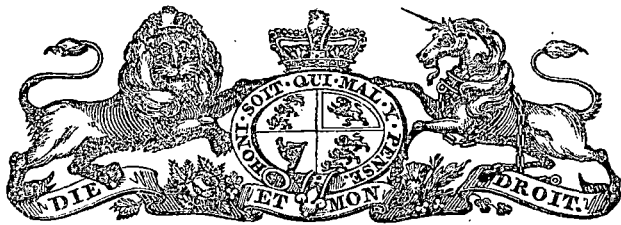


(No. 52.)



1861.

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T A S M A N I A.

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G R E A T W E S T E R N R O A D B I L L.

P E T I T I O N.

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Presented by Mr. Gregson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
9 January, 1862.



*To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Council.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Proprietors of Landed Estates situate within the Road Districts of Westbury, Exton, Carrick, and Deloraine.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have heard, with surprise and alarm, that a Bill has been introduced and passed through the Honorable House of Assembly to enable the Road Trustees of Exton, Carrick, Deloraine, and Westbury, or of any of such Districts, to borrow a "sum or sums of money not exceeding One thousand Pounds sterling per mile, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the Great Western Road between the Towns of Launceston and Deloraine," and to authorise the Colonial Government to guarantee the interest on such loans, not to exceed eight per centum per annum; and that it is proposed by the said Bill to make the capital sum so to be borrowed by the said Trustees, and the interest so to be guaranteed, a first or primary charge upon the Tolls (if any), and a special rate upon the property of your Petitioners and other Landowners in the aforesaid Districts.

2. That your Petitioners believe the Bill in question to be unnecessary and not called for by the owners of Estates within the aforesaid Districts. That "The Cross and Bye Roads Act of 1860," (a carefully drawn recent measure of consolidation) confers ample powers for making and repairing roads upon the Trustees of Road Districts generally, and that an exceptional legislation is required by the peculiar circumstances of the Road Districts enumerated in the said Bill.

3. That your Petitioners further object to allowing Leaseholders and Tenants to mortgage the property of your Petitioners for the purposes mentioned in the said Bill, which would be the practical effect of its enactment, inasmuch as the Trustees are by law elected by the Ratepayers generally.

4. That your Petitioners regard the proposed alteration of the existing law a dangerous and unnecessary innovation, involving the recognition of a very objectionable principle in legislation, calculated to inflict serious loss and damage on the interests of your Petitioners and others, Proprietors of Landed Estates situate within the Road Districts enumerated in the said Bill, and likely to create a dangerous precedent for similar legislation hereafter, prejudicially affecting the stability and value of Real Estate throughout the length and breadth of this Colony.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to pass the Bill, intituled "A Bill to provide for the Construction and Maintenance of the Great Western Road between the Towns of Launceston and Deloraine.

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

GEORGE CLANCY.  
THOS. WM. FIELD.