

(No. 57.)



1870.

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T A S M A N I A.

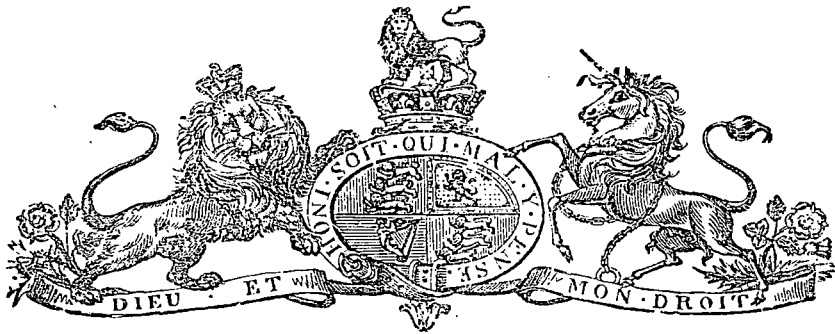
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S C A B A C T.

PETITION AGAINST ITS REPEAL.

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Presented by Mr. Sharland, September 6, 1870, and ordered by the House to be printed.



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

The Petition of the undersigned Sheepowners in the Island of Tasmania.

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

YOUR Petitioners are credibly informed that some individuals adverse to "The Scab Act, 1870," have been circulating and obtaining signatures to a Petition to your Honorable House, praying for a repeal of the said Act.

Your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honorable House will not accede to the prayer of any Petition seeking to repeal "The Scab Act, 1870," for the following reasons :—

1st. A Scab Act has been found necessary, and has proved to be beneficial, in every Colony of Australia and New Zealand; and your Petitioners believe that in Tasmania the majority of Sheepowners are of opinion it will prove equally beneficial when the Act has been a sufficient time in operation.

2nd. Although your Petitioners believe that the existing Act is not a perfect measure, they are at the same time of opinion that sufficient time has not yet been afforded to test by practical experience wherein it is chiefly defective.

3rd. Your Petitioners are of opinion that up to the present time the operation of the Act has been beneficial, inasmuch as the fear of incurring penalties has prevented many Sheepowners from bringing to public sale-yards, and travelling on the public highways, sheep visibly diseased.

4th. Your Petitioners also respectfully urge upon the consideration of your Honorable House that the present Act has not been in operation a sufficient time to enable dispassionate persons to decide upon its merits or its defects; and, in proof of this, your Petitioners beg leave to draw your Honorable House's attention to the fact that the compulsory dipping Clauses of the Act do not come into operation until after next shearing season.

Under these circumstances your Petitioners believe that it would be unadvisable during the present session of Parliament to amend the Act, far less to repeal it. Before another session of Parliament can take place the present Act will have been tested, and the results of the compulsory dipping of infected Sheep provided for therein made manifest to all persons more immediately interested in the question: until that period has arrived, your Petitioners deprecate any interference with the operation of the Act in its present form, with the exception of facilitating its working by making such alteration in "The Post Office Act" as will allow all letters, returns, and notices under "The Scab Act, 1870," to pass free through the various Post Offices throughout Tasmania.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 6 Signatures.]