case of the proposed Main Line of Railway from Hobart Town to Launceston.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed as per Resolution, on behalf of the Meeting, by—

A. F. ROOKE, *Chairman.*