

(No. 16.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**FIRES CAUSED BY MAIN LINE RAILWAY
ENGINES :**

PETITIONS.

Presented by Mr. Dodery, October 23; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 24, 1877.



*To the Honorable the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Tasmania,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Land Proprietors, Graziers, and Farmers.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT much and serious damage having been done by the engines of the Main Line Railway Company during the last summer to crops, fences, and pasture, by the emission of fire and sparks from their engines, especially on the steep gradients, and your Petitioners in many instances having in consequence suffered considerable loss, they view with serious alarm the recent decision in the case of Appeal, *Atkins v. the Main Line Railway Company*, given by His Honor Sir Francis Smith and His Honor Judge Dobson, whereby it appears the proof of neglect by the servants or otherwise of the Main Line Railway Company is put upon the Plaintiff, such proof of neglect being almost an impossibility.

Your Petitioners humbly pray that the law may be so amended as to enable them to obtain relief in the case of damage, and that the proof of Fire caused by the Railway Engines may be made *prima facie* evidence of neglect.

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

[Here follow 57 signatures.]

Petitions in the same terms were received—

From Richmond, with 41 signatures.
From Glenorchy, with 20 signatures.
From Oatlands, with 18 signatures.