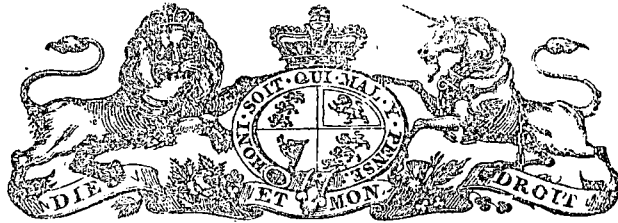


(No. 59.)



1863.

---

T A S M A N I A .  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

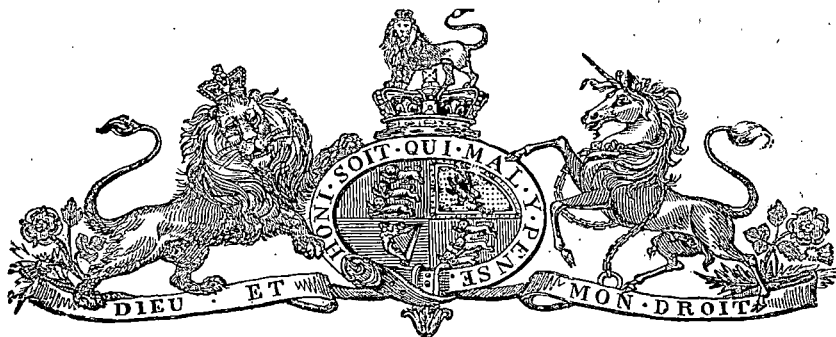
---

WASTE LANDS BILL, No. 3, 1863.

PETITION FROM LESSEES OF CROWN LANDS UNDER PRE-  
EMPTIVE RIGHT.

---

Brought up by Mr. Cleburne, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
September 10, 1863.



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

The Petition of the undersigned Lessees of Crown Lands under Pre-emptive Right.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners seek to obtain some further relief under the provisions of "The Waste Lands Bill, No. 3."

That some of your Petitioners have expended a large amount of capital in the construction of tramways, saw-mills, jetties, buildings, and other substantial improvements which have given employment to a large number of people; that others of your Petitioners have become *bonâ fide* settlers on their allotments, on which they have expended considerable sums in clearing, fencing, road-making, draining, orchard-planting, &c.

That your Petitioners will have paid within ten years, to the Government, in rent and credit premiums, the sum of £67 10s. on every hundred acres of their selected land. That with their families, and those whom they have employed, they will have thus contributed directly and indirectly to the Revenue greatly more than the original value of their selected lands, and have by their expenditure raised the value of the Crown Lands around them.

That your Petitioners have experienced great losses and discouragements, partly from the rapid decline of the price of timber and farm produce, from dear labour, the heavy expense of clearing, and the want of roads from the Government not being able to survey their lands till years after their location on pastoral licences, from the Government offering free grants and gratuitous leases in the Unsettled Districts, and offering land adjoining your Petitioners' land at half the price which your Petitioners are now called on to pay: these various causes depreciating the value of Pre-emptive Right Land at least 50 per cent., as the local Valuation Rolls will prove. That the above-named Bill now proposes that similar land should be sold at 5s. per acre, with credit,—being 75 per cent. less than the price of land under Pre-emptive Right.

That the Districts of the Huon and the Mersey were legislated for exceptionally, as agricultural areas; and the tenants of these districts now respectfully urge their claim to exceptional consideration. Their districts have been restricted to 500 acre leases, and have been excluded from the privilege of further quiet enjoyment. Many of them have selected minimum lots of one hundred acres, and have nearly exhausted their resources in clearing, fencing, draining, planting orchards, and other permanent improvements; and from the above-named causes, they are not able to pay the purchase-money for their land, nor to bear the burden of increased interest money, until they shall have had some further advantage from their cleared land, and their orchards shall have come into full bearing. They humbly ask for a renewal of their leases for five years, at the present rental; or, should they avail themselves of the credit Clauses, that the large instalment of one-fifth of the purchase-money may be paid, in their case, the last instead of the first of the series. As the crown security for their liabilities will increase in value with their improvements, no public loss can accrue from these concessions.

That your Petitioners would urge, with all humility, that the altered circumstances of the times ought to be taken into account in their case; and would most respectfully beg to remind your Honourable House that the Parliament of Tasmania are now seeking from the Imperial Government some modification of the compact on which the Lands in question were first vested in the Colony, on the ground that, from circumstances then unforeseen, the terms of such compact have now become intolerably oppressive.

Believing, therefore, that your Honourable House will extend to your Petitioners the same measure of justice which you are asking from the Mother Country on behalf of the Colony; that

you do not wish our liberal Land Policy should be harshly administered ; or that the utmost liabilities should be oppressively exacted from enterprising capitalists and *bonâ fide* settlers, who have honestly struggled to fulfil their engagements and to benefit the Colony, your Petitioners venture to indulge the hope that your Honourable House will deem their humble request to be founded in justice and moderation.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

John Lloyd, Jun., Franklin.  
 Peter Good, ditto.  
 Joseph Jackson, ditto.  
 William Lodewyk Crowther, Little Oyster  
 Cove.  
 Crowther & Pybus, *per* W. L. Crowther,  
 ditto.  
 J. R. Blyth, Uxbridge.  
 Henry Hinsby, Hobart Town.  
 Henry Pearce, Port Cygnet.

George Whiting, She-oak Hill, Huon.  
 A. A. Butler, Hobart Town.  
 Charles Butler, Hobart Town.  
 F. L. Piquenit, ditto.  
 Andrew Haig, ditto.  
 John Pearce, Oyster Cove.  
 A. C. Douglas, Hobart Town.  
 W. Morriss, ditto.  
 C. Bastian, ditto.