

(No. 56.)



1856.

T A S M A N I A.

PETITION AGAINST ADDITIONAL TAXATION

FROM THE DISTRICT OF OATLANDS.

Presented by Mr. Anstey, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 February,
1857.



To the Honourable the Members of the House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

WE, the undersigned Inhabitants of the District of Oatlands, beg most respectfully to approach your Honourable House with an expression of our sentiments regarding the proposed new scheme of Taxation.

1st. We object most decidedly to the imposition of new Taxes at all in the present depressed state of the monetary affairs of the Colony, until it has been shown that such Taxes are absolutely necessary.

2nd. We hold that no such necessity exists, since the actual Revenue of the Colony, if applied with common prudence and economy, is amply sufficient for all the legitimate purposes of public credit and good government.

3rd. We think that the attention of your Honourable House ought to be *first* directed to the reduction of our present extravagant expenditure within reasonable limits.

4th. We think it altogether preposterous to aim at keeping up the complicated and expensive system of Government which the large expenditure of Imperial funds under the plan of Transportation had created, now that that expenditure has ceased.

5th. We are strongly of opinion that the Government of a community consisting of scarcely 70,000 souls would be far more efficiently conducted if the present cumbrous and superfluous system of Departments were replaced by a single Public Secretary, and staff of subordinates, each liberally remunerated, but, at the same time, each doing his full share of the Public Service.

6th. We consider the present Salary of the Governor out of all proportion, both to the requirements of his office and the resources of the Colony, and that the sum of £2500, which sufficed for Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, whose duties and responsibilities were far more onerous than under our new institutions, would be more in accordance with the existing order of things.

7th. We think that the many thousand pounds which have been, and which still are, expended on the new Government House, are inconsistent with the infliction of new and oppressive Taxes on the productive classes of this Colony.

8th. In like manner we regard the expenditure of £15,000 upon an Electric Telegraph between Hobarton and Launceston, where there are coaches running night and day at the public expense between these two places, as a waste of the funds of the Colony.

9th. We consider the present Police Expenditure utterly extravagant, and such as no community could sustain. As one obvious means of reducing this enormous item, we would suggest that the Police arrangements should devolve on the several Districts of the Colony, by whom they would be much more efficiently and economically directed.

10th. We have thus pointed out to your Honourable House how the present excessive expenditure may be reduced, not only without injury, but with positive advantage to the Public Service; and we therefore humbly, but firmly, pray that these our representations may be taken into full consideration by your Honourable House before your Honourable House sanctions any additional Taxation.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

J. Maclanachan, J.P.	Patrick Clarke.	Thomas Hall.	W. Redford.
John Doughty, J.P.	W. Wooldridge.	Joseph Oakley.	Ch. Solomon.
George Nichols	James Lord.	James Burrill.	Wm. Jones.
H. Woods.	T. J. Hannon.	James Holland.	John P. Harvey.
George Frost.	William Barwick.	Charles Ellon.	Thos. Burbury.
Henry Coop.	Henry Goodrick.	Adam Pennacott.	George Sturgeon.
Thomas Jillett.	James Davis.	William Exton.	R. Sturgeon.
Joseph Wright.	Edward Myatt.	Thomas Fleming.	Thomas M'Ra.
J. M. Gray.	John Armstrong.	W. Nelson.	Samuel Henetridge.
Wm. Cuppaidge.	Wm. Salmon.	J. W. Witworth.	William Clarke.
H. R. Woods.	Robert Couling.	Robert Sansom.	Colin Patterson.
J. Sawford.	John Adams.	Isaiah Fish.	John Patrick Godrell.
James Smith.	William Dell.	Edward F. Sanderson.	Thomas Brommell.
Charles Dixon.	J. M' Ewan.	Wm. Sanderson.	Thomas Wedge.
Joseph Barwick.			

P E T I T I O N

Ordered to be printed, 17 February, 1857.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.