

(No. 58.)



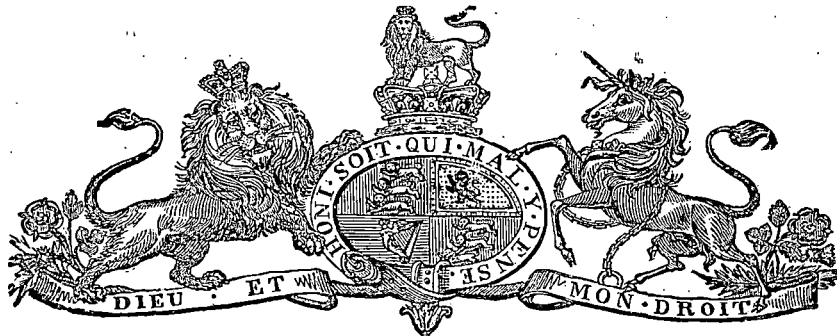
1863.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIN LINE OF ROAD.

PETITIONS (2) AGAINST IMPOSITION OF RATES.

Presented (1) by Mr. Wedge, and (2) by Mr. Bisdee ; and ordered by the Council
to be printed, September 9, 1863.



To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council, in Council assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the District of Brighton.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners see with regret that a Bill has been laid before your Honourable House, whereby certain of the Rural Districts are to be assessed for the support of the Main Line of Road.

That your Petitioners look on the aforesaid Road as the main artery of the Colony, feeding and connecting the two capitals; a road presenting the nearest and most direct route from Hobart Town to Melbourne (one on which speed and certainty of transit are deemed imperative), a road in which every inhabitant is interested, and by which every District is more or less benefited, and one which, as it has been, must continue to be under the immediate control of central authority.

That your Petitioners believe that a Road of such public and national importance, necessitating the direct surveillance and check of the Executive Government, ought to be maintained by the Public Revenue of the Colony; that no system of partial assessment, as proposed by "The Main Road Act," can approach to equity without involving a large outlay of public money; and that any measure of assessment for such purposes, by which Hobart Town and Launceston shall be exempted, would be unreasonable, inequitable, and unjust.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that the principle of tolls, however fair in its general application, would, in this particular instance, be repressive of agricultural and other material interests, and of small direct benefit to the State.

That your Petitioners, while they express regret at the enormous expenditure of money on the Main Line of Road, cannot in any way hold themselves responsible for such outlay, nor deem it any reason why the Districts through which the Road passes should be called on to supplement to its maintenance.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that your Honorable House do take the premises into consideration, and prevent the said Bill from becoming Law.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

F. E. CHALMERS, *Chairman.*

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants and Ratepayers of the Rural Municipality of Green Ponds.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That your Petitioners, having heard with alarm that it is the intention of the Government to levy a Tax upon all Districts through which the Main Road passes, desire to enter their protest against the imposition of such a Tax.

That the levying of such Tax would press most unfairly upon one section of the community for the benefit of the whole.

That the Main Road is a public work, formed from Imperial Funds, of public benefit, and therefore should be maintained at the public expense.

That the passing of this Tax would depreciate the value of all land through which the Main Road runs, as the holders of land so situated would have to pay for the maintenance of Bye Roads in addition.

That your Petitioners desire to express their objection to the principle of local taxation by the Government, without the consent of the Local authorities, thereby rendering the Municipal Bodies powerless, and destroying the purpose for which they were created.

That your Petitioners, under these circumstances, therefore pray the measure alluded to do not pass your Honorable House.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

[Here follow 39 Signatures.]