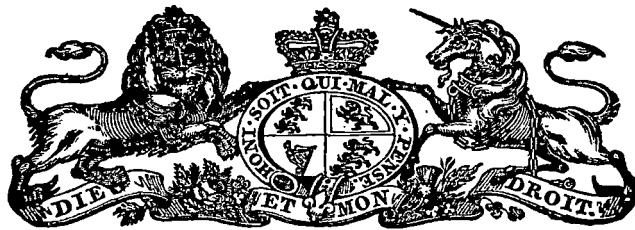


(No. 96.)



1878.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

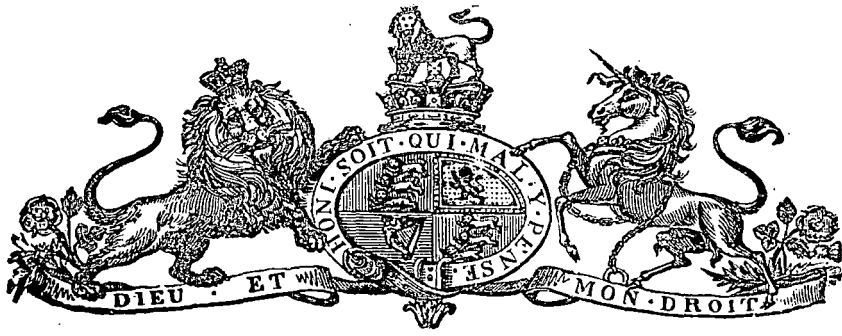
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CAMPBELL TOWN WATER BILL, (No. 44):

PETITION IN FAVOR.

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Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
December 4, 1878.



*To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Legislative Council,  
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of Landholders on the proposed Water District of Campbell Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the desirableness of reservoiring the winter's water at the sources of the Macquarie and Elizabeth Rivers has long been felt.

A few individuals *above* the junction of the Elizabeth with the Macquarie at their own expense erected a dam at the outlet of Toombs' Lake, and so reservoired sufficient water to keep up a permanent stream in the latter, which before was only a chain of pools in the summer ; but for which there is no provision or security for the maintenance of the work, and it may at any time be neglected, and so the stream in the summer fail.

The same necessity has been felt as to reservoiring the waters at the outlet from Kearney's Bogs, the source of the Elizabeth River, to reservoir sufficient to keep up a permanent stream in the summer ; which there is not at present, from the winter's water not being retained.

An area was defined and petitioned for, and in June, 1875, a Poll was authorised by the Government to be taken under the provisions of "The Local Public Works Act," when it was affirmed by a large majority that the area defined should be proclaimed a Water District.

The power was then asked to be given to proceed with the contemplated works under "The Local Public Works Act;" but owing, it is supposed, to the frequent changes of Ministry, was not given.

In the beginning of the year the Government were again applied to to give power to act. They admitted the pressing necessity of the work, and promised to send the Engineer-in-Chief to report on the suitability of the proposed site of the dam ; but owing to other pressing engagements he could not come for some time.

In September last "The Local Public Works Act" was repealed. The Government (as this work not being commenced through the delay, and so was not reserved as similar works were) expressed their willingness to give every assistance in facilitating the passing through the Legislature of a Bill to give power to act.

A Bill was passed through the House of Assembly, and read a second time in the Legislative Council, when a petition of certain Landholders and residents on the banks of the Macquarie River was presented to your Honorable House against being included in the area already defined and affirmed by a large majority.

This Petition is only signed by nine persons. Two of these petitioners were so strongly in favor of the scheme that they both signed the Petition initiating it, and one, for that area which he now petitions against. Another merely *could* as executor for the *lessee* of a property ; one is not on the Assessment Roll, so that there are only about four who can contend consistently that they will derive no benefit,—when it is an undeniable fact that they must do so, as, by reservoiring a supply at Kearney's Bogs sufficient to keep up a stream in the Elizabeth River in the summer, this will run into the Macquarie, and so by doubling the volume of the latter river must benefit all below the junction by keeping it up to a higher level, and so making it a better boundary,—as it is notorious that in many seasons the supply from Toombs' Lake is not sufficient to keep it up so as to prevent stock from being embogged, (or even rabbits crossing), and in addition would give a more ample supply for irrigation purposes ; and these are the reasons why most of the large proprietors on the Macquarie were willing that their properties should be included in the defined Water District, and as being a general benefit would benefit all properties in the District, and do not agree that any injustice will be committed in rating properties which it is asserted will receive no benefit but as we have shown must do so.

The 3rd paragraph refers to some as through oversight voting *for* instead of *against* the area being defined as a Water District. The Poll was correctly taken according to the provisions of "The Public Works Act;" and if some made a mistake, as some do in all voting, it is not likely it would have much affected the majority. The numbers were—*for*, 114 ; *against*, 37 ; majority in favour, 77.

The 4th paragraph states that some live at a distance from town on the banks of another river. The first part is true, but the latter misleading, as they do not show that although at a distance the surplus waters from the Elizabeth would come to theirs and supplement the supply of their river.

The 5th paragraph asserts that only those living on the banks of the Elizabeth River would be benefited, and so pray to be excluded from the defined area. We think we have sufficiently shown that they must be benefited.

The 6th paragraph cites as to a meeting at Longford. There is no analogy in the cases. That was to supply the houses in the township with water laid on. The object of the Bill is to reservoir a supply to form a stream in a river to benefit all in the District, and to enable those in the township of Campbell Town to supply themselves from a pure stream instead of the stagnant pools as they have to do in summer; not to levy a rate upon properties that will receive no benefit, but only upon those that do.

It may be stated that perhaps the Title of the Bill has caused some misapprehension as too restricted (and it was desired that it should be altered before being presented to the Lower House, but time did not allow of its being done). Instead of a Bill to increase the supply of water in the Elizabeth River for the benefit of the inhabitants of Campbell Town, it ought to be (as is the fact) for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Water District of Campbell Town.

And your Petitioners think they have shown sufficient reasons why the Bill which has passed the House of Assembly should be passed by your Honorable House, and so become law.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 54 Signatures.]

Note against the first seven names:—"These names are the owners and occupiers of an area of 35,612 acres below the junction of the Elizabeth with the Macquarie, and within the District petitioned against."