

(No. 66.)



1857.

TASMANIA.

PETITION.

MASTER AND SERVANTS.

Presented by Mr. Rooke, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 December,
1857.



To the Honourable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Deloraine and its vicinity.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have learnt with regret that a Bill has been brought forward by the Government for the virtual repeal of the Act known as the Master and Servants Act, 1856.

That while your Petitioners are desirous that all proper protection should be given to the Servant both as respects remuneration for his services, and his treatment morally and socially, they cannot but regard with extreme alarm the proposed new Master and Servant Act now before your Honourable House, inasmuch as, while affording full remedy by the Servant as against the Master, it practically leaves the latter without any redress.

That no protection is afforded to the Master against Servants guilty of drunkenness or other disorderly conduct while on the premises of their employer.

That when a fine is inflicted for misconduct, and there are no wages due to the Servant, no punishment is provided in lieu thereof.

That, in case of wilful damage of the Master's property by the Servant, the Master is without redress.

That the 22nd Clause of the Bill is totally inapplicable to the condition of the Colony, inasmuch as the Farm Labourers of the Colony are a migratory class attached to no locality; and many, therefore, uniformly evade its provisions by removing to some neighbourhood at a distance from where a fine is imposed, thus rendering the punishment of offences merely nominal, and leaving the Master with only a shadow of redress.

That your Petitioners regard the withdrawal of the liability to imprisonment as impolitic in the extreme, not only as rendering the infliction of a penalty in too many instances useless, but also as removing the only punishment of which a fear is entertained by the more hardened and vicious part of the community.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that, inasmuch as no opportunity of Appeal is afforded to either of the parties under the proposed Act, it would be injudicious to entrust to any one Justice of the Peace the power of adjudicating under its provisions.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House not to allow the proposed new Master and Servants Act to become the Law of this Colony.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Arthur Wigan
H. Bentinck
J. R. Maher
H. S. Hutchinson
D. Rock, J.P.
William Shephard
Stephen Stacey
Charles Goodwin
Joseph Tibbles
Martin Blake

Samuel Henry
Henry Tidey
Frederick Pointer
Nathan Poole
Wm. Betts
John Thomas
Bryan Coan
William Stamford
Patrick Cusie
John Field

Thomas Bramich
Arthur Bramich
John Sims
Samuel Sharey
Charles Hortle
James Powlett
Henry Kimberley
David Griffin
Patrick Keane
Edward Moss

John Den
John Nunn
James Duggan
Thomas Granger
Elizabeth Trebilcock
Jeremiah Collins
James Broomall
H. M. Rostie
John Addison
John Turner
William Penure
Daniel Picket
James Phillips
George Cope
John Cubit
Thos. S. Shackell
Owen Lynch
James Welsh
John Welsh
Patrick Davit
Daniel O'Dea
Joseph Shephard
James M'Loughlan

Robert Stephens
Peter Tidey
R. H. Munce
George Dryden
W. B. Kingswell
John Spicer
James Rockley
Wm. Wright
George Buttler
George Jarman, his × mark.
Witness—W. B. Kings-
well
Robert Pearse
James Bonney
John Bramich
Patrick Gannon
Thomas Twining
Michael Shearer
Thomas Addison
Wm. Hughes
Margarette Field
A. Fowler
Joseph Bramich

John Smith
Charles Luckhurst
Henry Edgcombe
H. S. J. Edgcombe
F. J. Edgcombe
Henry F. Wills
Samuel Davis
Solomon Hym
Thomas Tye
Richard Clayton
Francis Reynolds
James D. Johnstone
John Tipper
Michael Ryan
James Jennings
J. P. Horne
P. G. Horne
Martin Mulroy
James Smith
Henry Wells, his × mark.
Witness—F. R. Bonner
John Middleton, his × mark.
Witness—F. R. Bonner