

(No. 106.)



1873.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY.

PETITION FROM OATLANDS FOR CHANGE OF ROUTE.

Presented by Mr. Gray, October 9, 1873, and ordered by the House to be printed.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and the Members of the House of Assembly
of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

WE, the undersigned residents of the Districts of Oatlands, Green Ponds, Bothwell, and Hamilton, beg to bring under the notice of your Honorable House the necessity for a change in the present projected route of the Main Line Railway *via* Jerusalem, on the following grounds:—

1. That it is not the route contracted for.
2. That it does not pass through the existing centres of population, and chief Stock and Agricultural Districts in Southern Tasmania, and thereby loses a traffic return estimated at from £12,000 to £15,000 per annum, a sum equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum per annum on the whole stipulated cost of the Line.
3. That it will be a Line more expensive to work than the more Western route through Green Ponds and Oatlands, as your Petitioners are informed and believe.
4. That it will involve a large additional cost upon all necessary goods for supplying the various Districts which are left out of the reach of the present Line by way of Jerusalem, amounting to at least two thousand tons from the tradespeople of Hobart Town alone, thereby increasing an additional cost to the consumer of £4000 per annum, as well as an additional cost of bringing to market the surplus produce of these Agricultural and Pastoral Districts, and the supply of stock to the market.

We therefore respectfully urge upon your Honorable House that when the Report of the Committee upon the Main Line Railway is laid before your Honorable House you will find, in addition to what we have set forth, sufficient grounds for your Honorable House being justified in giving the Executive full power to enter into any arrangement with the Tasmanian Main Line of Railway Company (in accordance with the contract) which will prove beneficial to the Colony.

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

[*Here follow 200 Signatures.*]