

(No. 105.)



1871.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

K I N G B O R O U G H.

P E T I T I O N F O R R E L I E F F R O M P U R C H A S E R S O F C R O W N
L A N D.

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the
House to be printed, November 30, 1871.



To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor of
Tasmania and its Dependencies, &c.

The Petition of the undersigned Purchasers of Crown Lands.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners have settled on Lands purchased by them from the Crown in the usual way. That consequent on the depression of the times, subsequent to their purchases, some of your Petitioners have fallen in arrears in payment of the stipulated instalments, and all are liable to do so.

That under the present state of the law, those falling in arrears, even with the prospect of recovering themselves, are liable to be dispossessed of their holdings, and in certain circumstances Government have no other alternative,—a state of matters very discouraging to purchasers of Crown Lands, and preventing improvements.

That while your Petitioners would wish to give the State every security against loss, they desire to be placed beyond the risk of ejection because of any temporary embarrassment.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that the law might, without risk of loss to the Government, be so modified as not only to give a purchaser, unable to carry out his contract, the means of relinquishing his bargain, receiving certain compensation for the work he has done,—that compensation being, of course, such as the State might secure on reselling the land,—but also to give the purchaser, should difficulties overtake him, such consideration as will enable him to hold on and retain possession without any fear of having his land, with all the result of his labour, wrested from him.

That your Petitioners are further of opinion that were the purchaser, when unable to pay the instalments of his purchase money, to be allowed to continue the debtor of the State for the amount of his unpaid instalments, paying from the date of each instalment becoming due the same rate of interest as Government pay on their debentures, and such further per-centage as would be sufficient to recoup the Government for any expense or other outlay over and above the interest payable on the Government debentures, the purchaser could improve his land with confidence, and the State would secure an annual payment of interest equal to that payable on the public debt, and at the same time be guaranteed in the ultimate payment of the purchase price.

That your Petitioners therefore pray that it may please Your Excellency, on taking the above circumstances into your consideration, to give defaulting purchasers of Crown Lands the option of relinquishing, with right to compensation for improvements, or to continue the debtor of the Crown on payment of such interest on past due instalments as will secure Government against loss.

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

[Here follow 60 Signatures.]