

(No. 69.)



1871.

TASMANIA.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MEMORIAL

FROM RESIDENTS OF BEDFORD, DISTRICT OF FRANKLIN.

Presented by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the House to be printed, November 22, 1871.



To the *Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works.*

The Memorial of the undersigned

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Memorialists, tempted by the inducements held out to purchasers of Crown Lands under Section 24 "Waste Lands Act, No. 10," which also provides under the 28th Section, that when ten allotments are taken up to the extent of 500 acres adjoining or within a short distance of each other, one half of the purchase money—that is to say, £250—is to be expended in making Roads to and through the said block of 500 acres.

That eleven selectors under this provision of said Act purchased eleven allotments in the Parish of Bedford, Police District of Franklin, in the neighbourhood of Port Cygnet; but, ignorant of the consequences to the other selectors and to themselves, two of the said selectors paid cash for their allotments, thus reducing the number of the credit selectors to nine holders, occupying 450 acres.

That your Memorialists, upon applying to the Survey Office, were informed that in consequence of two of the selectors paying cash down the proprietors of the 550 acres were not entitled to the benefit of the provision under which ingress and egress to the block were supposed to have been secured. That, according to law, the block was reduced to 450 acres and nine selectors, and until a tenth complied with the necessary conditions the nine must not look for any expenditure upon Roads.

That by this unexpected interpretation of the law the prompt payment into the Treasury of the price of two of the allotments has not only disentitled the remaining nine credit selectors to the benefit of the Road-providing Clause, but has placed the ready-money purchasers in a far worse position than if they had bought upon credit.

That there is no likelihood of a tenth selector being found, for as a general rule there are very few places known in the District where a block so large as 500 acres can be found, and which could be occupied with the smallest prospect of affording selectors any chance of making a livelihood; and even in the block now referred to, out of 450 acres there are not 200 to which labour of any kind could be profitably applied.

That it is dire necessity alone,—the want of means to leave the Colony for some other sphere of industry where the cultivation of the soil can be pursued by the labourer and his family without being forced to endure hardships and privations unknown even to those condemned to a *life of penal servitude*,—that compels your Memorialists to work the heavily-timbered lands of this District upon any terms, since they are far too dear as a gift; but being forced to take them upon any conditions, they naturally feel disappointed when those that are offered are found clogged with such vexatious restrictions as to make a compliance with them, under existing circumstances, all but impossible.

Your Memorialists therefore respectfully submit that they are in equity and justice entitled to have the moneys advanced by them to Government returned, since settlement upon such lands as those now at the disposal of the Crown in the Huon District, without the means of carrying produce to market, could only end in the same way it has done in hundreds of instances—pauperising the settlers, and burthening the country at some no distant date with the support, if not of the parents, inevitably with that of their offspring.

Your Memorialists leave their case for the present in the hands of the Executive, in the hope that justice may be done.

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

[*Here follow 14 Signatures.*]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.