

(No. 69.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A.

DUTY ON IMPORTED STOCK.

PETITION FROM BOTHWELL.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Sibley, and ordered by the House to be printed,
August 25, 1868.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Graziers and Farmers of the District of Bothwell.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioners view with feelings of alarm the increasing depression of the Pastoral interests of the Colony.

2. That your Petitioners find that, from the great losses which they have sustained within the last few years from disease amongst their flocks, and the greater cost in this Colony of rearing stock, they are utterly unable to compete with the Graziers of the neighbouring Colonies.

3. Your Petitioners feel convinced that this Colony could produce sufficient meat for its own consumption,—this at one season of the year would principally be supplied by the Agriculturists,—thereby giving employment to a much larger number of the labouring population.

4. Your Petitioners consider that a Tax on imported meat would be a legitimate source of Revenue, without in any material degree enhancing the price of meat. At present the markets in the principal towns are nearly closed against the Colonial Breeders in consequence of the large importations; and without some measure of protection, the Tenants who hold Grazing Farms on long leases will be totally unable to fulfil their engagements.

5. Your Petitioners are of opinion that the large sums annually drawn from this Colony for meat is one of the principal causes of the present depression.

6. Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will adopt such measures of protection as to your wisdom shall seem meet, to relieve the Graziers and Farmers from their present difficulties.

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

[*Here follow 36 Signatures.*]