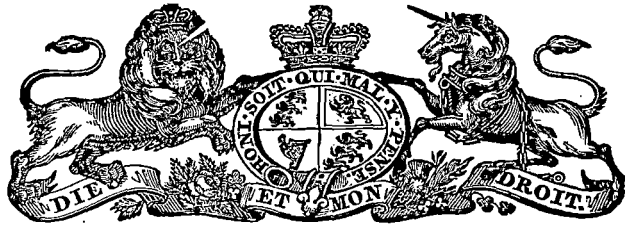


(No. 22.)



1866.

SESSION II.

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TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

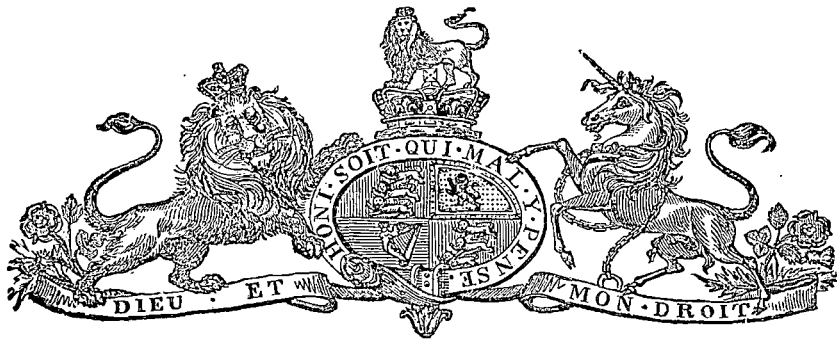
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PROTECTIVE DUTIES.

PETITION FROM MANUFACTURERS AND OTHERS IN HOBART  
TOWN.

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Presented by Mr. Kennerley, February 5; and ordered by the Council to be  
printed, February 6, 1867.



*To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Manufacturing and Artisan Classes, and of the Inhabitants generally,  
of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT much distress exists amongst the Labouring and Artisan Classes, who, notwithstanding a great diminution in their number during the last 12 years, are not employed on an average above 6 months in the year; and that every section of the community is suffering to a greater or less extent from a general stagnation in Trade.

That a large proportion of our Youths of both sexes are growing up in idleness, for want of some certain prospect of future employment in any branch of industry to which they might devote themselves.

That large importations of Manufactured Goods (in many instances the produce of Prison labour) are annually made from much older countries than this, where machinery and a surplus population bid defiance to competition, which, in the opinion of your Petitioners, is the cause of the general want of employment, and of the consequent distress and depression in Trade above referred to.

Your Petitioners, therefore, respectfully pray that your Honorable Council will favourably receive any proposition which may be submitted to it which may have in view a revision of the existing Customs' Duties, by the levying of Duties for Revenue purposes on all Manufactured Goods which we possess facilities at present for producing, and by the admitting of the Material which we are not in a position to produce duty free, so as to enable the Artisans of Tasmania to compete in their own market with the foreign Manufacturer, and prevent a large loss of Capital to the Colony.

Your Petitioners also pray that your Honorable House will take into its serious consideration the present critical state of the Colony, and the desirability of promoting fresh industries by whatever means it may deem best, so as to provide employment for the rising generation—of whom there are thousands in Hobart Town alone without a prospect of future employment.

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

*[Here follow 935 Signatures.]*