

(No. 28.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

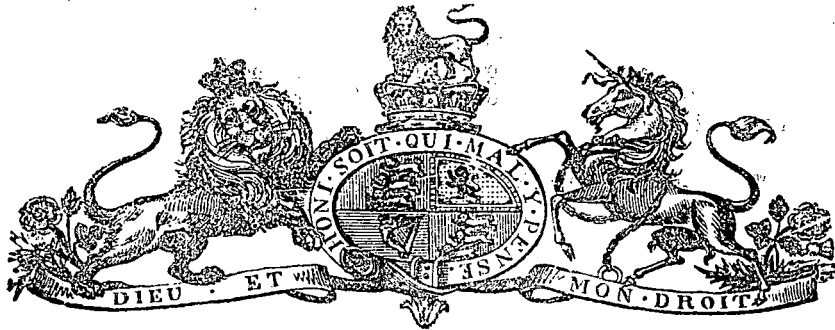
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

J. HURST AND R. J. LUCAS.

PETITION.

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the House to be printed, November 6, 1877.



To His Excellency the Governor in Council.

The humble Petition of James Hurst, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, Coal Merchant, and Richard James Lucas, of the same place, Solicitor.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are the holders of certain land situate at the Sandfly, in the County of Buckingham, in Tasmania, under the provisions of "The Mineral Leases Act," for the purpose of mining for the coal known to exist on the said land, and which is known to be excellent in quality, and for all practicable purposes unlimited in quantity.

That it is the intention of your Petitioners to lay down and work in connection with the mine to be opened on the land so leased as aforesaid a tramway, to be carried down to the shipping place at the head of North West Bay, a distance of nine miles or thereabouts; the tramway to be worked, if practicable, by a steam locomotive, otherwise by horse power.

That the said tramway when constructed will open up a large tract of first-class land which is admirably adapted for agricultural and fruit-growing purposes, and is abundantly supplied with a large quantity of excellent sawing and splitting timber, which is inaccessible by the present means of communication with Hobart Town, and which by the tramway will be brought to market by a cheap and expeditious means of transit.

That the whole of the heavily timbered land lying between a point distant in a north-westerly direction about four miles from North West Bay and the coal, and beyond the coal, and also the land in the immediate vicinity of Allan's Rivulet on the north-eastern side of the proposed tramway, is at present of trifling commercial value for agricultural and timber-producing purposes, notwithstanding the excellent quality of the land and the large quantity and superior quality of the timber thereon, in consequence of the expense of getting the timber and produce to market, the cost of transit being, as your Petitioners have been informed, about one pound five shillings per ton.

That the public estate in the locality referred to will be greatly improved by the construction of the tramway, which will be used as a means of transit for timber and agricultural produce, as well as for coal, and will thus considerably enhance the value and facilitate the improvement of private properties in that neighbourhood, and will materially assist in developing agricultural operations and in opening up a large and profitable field for the employment of labour.

That your Petitioners anticipate being able to produce a large and continuous supply of anthracite coal, of a quality superior to any yet obtained in Tasmania, for home consumption, and also for exportation,—one shipowner having offered to purchase upon certain terms, with which your Petitioners believe they can comply, a large quantity of coal annually for exportation; and should the anticipation of your Petitioners be realised, a considerable coal-mining industry will be developed, and a comparatively large sum of money will be kept in the Colony which is now annually sent out of it for coal for domestic and other purposes.

That your Petitioners anticipate having to expend between four thousand five hundred pounds and five thousand pounds in laying down the said tramway and in the purchase of the necessary plant, and for other purposes connected with the said tramway and coal mine; and it is their intention to keep vessels employed in carrying freight to and from the shipping-place at North West Bay and Hobart Town, and they trust to be able to transport produce to market at a rate less than one-half of the present cost.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit to Your Excellency and your Honorable Council that the comparatively large outlay which will be required to construct the tramway, and the great benefit which will thereby be conferred on that part of the district through which the line will pass, and the impetus which will be given to the settlement of a considerable tract of superior and heavily timbered land entitles your Petitioners to some consideration at the hands of Your Excellency and your Honorable Council.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Parliament of Tasmania to a grant of land in the neighbourhood of the Sandfly being given to your Petitioners to the extent of one hundred acres of land for every mile of tramway constructed by them in that locality.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

JAMES HURST
R. J. LUCAS.