

ROBT. KERR.

ARGUS. 27th April 1893.

I positively assert that the line of country proposed to be occupied is totally unsuitable for the purpose of a Village Settlement, it being a series of heavily timbered, deep, steep and abrupt gorges, very beautiful and grand to look at and wonder at but unfertile for needy settlers.

There is not a patch of it could be opened for less than £30 an acre and I truly believe there is not one family of those for whom this is thrown open would ever permanently settle there, and my advice is not to waste their energy time or capital on this Utopian scheme in its present form. It occurs to me that it is not their future advantage that is being considered but only their ~~future~~ present opportunities.

There is not a practical road in the neighbourhood, those already surveyed cannot be traversed with 100 lb weight on a packhorse. The lowest bed of the Sass. is about 1200 ft. above sea level and is hemmed in with mountains 500 or 600 ft. over that. What a lovely aspect and prospect during the coming winter. I trust the Minister will be courteous enough to hold his hand until some public expression of opinion has been taken. I do not presume to question the honourable gentleman's legal right or intention of purpose to alienate what is intended to be a reserve.

However,

Therefore, I with my colleagues ~~the~~ of the F.T.G.S.C. as guardians of the people's ~~property~~ this district claim the right to have a say on the subject of recklessly and uselessly destroying this beauty spot of Victoria, useful for recreation purposes and none other.

For many months past Council has been in correspondence with the Lands Dept. to open a block of suitable country only a little south of the site intended and to which access is comparatively easy by roads made and maintained by the Shire, but this was refused in consequence of an impression that it was wanted for a water scheme. This is now found to be an error and the land is still available.

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Now, as the subject is of ~~interest~~ local ~~residence~~ interest and concerns those who toil and are tied up in towns, to them I now appeal to at once come forward and assist to protect this, their own exceptional heritage, the great National Park, with its giant sassafras and fern gullies or if not, for ever hold their ~~peace~~ peace on matter of this kind.