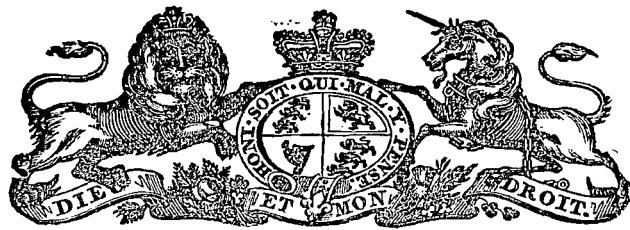


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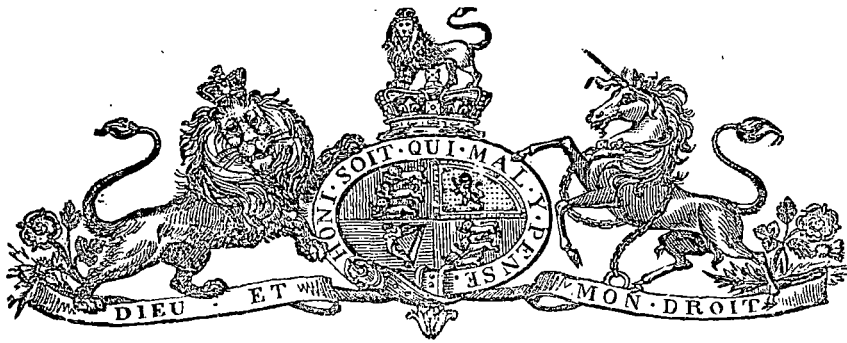
1870.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAIN LINE RAILWAY.

PETITION FROM CAMPBELL TOWN.

Presented by Mr. Archer, September 27; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 28, 1870.



To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders and Householders in the District of Campbell Town.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are Landholders and Householders in the District of Campbell Town, and they view with distrust and alarm the passing of an Act now before your Honorable House for the construction of a Main Line of Railway.

That your Petitioners are acquainted with the means and resources of the Colony ; and they believe that those means and resources have been greatly over-estimated, and are unequal to an additional tax of £32,500 a year or any considerable part thereof.

That Town as well as Country interests have been long suffering great depression, not only from the changes and operations of trade, but from the heavy local and general taxation already existing.

That before an additional tax of £32,500 a year is imposed in the face of a falling revenue and a decreasing adult population, the clearest case ought to be made out, and nothing should be left to uncertainty or doubt as to results.

That at present no evidence exists of the advantages to accrue from such a tax but the traffic returns of the four busiest months of 1869 ; and your Petitioners submit that those returns, and the conclusions drawn from them, are insufficient and utterly untrustworthy as a basis of calculation.

That a Railway may help, but cannot force, either agriculture or population ; and without a large increase of both, independently of a large increase of passenger traffic, a Railway is premature and cannot be supported.

That as there is no unoccupied land of any value to be opened up along the Main Line, and as the occupied land is mostly pastoral and not agricultural, the increase of population and agriculture must proceed by very slow degrees, uninfluenced by a Railway and the supposed advantages of a more rapid or even cheaper transit.

That the consequences of failure must ultimately fall on the land, in the absence of any manufacturing industry to divide the burden : and your Petitioners submit that it is an unsound and mischievous policy for Government to anticipate the wants and necessities of the Colony, at present abundantly provided for both by sea and land, by embarking in an enterprise involving such heavy liabilities, and promising such uncertain and speculative benefits.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will not permit the Main Line Railway Bill to pass.

[Here follow 38 Signatures.]