

(No. 62.)



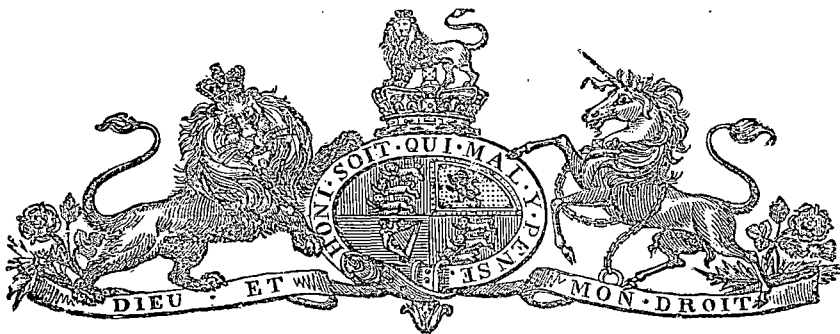
1868.

T A S M A N I A.

IMPORTED SHEEP AND CATTLE.

PETITION FROM BOTHWELL AGAINST PROTECTIVE DUTY.

Presented by Mr. Pratt, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 19,
1868.



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

The humble and dutiful Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Municipality and District of Bothwell, in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have become aware of the intention of many of the large Graziers and their immediate dependents in the Southern Districts of the Colony to apply to your Honorable House to give effect to a Bill having for its object the establishment of a Protective Duty on imported Cattle and Sheep.

That your Petitioners desire to submit the following statement, with the view of inducing your Honorable House not to disturb the present free trade system in reference to Sheep and Cattle.

1st. That your Petitioners desire to impress on your Honorable House that the present open trade in imported Stock has a great tendency to check the extortion of retail dealers, prevents monopoly, and causes the people to be supplied at the lowest possible rate with one of the most essential articles of food.

2nd. That, although at the present season butcher's meat is, and has been, sold at very low and even unremunerating prices, this is not so much owing to sheep and cattle being imported from the adjoining Colonies as from an almost unprecedented favorable season and the desire of holders of marketable stock to realise on them, and the usual necessity there is of reducing the stock in the otherwise generally overstocked runs before the severity of the winter sets in, and consequent mortality usually attendant thereon.

3rd. That a continuation of such low prices for butcher's meat after the month of September is highly improbable; and that the impost of a Protective Duty, whilst it can do no good to the graziers themselves, would inflict on the consumers a tax,—an imposition which they cannot be justly called on to bear under the circumstances.

4th. That your Petitioners allege, and respectfully urge, that they can prove before a Committee of your Honorable House, if permitted, that it is impossible for the greater part of the year to supply the Hobart Town market and the places adjacent with butcher's meat without the aid of imported Sheep and Cattle.

And your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House will not pass into law any Bill which may be introduced having for its object the imposition of a Protective Duty on imported Sheep and Cattle.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 50 Signatures.]