

(No. 88.)



1869.

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T A S M A N I A.

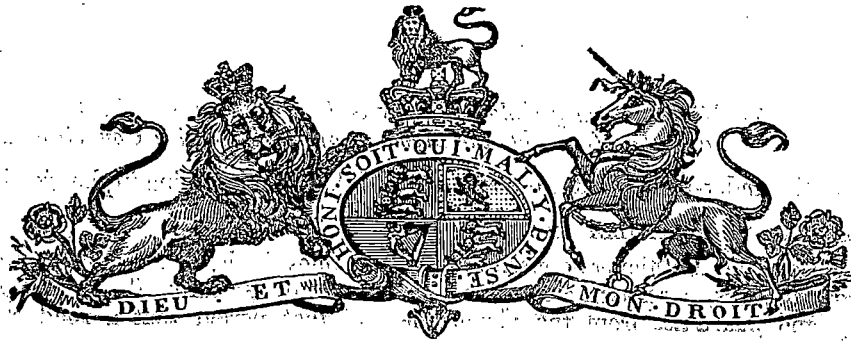
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SWAMP ROAD, FRANKLIN.

DOCUMENTS.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 21, 1869.



FOR ROAD OR TRACK FROM FRANKLIN, FOLLOWING THE PROPOSED  
LINE OF TRAMROAD. £2000.

SWAMP ROAD.

The following observations on the above Road are embodied in the Report of the Director of Public Works, laid on the Table of the House on the 24th instant, and ordered to be printed.

The Hon. the Treasurer directed, in February last, enquiry as to the best means of affording access to the holdings on this line; representations having been made to him that the Settlers were under the impression a roadway, known as the Swamp Road, was to be constructed under the above vote. The line to commence at the water's edge from the Franklin Main Road, running back for a distance of 4 miles through land formerly belonging to Lady Franklin, then through land of Messrs. Latham, Mills, Coady, Good, Thorpe, Curtain, Bell, Short, Rodman, and Gannon.

The Director of Public Works on 15th March submitted for consideration that, before any action was taken in expending so large an amount, it should be shown—

1. What unsold lands of the Crown, if any, the proposed road would open up.
2. The value to accrue to the public estate by the construction of such road. This is the more necessary inasmuch as Messrs. Laffer and Davies reported on the line of the abandoned Franklin Tramway, and of which this road would form a branch, "that there is very little indeed of good land available."
3. Whether a more cheaply constructed road would not answer the purpose, should it be decided to carry out the work.
4. That the question of a pledge to make this road, as alleged by the Member for the District and the Settlers in the locality, should be established to the satisfaction of the Government.

No survey, plans, or sections of the proposed Road have been made, and no expense has been incurred under the Vote.

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*Franklin, Huon, 1st March, 1869.*

We, the undersigned landowners and landholders living on line of road known as the Swamp Road, in the vicinity of Franklin, having heard that the Government were under the impression that we required Compensation for land and timber required for said road,—in order to facilitate the making of said road, and to remove a wrong impression, we hereby agree that we do not require Compensation of any kind for land, timber for slabs, bridges, or any use that it may be required for, nor for fences of any kind, unless where such road went through an orchard or garden.

[Here follow 14 Signatures.]

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*Franklin, 15th March, 1869.*

SIR,

As I am unwilling to throw any obstacle in the way of the Government in making the road through Franklin, I beg to inform you that it was having permission to use the present road, known as the Swamp Road, that enabled the present Settlers to occupy the land they now hold, that road being made long before any of the back lands were sold. I only ask and leave it to the Government to fence the first 20 chains on leaving the public road, as otherwise it would involve me in considerable expense. I leave it in your hands, knowing the work would be a great benefit to the District, opening a vast quantity of land fit for settlement were it continued, and reproductive to the Government.

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HAY.

*The Hon. THOMAS DANIEL CHAPMAN, Colonial Treasurer.*

P.S.—I would suggest selecting the best line with the most easy gradient attainable.

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To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Governor-in-Chief,  
and the Honorable the Members of the Executive Council of Tasmania.

The Petition of the under-mentioned Landowners and Inhabitants residing in the vicinity of Franklin.

MOST HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT such of your Petitioners opposite to whose names the letter A. appears, in the year 1859 and in subsequent years, purchased crown lands in the rear of Franklin Township upon the express understanding and guarantee from the Government of that period that a road should be made through their respective properties.

That, by the provisions of *The Public Works Act*, 1865, 29 Vict. No. 1, the sum £5406 was allowed to be expended in the formation of a Tramway at Franklin. That in the event of such Tramway being carried out, it would have passed through the property of your Petitioners.

That, with the exception of the land for such Tramway being surveyed and scrubbed, no further action has been taken in the matter by the Government.

That the land so purchased by your Petitioners is all but valueless, and cannot be cultivated.

Your Petitioners respectfully request that a road of from four to five miles of some description may be made through their lands, in order that they may become available to your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners would most respectfully urge upon your Honorable Council the absolute necessity of such a road being made as soon as possible.

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

[Here follow 25 Signatures.]

FORWARDED to the Surveyor-General, who will be good enough to report upon the nature of the express understanding and guarantee given by the Government that a road should be made through the lands of the parties referred to.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

10th September, 1867.

Survey Office, 17th September, 1867.

MEMO.

I AM not aware of any express understanding and guarantee given by the Government that a road should be made through the land of the parties whose signatures appear to the accompanying Petition, and against which the letter A. is affixed; but I am in a position to state that they could not have purchased their lands upon any such understanding, inasmuch as, with one exception, they became purchasers some years before the road for which provision was made in the Public Works Bill of 1865 was contemplated. The exception is that of Michael Mooney, who purchased on the 3rd of March, 1865. I have noted the date of purchase in red ink opposite each name.

J. E. CALDER.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, 23rd September, 1867.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your Petition praying that a road may be constructed, of from four to five miles, into the crown lands at the back of the Township of Franklin; and also that an express understanding and guarantee was given when portions of the land were purchased by you that a road into the same should be made.

In reply I have the honor to state that the subject of your Petition will receive the consideration of the Government.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Treasurer.

Messrs. R. BELL, W. BELL, THOMAS HOGAN, JOHN MILLS,  
and the other Gentlemen signing the Petition.