

1884.  
VICTORIA.

# RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION BILL.

## PETITION.

### TERANG TO BRANXHOLME.

*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 22nd October, 1884.*

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of the Council of the Shire of Minhamite :

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

That no line proposed in the present Railway Bill now before your Honorable House is calculated to secure the interests of the inhabitants of the Shire of Minhamite, and those residing on the track of country in a line between the towns of Terang and Branxholme.

That the line known as "Woods' Line," or some modification of it, is the only line that could be used profitably by your Petitioners along the tract of country indicated, being about twenty-five (25) miles to the south of the Ararat and Hamilton line and the same distance from the seaboard, thus dividing equally the tract of country not touched by the Victorian Railways system.

That the line indicated may truly be named a national one, and would unite Melbourne and Geelong with Casterton near the South Australian border.

That the proposed line would pass through the populous agricultural districts of Byaduk, Macarthur, and Mount Eccles, which are not to be exceeded in fertility by the famed Tower Hill land.

That the line would not compete with traffic on the Hamilton and Ararat line of railway ; would be more useful to the community generally than the proposed extension of the Black line to Hamilton ; would undoubtedly be a financial success ; would be constructed at a reasonable cost ; would not interfere with any of the proposals in the present Railway Bill.

That the resources of the country between Ellerslie and Branxholme, exclusive of traffic from the two ends of the line, may be formed from the following statistics, carefully collected by direction of the Council of the Shire of Minhamite.

<i>Settlement, 1884.</i>					
Number of holdings	...	...	...	...	502
Aggregate area in acres	...	...	...	...	572,381
Population	...	...	...	...	3,336
<i>Produce raised for Market Yearly.</i>					
Bales of wool	...	...	...	...	8,877
Fat sheep	...	...	...	...	97,203
Fat cattle	...	...	...	...	10,520
Bushels of wheat	...	...	...	...	21,337
Bushels of oats	...	...	...	...	16,794
Tons of potatoes	...	...	...	...	2,782
Tons of other produce	...	...	...	...	2,698

That, for the reasons advanced, your Petitioners respectfully request that a line of railway be scheduled in the Railway Bill now before your Honorable House, to connect Terang with Branxholme.

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

EDWARD HURST,  
President. (L.S.)  
JNO. S. HUNTLY,  
Secretary.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; Printing (760 copies), £1 13s. 0d.]

By Authority : JOHN FERRIS, Government Printer, Melbourne.