

(No. 27.)



1865.

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TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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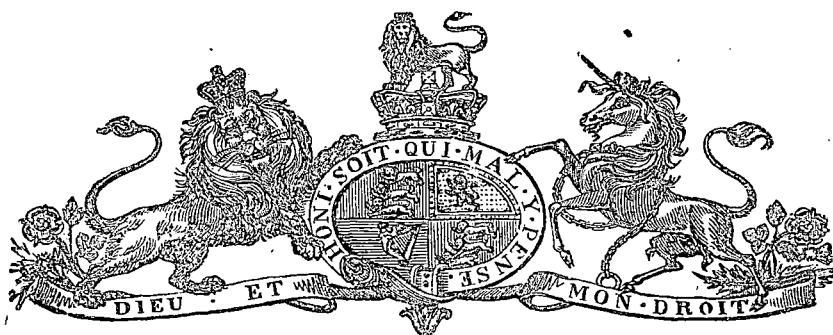
ROADS IN COUNTY OF DORSET.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

*Return to an Address to the Governor dated August 4, 1865. (Mr. Wedge.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 4, 1865.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders in the County of Dorset.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have purchased and selected land from the Crown in the Districts of Piper's River, Scott's Country, Ringarooma, and Patersonia, in the County of Dorset, on the full belief and faith of the Government completing the roads begun, which are only at present partially cleared of trees and scrub, leading from Launceston to the above Districts,—which roads have never yet been made available for cart traffic, and are in many places even dangerous for a horse from the want of levelling, rubbling, and bridges, &c.

That the areas of lands purchased in the following Districts are as follows; namely,—Piper's River, 7850 acres; Scott's Country, 8630 acres; Ringarooma, 7930 acres; Patersonia, 2930 acres. That the lands in these Districts yet unalienated from the Crown fit for agricultural purposes are most extensive,—that at the Ringarooma alone being estimated at 40,000 acres.

That without the means of communication by roads from Launceston to the above Districts, also from them to Bridport, these most important Districts are greatly retarded in their settlement and progress, and the purchasers prevented from deriving the natural benefits in improving their lands, so essential to the development of the latent wealth contained in these Districts.

That if the roads as partially cleared leading from Launceston to Piper's River, Scott's Country, Ringarooma, and Bridport were made fit for cart traffic, they would open up these most important and extensive Districts, all depending upon Launceston for the supplies required in their first settlement, and, in future, supply that town with their produce and stock. It would also lead to the whole of these Crown Lands fit for agricultural purposes being speedily settled upon; also the extensive forests of fine timber being profitably used,—thereby returning to the Government the outlay in making these roads, and increase permanently the Customs General Revenue and wealth of the Colony; also tend to the profitable settlement of the East Coast from Cape Portland to George's River, the advantages of which to the Colony in future cannot be too highly appreciated.

That the Government having opened out and made roads from Launceston to Westbury, Deloraine, Perth, Fingal, &c., the benefits of such roads have been permanent and most advantageous to those Districts in increasing the population, the sale of the available Crown Lands, and increase to the General Revenue; and your Petitioners believe similar results will follow the opening out of the roads now prayed for, equal in importance to those following the opening of the roads to Westbury, Fingal, &c., but which cannot take place without roads, the formation of which is beyond the means of the first settlers of any country, especially after paying for the land.

That the scheme of Reproductive Works as sought to be carried out in Dorset Districts is absolutely essential to its future progress and prosperity, and opens a most important outlet to the east of Launceston, to Districts equal to the Westward, from which little benefit is derived at present.

That the nucleus of most important settlements in these Districts is now formed, but languish for want of roads. We therefore pray that such action may be taken as will enable the Government to make these roads available for cart traffic; and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 39 Signatures.]