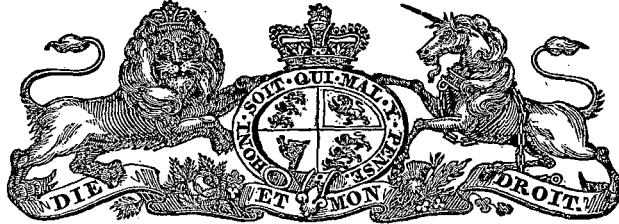


(No. 107.)



1865.

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T A S M A N I A.

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SEYMOUR COAL MINING COMPANY.

P E T I T I O N.

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Laid on the Table by the Colonial Treasurer; and ordered by the House to be printed, 20 September, 1865.



*To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

The humble Petition of the Seymour Coal Mining Company, (limited).

SHOWETH :

THAT in or before the year 1861 a Lease from the Crown of one hundred acres of Land near Long Point was promised to Algernon Horatio Swift, with liberty to sink thereon for Coal.

That the said Algernon Horatio Swift was unable to raise Coal for sale from land thus promised to him, from the want of sufficient Capital to work the Mine.

That your Petitioners purchased from the said Algernon Horatio Swift his interest in the land referred to for the sum of Eight hundred and fifty Pounds; and that your Petitioners afterwards purchased that land and other land adjoining the same (containing altogether Two hundred and ninety-seven acres) from the Crown, at the price of One Pound per acre.

That the only seam of Coal then known to exist under the land thus purchased by your Petitioners was of the thickness of two feet and four inches or thereabout, and was obtained at the depth of thirty-five feet.

That, to enable your Petitioners to bring this Coal to a Market, they erected two jetties at Seymour, one of such jetties extending south-easterly into a small bay lying to the east of the southern extremity of Long Point, and the other of such jetties extending north-easterly into a small bay lying to the east of the northern extremity of Long Point; both jetties being erected on land leased to your Petitioners by the Crown for that purpose.

That these jetties, and the approaches to them, were erected at a cost to your Petitioners of more than Two thousand Pounds.

That the jetty thus erected on the northern side of Long Point has proved of little use to your Petitioners, as it frequently happens that vessels of sufficient tonnage for the profitable conveyance of coal cannot load at that jetty.

That the jetty erected by your Petitioners on the southern side of Long Point extends to the distance of 72 feet from the shore, and is raised to the height of 12 feet above high-water mark.

That vessels drawing eight feet can lie at this jetty at low water, and can take in a cargo of three hundred tons within the period of five hours.

That, although vessels cannot safely enter the Bay in which this jetty is erected when the wind blows from any quarter between south and east, they can load there at all other times without danger; and that, with ordinary care, all vessels not drawing more than eight feet can safely ship coals at the jetty.

That vessels belonging to your Petitioners and others have been constantly loaded at this jetty during the last three years without risk or inconvenience; and that the accidents which occurred before the erection of the jetty happened to vessels which anchored in the Bay and waited to take in or discharge cargo until a change of weather prevented them from getting out to sea.

That your Petitioners confidently believe that if a jetty of the height of sixteen feet above high-water mark were erected in lieu of the present jetty, and if such jetty were extended to the distance

of one hundred and forty feet from the shore, vessels drawing eighteen feet, and capable of carrying from five hundred to one thousand tons of coal, might be safely loaded at such jetty at all times when the wind is not blowing into the Bay. That, with the aid of a proper chute, coals could be delivered on board such vessels as fast as they could be stowed; and that a jetty of the length and height last mentioned, with the necessary appliances, could be erected in a substantial and permanent manner at a cost not exceeding Five thousand Pounds.

That the erection of such a jetty would not only afford facilities for the shipment of coal from the mines of your Petitioners, and from the adjoining lands which belong principally to the Crown, but that its erection would afford an outlet for the produce of all the land lying between Douglas River and Fingal, and extending back from the Coast to Mount Nicholas; this being the only available shipping place between Spring Bay and the River Tamar.

That your Petitioners have recently ascertained that, in addition to the seam of coal above referred to, a second seam of nearly five feet in thickness, and of very superior quality, exists under their land at the depth of about one hundred and seventy feet, and this seam must extend under many thousand acres of the adjacent crown land.

That the coal from the last-mentioned seam is believed to be well adapted for the use of steam vessels,—and that to such vessels more especially a jetty of the proposed dimensions would afford all necessary facilities for obtaining a supply of coal.

That your Petitioners beg most respectfully to suggest that, as the expenditure of their capital has led to the discovery of this valuable seam of coal, some assistance ought to be afforded to them in their endeavour to bring it to a market; and they may here record the fact that they have already expended more than Twenty thousand Pounds from which no profit has yet been derived.

That your Petitioners are willing to erect a jetty of the dimensions above referred to, and to expend for that purpose the sum of Five thousand Pounds (should that sum be required), if they can have secured to them, for each pound so expended, one acre of land out of the extensive coal field (now belonging to the crown) adjacent to the land of your Petitioners at Seymour.

That your Petitioners are aware that to ask for an acre of coal mine for each pound expended in the erection of a jetty may be considered unreasonable, but they have no hope of being able to carry out the projected work if they be not assisted to this extent; and they well know that without a shipping place the Seymour Coal Field cannot be rendered available.

That, since your Petitioners discovered the second seam of coal under their land, a lease of adjoining land has been promised to Mr. A. H. Swift, with liberty to sink for coal at a nominal rent; and your Petitioners therefore trust that the price they ask for the erection of a jetty will not be thought exorbitant.

That, in the event of your Petitioners receiving the assistance which they now ask to enable them to erect a jetty at Seymour, they will be quite ready to open that jetty and the tramway leading to it to the public, charging only such reasonable toll as Your Excellency may be pleased to appoint, and applying that toll towards the repair and maintenance of the jetty.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Five thousand Acres of the Seymour Coal Field, adjoining or near to the land of your Petitioners at Seymour, may be reserved from sale or lease; and that if a jetty of the dimensions referred to in this Petition be erected by your Petitioners in the situation proposed, one acre of the land so reserved may be granted to your Petitioners for every pound expended by them in the erection of such jetty.

And your Petitioners further pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to bring the subject of this their Petition under the notice of Parliament during the present Session, to the end that the prayer of your Petitioners may, if approved, be sanctioned by a Resolution of both Houses.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

A. A. BUTLER,  
JAS. HARCOURT, } *Directors.*  
H. S. BARRETT, }