

1921.

VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

FROM

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON RAILWAYS

ON THE PROPOSED

COLAC TO ALVIE RAILWAY:

TOGETHER WITH

BOOK OF REFERENCE AND PLAN.

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6th December, 1921.

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2ND S.—RAILWAY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT No. 5.—[6d.]—18632.

EXTRACTED FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1921.

3. COLAC TO ALVIE RAILWAY.—Motion made, in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Standing Committee Acts, and question—That the construction of a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Colac to Alvie be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways for consideration and report (*Mr. Barnes*)—put and, after debate agreed to.
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MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS.

(*Fourteenth Committee.*)

R. F. TOUTCHER, Esq., M.L.A., Chairman;

The Hon. J. W. Billson, M.L.A.,

A. F. Cameron, Esq., M.L.A.,

The Hon. W. Kendell, M.L.C.,

The Hon. H. F. Richardson, M.L.C.

(Vice-Chairman)

R. H. Solly, Esq., M.L.A.

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REPORT.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS, to which the Legislative Assembly referred the question of constructing a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Colac to Alvie, has the honour to report as follows :—

FORMER REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. The subject of railway connexion with Dreeite, Alvie, Cororooke, and Warrions districts was referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly in 1920 as a general reference. On the 26th July, 1921, a Report from the Committee was presented to Parliament giving a description of the districts ; routes of proposed railways, and their lengths and estimated costs ; estimates of traffic, including revenue and working expenses ; and the views of the Committee on the question of railway extension into these districts. It was stated therein that a broad-gauge railway from Colac through Cororooke to Alvie would, according to the estimates of the Railways Commissioners, show a loss of £2,634 during the first year of operation of this branch line. But to lessen the annual loss the Committee, in recommending the construction of a 5 ft. 3 in. railway from Colac by way of Cororooke to Alvie, 9 miles 53 chains, at an estimated cost of £72,367, exclusive of land, and with £25,000 added for rolling-stock, did so conditionally on the users of the new line paying a surcharge of 1s. per ton, in addition to the ordinary through railway rate, on all goods (except parcels and live stock) brought or sent by rail beyond Colac. It was estimated by the Railway Department that 36 000 tons will be carried yearly over the new line, so this surcharge should bring in £1,700 or £1,800 additional revenue, reducing the annual loss to about £900. It was added that should this surcharge of 1s. a ton on inwards and outwards goods cause the railway at any time to show a profit, and such profit being likely to continue, this extra charge should be reduced by the Railways Commissioners from time to time so as to return about sufficient to keep the line on the paying list.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

2. The Committee repeats its former recommendation for the construction of a 5 ft. 3 in. railway from Colac through Cororooke to Alvie at an estimated cost of £72,367, exclusive of land, with £25,000 added for rolling-stock, subject to the conditions set forth in the preceding paragraph of this Report.

R. F. TOUTCHER,
Chairman.

Railways Standing Committee Room.
State Parliament House,
Melbourne, 2nd December, 1921.