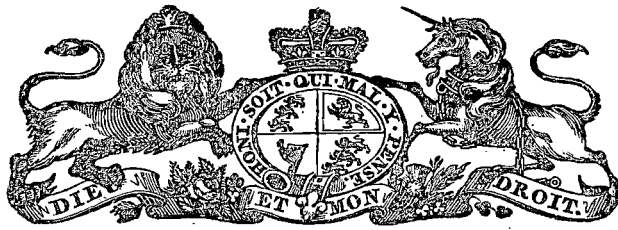


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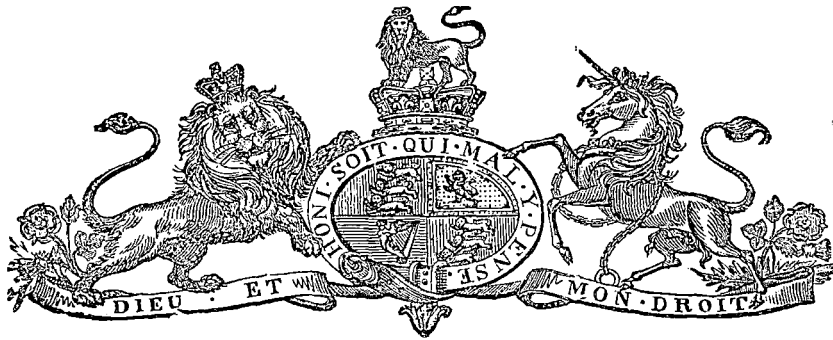
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**MERSEY AND DELORAINE TRAMWAY.**

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR TRANSMITTING THE  
PETITION OF THE COMPANY, PRAYING FOR LAND.

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Ordered by the House to be printed, 24 August, 1865.



T. GORE BROWNE, *Governor.*

The Governor transmits to the House of Assembly the accompanying Petition of the Mersey and Deloraine Tramway Company, respecting the Land to be granted to them.

*Government House, 23 August, 1865.*

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*To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania, and its Dependencies.*

The humble Petition of the Mersey and Deloraine Tramway Company, Limited.

SHOWETH :

THAT previously to the formation of this Company a Petition was presented to Your Excellency by its promoters, setting forth amongst other things that a Survey had been made of the Line of the proposed Tramway, such Line being Thirty miles in length ; that to promote a similar work in South Australia the Legislature of that Colony had proposed to grant to the projectors of such work Two square miles of land for each mile in length of the Railway constructed ; that the Tramway from the Mersey to Deloraine would have to pass through a large portion of crown land, and that the quantity of crown land which must of necessity be enhanced in value by the formation of the Tramway was estimated at Two hundred and thirty-two thousand acres ; and the Petitioners prayed that all crown land over which the Tramway had to pass, with crown land to the extent of One mile on each side of the Tramway, might be vested in the Company.

That it was afterwards resolved by the Legislative Council that an Address should be presented to Your Excellency, praying that Your Excellency would cause the sum of £15,000 to be placed on the Estimates as a contribution towards the proposed Line of Tramway between Deloraine and the Mersey, to be paid in case the said Line of Tramway was completed in a manner approved by Your Excellency in Council, and open for traffic within Three years after the passing of the Mersey and Deloraine Tramway Bill.

That the House of Assembly did not concur in the above Resolution, but that it was afterwards resolved by both Houses of Parliament that an Address should be presented to Your Excellency praying that the crown lands for half a mile on each side of the Deloraine and Mersey Tramway might be granted to your Petitioners in case the said Line of Tramway was completed in a manner approved by Your Excellency in Council, and opened for traffic within the said period of Three years.

That your Petitioners some time since invited Tenders for the construction of Twelve miles of the intended Tramway, to commence at a point on Caroline Creek, distant between three and four miles from Latrobe, and to extend thence to and across the Mersey near Kimberley's Ford.

That a Contract has been entered into with your Petitioners for the completion of this portion of the Tramway, for the sum of Twelve thousand five hundred Pounds (your Petitioners supplying the rails and fastenings), and that the work is now in progress.

That this portion of the proposed Tramway when completed will include a substantial bridge across the Mersey, at a point distant about fifteen miles from Deloraine; and will afford to all persons residing in the Deloraine District a new and convenient means of access to a point within four miles of the Port of the Mersey.

That the projectors of this Tramway at first estimated its probable cost at One thousand and forty-seven Pounds per mile only, but have since ascertained that, to complete the work in a substantial and permanent manner, an outlay of not less than One thousand six hundred Pounds per mile will be required, exclusive of locomotives and other rolling stock, stations, fencing, &c.

That the twelve miles of the Tramway now contracted for will pass principally through Crown Land, the quality of that land being so inferior that it has not been located or purchased by individuals, although situated within so short a distance of the Port of the Mersey.

That the remaining portion of the Tramway will, for the most part, pass through land of superior quality; but that a small portion only of such land is now vested in the Crown, nearly all the good land having been located or purchased by Settlers, although further removed from a shipping-place.

That it will be impossible for your Petitioners to extend their Tramway from Caroline Creek to the Port of the Mersey, and from the Bridge near Kimberley's Ford to the Township of Deloraine, without borrowing money to carry on the work; and that even if the first twelve miles of the Tramway were completed, and if the land to the distance of half a mile on each side of it were at once granted to your Petitioners instead of being promised on the completion of their undertaking, the total value of this portion of the Tramway and of the adjoining land so granted to your Petitioners would not be sufficient to enable them to raise the sum required for the successful prosecution of the work in which they are engaged.

That the Parliament of South Australia some time since passed an Act for granting to any Company which would undertake the establishment of a Railway two square miles of land for each mile in length of the Railway constructed; and the same Parliament have since increased the inducement thus offered, by proposing a Grant of four square miles of land instead of two for each mile of Railway.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that, if two square miles of land were granted to them in respect of each mile of the length of their Tramway, the value of the land so granted would bear only a small proportion to the increase in value of the large tracts of Crown Land in the Deloraine District which are at present unsaleable, but which the opening of the Tramway would at once bring into the market.

That your Petitioners beg further to submit, that the finishing and opening of twelve miles of their tramway, with a bridge across the Mersey, will afford a sufficient guarantee for the completion of their undertaking; and that if two square miles of land be granted to them in respect of each mile in length of the completed Tramway so soon as the twelve miles are open to the public, your Petitioners will be thereby enabled at once to raise such sums of money as may be required for completing the whole line of the proposed Tramway in a substantial and efficient manner.

That your Petitioners still wish to obtain a Grant of the land adjoining their Tramway (whatever its quality) to the distance of half a mile on each side thereof in all places where such adjoining land belongs to the Crown; but your Petitioners respectfully submit that such land as may be granted to them in addition to the half mile adjoining the Tramway (or in lieu of that land where it does not belong to the Crown) should be selected from those lands in the Deloraine District which belong to the Crown, and which will derive their chief value from the formation of the Tramway.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that One thousand two hundred and eighty acres of land may be granted to your Petitioners in respect of each mile in length of their Tramway; that the land thus to be granted to your Petitioners may include the land on each side of their Tramway to the distance of half a mile in all places where such land belongs to the Crown; that the residue of the land to be thus granted to your Petitioners may be selected from such Crown Land in the District of Deloraine as will be rendered available by the opening of the Tramway; and that land equal in area to twenty-four square miles may be granted to your Petitioners in the situations above referred to so soon as the twelve miles of their Tramway now contracted are completed and opened to the public.

And your Petitioners further pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take such steps during the present Session of Parliament as may be necessary to procure its sanction to a Resolution for giving effect to the prayer of this Petition.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

HENRY HOPKINS,  
ASKIN MORRISON,  
HENRY BILTON,  
CHARLES DEGRAVES,  
JOHN FOSTER,  
THOS. Y. LOWES,  
JOHN DAVIES,  
GEO. SALIER,  
W. KNIGHT,  
GEO. WHITCOMB,

Directors.