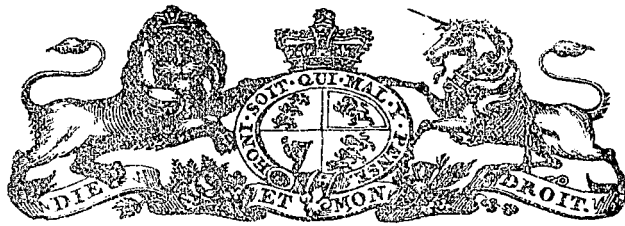


(No. 108.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**RECIPROCITY TREATY BETWEEN TASMANIA
AND VICTORIA :**

PETITION IN FAVOUR OF.

Presented by Mr. Norton-Smith, August 26th, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 27th, 1885.



*To the Honorable House of Assembly of Tasmania,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of Wellington,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT for many years they have suffered through the inimical tariff of Victoria, which has prevented them getting the full benefit of the Melbourne market for oats, timber, bacon, and farm produce generally, and has entirely closed that market against potatoes, which are the principal product of the North-West Coast.

That until last year the loss of the Melbourne market for these articles was in a measure counterbalanced by the Tasmanian import tax on cattle.

That the repeal of the cattle tax will have the effect of considerably lessening the small incomes of farmers, and will retard the clearance of the bush and the settlement of the district, unless some other means of turning the soil to profitable account be found.

That if the Melbourne market were thrown open to Tasmanian produce a great impetus would be given to the trade of this Coast; much of the timber, which is now worse than useless, would be exported to Victoria. Blackwood, palings, oats, fruit, and other produce would command higher prices, and the settlement of Crown lands expedited.

That any benefit accruing to this portion of the Island must add to the general prosperity, as the welfare of the centres of population is, in a great measure, dependant on that of the country districts.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will give the Reciprocity Treaty between Tasmania and Victoria, which has been initiated by Members of the Ministries of both Colonies, your favourable consideration, and cause such a measure to be passed as will add to the future prosperity of Tasmania.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 188 signatures.]