

(No. 93.)



1880.

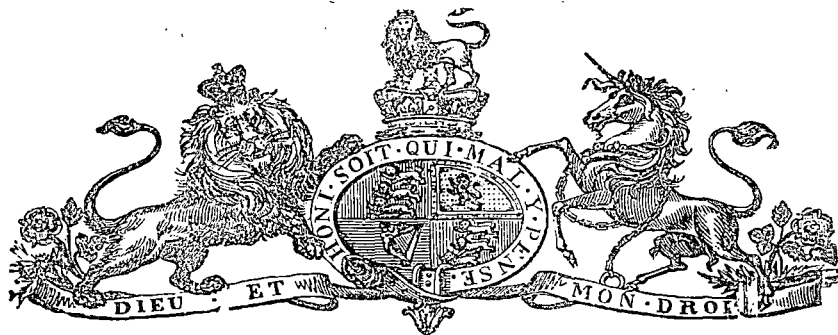
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MR. JOHN MEREDITH:

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Mitchell; and ordered by the House to be printed, September 7,
1880.



To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

The humble Petition of John Meredith, of Cambria, Glamorgan, Tasmania, Landowner.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT in the Session 42 Victoria (1878-1879) an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled "The Campbell Town Water Act," 42 Victoria, No. 20.

That Trustees were appointed under the provisions of this Act, who gave your Petitioner notice on 11th February, 1879, that they required a certain area of his freehold Land for the purpose of forming a Reservoir.

That an arbitration was duly held in respect of the same, and an award made as to the value thereof, on the twelfth day of June, 1879.

That on the twenty-ninth day of July, 1879, your Petitioner received notice, dated 22nd July, 1879, under the signatures of the said Trustees, that they "do hereby, in pursuance of the 13th Section of the Act of Parliament, 42 Victoria, No. 20, absolutely withdraw the said notice to treat, dated on or about the eleventh day of February last; and do hereby give you notice that we do not intend to pay to you the said amount of compensation mentioned in the said award, to the end and intent that we as such Trustees as aforesaid may obtain the privilege conferred upon us by the 13th Section of the said Act, as we consider the compensation awarded excessive, and that we should not be justified in paying it out of the funds or rates at our disposal."

That upon receipt of said notice of absolute withdrawal your Petitioner, believing that the Trustees could not again attempt to dispossess him of his land, entered into extensive contracts for fencing, draining, building a woolshed, &c., and cultivating a large area of the land, and expended a considerable sum of money in respect of the same.

That about the end of May last your Petitioner received a letter from the Solicitors for the Trustees of the said Water District, intimating the Trustees' intention to renew their notice to purchase and take the said land or some portion of it, and to have the amount of compensation settled by arbitration; in fact to commence *de novo*, and warning your Petitioner to discontinue all improvements upon the land.

That on the 15th July last your Petitioner received a notice from the Trustees of said Water District renewing their notice to purchase and take the said land or a greater part thereof.

That your Petitioner respectfully submits, it is obvious that if the Trustees have the right to withdraw their notice to purchase and take the land and to recommence *de novo* as often as they like until they obtain such an award as will be satisfactory to them, such right is entirely one-sided, as the Landowner has no such right, and the Trustees would have the power of completely unsettling him in the management of and dealing with his land; and, moreover, by capriciously withdrawing and renewing their notices they might harass a Landowner until he should be driven into accepting their terms.

Your Petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable House will be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary in order to afford your Petitioner relief; and that you will cause a Bill to be introduced to repeal Section 13 of the said Act, and to give either party who may be aggrieved by the award an appeal to the Supreme Court.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

JOHN MEREDITH.

6th September, 1880.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.