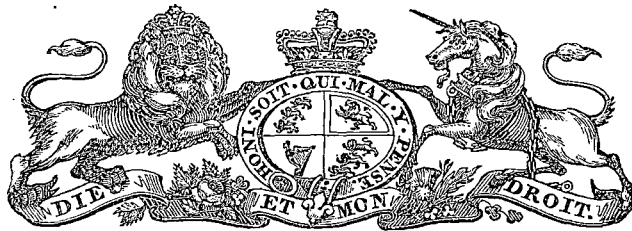


(No. 154.)



1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**ANNUAL VOTE FOR PROSPECTING FOR
MINERALS:**

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Return to an Address to the Governor. (Mr. Conway.)

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, October 29, 1886, and ordered by
the House of Assembly to be printed, November 12, 1886.



*To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, K.C.M.G.,
Governor in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Depen-
dencies, in Council assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Memorialists, Residents of the Mining
District of Lefroy,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

THAT, having in view the present depression that exists in the Mining industry of the Colony generally, your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that it is desirable to foster and encourage the same in every way that may tend to restore and keep alive the activity in this important industry, which has done so much in the past to better the condition of all classes of the community, and to place the Colony in its present sound financial position.

That in the Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand grants to aid prospecting for minerals, &c. are given by their respective Governments. Recently, in Victoria, notwithstanding the large yields from the various mining centres, their Legislature, recognising the vital importance of the discovery of fresh fields, voted the sum of £80,000 for prospecting for minerals, exclusive of large votes for deep-sinking and prospecting for coal.

That about one-third (1-3rd) of the total area of Tasmania is unprospected up to the present time, although from the Reports of Messrs. Gould, Thureau, and other geologists of eminence, the said area is known to be rich in auriferous and stanniferous deposits ; but, from the extremely rough nature of the country—particularly in the direction of the West Coast—private prospecting is rendered most difficult and expensive.

That your Petitioners believe that by following the liberal example of the other Colonies in this respect, and passing an annual vote for prospecting for minerals and coal, to be judiciously expended under proper supervision, Parliament will be advancing the interests of the Colony as a whole, and increasing the Revenue in all its branches.

Therefore, your Petitioners pray that a sum not less than £10,000 be placed on the Estimates as an annual vote for Prospecting, as above.

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

[Here follow 1640 signatures.]