

(No. 166.)



1890.

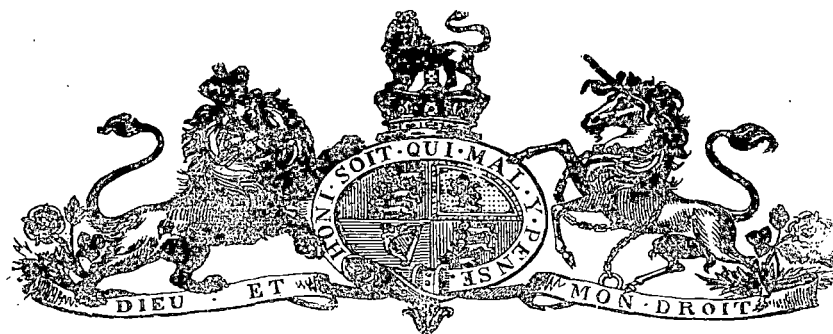
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

MR. F. BUCK, LATE IMMIGRATION AGENT :

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR FOR
REDRESS.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Hamilton.)

Laid upon the Table by the Treasurer, October 22, 1890, and ordered by the House
of Assembly to be printed, October 23, 1890.



To His Excellency the Governor in Council.

The humble Petition of Frederick Buck, of Hobart,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioner, since his arrival in this Colony in 1853, has, in his capacity as Tasmanian Immigration Agent, and subsequent Consul for the German Empire, introduced to Tasmania at various periods, by the vessels—viz., *San Francisco*, *Australia*, *Victoria*, *Figaro*, *Eugenie*, *Procida*, and others—direct from Hamburg, a large number of successful settlers hailing from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

2. That a reference to the Valuation and Assessment Rolls, and to the District Maps of the Colony, will show that the introduction of these settlers—entirely due to your Petitioner's exertions—has added upwards of £30,000 to the annual revenue of this Colony.

3. That, in addition to the above Immigrants, your Petitioner has induced a number of families, paying their own passages from various parts of the United Kingdom and the Continent—the late Mr. Patrick Irvine, of New Town, and 39 others—to come to and settle in Tasmania.

4. That the Parliamentary Paper No 122, Session 1889, "Mr. F. Buck, Correspondence, &c."—which, your Petitioner avers, is incomplete, as it omits certain correspondence in his favour—will show that your Petitioner signed certain bonds and discharges in full, under the assumption of the Government at that time that certain moral obligations of theirs as to bringing out, under your Petitioner's agency, the Immigrants' relatives left behind.

5. That the reversal of public opinion, in consequence of the way in which the expenditure of the last Immigration vote was carried out by the London agency, which was followed by the incoming Government abandoning the fulfilment of the foregoing obligations, and, in fact, Immigration altogether, could have no reference to your Petitioner's share in the introduction of Immigrants, but the change of Government policy must necessarily modify his preceding agreements with the Department.

6. That the actual remuneration your Petitioner obtained for, viz., two return voyages to Germany at his own expense, and two years waiting in Hobart for repayment of his authorised cash outlays—part of which is still outstanding—travelling, office keeping in Hamburg and London, canvassing for and forwarding the last batch of Immigrants per *Procida* (all settled here), amounted in all to £89 (Eighty-nine Pounds), including the cost of a Surgeon. The capitation fee on the settlers your Petitioner procured for here, paying their own passages, was even excluded from the above payment.

7. That your Petitioner is prepared to produce satisfactory evidence that the introduction of the last batch of Immigrants (89 adults) has caused him, through the disorganised state of the Department here, a direct pecuniary loss of upwards of £10 per adult,—to which he considers, in view of the services rendered by him to the Colony, he should not be subjected.

8. That your Petitioner has been repeatedly promised suitable temporary employment in various Departments of the Public Service as a kind of solatium for the above loss, but finds that on each occasion the same has been conferred on gentlemen less qualified for, and certainly far less entitled to it, as compared with your Petitioner and his services to the Colony since 1853.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that Your Excellency in Council will be pleased to order the payment to your Petitioner of a sum adequate to his just and equitable claim, and proportionate to the valuable services rendered by him to Tasmania; or, eventually, to order a Government or Special Committee inquiry to be made into his case.

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

FREDERICK BUCK.

Hobart, 12th July, 1890.