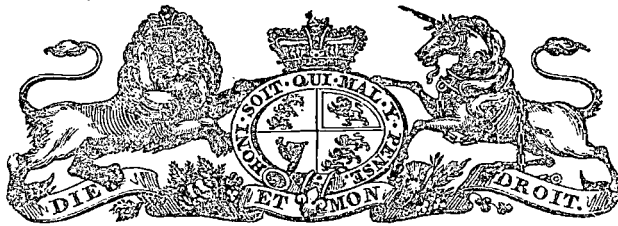


(No. 51.)



1859.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Presented by Mr. Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed,
29 August, 1859.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Civil Servants of the Government of Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have learned, with deep concern, that it is contemplated to propose to your Honorable House a measure for abolishing the Privilege now enjoyed by Civil Officers of receiving leave of absence on half salary, for a limited period, upon one of two grounds; namely, ill health, or urgent private affairs.

Your Petitioners respectfully urge upon your consideration that this Privilege has been sanctioned by Statute, by Her Most Gracious Majesty's benevolence, and by the wisdom of British Statesmen for the greater part of a century, and is enjoyed by Civil Officers of the British Service in all parts of the World.

That the Law has imposed upon the Executive the responsibility of granting or withholding this Privilege according to length of service and the merits of each particular case; and your Petitioners would observe, that it is a Privilege far too costly to be frequently sought for, and one which comparatively but few of the Civil Servants of the Government can ever hope to enjoy.

That to take this discretion out of the hands of the Executive, and to seek by Law or Resolution of Parliament to debar every Public Officer who may under any circumstances be absent from his duty for any period beyond six weeks from receiving any portion of his salary, would manifestly be an act of cruelty and injustice, as depriving faithful Servants in some cases of the means of recovering their health, and in others of defending the rights or protecting the interests of themselves and families.

That your Petitioners would remind your Honorable House, that no Government Officer can avail himself of the Privilege in question until he has made due provision for the efficient discharge of his duties in his absence, *and this without any additional expense being imposed upon the Colony*; and your Petitioners are hence bold to affirm that no good cause can be shown for cancelling that Regulation of the Public Service which has been productive in many instances of the most salutary results.

That your Petitioners would respectfully urge upon your Honorable House, that it would be a departure from every sound principle to give a retrospective operation to the proposed Resolution; and that should Parliament decide in its wisdom that the interests of the Public Service demand the adoption of such a Regulation, it would be obviously just and equitable to make it applicable only to those Civil Officers of the Government,—as in the analogous instance of Pensions,—who may enter the Public Service subsequently to its promulgation.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will not seek to disturb the existing Regulations, but will leave to the Executive as heretofore the discharge of a duty which has been exercised with advantage rather than injury to the Public Service.

Wm. Sorell.
E. J. Manley.
W. Tarleton.
Chester Eardley-Wilmot.
Fr. Hartwell Henslowe.
Thos. J. Knight.
J. Barnard.

H. D'Arch.
J. E. Calder.
W. R. Falconer.
W. L. Dobson.
John D. Loch.
R. Power.
J. Forster.

B. Travers Solly.
H. M. Hull.
J. W. Robarts.
George Boyes.
Frank C. Tribe.
Murray Burgess.
R. Newman.
Sandford Scott.
J. P. Campbell.
H. D. Cecil Hardinge.
Wm. Giblin.
Vernon Midwood.
H. Boyes.
Wm. H. Windsor.
G. W. Fletcher.
H. J. Buckland.
Arthur Gardiner.
Arthur C. Douglas.
T. V. Jean.
G. Smith.
C. Buckland.
Augustus W. Parsons.
W. H. Gill.
H. Hopton Scott.
W. R. Honey.
Jas. Vautin.
Geo. A. Makeig.
Thos. Ashton.

J. A. Sweeting.
Ed. Lavender.
Ed. Boothman.
H. E. Smith.
Fredk. H. Lovett.
J. A. Morrison.
Fredk. Windsor.
W. C. Piquenit.
A. Randall.
Albert Reid.
George Lovett.
Alexander Reid.
S. T. Hardinge.
Thos. W. Magrath.
L. Reynolds.
Edwin Midwood.
John O'Boyle.
Richard Fleming.
Richard H. Willis.
Thomas Elmslie Hewitt.
G. J. Smith.
R. J. Watt.
J. Feneran.
J. R. Bateman.
R. B. Bryan.
J. W. Campbell.
Wm. Lovett.