

(No. 79.)



1873.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

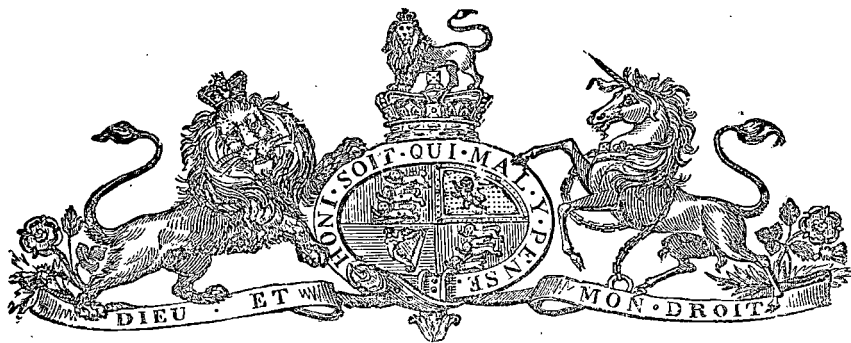
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**I N C O M E T A X :**

**M E M O R I A L O F C O L O N I S T S A G A I N S T .**

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Presented by Mr. Grubb, October 23; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
October 24, 1873.



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

The Memorial of the undersigned Colonists of Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Memorialists view with the strongest feelings of disapprobation the announcement of the Colonial Treasurer, in his Financial Statement of the 24th September, that it is the intention of the Government to propose the infliction of an Income Tax upon the people of Tasmania.

That such Tax has been denounced by the most eminent authorities, and by some of the present Ministers, as inquisitorial, obnoxious, demoralising, and the curse of every country into which it has been introduced,—an infliction which the Government of no other Australian Colony has even ventured to suggest to its Legislature.

That it has been denounced by Adam Smith as “attended by an inquisition more intolerable than any Tax, and nothing can either correct or modify its defects or hinder it from becoming ruinous and intolerable.”—J. R. M’Culloch, as “a tax upon honesty and a bounty upon perjury, that has been the curse of every country into which it had been introduced.”—Sir Robert Peel, as “an unpopular, obnoxious, and inquisitorial tax that ought to be reserved for a time of war.”—Mr. Gladstone, as “a tax that has done more than any other to demoralise and corrupt the people;” and as “so convenient, that whilst you have it a part of your ordinary revenue, it will be in vain to talk of economy and effective reduction of expenditure.”—Sir Morton Peto, as “a tax that has been used by politicians of all parties as a means of defraying every sort of financial extravagance, and has carried with it every sort of grievance, trouble, vexation, annoyance, heartburning, and strife, and has been productive of no small amount of crimes, of evasions, of falsehood, and even perjury.”—The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chapman, as “a tax which would bring about the immediate ruin of the Colony.” He believed it would be the destruction and ruin of the poor man, and would drive all respectable artizans out of the Colony; as “an inquisitorial and abominable tax.” When addressing the Electors of Launceston, as “destructive to the best interests of the Colony.” When addressing the Electors of East Hobart, twelve months since,—“as the worst tax that could be imposed.”—The Premier, Mr. Kennerley, in September, 1866, as “an obnoxious tax; and asked, Why in a new country should they think of introducing an Income Tax? They heard on all sides what advantages were to be derived from population coming here: it was true that persons were beginning to come, and he (Mr. Kennerley) considered that he was one of the pioneers of the class of persons who would come and settle down here, and spend a portion of their income. He knew that the expenditure of some who had come here amounted to thousands, but the Property and Income Tax would not attract them (hear hear). He had heard of some who were coming, but the idea of an Income Tax had altered their intention, and they would go to Melbourne: it is not likely that people would come here.” And in writing to *The Mercury* to correct a few inaccuracies in the report of such address, (not referring to the above quotation), Mr. Kennerley thus expresses himself,—“My opinion is that a stern necessity must first be shown to have really arisen before such an odious tax should be inflicted upon the people of this Colony.”

Your Memorialists therefore pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to withhold your assent to the proposed infliction of an Income Tax upon the people of Tasmania.

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

[Here follow 410 Signatures.]