

(No. 25.)



1877.

SESSION II.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**M A I N L I N E R A I L W A Y .**

**FREE CONVEYANCE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, &c. :  
CORRESPONDENCE.**

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
April 24, 1877.



*Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th February, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that an Address has been presented to the Governor from the House of Assembly, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the consideration of making arrangements with the Main Line Railway Company for free passes as passengers on the railway for Members of Parliament and distinguished visitors to the colony.

Will you be good enough to inform me on what terms you will permit Members of Parliament to travel on the Main Line Railway, and what would you charge the Government if they wished distinguished visitors to have free passes on the line?

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

C. H. GRANT, *Esquire,*  
*Manager Tasmanian Main Line Railway.*

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#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

*To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the consideration of making arrangements with the Main Line Railway Company for free passes as passengers on the railway for Members of Parliament and distinguished visitors to the colony.

(Signed) R. OFFICER, *Speaker.*

Passed by the House of Assembly,  
this 23rd January, 1877.

HUGH M. HULL, *Clerk of the House.*

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*Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited,*  
*General Manager's Office, Hobart Town, 23rd February, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the due receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, to which a great press of business has prevented me from giving an earlier attention.

You desire to be informed on what terms the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, Limited, would permit Members of Parliament to travel on the railway, and also what would be charged should the Government desire to give free passes to distinguished visitors.

As regards passes to Members of Parliament there are two ways of dealing with the matter, one being that the Government adopt the system of giving orders for each passage, as is now done by each of the public departments; or authorise each Member to write the order, such being encashed at the Treasury in the usual manner, in which case no special arrangement would be necessary; or, by the issue of annual tickets, which, if calculated at the usual English rate, would cost at least £100 each per annum.

It is obvious that few of the Members would make the use of the line that these figures represent; and the Government would, I presume, only wish to pay in proportion to the service rendered. On this basis I think that an assumption of six journeys annually, in each direction, would be a very fair average for the whole Parliament. This would cost £19 4s. 1st class, express, which a moderate addition for local travelling would increase to £25 each per annum: this amount I therefore suggest for your consideration.

Your distinguished visitors would but occasionally use the line to the extent above mentioned, and probably two through journeys in each direction, costing £6 8s., with a small allowance for local travelling, making say £8 in all, would probably fairly represent the average advantage derived.

The Company will in all cases, at their own cost, make the best arrangements that the means at their disposal will allow for the suitable reception and transport of such visitors.

You are probably aware that the Company have already issued passes to all the Members of Parliament, with a special invitation to travel on the line, in order that they may fully satisfy themselves as to its condition, and as to its fulfilment of the contract conditions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES H. GRANT.

*Hon. THOS. REIBBY, M.H.A., Premier and Colonial Secretary.*