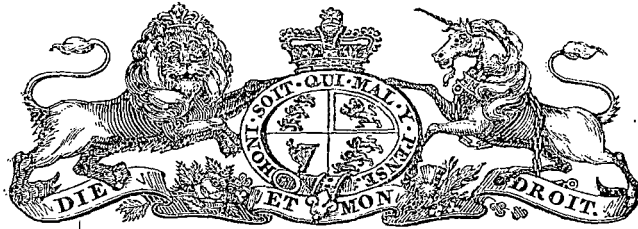


(No. 103.)



1886.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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**SIGNOR DIEGO BERNACCHI :**

PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

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Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 21, 1886.



To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, K.C.M.G., Governor  
of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The humble Petition of Diego Bernacchi, of Maria Island, Tasmania, Vigneron and Sericulturist,

SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioner is the Lessee of Maria Island, under Lease granted to him pursuant to an Act made in the Forty-eighth year of Her present Majesty, No. 40, intituled "An Act to authorise the leasing of Maria Island," and which said Lease is for a term of Ten years, commencing from the First day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, subject to the provisions of the said Act.

2. That by the third section of the said Act it is provided that the Lessee shall, during the said term of Ten years, expend on Maria Island, in establishing and carrying on the industries of sericulture and vine-growing, the sum of Ten thousand pounds; and shall, of that sum, expend not less than Five thousand pounds during the first five years of the said Lease.

3. That by section eight of the said Act it is provided (*inter alia*) that the said Lessee shall, at the expiration of the first five years of the said term, if the sum of Five thousand pounds has been expended as provided by the said Act, have the right of selecting and purchasing by private contract land on Maria Island not exceeding Five hundred acres,—the price of such land being fixed by section nine of the said Act at the sum of One pound per acre.

4. That your Petitioner believes the said period of Five years mentioned in the third section was named as the period during which the first sum of Five thousand pounds would be expended because it was estimated that five years would be required to plant vine cuttings and allow them to become fruit-bearing, and thus prove the adaptability of the soil and climate of Maria Island for vine culture.

5. That your Petitioner has obtained from vineyards in Victoria three-year old vines of suitable kinds, which have enabled your Petitioner already to accomplish what would have required at least four years to do had vine cuttings been planted.

6. That the success of vine culture on Maria Island is now established, and has surpassed your Petitioner's anticipation.

7. That, in consequence of the advanced state of the vines, it is absolutely necessary for your Petitioner forthwith to obtain requisite machinery for wine-making, and to construct cellars and erect suitable buildings and dwellings for workmen, which he did not, at the time of entering into the said Lease, contemplate having to do until after the expiration of the said period of Five years, when your Petitioner would have been entitled to purchase the land whereon such machinery, cellars, and buildings have to be erected.

8. That, in the month of February last year, your Petitioner having then expended upwards of Five thousand pounds for the purposes within the meaning of the said third section, made application to the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works that your Petitioner might be allowed at once to select and purchase Five hundred acres pursuant to the said sections eight and nine of the said Act, and that an inspection of your Petitioner's books and vouchers and of the works upon Maria Island might be directed by the Honorable the Minister to prove that upwards of Five thousand pounds had been so expended.

9. That in reply to such application your Petitioner received a letter from the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works stating that the said section eight precluded exercising the right of selection until the expiration of Five years from the date of the Lease, but suggesting that during the ensuing Session of Parliament your Petitioner should apply for statutory authority to enable your Petitioner to make selection after satisfying Your Excellency that Five thousand pounds had been expended.

10. That your Petitioner has already expended upwards of Seven thousand pounds upon or in connection with vine culture at Maria Island.

11. That your Petitioner is now increasing the area under vines, and believes the expenditure will amount to Ten thousand pounds before the expiration of the present year of his tenancy.

12. That the machinery, cellars, and buildings which your Petitioner is desirous of erecting will cost, it is believed, upwards of Ten thousand pounds, and will be commenced immediately your Petitioner is able to purchase land as contemplated by the eighth section of the said Act.

13. That your Petitioner will be impeded in his undertaking and unable to make use of his first harvest unless the said machinery, cellars, and buildings are at once proceeded with.

14. That for the purpose of wine-making it is necessary to make or import spirit, as is done in the neighbouring Colonies of Australia.

15. That in addition to vine culture and sericulture, your Petitioner contemplates establishing other industries on a large scale new to Tasmania, which will employ a large number of workmen.

16. That for the landing and shipment of goods it is necessary that a Jetty be built at Darlington on Maria Island, the cost whereof, as shown by estimates which your Petitioner has caused to be prepared, will be Eight hundred pounds.

17. That your Petitioner will undertake to supply all piles, shoes, rings, and other iron-work required for the erection of a Jetty at Darlington.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays :

That Your Excellency will be pleased to cause a Bill to be laid before Parliament during the ensuing Session whereby the said eighth section of the above-mentioned Act may be amended, and your Petitioner be allowed forthwith to select and purchase land to the extent of Five hundred acres upon Maria Island.

That Your Excellency will also be pleased to cause a Bill to be laid before Parliament granting to your Petitioner the right to import free of duty, for the purpose of wine-making at Maria Island, such spirit as may be required for that purpose, or that your Petitioner may be allowed to distil such spirit there.

That Your Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the estimates of expenditure for the ensuing year the sum of Eight hundred pounds, or such other sum as to Your Excellency may seem meet, for the purpose of erecting a Jetty at Darlington, upon condition that your Petitioner shall supply all piles, shoes, rings, and other iron-work which may be required for the same.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

A. G. D. BERNACCHI.