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1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MAIN LINE RAILWAY:

REPORT OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



Public Works Office, Hobart, 22nd May, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that I have examined the works of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway during the week ending the 10th instant, and found them generally in fairly good repair; the exception to this condition being in the permanent way on the Northern portion of the Line, especially near Cleveland, the supply of rails and sleepers, to take the place of those worn out or decayed, not being equal to the requirements; moreover, as the fastest running is made on these Northern portions, the Line should be kept in the best possible order.

The timber bridges throughout require that the top surfaces of all exposed beams should be coated with a thin coat of asphalte: as they contain heart timber, and have split more or less, it is important that the weather should be kept from them. Decay has commenced in the ends of the beams, but does not extend so far as to be immediately dangerous. The rotten sap-wood should be stripped off all piles, and the sound timber beneath it well tarred.

The extension of the bridge at Currajong Creek, north of Antill Ponds, requires immediate attention, as the hard cemented gravel composing bed of creek has been cut away by flood-waters, until some six of the pile-shoes are exposed.

I have advised Mr. Grant of this, and received his assurance that the bridge should be secured against all risk of accident until permanent repairs were effected.

Renewal of beams at Fisher's Creek Bridge, near Eastern Marshes Station, was being provided for.

Many additional buildings at Stations for accommodation of porters and workmen or gate-keepers have been erected.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FINCHAM, *Engineer-in-Chief.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.