

1891.
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VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

FROM

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON RAILWAYS

ON

THE PROPOSED RAILWAYS

FROM

ALLANSFORD TO NIRRANDA,

AND FROM

ALEXANDRA BRANCH TO ALEXANDRA;

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORTS OF SECTIONAL COMMITTEES.

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 17th December, 1891.

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RAILWAYS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT No. 6.

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS.

The Hon. T. BENT, M.L.A., Chairman.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott, M.L.C.,
 The Hon. W. Anderson, M.L.A.,
 The Hon. J. Buchanan, M.L.C.,
 The Hon. H. Gore, M.L.C.,
 A. C. Groom, Esq., M.L.A.,
 J. McIntyre, Esq., M.L.A.,

The Hon. D. Melville, M.L.C.,
 J. W. Taverner, Esq., M.L.A.,
 The Hon. A. L. Tucker, M.L.A.,
 The Hon. J. Woods, M.L.A.,
 A. Young, Esq., M.L.A.,
 The Hon. W. A. Zeal, M.L.C. (Vice-Chairman).

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REPORT.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS, to which the Legislative Assembly referred the proposed lines of railway from Allansford to Nirranda and from Alexandra Branch to Alexandra, have the honour to report as follows :—

1. Full reports from Sectional Committees respecting the lines dealt with herein are attached to this Report, together with the evidence taken and the statistics supplied by the Government Statist for the areas which, in the opinion of the Committee, will be benefited by the construction of the lines reported upon. Sectional Committee reports.

2. The line from Allansford to Nirranda, referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, was 17·85 miles in length, with a ruling gradient of 1 in 50 and 15-chain curves, and was estimated to cost £123,940, or at the rate of £6,943 per mile. The line recommended by the Committee is 14·50 miles in length, with a ruling gradient of 1 in 50 and 15-chain curves, and terminates at the township of Nirranda on the western side of Curdie's River. The Committee estimate that this line can be constructed for the sum of £52,200, or at the rate of £3,600 a mile—a reduction of £71,740 in the expenditure originally proposed. The Report of the Sectional Committee was considered on the 1st, 8th, and 10th December, 1891. The following extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee shows the divisions that took place when the line was under consideration :— Allansford to Nirranda line.

THURSDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1891.

* * * * *

The Committee proceeded to further consider the Report of Sectional Committee No. 2 on the proposed Allansford to Nirranda line.

Debate resumed on Mr. Groom's motion—That the Report be adopted, and that in the opinion of the Committee it is expedient to construct a line of railway from Allansford towards Nirranda as recommended by Sectional Committee No. 2.

Mr Woods moved as an amendment—That the following words be added to the motion “and that the estimated cost of the proposed line be £3,000 per mile instead of £3,600 per mile as recommended by the Sectional Committee.”

Mr. Melville seconded the amendment.

The Committee deliberated.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 3.

The Chairman,
Mr. Melville,
Mr. Woods.

Noes, 9.

Mr. Abbott,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Buchanan,
Mr. Groom,
Mr. McIntyre,
Mr. Taverner,
Mr. Tucker,
Mr. A. Young,
Mr. Zeal.

And so it passed in the negative.

Question—That the Report be adopted, and that in the opinion of the Committee it is expedient to construct a line of railway from Allansford towards Nirranda as recommended by Sectional Committee No. 2—put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 9.

Mr. Abbott,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Buchanan,
Mr. Groom,
Mr. McIntyre,
Mr. Taverner,
Mr. Tucker,
Mr. A. Young,
Mr. Zeal.

Noes, 3.

The Chairman,
Mr. Melville,
Mr. Woods.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Alexandra
Branch to
Alexandra
line.

3. The line from Alexandra Branch to Alexandra, referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, was 4 miles 9 chains in length, with a ruling gradient of 1 in 40, the sharpest curve being 15 chains radius. The Department estimated the cost of construction at £62,963, or £15,320 per mile. The Committee recommend the construction of the line, but at a total cost not exceeding £40,000. The estimate of the Committee is therefore £22,963 less than the departmental estimate. The Shire Council of Alexandra have forwarded to the Committee a document, under seal, offering to give the whole of the land required for this line free of cost. The Railway Department's estimate for "land and compensation" is £5,028.

Land
required for
the lines.
Differential
rates.

4. In recommending the lines referred to in this Report, the Committee have, as in their previous Report on country lines, laid down two conditions in each instance. The first is that, previous to the construction of any line, all land required shall be handed over to the Railway Department free of cost, and without any compensation for severance or otherwise (*vide* paragraph 22 of General Report). The second is that the local rates now charged on the Victorian Railways, or such other increased rates as Parliament may decide upon, shall be charged on the new lines (*vide* paragraph 23 of General Report). The estimate of the Committee does not therefore include any provision for "land or compensation."

Evidence,
&c.

5. The Sectional Committees' Reports, together with the Minutes of Evidence and Appendices, are attached hereto.

THOS. BENT,
Chairman.

Parliament House,
Melbourne, 17th December, 1891.