

(No. 113.)



1870.

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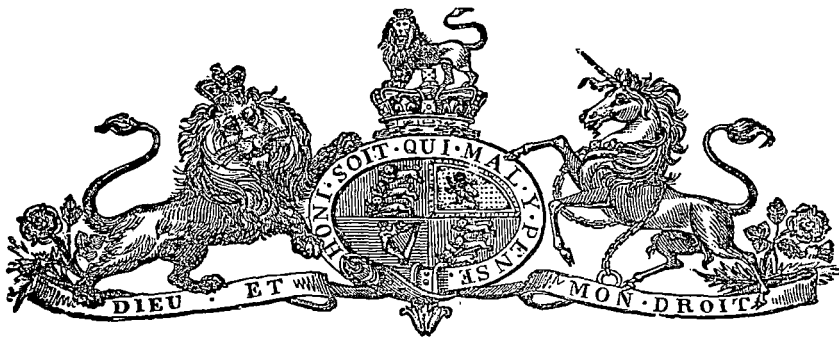
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A. M'DOWALL.

PETITION AGAINST WASTE LANDS BILL.

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Presented by Mr. Sibley, September 27, 1870, and ordered by the House to be printed.



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

The humble Petition of Archibald M'Dowall, of Logan, near Bothwell, Sheep-farmer.

SHOWETH :

THAT about a quarter of a century since your Petitioner and other members of his family jointly became lessees of certain lots of Crown Land (*vide* Mr. Crawford's Report, page 5), prior to which said lands had not proved a source of revenue to the Crown except for timber licences. The rents, which in the aggregate are far in excess of the upset price of similar lands, have been regularly paid to the Treasury. That in addition to which from £1000 to £1100 has been paid as purchase money. The original expense of erecting boundary fences, the entire cost of which fell on the lessees, was great.

That the annual loss occasioned by bush fires, subdividing runs and repairs, loss of sheep, and other expenses, have always amounted to such a sum as to leave but small profits.

That consequent on the deterioration in the value of wool and sheep, and the impossibility of depasturing other than a certain description of sheep on such lands all the year round, the rent, if determined by the Commissioner on the basis of Mr. Crawford's Report, would exceed its present value; and that in the event of said lands and others being blocked as proposed, would necessitate an alteration in boundaries, and thereby entail much additional expense in the erection of new fences, which lessees are unable to bear.

That the value of purchased lots would be greatly decreased to the injury of your Petitioner.

That the system of granting small lots of land in agricultural areas is admitted by your Petitioner to be advantageous to the interests of the Colony; but to admit small farms to be selected in the centre of sheep-runs is detrimental to the stockholder, while it does not improve the circumstances of the agriculturist.

That your Petitioner is aware of the impossibility of legislating so as to meet the circumstances of individuals, but the case of one in this instance may be, and no doubt is, the case of many. Your Petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable House will not pass the Waste Lands Bill now before Parliament, especially Clauses 24 and 59, unmodified.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

A. M'DOWALL,

Logan, 26th September, 1870.