

(No. 32)



1863.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TAXATION.

PETITION FROM MR. W. ARCHER.

Presented by Mr. Innes; and ordered by the Council to be printed, July 22, 1863.



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

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the District of Deloraine, in Public Meeting assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are of opinion that certain portions of the scheme proposed by the Government for raising the Revenue are impolitic in character, and would be oppressive, unjust, and vexatious in operation.

Your Petitioners consider, for instance, that the increased duties on tea, sugar, soap, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, and rice, and the duties on sheep and cattle, are unnecessary and unjust; inasmuch as they will considerably enhance the cost of the actual necessaries of life to the labouring classes, and persons of small income; and it is quite possible to collect a Revenue from other and less objectionable sources.

Your Petitioners regard the Package Duty as necessarily unjust; inasmuch as it falls most heavily on articles of low value, which are chiefly used by the less wealthy portion of the population.

Your Petitioners look upon the proposed Stamp Duties as being particularly obnoxious; and believe that they would be very oppressive and obstructive to the transaction of business.

Your Petitioners trust that your Honourable House will not countenance the imposition of such taxes, as those to which they have respectfully expressed their strong repugnance; but that you will favour the adoption of duties which will tend to distribute the burden of taxation more fairly among all classes of the community.

Your Petitioners would strongly recommend the levying of an export duty on wool,—the growers, for the most part, of that commodity being wealthy, and well able to pay such an impost. They also think that an Income Tax ought to be imposed on Absentee Proprietors; who not only escape the contribution of their fair share of subscriptions for local purposes, but also expend out of the Colony the incomes which they derive from their property within it.

Your Petitioners, therefore, respectfully and earnestly trust that your Honourable House will adopt such Measures as will bring about a reconsideration of the proposed Tariff, and the substitution of other dutiable articles for those to which they have expressed their strong objection.

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

For the Meeting,

W. ARCHER, *Chairman.*