

(No. 149.)



1885.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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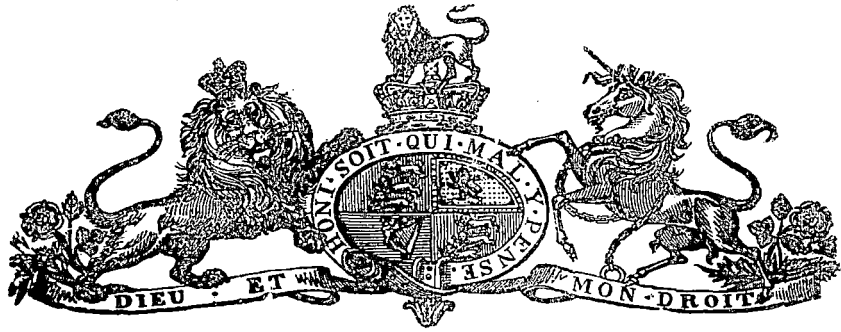
AID TO MINING:

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

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

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Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, October 27, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, November 6, 1885.



*To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies, and the Honorable Members of the Executive Council.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Residents in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT the Mining Interest of the Colony is suffering great depression in consequence of the numerous mining ventures that are suspended (although the mines they represent are only partially explored), through inability to procure the capital necessary to complete their exploration.

That the discovery of extensive mineral deposits, and the impulse given by the production of tin and gold to the value of £500,000 per annum, a great portion of which sum is distributed in wages or otherwise diffused throughout the population, has caused the present state of prosperity and progress as compared with the previous stagnation. That although the annual value of the gold and tin is still sustained, yet from the limited extent of the individual deposits in which these metals occur there must eventually be a steady falling off in the production as the deposits now opened are exhausted, unless other deposits are found to replace those that are worked out, and that such reduction will seriously affect the general prosperity of the Colony.

That if assistance were afforded to carefully selected cases for proving mineral lodes or deposits at greater depths, or under other conditions rendering the outlay greater than could be undertaken by individual companies, such assistance would probably eventuate in discoveries of great importance to the Colony, and lead to the profitable investment of capital in the development of mines that would otherwise be abandoned.

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Your Excellency and Honorable Executive Council will be pleased to recommend that the sum of Twenty-five thousand Pounds may be placed on the Estimates for the above-named purpose, on such terms and under such restrictions as Your Excellency's Advisers may deem fit.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 176 Signatures.]