

(No. 22)



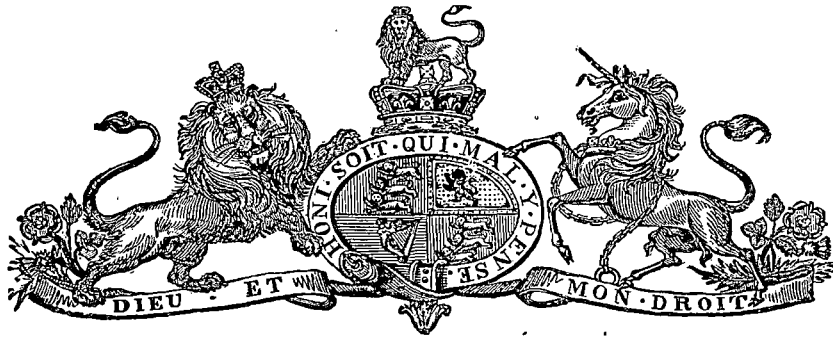
1859.

T A S M A N I A.

P A W N B R O K E R S.

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Bedford, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 7 September,
1859.



To his Honor the Honourable the President and to Honourable Members of
the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Licensed Pawnbrokers of Hobart Town and
Launceston.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have noticed that a "Bill to amend the Pawnbrokers Act" has
been introduced into the Parliament.

That by Clause 5 of the Draft, Section 14, the Section regulating interest in the Pawn-
brokers' Act is repealed.

That in Section 2 of the same clause (5) in the Amendment Act the enacting words refer-
ring to the rates of interest hereafter to be chargeable are, "upon every article upon which has
been advanced or lent any sum *not* exceeding Twenty Shillings, the sum of One Halfpenny per
Shilling for any time during which the article remains in pawn, not exceeding *fourteen* days,"
&c.

That by the above partly recited clause the Rate of Interest on money advanced under
Twenty Shillings on pledge, allowed and authorised by the Pawnbrokers Act, will be (if the
pending Bill pass into law) from "One Penny" in the Shilling per *month* to "One Halfpenny"
in the Shilling per *fortnight*.

That the cost of pledge tickets, books, and documents demanded by law to be kept for
inspection, when required, would render it impossible without loss to advance so small an
amount as One Shilling, as the forms alone on which the entries are made and reduplicated
would, in each instance, cost more than the Halfpenny to be allowed for interest would cover.

That, in operation, the proposed clause (5) would prevent the reception by Pawnbrokers of
pledges under Three Shillings, and that thereby the very poor classes who pledge, necessity
compelling them, small articles for a few days to procure means for family sustenance, would
be practically deprived of obtaining that occasional assistance which in emergency they require.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will strike out
Section 1 in Clause 5, and thereby, so far as rates of interest are concerned, allow the existing
Pawnbrokers Act to remain in its integrity.

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

S. W. Roberts.
Mark Nathan.

E. Sims, Jun.
D. Sargeant.

LAUNCESTON.

Thomas Leary.

John C. Israel.