

(No. 103.)



1871.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

A D A M S U T H E R L A N D.

P E T T I O N F O R C O N S I D E R A T I O N O F H I S C L A I M A S D I S C O V E R E R
O F A G O L D F I E L D.

Presented by Mr. Gellibrand, and ordered by the House to be printed, November
30, 1871.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of ADAM. SUTHERLAND, of the Black Boy, in Tasmania, Miner.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth days of June, 1856, in company with Mr. Madeville Wood and Mr. John Cornish, discovered Gold at the locality known as the Black Boy Gold Field, about six miles to the north east of Tower Hill, near Black Boy Plains, about a mile to the southward of the road leading from Fingal to Leech's Marsh, and about a mile and a half from the South Esk River, being within a few yards of the place where your Petitioner is now finding payable gold on the Black Boy Township.

That the Gold was obtained out of six holes, about one hundred and fifty or two hundred yards apart, in each of which your Petitioner and his companions found Gold, and the quantity of soil from which it was washed was about six buckets full. It was deposit gold, in small nuggets, about the size of a grain of wheat, and was found under a quartz conglomerate from four to six feet from the surface.

That immediately after the discovery your Petitioner reported it in Launceston, and communicated to the Gold Committee there formed for encouragement of gold prospecting in Tasmania an account of the locality and particulars of the discovery, and sent to Mr. George Whitcomb, Hobart Town, the Secretary of the Gold Committee, the gold procured; and your Petitioner also sent in to the Gold Committee a claim for the reward then in course of subscription.

That Paragraphs appeared in the *Launceston Examiner* of the first and third days of July, 1856, noticing your Petitioner's discovery.

That your Petitioner, at the same time, deposited at the Bank of Tasmania, Launceston, a letter giving full particulars of the discovery, which letter remained at the Bank until called for by your Petitioner in the month of October last.

That no discovery of gold was ever previously made in the locality referred to, although the Rev. W. B. Clarke had indicated it as likely to contain gold.

That neither your Petitioner nor his companions ever obtained any reward or remuneration for their discovery.

That there is now resident at the Black Boy, in the immediate vicinity of the place of discovery, more than five hundred persons, nearly all of whom are engaged in gold mining; and the average known yield is, in the belief of your Petitioner, and is publicly believed to be, upwards of one hundred and thirty ounces per week.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable House will take into your favourable consideration the benefit to the Colony which has resulted from the discovery, and that your Petitioner and his companions have not yet received any reward for the same.

ADAM SUTHERLAND.

WE beg to recommend the above Petition from our belief that Mr. Adam Sutherland and his companions were the first discoverers of gold at the Black Boy.

JOHN FAWNS,
T. H. FLEXMAN.
JOHN SMITH.
JAMES GRANT.

WHILE I have no personal knowledge of the circumstances set forth by Mr. Sutherland in the foregoing Petition in reference to the discovery of Gold at the Black Boy, from the number of years I have known Mr. Adam Sutherland I have every confidence that all he states is strictly in accordance with truth, and beg to recommend the prayer of his Petition.

ALEX. WEBSTER.
ROBERT CARTER,
Storekeeper, Fingal.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.