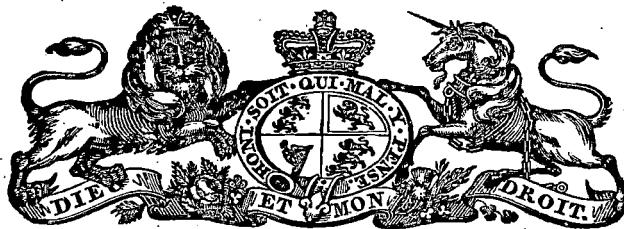


(No. 77.)



1873.

---

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

---

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY  
RATE :

PETITION FROM WESTBURY.

---

Presented by Mr. Thomson, October 16; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
October 23, 1873.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landowners, Ratepayers, Occupiers, and Tenants in the Municipal District of Westbury, being a part and parcel of the Launceston and Westbury Railway District.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT an Act was passed by the Legislature during the Session of 1872, by which your Petitioners are liable to pay the sum of £15,000 per annum, being part of the interest due for the Launceston and Western Railway.

That such of your Petitioners as are tenants have had no vote or voice in imposing upon themselves this burden, and no opportunity to appeal against it; they therefore feel it a peculiar hardship and a grievous injustice to be called upon to bear a burden imposed upon them by others.

That such of your Petitioners as are proprietors voted by a majority to re-guarantee the interest on the Railway Bonds, under the conviction that all other Railways would be constructed on the same principle; and if rated for the same, that it would be according to advantages derived. Your Petitioners complain that the Legislature has long departed from this principle, especially in constructing the Main Line Railway, and therefore that the hardship of this special rate is aggravated by a keen sense of its injustice.

That your Petitioners, being unwilling to act otherwise than in obedience to the law, have paid a moiety of the Railway Rate for the current year, under the firm conviction that when Parliament assembled they would be relieved of the payment of the other moiety.

Your Petitioners, therefore, both on the grounds of the utter inability of many of them to bear this heavy special rate, owing to a great declension in agricultural interests, and also on account of its injustice, pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to repeal the said Act, 36 Vict. No. 20.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*[Here follow 250 Signatures.]*