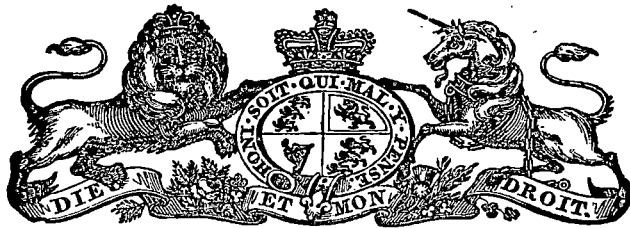


(No. 98.)



1869.

---

T A S M A N I A.

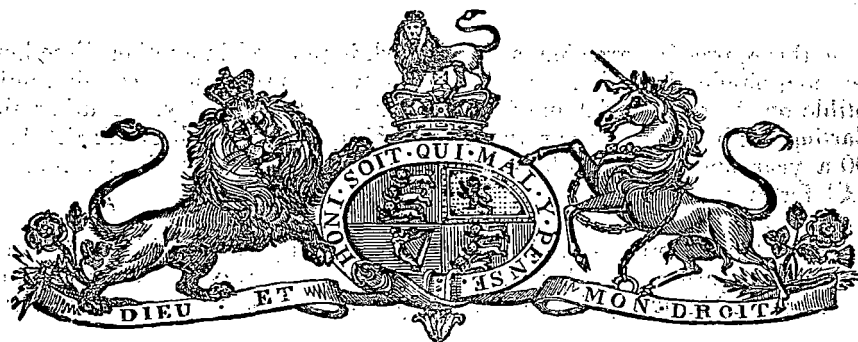
---

T I M B E R   L I C E N C E S.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

---

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, September 28, 1869; and ordered  
by the House to be printed.



*CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Reduction of Timber-cutting Licences  
in the Huon District.*

---

*Macquarie-street, Hobart Town, 26th June, 1862.*

SIR,

I BEG to bring under your notice what appears to me to be a very arbitrary and unwarranted exaction under the system of Timber Licences. Licences to cut timber on Crown lands are issued to all persons who pay the proper fee; but in addition to this fee a further sum of 2s. 6d per week is demanded for the privilege of carting away the timber so cut. I am at a loss to know what the value of a Timber Licence can be unless it confers the right of removing as well as of cutting timber. On my recent visit to Devon I found this regulation a subject of great and very general complaint. May I ask if the Government are cognisant of this practice, and if the exaction I have spoken of is enforced by their authority? I am not aware of its being warranted by Act of Parliament. The Government must see that the operation of a system so vexatious is to discourage the exportation of timber, and thus to inflict a heavy blow upon an important branch of Colonial enterprise, and interfere with the employ of labour.

At a time when the circumstances of the country render it in the highest degree expedient that the utmost facilities should be afforded for the prosecution of every form of industry, I cannot too strongly impress upon the Executive the expediency of removing a grievance so justly complained of.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN DAVIES.

REFERRED for information to the Surveyor-General.

F. M. INNES.

27th January, 1862.

FROM a calculation based on the amounts paid on account of Carters' Licences during three months of each of the three years 1860, 1861, and 1862, it appears that the sum annually derived from this source of revenue is much about Eleven pounds (£11\*).

The practice of charging Carters as well as Wood-cutters came into force about 14 years ago, and there has been no former complaint against it.

Persons unacquainted with the subject of Timber Licences would be very apt to infer from Mr. Davies's expressions that the Wood-cutters on Crown lands are regularly charged *double fee*—namely, one for cutting and another for carting; but I beg to state that there is a very wide difference between this view of the matter and the reality.

---

\* It has been four more for the last 12 months.

The revenue derived from Timber and Carters' Licences during the past 12 months has been £796—each Cutter and Carter paying 2s. 6d., as before stated. Of the sum thus derived only £15, or about a fifty-third of the whole, was paid for carting. Hence it follows that the Timber fee, instead of being doubled, as Mr. Davies seems to understand, was only increased by about a halfpenny.

The subject of this oppressive exaction, as it is called, if pursued in another direction, seems to lose the quality of magnitude altogether, or to dwindle down to proportions so diminutive as to be nearly imperceptible on the commercial and fiscal concerns of the country. During the fourteen years that this Carting tax has existed the value of our timber exports has been £1,649,177, or at the rate of £117,800 a year, and which has been taxed on account of cartage in no more oppressive proportion than £1 for every £10,709.

I must leave it to others, better versed than I am in the subject of political economy, to determine whether such an impost as the above can have had any appreciable influence on our Timber Export Trade in the way of retarding it in the very injurious manner it is said to be doing.

The questions relating to the cognizance of the Government of this exaction, and its authorization or otherwise thereof, are subjects which I would respectfully suggest had better be disposed of by the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer himself, after reference to the Orders issued for the guidance of this Department on the subject of these Licences, contained in the two Notices 105 and 93, dated respectively 11th October, 1848, and 11th July, 1853.

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.  
3. 7. 62.

---

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 93.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th July, 1853.*

THE Lieutenant-Governor directs it to be notified, that, from and after the 1st of August, the fee for Licence to cut Timber upon Crown Lands will be increased from One Shilling to Two Shillings and Sixpence a week.

By His Excellency's Command,  
W. CHAMP.

---

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 105.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th October, 1848.*

THE Lieutenant-Governor directs it to be notified, with reference to the 22nd clause of the regulations, under date the 3rd July last, for disposing by Sale and Licence of the Waste Lands belonging to the Crown in Van Diemen's Land, whereby all lands which have been or may hereafter be licensed for depasturing purposes under those regulations become subject to Timber Licences, that, with the view of restricting as much as possible the abuses arising from the indiscriminate granting of Timber Licences for the Lands of the Crown, whether held under Licence or not, he has caused instructions to be issued to the several Police and Assistant Police Magistrates throughout the interior of the Colony, directing them not to approve of or recommend any application for a Timber Licence unless the party or parties who apply for the same can give a distinct and satisfactory statement of the purpose for which the timber is required; and even then the Licence will not be granted unless the usual fee of One Shilling per week be paid, not only upon every individual engaged in cutting, but also upon such other persons as may be employed in connection with splitters, whether in the capacity of ship-builders, bullock-drivers, or cooks, &c.

By His Excellency's Command,  
J. E. BICHENO.

---

*Colonial Treasury, 14th July, 1862.*

SIR,

In reply to your communication of the 26th June last, having reference to the fee charged for cartage in addition to that paid for a Licence to cut Timber, I have to acquaint you that the Sur-

Mayor-General is required, by the authority of the Government, to collect the fee in question; but the subject of the expediency of altering the regulations under which this fee is charged having been brought this day under the consideration of the Executive, the Governor in Council has decided on its being repealed.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) F. M. INNES.

JOHN DAVIES, *Esq.*

*Survey Office, 16th May, 1864.*

DEAR SIR,

Will you favour me with any information you may be able to afford of the earnings of the Sawyers and Splitters in your district, for which I shall be very thankful, as I have to make such frequent Reports on the timber-producing districts and the Timber Trade of the Colony generally.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) J. E. CALDER.

E. A. WALPOLE, *Esq., J.P., Franklin.*

*Franklin, 21st May, 1864.*

DEAR SIR,

The Splitters and Sawyers in this district earn on an average, clear of all expenses attending the delivery of their timber, each man £2 per week, when at work, or I should say not less than that sum; for in some cases the Splitter earns £3.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. A. WALPOLE.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*

*Franklin, 26th May, 1864.*

SIR,

With reference to information respecting the earnings of Sawyers and Splitters, I have much pleasure in offering such as I am enabled to give. I have had an experience of some fifteen years in connection with the above class of men; I have invariably found that the earnings of those men are regulated to a great extent by the price of Timber. Take, for example, the year 1863, and up to the present month, May, 1864: I can say from my own experience and from other good data that during the period above mentioned their earnings have been as follows:—

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Splitters (average) ..... | 30s. per week. |
| Sawyers (average) .....   | 30s. per week. |

You will observe that the above is considerably higher wages than any farmer or fruit-grower in this district can afford to give with any prospect of a return. Hence arises the scarcity of labour in that line that is so much felt here.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN LLOYD, JUNR.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq., Hobart Town.*

*Franklin, 21st May, 1864.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to yours of the 16th instant for information as to the earnings of Sawyers and Splitters in this district, from my own personal knowledge I would say from 25s. to 30s. per week the year round is only a fair average. In the more distant parts of this district it would most likely be more, where the carting is not great. Notwithstanding, the better disposed prefer remaining near any Settlement or Township, where they can purchase all the necessaries of life at any moment, education for their children, and other advantages to be derived from a settled community.

There is seldom any difference in the earnings of a Sawyer or Splitter, as the demands of one regulate or lessen the supply of the other.

The earnings of a Splitter would be much increased and a better article produced if roads were made in advance of them. By the present practice the greatest amount of labour is in carrying it to a road.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. CHESTERMAN.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, *Surveyor-General*.

*Port Esperance, 23rd May, 1864.*

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, requesting me to furnish you with some information in respect to the earnings of the Splitters and Sawyers in this neighbourhood.

In reply, I may advert to that portion of Mr. Tully's Report on Tramways which relates to the matter as being the correctly stated result of calculations made by me at the time for his information, and which will still apply.

As the average annual earnings per man only are there given, I may add that the highest amount which a Sawyer or Splitter, working with ordinary steadiness, can earn at present rates, on an average of months, is £2 per week, with some rare exceptions. Many of the men lose time from habitual intemperance or idleness, and others devote a considerable portion of their time to the cultivation of their lands; those belonging to these classes probably do not earn more than from £35 to £40 per annum by working timber.

It is a well-ascertained fact that *more than half* a Splitter's time is occupied in carrying palings from the "stump" to the cart road. Were the beds of timber opened up by roads to a greater extent, the Splitter could produce timber at so low a rate as to create a larger demand and still make fair wages; besides which the lamentable practice of employing children of 7 or 8 years of age to carry palings out of the bush, to the detriment of their physical development and the neglect of educational opportunities, would be discouraged.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY J. DALDY.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, *Surveyor-General*.

*Long Bay, 18th November, 1865.*

SIR,

You will much oblige the bushmen by presenting their Petition to His Excellency the Governor in favour of a reduction of the Licence Fee, as they find it impossible to pay the present 2s. 6d. per week and compete with Port Arthur labour, besides making roads, and then the said timber land sold as soon as we have made the road; we then have to make fresh roads into other timber. Some of the present Petitioners have made as much as two and three miles back, besides branch roads, and have to keep them in repair, and to pay extra for carting.

Trusting that you will give their Petition your support, and you will confer a favour on the same,

I am, &c.,

JOHN SHORE.

To J. PERKINS, *Esq.*, *M.L.C.*

*To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies, &c.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Splitters and Sawyers working on Crown Land in the vicinity of Long Bay and other Townships, on the western bank of D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners find they are totally unable to pay the present Government Licence Fee of half-a-crown a week, with the present low price of timber.

That previous to the year 1853, when timber was much more plentiful than it is at present, the Licence Fee was only 1s. per week; but it was raised to half-a-crown when sawn and split timber fetched such an unprecedented price on account of the discovery of gold in Victoria.

That at the present time the market price of timber is less than ever it was, while the timber is harder to be got on account of all the convenient timber having been worked. Your Petitioners therefore pray that the Licence Fee may be reduced to one shilling as formerly, and that an area of timbered land may be reserved from sale for the use of splitters and sawyers, some of whom have paid Licence for more than 25 years.

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

[Here follow 35 Signatures.]

Hobart Town, 21st November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit to His Excellency the Governor a Petition from certain splitters and sawyers in Long Bay, &c., praying that the Licence Fee may be reduced from 2s. 6d. to 1s. per week.

The evidence received for some time past in reference to these men is of the most distressing character, for it frequently happens that not more than 15 days' work is obtained in the month, while at the same time the sum of 10s. is exacted as the fee due, and unless paid the timber is branded and claimed to the full value for the Crown, and men are helpless in means to support themselves and families, causing such distress unparalleled in the history of the Colony.

As one who fully believes in the prayer of the Petitioners, I humbly solicit His Excellency's interest on their behalf, trusting the matter will be considered by the Executive Government with the view of relieving these industrious men, for to my own knowledge many are on the point of starvation.

I have, &c.,

JOHN PERKINS.

T.G. STEWART, Esq.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The Petition of the undersigned Splitters, Labouring Men, and others, Inhabitants of that portion of the Huon District comprised in Esperance, Southport, and Recherche.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners, who are entirely dependent for the maintenance of themselves and families upon the timber trade of the Huon District, are, at the present time, owing to the extreme depression of that trade, in a state of the utmost distress.

Your Petitioners most humbly beg to represent to Your Excellency that in consequence of the great difficulty in procuring timber of a suitable description near to a place of shipment, the produce of their labour has to be carried a distance of a mile and a-half, and even in some cases two miles; so that after manufacturing the timber they have to walk an average distance of one hundred and forty (140) miles, one-half of which distance is performed with a burden of about one hundred and fifty (150) pounds' weight to place 1000 palings at the water's edge; under which circumstances it will be obvious to Your Excellency that Your Petitioners' earnings must be small indeed.

Your Petitioners most respectfully remind Your Excellency that they are required by law to pay to the Government a Licence Fee to entitle them to follow their occupation upon Crown Lands. This Licence, which was originally four shillings (4s.) per month, was, upon the occasion of the great rise in the price of timber and other descriptions of produce, consequent upon the discovery of the gold-fields, raised to ten shillings (10s.) per month, at which it has remained until the present time.

And Your Petitioners do humbly hope that, under the circumstances which they have taken the liberty to represent to Your Excellency, Your Excellency will be induced to direct that such reduction shall be made in the amount of the Timber Licence Fee as may seem to Your Excellency sufficient to meet the exigency of the case.

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

[Here follow 62 Signatures.]

WE, the undersigned Settlers of the District, beg to say that we fully concur in the prayer of the foregoing Petition; and we also beg to assure Your Excellency that to the best of our belief the signatures attached thereto are entirely those of men paying the Licence Fee.

[Here follow 5 Signatures.]

*Port Cygnet, 7th December, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st instant, directing me to furnish you with answers to certain questions relative to the Sawyers and Splitters in the Huon District. The following I believe to be as near the truth as possible.

1st. The usual weekly earnings of Sawyers and Splitters in the south I believe to be from 22s. 6d. to 30s.

2nd. Their employers always supply them and their families with provisions, &c., at an advance usually, I believe, of from 15 to 20 per cent.,—sometimes less, often very much more.

3rd. They receive the lowest price for their "stuff." They are obliged to sell it to their employers at whatever price they choose to give, being, I may say, always in debt for provisions, &c. They therefore cannot sell to any other person, supposing by doing so they could procure a higher price.

4th. Splitters and Sawyers working on their own account (which rarely occurs) on private land always pay for permission to do so, and the usual fee has been 2s. 6d. per week; in some instances I have known 1s. 6d. per week only charged, and sometimes no charge at all is made: but in such cases the owners of the land have generally been their employers, who supply their rations and purchase their timber; the fee depends also greatly on the eligibility of the land for timber purposes.

In sending the above replies to your questions, I would take the liberty of making a few remarks upon the condition of the Splitters and Sawyers generally.

There can be no doubt that their present position is a difficult one, and they feel very much the high price of provisions and the very low price of their produce. They do so the more at being compelled to sell their timber to their employers at the very lowest price, and are charged at the same time the highest price for their provisions,—it so rarely happens that a Sawyer or Splitter is in a position to sell his timber to any one but the man who advances them to him.

I am afraid that if the Splitter had no licence fee to pay he would not reap the benefit, so long as he is so dependent upon his employer; as a proof of which those that I have known to work on private land without paying any fee have not been the least degree better off than those who have paid their 2s. 6d. per week. Most of them at present reside on private land, for which they have to pay a rent. If, therefore, they work on Crown land they must pay an additional 2s. 6d. per week, and they have no alternative but to do so, as there is little or no timber on any private land fit for their use. I therefore think that if they could be secured a permanent residence for a certain period on Crown land that it would be a great boon to many.

It is well known that the Splitters, as a class, work very hard indeed when they are at it—none more so; but they are at the same time most improvident. If they have money they must spend it, and while it lasts they will not work. The consequence is that, earn what they may, they are in reality no better off at the year's end. Those persons who live by the Splitters' labour are in reality the gainers; which I firmly believe would be the case if they were allowed to work on Crown land without paying any fee at all, as I have instanced those men who have worked on their employers' land without paying any; and even in what was called the good times the Splitter did not receive the benefit he should have done: for with him it is unfortunately the case that the more quickly he earns money the more it is squandered, and the less work he does,—the employer and the publican are the parties who receive the benefit. As an instance of the advantage taken of the Splitters under difficulties,—instead of alleviating their circumstances by being contented with a less profit than usual on their articles supplied to them, and by whom they have made *fortunes*,—many of the Splitters have been compelled to purchase sharps to mix with their flour. What was the consequence? The increased demand raised the price even to 21s. per 100 lbs., and that by the shopkeeper at Port Esperance, who is also a very large purchaser of timber. The Splitters could not help themselves. I would ask what benefit, under such circumstances, would the Splitter receive by remitting to him the small sum of 1s. 6d. per week. It would be but a drop in the ocean.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. LAFFER.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, *Surveyor-General*.

## MEMORANDUM.

THE Petitions of the Sawyers and Splitters of Long Bay, and those residing at Southport, Port Esperance, and Recherche Bay, that were referred to me on the 25th November and 2nd December, are herewith returned, with such information as I am able to supply in connection with the subjects they relate to.

I much regret that there should have been any delay in sending them back ; but the truth is, firstly, that I have had to refer them to the Inspector of Timber Licences, from whom I received them back, with his Report, at a time when I had much to attend to ; and, secondly, that I have been absent from the Office a good deal of late in consequence of illness.

I shall deal with each separately at first ; and then make some general remarks on both, as the prayer of each is merely the same.

The Long Bay Petition is signed by 35 persons, designating themselves Sawyers and Splitters, who pray that the Weekly Licence Fee paid to the Government for permission to cut timber on the Crown lands may be reduced from half-a-crown to one shilling,—which first-named sum, they state, they are no longer able to pay in consequence of the low price they get for the article they produce.

Of the 35 persons who sign this Petition, I think it will rather surprise you to hear that no less than 19 of them have never paid the Licence Fee at all during the past 12 months, and I believe most of them never. It is difficult, therefore, to see in what way the change they ask for can affect them, beneficially or otherwise ; and the Petition itself must go for nothing, in so far as their signatures (which constitute the majority) are concerned.

Of the remaining 16, 7 pay the fee so rarely that they also can have very little concern in the reduction sought.

For the facts contained in the two last paragraphs, I take leave to refer you to the paper headed “Long Bay” at the end of this letter, which gives a view of the Licence Fees that have been paid there during the past 12 months by the persons signing the Petition, the money set against their names showing in what months of the year they have taken out Licences.

The letter of Mr. Perkins which accompanies this Petition assures us that these men are to his own knowledge on the point of starvation, which he attributes partly to the low prices which the subscribers themselves complain of, and partly to a cause which, I dare assert, not one of them ever experienced the smallest loss from, namely, the Timber seizures made by the Government in case of evasion of the Licence Fee ; which seizures, I may inform you, are of very rare occurrence throughout the Colony, and in so far as Long Bay is concerned have never been made at all, that I can ascertain. In this particular, therefore, Mr. Perkins’s letter is entitled to very little consideration.

The Petition of the Splitters, &c., of Southport, Port Esperance, and Recherche Bay is signed by 62 persons, whereof nearly half—thirty—either pay no Licence Fee at all, or pay it so rarely that the reduction asked for cannot be of much moment to them. Eleven have paid actually nothing during the past 12 months, and nineteen others have taken out Licences on rare occasions only ; namely,—for one, two, or three months,—and not more, as shown by the Paper marked “Port Esperance, Southport, and Recherche Bay.”

On referring these Petitions to the Inspector of Timber Licences, I put a few questions to him relative to the condition of these men. From his Report herewith it will be seen that though they are able to earn considerably more than £1 a week, still their condition is very bad (no doubt this rate of pay is more nominal than real), and confirms the belief I have long held,—founded on information accumulated during many years,—that their depressed state arises in a very considerable degree from the oppressiveness of a class of men known as “Dealers,” who have the Splitters, &c., completely at their mercy, and who, as I believe, would alone derive any advantage from the remission of that part of the fee which the Petitioners ask for ; for almost all the benefits of the timber trade flow by some means or other into the pockets of the Dealers. So completely have they the Splitters and Sawyers in their power, that the produce of their labour very generally falls into their hands at prices fixed by themselves, while at the same time the supplies they furnish them with are sold them at prices much in excess of what they should be. Mr. Laffer gives an example of this exacting process as practised by one of the five persons who back the Southport Petition,—who, I believe, are most of them Dealers. During the present season of low and high prices of timber and food respectively, the Wood-cutters of the South have had to subsist, themselves and families, much on an article called sharps (a fine kind of pollard), and which I have ascertained is worth 11s. a cwt. at the mills, and which this person retails to his unfortunate employées at 21s. This style of exaction, I am told, enters into every transaction that takes place between the Dealer and those he employs.



It is worthy of remark that complaints about the Licence Fee never come from the North side of the Island; and I think the reason would prove to be, that they are less in the hands of the Dealers than their fellow-labourers of the South are; or that, cutting over a wider range of country, there is less possibility of combination amongst the Dealers, who are necessarily more scattered than here where timber manufacture is confined to a narrow area.

Another mode of oppression practised by some of the Dealers of the South is this:—The Wood-cutters have in many or most instances originally established themselves on Crown lands in little communities of three or four families, where they have built their huts,—and, perhaps, made some little enclosures. When thus settled, some Dealer—who is mostly a man of means—covers the little settlement with a selection, and thus becomes proprietor of their huts, and their rightful owners involuntarily become his tenants, and are forced to pay him a rental of generally half-a-crown a week for permission to occupy their own dwellings.

This practice was unknown to me until lately. Under Executive sanction, however, I shall take measures to defeat it in future by granting permission to any who choose to move on to the Crown lands to occupy half an acre, and to assure them either of certain possession of the same for building and garden purposes from year to year, under the Occupation Clause of “The Waste Lands Act;” or, in the event of selling their homesteads, to compensate them fairly for them. This practice of allowing half an acre for garden and building purposes to this class of men I find prevails in Victoria.

If I thought that the remission of the Licence Fee would benefit the Wood-cutting community in any manner, I would gladly advise its reduction,—even though I do not believe it is excessive,—as it certainly confers the right to occupy Crown land, and to obtain fuel therefrom, free, which must be looked on as advantages more than equal to the Licence Fee. But believing as I do that any remission of it will only serve as a pretext for some equivalent exaction for the benefit of the employers, I shall refrain from doing so.

I do not know what is the amount of the Timber Licence Fee charged in any other Colony except Victoria, where it is £5 a year for ordinary wood and £10 for blackwood. But I know that the total amount collected both in New South Wales and Queensland is about thrice\* as much as is collected here; and as I do not believe that their timber trade is so great as ours is, it will therefore be obvious to you that our fee is not an oppressive one.

J. E. CALDER.  
4. 1. 66.

*The Hon. Colonial Treasurer.*

LONG BAY.

*Total Amount received 1864–1865.*

| £ s. d.                   |        | £ s. d.                   |       |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------|
| Whittleston, Robert ..... | 3 12 6 | Shore, John.....          | 0 0 0 |
| Roberts, Thomas D. ....   | 2 5 0  | Archer, Charles .....     | 0 0 0 |
| Haycock, William .....    | 2 0 0  | Langford, Henry.....      | 0 0 0 |
| Anderson, Isaac .....     | 2 0 0  | Sadgrove, John .....      | 0 0 0 |
| Glover, William .....     | 2 0 0  | Givins, John .....        | 0 0 0 |
| Woolley, Robert.....      | 2 0 0  | Clanny, Thomas.....       | 0 0 0 |
| Smith, John .....         | 2 0 0  | Griffiths, Edward .....   | 0 0 0 |
| Flanagan, John .....      | 1 10 0 | Waitley, Edward .....     | 0 0 0 |
| Charlton, John .....      | 1 10 0 | Beadle, George .....      | 0 0 0 |
| Charlton, George .....    | 1 10 0 | Hurbertson, Charles ..... | 0 0 0 |
| Hargraves, George.....    | 1 10 0 | Rowe, Richard .....       | 0 0 0 |
| Chadwick, William .....   | 1 10 0 | Thomas, Henry .....       | 0 0 0 |
| Forster, James .....      | 1 0 0  | Thomas, John, senr. ....  | 0 0 0 |
| Thomas, John .....        | 0 10 0 | Charlton, John, senr..... | 0 0 0 |
| Lawless, Joseph .....     | 0 10 0 | Jackson, George.....      | 0 0 0 |
| King, Samuel.....         | 0 5 0  | Firth, Isaac.....         | 0 0 0 |
| £25 12 6                  |        | Cox, William .....        | 0 0 0 |
|                           |        | Roades, Thomas.....       | 0 0 0 |
|                           |        | Kenyon, William .....     | 0 0 0 |

\* In 1864 the Revenue derived from Timber and Brick Licences was £2231 5s. in New South Wales (page 184 Statistics), and £2314 10s. in Queensland (page 94 Statistics.) Here it was £885 8s. 6d. in 1864, and £778 13s. 6d. in 1865, for Timber, Brick, Charcoal, and Stonequarry Licences.

## PORT ESPERANCE, SOUTHPORT, AND RECHERCHE BAY.

Total Amount received 1864-1865.

| £                     | s.  | d. | £ | s.                   | d.        |
|-----------------------|-----|----|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Hardy, John           | 5   | 17 | 6 | Brought forward      | 104 7 6   |
| Tattersall, Wilkinson | 5   | 12 | 6 | Purkis, William      | 1 10 0    |
| Jones, Henry          | 5   | 10 | 0 | Martin, James        | 1 15 0    |
| Ellingworth, Charles  | 5   | 7  | 6 | Allen, Charles       | 1 10 0    |
| Rickards, William     | 5   | 7  | 6 | Vergo, Thomas        | 1 7 6     |
| Bishop, William       | 4   | 15 | 0 | Glass, William       | 1 7 6     |
| Jones, John           | 4   | 7  | 6 | Satchwell, James     | 1 5 0     |
| Claridge, James       | 4   | 2  | 6 | Slack, Adam          | 1 5 0     |
| Hudson, Thomas        | 4   | 0  | 0 | Estcourt, William    | 1 2 6     |
| Sykes, Lazarus        | 3   | 12 | 6 | Wallace, Robert      | 1 2 6     |
| Gilbert, Jessie       | 3   | 7  | 6 | Thompson, William    | 1 2 6     |
| Oakley, George        | 3   | 5  | 0 | Donoghue, Thomas     | 1 2 6     |
| Godison, Charles      | 3   | 5  | 0 | Skinner, Henry       | 1 0 0     |
| Hudson, James         | 3   | 0  | 0 | Philips, Oliver      | 1 0 0     |
| Palmer, George        | 3   | 0  | 0 | Sparkes, James       | 1 0 0     |
| Burns, John           | 3   | 0  | 0 | Tedman, Wm., senr.   | 1 0 0     |
| Palmer, Charles       | 2   | 17 | 6 | Tedman, Wm., junr.   | 1 0 0     |
| Hoo Ah                | 2   | 15 | 0 | Degan, John          | 1 0 0     |
| Jones, Thomas         | 2   | 17 | 6 | Owens, John          | 0 12 6    |
| Dalcoe, Josh. V.      | 2   | 15 | 0 | Hudson, John         | 0 16 0    |
| Brennin, James        | 2   | 12 | 6 | Hudson, Frederick    | 0 0 0     |
| Best, John            | 2   | 5  | 0 | Rener, Archer        | 0 0 0     |
| Knight, William       | 2   | 5  | 0 | Sutcliffe, Jonas     | 0 0 0     |
| Bolton, John          | 2   | 2  | 6 | Fullaway, Thomas     | 0 0 0     |
| Archy, George         | 2   | 2  | 0 | Smith, Joseph        | 0 0 0     |
| M'Intyre, Michael     | 2   | 0  | 0 | Williams, John       | 0 0 0     |
| Williams, Leyston     | 2   | 0  | 0 | Glock, Philip        | 0 0 0     |
| Bentley, William      | 2   | 0  | 0 | Eves, John           | 0 0 0     |
| Lambert, Thomas       | 1   | 17 | 6 | Reeve, George        | 0 0 0     |
| Jenkins, John         | 1   | 15 | 0 | Killingback, William | 0 0 0     |
| Wise, John            | 1   | 15 | 0 | Hudson, Horace       | 0 0 0     |
| M'Cormack, B.         | 1   | 10 | 0 |                      |           |
| Carried forward       | 104 | 7  | 6 |                      |           |
|                       |     |    |   |                      | £124 10 0 |

## MEMO.

IN forwarding these papers to the Hon. Colonial Secretary, it is sufficient to refer him to Mr. Calder's Memorandum as containing all the information necessary to come to a decision in the matter. In my opinion the Surveyor-General's intention to give the opportunity to the men to reside on the Crown land is a greater boon than lowering the fee.

(Signed) CHARLES MEREDITH.  
12.1.66.

I AM not prepared to recommend that any action should be taken in this matter at present.

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.  
30. 7. 66.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

FORWARDED to the Surveyor-General for his information.

(Signed) C. MEREDITH.  
30. 7. 66.

Colonial Treasury, 27th September, 1866.

## MEMORANDUM.

THE Government have decided, on and after the 1st proximo, to reduce the Timber Licence Fee from Two shillings and sixpence to One shilling.

(Signed) CHARLES MEREDITH,  
Colonial Treasurer.

*The Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

*Survey Department, 16th December, 1868.*

SIR,

WITH reference to the proposition made by Messrs. Laffer and Innes that the Timber Licences should be increased, I certainly think that One shilling a week is much too little for Sawyers and Splitters to pay, who are engaged near the Government Slab Road between Southport and Port Esperance; and I have no hesitation in recommending that the Licence Fee in this locality should be fixed at Three shillings a week, to include carters. This will be no hardship to the Splitters, for I have reason to believe when any movement has been made for a reduction of the Fee it has always emanated from the persons with whom they deal.

I may shortly state what the Fees have been since Timber Licences were issued.

In the year 1834 One shilling per week for each man employed upon Crown Land was charged by the Government.

In 1853 the Fee was increased to Two shillings and sixpence per week, and Five shillings for cutting pine, and these fees were exacted up to September, 1866, when they were reduced to One shilling a week.

In July, 1862, the Government decided that carters should be exempted from paying Timber Licence Fees.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. E. CALDER, *Surveyor-General.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

*Hobart Town, 19th December, 1868.*

SIR,

UNDER the verbal instructions of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, I have the honor to make a few observations upon the proposed raising of the present Timber Licence Fee for the consideration of that gentleman.

I am decidedly of opinion that the present fee, 1s., is much too small under any circumstances, when it is taken into consideration that the Sawyer or Splitter has the privilege of residing on Crown land, cultivating his garden if he chooses, and has the range of the country for miles to secure suitable trees for his purpose. There is no danger of his being out of employment for a single day; he has only to work, and can always earn a good living. It therefore can be no hardship on the part of the Government to increase the Licence Fee, say to 2s. 6d. per week, to all those men whose timber would be carted out on the new slab roads at Southport and Port Esperance; and I think that the carters on those roads should pay the same fee, in order that something might be received towards keeping them in repair or cost of construction.

I would also draw attention to the small fee (by comparison) paid by men falling timber for the use of sawmills. Taking into consideration the amount and value of the timber removed, they should, I consider, pay four times, or more, than the others do.

In remarking upon the lots of land surveyed for sale on the tract between Southport and Port Esperance, I believe that, to do them justice, the slab road from Southport should be continued—not on so expensive a scale—to meet the tramroad made by Mr. Andrewartha, and a horse track for the use of travellers to diverge from about Pearson's lot to the old road; but under any circumstances I am afraid the blocks are too large for the probable purchasers in that district. I believe about 20 acres would be far more suitable, and sell more readily.

Whilst writing on the subject, I would take the liberty of endeavouring to remove any impression that the Government may have as to the idea of Splitters preventing the sale of Crown land; whereas it is a well-known fact that almost all the land sold of late in the district for agricultural purposes has been overrun by them for years; and as regards the idea that the timber at Southport will soon be got rid of, I know several places in the district from which timber has been procured for the last twenty years, and it is not all gone yet: it is only necessary to extend the roads.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. LAFFER.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq., Surveyor-General.*

I BEG to forward this letter of Mr. Laffer's on the subject of raising the Timber Licence Fee from 1s. to 2s. 6d. a man a week, in which I quite concur; and also to his recommendation to charge persons engaged in wood-cutting for sawmills a higher fee than that paid by the ordinary Splitter, on the ground of their using up ten times the quantity of timber that is consumed by the Splitter.

His remarks on the subject of extending the Southport tramroad as far as Pearson's land, and of reducing the size of the lots marked out thereon, I also beg to commend to the attentive consideration of the Executive as very likely to prove beneficial.

J. E. CALDER.  
19. 12. 68.

*Surveyor-General's Office, 22nd December, 1868.*

RETURN of Amounts received from Timber Licences during the years 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868.

| YEAR.       | AMOUNT.   | REMARKS.   |
|-------------|-----------|--|
|             | £ s. d.   |  |
| 1864.....   | 885 8 6   |  |
| 1865.....   | 778 13 6  |  |
| 1866.....   | 442 8 3   | £37 4s. of which was received between 1st October (when the fee was reduced to 1s.) and 31st December. |
| 1867.....   | 450 3 6   |  |
| 1868.....   | 384 9 0   | 11 months.   |
| TOTAL ..... | £2941 2 9 |  |

J. E. CALDER.

*The Hon. Colonial Treasurer.*

### GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 196.

*Colonial Treasury, 29th December, 1868.*

THE Governor in Council having had under consideration the inadequacy of the Fee charged to persons cutting Timber, &c., on Crown Lands, has directed that from and after the 1st proximo the following Regulation shall supersede Regulation 8 contained in Government Notice, No. 168, of the 2nd December, 1867:—

#### *Timber Licences, &c.*

8. Licences to fell and remove Timber from any Crown Land, available for such purposes, are to be obtained at any Police Office, or from the official Inspector of Timber Licences, on payment of two shillings and sixpence (2s. 6d.) a week for every person employed (carters excepted), subject to the conditions contained in the Timber Licence form.

Licences to make bricks, quarry stone, burn charcoal, &c., are to be obtained in a similar manner and on the same terms as those relating to removing timber.

His Excellency in Council has further approved of carters using the Government Slab Roads at Southport and Port Esperance paying a Licence Fee of 2s. 6d. per week for each horse engaged by them in carting on the said roads, with an extra Fee of 5s. in all cases where more than two horses are used in drawing one cart or dray.

Persons cutting timber on Crown Lands in connection with any sawmill will be charged a Licence Fee of Five Shillings per week each.

By His Excellency's Command,  
THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

*Survey Office, 8th January, 1869.*

Sir,

IN forwarding the accompanying Return of Timber Licences issued and fees received therefrom in 1868, I beg to say that I have found it most convenient to classify the same into Electoral Districts, in so far as the chief localities from which this branch of the Revenue is derived are concerned; and, as the fees that are received from other quarters are insignificant, I have lumped them under the general heading of the "Remainder of Colony."

I beg to draw your attention to a few facts showing the changes that have been made from time to time in the amount of fees charged for permission to remove wood from the Crown Lands of the Colony.

I believe that Fees were first charged for cutting Timber on the Crown Lands in 1834, and the practice has been continued through thirty-four or thirty-five consecutive years. The charge was then one shilling per week for each Licence, and it so remained till 1853, when it was raised to two shillings and sixpence, at which it rested until September, 1866, when it was reduced to one shilling.

Up to 1862 all persons concerned in removing Timber out of the bush were charged Licence; but in July of that year carters were exempted from payment of the same.

I hope it is not out of place here to state that I believe the rate you have lately fixed the fee at, namely, half-a-crown a week, is a most equitable one; and I also believe, from many enquiries I have from time to time caused to be made into the matter, that the Wood-cutters themselves do not regard it as an oppressive charge; and I believe, where they have signed petitions praying for a reduction of it, they have acted under the irresistible persuasion of their employers (locally known as "Dealers"); and who, strange as it may seem to those who may not have had opportunities of acquiring perfect information on the subject, are those who, indirectly, derive the chief benefit from the reduction. These are the men who, in the majority of cases, actually pay the licences, and who, in settling with their employées (generally an ignorant and careless set of men), take care that the Splitter or Sawyer has at most only a meagre share of the advantage of the reduction, on whom they practice all sorts of petty exactions. Mr. Laffer, our Licence Collector, who is a most truthful man, has assured me of this a dozen times; and I may add that, from many enquiries I have made of the men themselves, they have confirmed what Mr. Laffer has told me. And on this ground, taken conjunctively with the fact that the Wood-cutter receives much greater money advantages through his Licence than it costs him, it is that I have always stood out against any reduction of the Fee; and I am glad to be able to say that I have this day received an assurance, voluntarily given by Mr. R. C. Gunn,—who, like Mr. Laffer, would no more do these men a wrong than yourself or colleagues would,—that he "entirely concurs in the propriety of increase of Timber Licence."

That solicitude should be felt by the honorable gentlemen who have lately addressed you on behalf of the Wood-cutters of the districts they represent in Parliament is natural enough; but if we contrast the condition of these men with that of the ordinary labourer in any other part of the Colony, I think it will be found in favour of the former. Take the Corporation labourer of Hobart Town and Launceston for example—the former receiving 4s. 6d. and the latter 5s. 6d. a day—while the Splitter earns his two or three pounds a week, and it will be seen at once who is best off. In addition to this, the Splitter has the privilege of using any Government land he likes for residence purposes, free of charge, and of taking what firewood he pleases; and is, moreover, exempt from all local taxes which the Corporation servant is not,—which, I submit, are advantages of themselves worth more than the weekly half-crown he pays us. And when it is recollected that this class of men do an immense amount of damage to the Crown Lands—at least as many think they do—by removing the very prime timber from our lands, and by covering them with a most enormous quantity of refuse, surely half-a-crown a week can never be thought an excessive charge for the advantages they receive, and for the injury they do to the lands they work on.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.

*The Hon. Colonial Treasurer.*

## RETURN relative to Licences to cut Timber issued during the Year 1868.

| DISTRICT.                 | NO. OF LICENCES. | AMOUNT RECEIVED. | REMARKS.   |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
|                           |                  | £ s. d.          |  |
| Franklin.....             | 516              | 185 2 0          | This is for 11 months only, returns for December not having been received from Mr. Laffer.         |
| Kingborough.....          | 173              | 52 7 0           |  |
| Devon .....               | 300              | 91 18 0          |  |
| New Norfolk.....          | 270              | 29 9 0           |  |
| George Town.....          | 63               | 9 19 0           |  |
| Remainder of the Colony.. | 401              | 82 3 0           | NOTE.—The Licences are issued for various periods,—some for one week only, others for a month, &c. |
| TOTAL .....               | 1723             | 450 18 0         |  |

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.  
8th January, 1869.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 17.

Colonial Treasury, 18th January, 1869.

THE Governor in Council having had under consideration the inadequacy of the fee charged to persons cutting Timber, &c., on Crown Lands, has directed that, from and after the 1st proximo, the following Regulation shall supersede Regulation 8 contained in Government Notice, No. 168, of the 2nd December, 1867.

*Timber Licences, &c.*

8. Licences to fell and remove Timber from any Crown Land, available for such purposes, are to be obtained at any Police Office, or from the official Inspector of Timber Licences, on payment of two shillings and sixpence (2s. 6d.) a week for every person employed (carters excepted), subject to the conditions contained in the Timber Licence form.

Licences to make bricks, quarry stone, burn charcoal, &c., are to be obtained in a similar manner and on the same terms as those relating to removing timber.

His Excellency in Council has further approved of carters using the Government Slab Roads at Southport and Port Esperance paying a Licence Fee of 2s. 6d. per week for every horse, bullock, or other animal engaged by them in carting on the said roads, with an extra Fee of 5s. in all cases where more than two horses, two bullocks, or other animals are used in drawing one cart or dray.

Persons cutting timber on Crown Lands in connection with any saw-mill will be charged a Licence Fee of Five Shillings per week each.

By His Excellency's Command,  
THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Montacute, 1st February, 1869.

MY DEAR SIR,

I FORWARD the enclosed for presentation to the Governor. The men who are employed in splitting Timber in this District find the additional tax very oppressive.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. LANGDON.

The Honorable Sir R. DRY

*To His Excellency the Honorable CHARLES DU CANE, Governor of Tasmania, &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The humble Petition of William Belcher, respectfully sheweth:

That your Petitioner resides in the District of Hamilton, and obtains a livelihood by splitting Timber on Crown Land.

That the present weekly amount of Licence, viz., 2s. 6d., is burdensome, and is out of proportion to the means attainable by such labour in this District, inasmuch as the requirements for timber are very limited, frequently necessitating your Petitioner to seek other means of support.

That Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to adopt a measure which will remove the grievance of which I complain; and Your Excellency's Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most devoted humble servant,

WILLIAM BELCHER,

*Sugar-Loaf Tier, Hamilton,  
1st February, 1869.*

---

REFERRED to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
*3rd February, 1869.*

---

FORWARDED to the Surveyor-General, who will be good enough to state how many persons paid Licence Fees in the Hamilton District during the year 1868, and the total amount collected in that District; and also how many weeks' Licence Fee was paid by the Petitioner during the year 1868.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.  
*Treasury, 26. 2. 69.*

---

I BEG to report that during the whole of 1868 only seven (7) persons have taken out Timber Licences in the Hamilton District, for which they paid £2 11s. in all. Of this sum £1 6s. was contributed by the Petitioner, William Belcher, for 26 weeks' Licences.

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.  
*1. 3. 69.*

---

*Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 26th February, 1869.*

MY DEAR SIR,

YOUR note, forwarding a Petition from William Belcher in reference to the Timber Licence Fee, reached this Department in due course; and the Petition referred to, with several others on the same subject, will receive the careful consideration of the Executive Government; the result of which I will communicate to you in due course.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) T. D. CHAPMAN.

*The Hon. Captain LANGDON, Montacute.*

---

*Hobart Town, 10th February, 1869.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice that the payment of the Licence Fee for carting timber on the Government Road at Port Esperance is being evaded by the use of bullocks instead of horses; and as I cannot under such circumstances enforce the payment, I respectfully beg for authority to do so. I would suggest that two bullocks might be considered as equivalent to one horse.

I would also take the liberty of suggesting that I have authority to demand from all parties cutting timber for removal in the log, whether as piles or otherwise, the same amount of Licence Fee, (5s.) five shillings per week each man, as is now paid where it is for use at a saw-mill.

I do so, not only on account of the quantity removed, but as a rule it is taken off ground of the most inferior description; it is, therefore, the only way in which the Government can expect to realise anything by the land.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. LAFFER.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, *Surveyor-General*.

RESPECTFULLY submitted to the Honorable Colonial Treasurer.

The suggestion of Mr. Laffer contained in the first paragraph of this letter should, I think, have the approval of the Executive.

The other matters require a little consideration.

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.  
10. 2. 69.

#### TIMBER LICENCE FEE.

TIMBER Licence Fees paid by men at work on Crown Land north of Iron Stone Creek, £5 5s. 6d. Average number of men at work during 12 months, 2.

From opposite Iron Stone Creek to Surge's Bay on west side of River Huon, £39 14s. Average number of men, 15.

From Surge's Bay to Pearson's Lot, £60 16s. Average number of men, 23.

Southport and vicinity, £101 17s. Average number of men, 39.

From North West Bay to Three Hut Point, £29 12s. Average number of men, 11.

Between Three Hut Point and Iron Stone Creek, £28 16s. Average number of men, 11.

(Signed) J. LAFFER.  
10th February, 1869.

*The Surveyor-General.*

#### MEMORANDUM.

*Colonial Treasury, 24th February, 1869.*

THE Colonial Treasurer forwards herewith three Petitions from Splitters and Sawyers residing in the Districts of Franklin and Kingborough addressed to His Excellency the Governor in Council, praying for a reduction of the Licence Fee charged for cutting Timber on Crown Land.

The Surveyor-General will be good enough to instruct Mr. Laffer to furnish a full Report on these Petitions;—such Report showing the number of Licences issued in each locality from which the Petitions come, with the names of the persons in whose favour the Licences were issued, and the amount paid by each person during the year 1868; and also Mr. Laffer's views generally on the question. The Surveyor-General will also be good enough to forward his own views on the subject, to enable the Governor in Council to decide whether it is expedient to grant relief to the Petitioners.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

*The Surveyor-General.*

#### MEMORANDUM.

MR. LAFFER will kindly give a very exact attention to the Treasurer's orders in the matter of the three Petitions herewith sent to him (originals retained—copies forwarded), praying for a reduction of the Timber Licence Fee; and he will please do so as promptly as possible.

One of the Petitions,—namely, that signed by Mr. J. S. White for 51 individuals,—is quite as much a petition for Government expenditure on a road as for a reduction of the Fee; but as it is certainly not a proper occasion to introduce such a topic, Mr. Laffer, I think, need pay no attention to that part of the document which ought never to have been introduced into it.

Mr. Laffer should note in what way he believes the persons signing these Memorials are affected by the increase of the Fee. I have compared the names of the requisitionists with those on the lists of our own Licencees, but find many on the Petition herewith that I never heard of as paying



any Licence. How it is possible, therefore, that they are damaged by the recent increase of the Fee from One Shilling to Half-a-crown is, I own, more than I can tell. However, I think it my duty to instruct Mr. Laffer very peremptorily to point out every instance where the signatures are those of persons who have either only little interest or no interest at all in the question which they assure His Excellency the Governor affects them so deeply and disastrously, of whom I believe it will be found there are many amongst the Petitioners.

Mr. Laffer, I quite know, will always do his duty correctly and conscientiously; but as the present seems to me to be an occasion calling for unusual circumspection, he must be more than ordinarily particular in its performance.

I beg to suggest to Mr. Laffer to copy out the names attached to each Petition separately, and then give the information now required opposite to each in his "Remarks" column, in addition to complying with the Honorable Colonial Treasurer's own order to favour him with his views on the subject under review generally.

JAMES LAFFER, *Esq.*, *Inspector of Timber Licences.*

J. E. CALDER.  
25. 2. 69.

---

RETURNED to the Surveyor-General with the Reports required.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, *Surveyor-General.*

J. LAFFER.  
12th March, 1869.

---

*Survey Office, 31st March, 1869.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to return the three Petitions that have lately been presented to His Excellency the Governor, signed by 155 persons residing in some parts of the Huon districts, who desire to have the Timber Licence Fee reduced from Half-a-crown to One Shilling a week, which you have directed me to report on.

The Petitions in question may be described as follows:—

First.—One from 56 persons residing at Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and adjacent Bays.

Second.—One from 48 persons of Flight's Bay, Honeywood, Castle Forbes and Cairns' Bays.

Third.—One from 51 persons of Little Flight's and Surges' Bays, Flower Pot, Snake Plains, Brooks' and Desolation Bays.

By the wording of the first of these three Petitions His Excellency is desired to believe, inferentially at least, that all the persons who sign it are regular contributors to that branch of the revenue that is derived from Timber Licence Fees. But I must take permission to inform him that no less than 42 of the 56, or exactly three-fourths of the whole of them, contribute nothing whatever to it. The Order in Council which they complain of has, therefore, never reached this portion of them, and cannot possibly have had the disastrous effect on their condition which they state has been the case.

It may not be out of place that I here inform you what are the occupations of the 42 persons who sign this Petition but who do not pay the Fee:—Two only of the whole live exclusively by the manufacture of timber (on private lands), the remaining forty are farmers (some of whom combine splitting and sawing on private property with their ordinary occupations), others are gardeners, publicans, blacksmiths, boatmen, craftmen, carters, bushmen, ordinary labourers, and unknown persons, whose signatures swell the list of Memorialists but without adding weight to the Memorial.

I will here also claim permission to remark that, at the places where *all* the above signatures have been obtained, there are thirty-eight splitters and sawyers working on crown land who *do* pay the Timber Licence to the Government, of whom twenty-four, or very nearly two-thirds of the whole, have *not* signed the petition at all; which seems to show that the great majority of the only class really affected by the change in the amount of the Licence do not consider it to be of an oppressive nature, or at any rate sufficiently damaging of their interests to induce them to ask for any further alteration of it.

The signatures that are attached to the second Petition, forty-eight in number, are said to be those of sawyers and splitters who are injuriously affected by the Order in Council which raised the Fee to its present amount, and who, therefore, pray for "the removal of so heavy a burden upon the energy and industry" of the Petitioners.

Here, as in the last case, the Governor is led to believe that the burden spoken of presses on the whole of those who sign the Petition; but I must be allowed to say this is not true, as only twenty out of the forty-eight feel the weight of it,—in other words, five-ninths of them do not pay the Fee at all which they assure him presses so heavily on them.

The occupations of these 28 who pay nothing are pretty much the same as those described in the last case, the only difference of moment being that in this instance we discover a small sprinkling of children's signatures, which is not visible in the other.

In the localities from whence this second Petition emanates there are sixty-two *bonâ fide* Crown Licencees residing, whereof the large number of forty-four, or very close on two-thirds, do not sign the Petition, which shows that the large majority of the only class who are really interested in the amount of the Licence Fee are not dissatisfied with the action of the Government in raising it to its present rate.

The third Petition, which comes from Surges' Bay, Little Flight's Bay, Flower Pot, Snake Plains, Brooks' and Desolation Bays, has been signed by fifty-one persons, who all style themselves sawyers and splitters injuriously affected by the Order in Council of the 29th last December, but who, with very few exceptions, are not what they describe themselves to be; for forty-four of them, or six-sevenths of the whole, are in no way affected by the Order in question, as they pay not a farthing in the shape of Licence Fee from year's end to year's end. It may be worth while to show what are the occupations and condition of the whole 51, just to show the classes of persons whose signatures have been secured to the Petition, and the frequent disregard of truth that characterises it in describing those who sign it as *sawyers* and *splitters* who have been injured by an act of the Government, which six-sevenths of them have never felt:—

7 are sawyers or splitters who paid Licence in 1868.

*The following paid no Licence in 1868:—*

- 3 are sawyers or splitters on private land.
- 5 are farmers.
- 5 are farmers and splitters on private land.
- 3 are farmers and carters.
- 1 is a farmer and sawyer on private land.
- 1 is a farmer and labourer.
- 1 is a blacksmith and splitter on private land.
- 3 are labourers.
- 1 is an invalid pensioned by the Government.
- 2 are non-residents in the district.
- 5 are persons unknown to the Inspector of Timber Licences.
- 14 are boys who never paid a Licence.

In the localities where the third Petition came from only eight persons took out any Licence in 1868, whereof seven signed the Petition.

In no other parts of the districts of the South (Port Cygnet and the whole of the left bank of the Huon, Franklin and all the Upper Huon, Bruni Island, Port Esperance, Southport, Recherche Bay) has any expression of dissatisfaction been uttered at the raising of the Fee, though it is these places that supply by far the larger quantity of the manufactured timber that the Southern districts produce.

In dismissing the three Petitions above commented on, which I believe are all that His Excellency has received for the reduction of the Fee, I would take leave to state that, of the 155 persons by whom they are signed (who all represent themselves as injured by alteration that has been made in its amount), only 39 have been affected by it; the remaining 116, or more than three-fourths of the whole, have contributed nothing to the Revenue in the shape of Timber Licence Fees. It will also be seen that, of the 108 persons residing in the places where these Petitions come from, who do pay Licence, 69 have not asked for any reduction of charge, which fact, considered conjointly with the circumstance that from principal places where Timber is manufactured in the Huon districts no complaints have been received, must, I submit, be taken to prove that very little real dissatisfaction has been felt about the subject in any quarter.

It may be worth remembering that no complaints have reached the Government from any part of the Colony, except from a few minor and unimportant points of the Huon districts, where only 509 weekly Licences were paid for in all 1868 out of the 10,323 that were issued for the whole Colony, which shows that the proportion of persons who are discontented is only about 1 in 22 of the whole, which fact will enable the Executive Government to determine whether it be desirable or not to alter any of its fiscal arrangements at the prayers of the very few who desire change.

It is hardly necessary to go into the history of the petty impost,—namely, the Timber Licence Fee; but to make the subject complete I will report in effect what I have written on this subject before.

This Fee was first established in about 1834, when it was One Shilling a week, at which rate it continued till 1853, when it was raised to Half-a-crown, and rested at that until September of 1866, when it was again reduced to a Shilling, and was finally raised to Half-a-crown on the first day of the current year.

It is to be remarked that several Petitions, signed pretty much in the same manner as the three presently under review, were made to the Government before and during 1866, praying for the reduction of the Fee, but without any effect: indeed, even as late as 30th July of that year the Honorable Colonial Secretary, in reply to a Memorial praying that the Fee might be lowered (having then before him an elaborate Report of mine, which will be found attached hereunto), thus expressed himself on the subject of the Memorials:—"I am not prepared to recommend that any action should be taken in the matter at present;" but which decision was reversed on the 27th September following, or about 10 weeks afterwards.

I am required to give my views on the subject of Timber Licences generally, but as I did this very fully in my letter to the Executive, 4th January, 1866, I think it best to attach it to the present one rather than extend it by writing what would be only a reflection of what I said before, and sufficiently well to have produced what I think the generality of persons will believe to have been a proper decision.

I have, &c,

(Signed) J. E. CALDER.

*The Honorable Colonial Treasurer.*

---

*To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies, and to the Honorable Members of the Executive Council in Council assembled.*

The humble Petition of all Timber Dealers, Sawyers, Splitters, and others connected with the Timber interest residing at Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and adjacent Bays of the District.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT, at a meeting of all persons interested in the Timber trade, held at Oyster Cove this 26th day of January, 1869, to consider the late order of the Governor in Council, by which the Licence Fees for falling and splitting Timber on crown lands has been increased, it was unanimously resolved that such alteration in the Fees, so far as this district is concerned, is unjust and oppressive to a struggling section of the community.

That your Petitioners, notwithstanding their exertions in their laborious occupation, find it a hard matter to pay the original Fees and obtain a miserable subsistence for themselves and families.

That your Petitioners would respectfully state that the Timber lies far back in the forests, that the roads are almost impassable, and sawyers and splitters are compelled to pay an enormous per centage on the value of their Timber for cartage to the place of shipment; and if this and other difficulties which they have to contend against is supplemented by additional taxation, it will be a matter of impossibility for them to live,—many having large families to support; and their only resource will be to seek a livelihood in other Colonies where such taxation does not exist.

That your Petitioners would therefore humbly pray that the "Order in Council" referred to in the first part hereof be cancelled, and the Fees allowed to remain as before.

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

[Here follow 56 Signatures.]

---

MEMO.

THIS Petition was presented to His Excellency by the Hon. Mr. Foster and the Hon. Mr. Meredith this day, and referred by His Excellency to the Colonial Treasurer for enquiry and consideration.

T. D. C.  
22. 2. 69.

*RETURN of Timber Licences issued at Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and adjacent Bays during the Year 1868.*

| <i>Name.</i>        | <i>Situation.</i> | <i>Amount paid.</i> | <i>Remarks.</i>                       | <i>Name.</i>      | <i>Situation.</i> | <i>Amount paid.</i> | <i>Remarks.</i> |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                     |                   | £ s.                |                                       |                   |                   | £ s.                |                 |
| Roberts, Thomas     | Long Bay          | 0 16                | Does not sign.                        | Lockley, Robert   | Oyster Cove       | 1 2                 |                 |
| Woolley, Robert     | ditto             | 1 8                 | Does not sign.                        | Hughes, Alfred    | ditto             | 0 8                 |                 |
| Shadwick, William   | ditto             | 1 4                 | Does not sign.                        | Burns, William    | ditto             | 1 12                | Does not sign.  |
| Hargraves, George   | ditto             | 0 14                | Does not sign.                        | Davie, Sinclair   | ditto             | 1 12                |                 |
| King, Samuel        | ditto             | 0 4                 | Does not sign.                        | Pitstock, Charles | ditto             | 0 12                |                 |
| Rhodes, Thomas      | ditto             | 0 8                 | Does not sign.                        | Russell, John     | ditto             | 0 16                |                 |
| Jones, George       | ditto             | 0 4                 | Does not sign.                        | Langley, George   | ditto             | 0 11                |                 |
| Roe, Richard        | ditto             | 0 4                 | Does not sign.                        | Lockley, John     | ditto             | 1 5                 |                 |
| Gallagher, James    | The Flower        | 0 8                 |                                       | Mather, John      | ditto             | 0 18                |                 |
| Ludgrove, John      | ditto [Pot        | 0 8                 | Doubtful—<br>John Lovegrove<br>signs. | Wilson, James     | ditto             | 0 11                |                 |
| Haycock, William    | ditto             | 0 7                 | Does not sign.                        | Ward, John        | ditto             | 0 1                 | Does not sign.  |
| Biddle, George      | ditto             | 0 7                 | Does not sign.                        | Chambers, George  | ditto             | 0 4                 | Does not sign.  |
| Langford, Henry     | ditto             | 0 18                | Does not sign.                        | Bailey, John      | ditto             | 0 2                 |                 |
| Griffiths, Edward   | ditto             | 0 18                | Does not sign.                        | Smith, John       | ditto             | 0 5                 | Does not sign.  |
| Peach, George       | Peppermint        | 0 8                 |                                       | Best, Henry       | ditto             | 0 14                | Does not sign.  |
| Peach, George, jun. | ditto [Bay        | 0 8                 | Does not sign.                        | Thomas, John      | ditto             | 0 14                | Does not sign.  |
| Turner, George      | Trial Bay         | 0 4                 |                                       | Burnes, John      | ditto             | 0 16                | Does not sign.  |
| Bignell, William    | Oyster Cove       | 0 14                | Does not sign.                        | Goult, Henry      | ditto             | 0 1                 | Does not sign.  |
|                     |                   |                     |                                       | Francis, John     | ditto             | 0 1                 | Does not sign.  |
|                     |                   |                     |                                       | Cole, William     | ditto             | 0 8                 |                 |

38 Licencees, of whom 24 do not sign.

J. LAFFER,  
12th March, 1869.

*NAMES of Persons attached to Petition for reduction of Timber Licence Fee at Oyster Cove and other Bays.*

| <i>Name.</i>          | <i>Remarks.</i>               | <i>Name.</i>          | <i>Remarks.</i>        |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Pitstock, Charles     | Farmer and splitter.          | Ford, John            | Carter.                |
| Wilson, James         | Boatman.                      | Davie, S. Kieth       | Farmer and splitter.   |
| Bourke, Adam          | Farmer.                       | Waldie, John          | ditto and carter.      |
| Pascoe, Thomas        | ditto.                        | Morris, William       | Not known.             |
| Dywer, Lawrence       | Not known.                    | Sculthorpe, Alexander | Publican.              |
| Bailey, John          | Splitter on private land.     | Warner, George        | Gardener.              |
| Russell, John         | Farmer and splitter.          | Turner, George        | Farmer.                |
| Jones, Lovelace       | Farmer.                       | Pattison, John        | Labourer.              |
| Langley, George       | Splitter and labourer.        | Jackson, George       | Farmer and carter.     |
| Lockley, Robert       | Farmer and splitter.          | Rowley, Samuel        | Blacksmith.            |
| Lockley, John         | ditto.                        | Edwards, Thos. W.     | Farmer.                |
| Mather, John          | Splitter.                     | Potter, D.            | Supposed craftsman.    |
| Hughes, Alfred        | Farmer, carter, and splitter. | Bradley, George       | Farmer and sawyer.     |
| Wright, Henry         | Splitter.                     | Peach, George         | ditto.                 |
| Cole, William         | Farmer.                       | Pitstock, James       | ditto.                 |
| Bates, George         | ditto.                        | Holmes, Thomas        | ditto.                 |
| Russell, Edward       | Splitter.                     | Gardener, Charles     | ditto.                 |
| Johnson, George       | Gardener.                     | Gibson, Thomas        | Not known.             |
| M'Kewin, John         | ditto.                        | Bridge, Joseph, jun.  | Farmer.                |
| Gallagher, James      | Farmer and sawyer.            | Firth, John           | ditto.                 |
| Lovegrove, John, jun. | ditto.                        | Flukes, George        | Publican.              |
| Lovegrove, John, sen. | ditto.                        | Cripps, William       | Farmer.                |
| Goings, John          | Farmer.                       | Oxley, Robert         | ditto.                 |
| Byrns, John           | ditto and splitter.           | Marsh, William        | Bushman.               |
| Yardwell, John        | Not known.                    | Burns, William        | Farmer and splitter.   |
| Harrison, George      | Labourer.                     | Norris, J. C.         | ditto.                 |
| Sculthorpe, John      | Boatman.                      | Hilton, Richard       | Gardener.              |
| Thompson, James       | Carter.                       | Davie, Sinclair       | Omitted by Mr. Laffer. |

J. LAFFER,  
12th March, 1869.

*INFORMATION respecting 56 Persons of Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and adjacent Bays who sign the Petition for the reduction of the Timber Licence Fee from Half-a-crown a Week to One Shilling.*

| Name.                 | Occupation.                | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. | Name.                 | Occupation.       | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                       |                            | Weeks.                               |                       |                   | Weeks.                               |
| Bailey, John          | Splitter on private        | 2                                    | Lockley, John         | Farmer & splitter | 25                                   |
| Bates, George         | Farmer [land               |                                      | Lockley, Robert       | ditto             | 22                                   |
| Bourke, Adam          | ditto                      |                                      | Lovegrove, John, jun. | Farmer & sawyer   |                                      |
| Bradley, George       | Farmer & sawyer            |                                      | Lovegrove, John, sen. | ditto             |                                      |
| Bridge, Joseph        | Farmer                     |                                      | Marsh, William        | Bushman           |                                      |
| Burnes, William       | Farmer & splitter          | 32                                   | Mather, John          | Splitter          | 18                                   |
| Byrns, John           | Farmer                     |                                      | M'Kewin, John         | Gardener          |                                      |
| Cole, William         | ditto                      | 8                                    | Morris, William       | Unknown           |                                      |
| Cripps, William       | ditto                      |                                      | Norris, J. C.         | Farmer & splitter |                                      |
| Davie, Sinclair       | Splitter                   | 32                                   | Oxley, Robert         | Farmer            |                                      |
| Davie, Sinclair Keith | Farmer & splitter          |                                      | Pascoe, Thomas        | ditto             |                                      |
| Dywer, Lawrence       | Unknown                    |                                      | Pattison, John        | Labourer          |                                      |
| Edwards, Thos. Wm.    | Farmer                     |                                      | Peach, George         | Farmer & sawyer   | 8                                    |
| Firth, John           | ditto                      |                                      | Pitstock, Charles     | Farmer & splitter | 12                                   |
| Flukes, George        | Publican                   |                                      | Pitstock, James       | Farmer & sawyer   |                                      |
| Ford, John            | Carter                     |                                      | Potter, D.            | Supposed crafts-  |                                      |
| Gallagher, James      | Farmer & sawyer            | 8                                    | Rowley, Samuel        | Blacksmith [man   |                                      |
| Gardener, Charles     | ditto                      |                                      | Russell, Edward       | Splitter          |                                      |
| Gibson, Thomas        | Unknown                    |                                      | Russell, John         | Farmer & splitter | 16                                   |
| Going, John           | Farmer & sawyer            |                                      | Sculthorpe, Alexander | Publican          |                                      |
| Harrison, George      | Labourer                   |                                      | Sculthorpe, John      | Boatman           |                                      |
| Hilton, Richard       | Gardener                   |                                      | Thompson, James       | Carter            |                                      |
| Holmes, Thomas        | Farmer & sawyer            |                                      | Turner, George        | Farmer            | 4                                    |
| Hughes, Alfred        | Farmer, carter, & splitter | 8                                    | Waldie, John          | Farmer & carter   |                                      |
| Jackson, George       | Farmer & carter            |                                      | Warner, George        | Gardener          |                                      |
| Johnson, George       | Gardener                   |                                      | Wilson, James         | Boatman           |                                      |
| Jones, Lovelace       | Farmer                     |                                      | Wright, Henry         | Splitter          |                                      |
| Langley, George       | Splitter & labourer        | 11                                   | Yardwell, John        | Unknown           |                                      |

*RETURN showing the Names of all the Persons, 38, who paid the Timber Licence Fee in 1868, at Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and adjacent Bays, with number of Weeks paid, and also showing which of them signed the Petition, and which of them did not.*

| Name.             | Signed Petition or otherwise. | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. | Name.               | Signed Petition or otherwise. | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                   |                               | Weeks.                               |                     |                               | Weeks.                               |
| Bailey, John      | Signs                         | 2                                    | Langley, George     | Signs                         | 11                                   |
| Best, Henry       | Does not sign                 | 14                                   | Lockley, John       | Signs                         | 25                                   |
| Biddle, George    | Does not sign                 | 7                                    | Lockley, Robert     | Signs                         | 22                                   |
| Bignell, William  | Does not sign                 | 14                                   | Ludgrove, John      | Does not sign                 | 8                                    |
| Burns, John       | Does not sign                 | 13                                   | Mather, John        | Signs                         | 18                                   |
| Burns, William    | Does not sign                 | 32                                   | Peach, George       | Signs                         | 8                                    |
| Chambers, George  | Does not sign                 | 4                                    | Peach, George, jun. | Does not sign                 | 8                                    |
| Cole, William     | Signs                         | 8                                    | Pitstock, Charles   | Signs                         | 12                                   |
| Davie, Sinclair   | Signs                         | 32                                   | Rhodes, Thomas      | Does not sign                 | 8                                    |
| Francis, John     | Does not sign                 | 20                                   | Roberts, Thomas     | Does not sign                 | 16                                   |
| Gallagher, James  | Signs                         | 8                                    | Roe, Richard        | Does not sign                 | 4                                    |
| Goult, Henry      | Does not sign                 | 20                                   | Russell, John       | Signs                         | 16                                   |
| Griffiths, Edward | Does not sign                 | 18                                   | Shadwick, William   | Does not sign                 | 24                                   |
| Hargraves, George | Does not sign                 | 14                                   | Smith, John         | Does not sign                 | 5                                    |
| Haycock, William  | Does not sign                 | 7                                    | Thomas, John        | Does not sign                 | 14                                   |
| Hughes, Alfred    | Signs                         | 8                                    | Turner, George      | Signs                         | 4                                    |
| Jones, George     | Does not sign                 | 4                                    | Ward, John          | Does not sign                 | 20                                   |
| King, Samuel      | Does not sign                 | 4                                    | Wilson, James       | Signs                         | 11                                   |
| Langford, Henry   | Does not sign                 | 18                                   | Woolley, Robert     | Does not sign                 | 28                                   |

*To His Excellency the Honorable CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Administrator of the Government, and to the Honorable the Members of the Executive Council of Tasmania.*

The Petition of the undersigned Sawyers and Splitters residing at or in the vicinities of Surges Bay, Little Flight's Bay, Flower Pot, Snake Plains, Brooks Bay, and Desolation Bay, in the Police District of Franklin:

MOST HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT, owing to the distance and the time occupied by your Petitioners in carrying on their shoulders the produce of their labour to the water's edge for want of proper roads, in which occupation nearly one-half of their working hours and time is expended, it is utterly out of their power to pay the Fee of Two Shillings and Sixpence each for a Licence to cut Timber on crown land, and your Petitioners most respectfully yet solemnly declare that many sawyers and splitters will be compelled to leave the Colony, or with their families be plunged into irretrievable ruin, should the payment of the above Fee be enforced by the Government.

That no sums of money have been expended by the Government in the formation of roads in this portion of the Franklin district, so as to enable your Petitioners to cart out the produce of their labour; whilst at Southport and Port Esperance large sums of money have been expended in the formation of roads and bridges, yet it is well known that vast beds of Timber of the most valuable description exist in the vicinity of Surges Bay; and it is admitted by all competent judges that the Government would be justified in widening Mr. Hall's track from four to ten feet, if only on account of the timber to be seen from such track.

That, inasmuch as the track leading from Surges Bay Creek in the direction of Walpole, Port Esperance, now in the course of formation by Mr. Hall, is only four feet in width, your Petitioners are precluded from working the valuable beds of Timber in the vicinity of such track, but are compelled to carry out the produce of their labour on their shoulders through a dense scrub for two miles and upwards from other localities, where the Timber is nearly worked out and of inferior quality.

That, owing to the difficulty in procuring good Timber for want of ordinary roads, and the distance your Petitioners are compelled to carry their loads, it is only by toil and labour of the most painful and unremitting character that they are enabled to earn a bare subsistence for their wives and families, whilst many of the children of your Petitioners are clothed in rags, and during winter and summer obliged to go without shoes to their feet.

Your Petitioners, therefore, most humbly and respectfully request that Your Excellency and your Honorable Council will be pleased to take their sad condition into your merciful consideration; and will reduce the Fee for Timber Licences to its former rate of One Shilling per week.

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

[Here follow 51 Signatures.]

*RETURN of Timber Licences issued at Surges and neighbouring Bays during the Year 1868.*

|                                   | £ | s. | d. |                                   | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|---|----|----|-----------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Bastable, John, Police Point..... | 1 | 0  | 0  | Sweeney, Edward, Surges' Bay..... | 0 | 4  | 0  |
| Blades, John, ditto.....          | 1 | 0  | 0  | Turner, Thomas, Police Point..... | 1 | 3  | 0  |
| Earp, William, ditto.....         | 1 | 3  | 0  | Watts, Henry, Surges' Bay*.....   | 0 | 8  | 0  |
| Kitchenam, William, ditto.....    | 1 | 0  | 0  | Watts, Henry, Police Point.....   | 1 | 0  | 0  |

\* Does not sign.

J. LAFFER.  
12th March, 1869.

*NAMES of Persons attached to Petition for reduction of Timber Licence Fee at Surges and other Bays in locality.*

Earp, John, sawyer and labourer.  
Bastable, John, splitter.  
Kitchenam, William, splitter and carter.  
Turner, Thos., sawyer.  
Maley, Thos., junior, farmer's labourer.  
Murphy, Frederick, not known.  
Blades, John, sawyer.

Watts, Henry, sawyer and splitter.  
Sweeney, Edward, splitter and labourer.  
Moss, Henry, farmer and carter.  
Maley, Thos., senior, ditto.  
Price, Daniel, farmer and sawyer.  
Dalton, George, sawyer.  
Thurley, James, splitter.

Thurley, William, a boy.  
 Spencer, John, farmer and splitter.  
 Murray, Edward, not known.  
 Fry, Henry, ditto  
 Doyle, John, farm labourer.  
 Rowe, Joseph, farmer.  
 Rowe, Robert, ditto.  
 Ratcliffe, Robt., sen., blacksmith and splitter.  
 Ratcliffe, Robt., jun., a youth, no splitter.  
 Chesting, E., invalid, pensioned by Government.  
 Scott, William, farmer.  
 Collins, Edward, splitter.  
 Ray, Joseph, in Petition from Honeywood.  
 Thurley, James, jun., a youth, no splitter.  
 Thompson, Richard, farmer and splitter.  
 Thompson, George, a youth, no splitter.  
 Thompson, Richard, jun., ditto.  
 Glock, Michael, ditto.  
 Glock, John, ditto.

Glock, Jacob, farmer.  
 Russell, William, not known.  
 Eaves, John, sen., farmer.  
 Eaves, George, labourer.  
 Eaves, Henry, a youth, no splitter.  
 Eaves, Edward, ditto.  
 Eaves, James, ditto.  
 Ray, Joseph, jun., no resident.  
 Braddies, George, farm labourer.  
 Holloway, James, sen., farmer and splitter.  
 Holloway, James, jun., ditto.  
 Price, Henry, a youth, no splitter.  
 Scott, Alfred, ditto.  
 Muley, Michael, farmer.  
 Maley, Michael, jun., a youth, no splitter.  
 Bliss, Thos., not known.  
 Thurley, John, a youth.  
 Eaves, William, not a resident.

J. LAFFER.  
 12th March, 1869.

*INFORMATION respecting 51 Persons of Surges and Little Flight's Bays, Flower Pot, Snake Plains, Brooks and Desolation Bays who sign the Petition for the reduction of the Timber Licence Fee from Half-a-crown a Week to One Shilling.*

| Name.                 | Occupation.                      | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. | Name.                   | Occupation.             | How many Weeks licensed in all 1868. |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bastable, John        | Splitter                         | 20                                   | Moss, Henry             | Farmer & carter         |                                      |
| Blades, John          | Sawyer                           | 20                                   | Murphy, Frederick       | Unknown                 |                                      |
| Bliss, Thomas         | Unknown                          |                                      | Murray, Edward          | ditto                   |                                      |
| Braddies, George      | Farm labourer                    |                                      | Price, Daniel           | Farmer & sawyer         |                                      |
| Christney, E.         | Invalid, pensioned by Government |                                      | Price, Henry            | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Collins, Edward       | Splitter                         |                                      | Ratcliffe, Robert, jun. | Blacksmith and splitter |                                      |
| Dalton, George        | Sawyer                           |                                      | Ratcliffe, Robert, sen. | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Doyle, John           | Farm labourer                    |                                      | Ray, Joseph*            | Farmer & splitter       |                                      |
| Earp, John            | Sawyer & labourer                | 23                                   | Ray, Joseph, jun.       | Not a resident          |                                      |
| Eaves, Edward         | A youth, no splitter             |                                      | Rowe, Joseph            | Farmer                  |                                      |
| Eaves, George         | Labourer                         |                                      | Rowe, Robert            | ditto                   |                                      |
| Eaves, Henry          | A youth, no splitter             |                                      | Russell, William        | Unknown                 |                                      |
| Eaves, James          | ditto                            |                                      | Scott, Alfred           | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Eaves, John           | Farmer                           |                                      | Scott, William          | Farmer                  |                                      |
| Eaves, William        | Not a resident                   |                                      | Spencer, John           | Farmer & splitter       |                                      |
| Fry, Henry            | Unknown                          |                                      | Sweeney, Edward         | Labourer & splitter     | 4                                    |
| Glock, Jacob          | Farmer                           |                                      | Thompson, George        | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Glock, John           | A youth, no splitter             |                                      | Thompson, Richard       | Farmer & splitter       |                                      |
| Glock, Michael        | ditto                            |                                      | Thompson, Richard       | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Holloway, James, jun. | Farmer & splitter                |                                      | Thurley, James [jun.    | Splitter                |                                      |
| Holloway, James, sen. | ditto                            |                                      | Thurley, James, jun.    | A youth, no splitter    |                                      |
| Kitchenham, William   | Splitter & carter                | 20                                   | Thurley, John           | A youth                 |                                      |
| Maley, Michael, jun.  | A youth, no splitter             |                                      | Thurley, William        | A boy                   |                                      |
| Maley, Michael, sen.  | Farmer & carter                  |                                      | Turner, Thomas          | Sawyer                  | 23                                   |
| Maley, Thomas, jun.   | Farmer & labourer                |                                      | Watts, Henry            | Sawyer & splitter       | 20                                   |
| Maley, Thomas, sen.   | Farmer & carter                  |                                      |                         |                         |                                      |

\* Signed the Petition from Honeywood.

*RETURN showing the Names of all the Persons, 8, who paid the Timber Licence Fee in 1868 at Surges and Little Flight's Bays, Flower Pot, Snake Plains, Brooks and Desolation Bays, with number of Weeks paid for, and also showing which of them signed the Petition and which of them did not.*

| Name.              | Signed Petition or otherwise. | How many Weeks licensed in 1868. | Name.           | Signed Petition or otherwise. | How many Weeks licensed in 1868. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bastable, John     | Signs                         | 20                               | Sweeney, Edward | Signs                         | 4                                |
| Blades, John       | Signs                         | 20                               | Turner, Thomas  | Signs                         | 23                               |
| Earp, William      | Signs                         | 23                               | Watts, Henry    | Does not sign                 | 8                                |
| Kitchenam, William | Signs                         | 20                               | Watts, Henry    | Signs                         | 20                               |

To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Administrator of the Government of Tasmania,  
and the Honorable the Executive Council of the said Island.

WE, the Splitters and Sawyers of those parts of the Huon district known as Flight's Bay, Honeywood, Castle Forbes and Cairns Bays, humbly request to be allowed to call your attention to the late Order in Council of the 2nd of December last, requiring that the Licence Fee of 1s. per week charged to persons employed in the splitting of Timber upon crown lands be raised to the sum of 2s. 6d. per week for each person so employed, as also a new Fee of 5s. per week upon each person cutting Timber on crown land in connection with any saw-mill, is calculated to injure us not only individually, but also to further depress the already decreasing timber trade in this district. We have to assure you that too many of our body are at the present moment obliged to make a hard struggle against the difficulties of making a livelihood. We have, up to the present time, formed our own roads, opened up crown lands without any aid from the Government; and your Petitioners take this opportunity of stating our conviction that the proposed increase in the Licence Fee will operate most injuriously on every person so employed in these localities. We have further to assure you that the proposed increase in the Licence Fee will compel very many of our body to discontinue such labour, and seek elsewhere that livelihood for themselves and families which they cannot here obtain. We, your Memorialists, therefore humbly pray that your Honorable Council will be pleased to take the matter into your consideration, so as to remove so heavy a burden upon our energies and industry. And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 48 Signatures.]

*NAMES of Persons attached to Petition for reduction of Timber Licence Fee at Honeywood, Flight's Bay, Castle Forbes Bay, and Cairns Bay.*

Hoare, John, shoemaker, farmer, and splitter.  
Pritchard, Thomas, jun., splitter and farmer.  
Warren, James, splitter.  
Pritchard, Mark, ditto.  
Clarke, Patrick, farmer and splitter.  
Ray, Joseph, ditto.  
Hammond, William, carter.  
Geeves, John, farmer.  
Connolly, John, farmer and splitter.  
Wells, Robert, farmer.  
Ford, Henry, ditto.  
Ford, Robert, farmer and splitter.  
Robertson, William, splitter.  
Ford, James, farmer and splitter.  
M'Intosh, John, ditto.  
Neale, George, ditto.  
Riely, James, ditto.  
Green, Edward, farmer.  
Hosking, Richard, splitter.  
Hosking, William, ditto.  
Hosking, John, a youth, never paid licence  
Hosking, Joseph, sen., farmer. [licence.  
Hosking, Joseph, jun., a youth, never paid  
Conolly, Michael, farmer and sawyer.

Exlow, Henry, farmer and splitter.  
Sharpe, Henry, farmer.  
Sharpe, Frederick, farmer and splitter.  
Sharpe, William, splitter.  
Wheatman, Thomas, farmer and splitter.  
Nicholls, David, ditto.  
Clarke, Robert, splitter.  
Bennett, Geo., jun., farmer and splitter.  
Costain, Michael, ditto.  
M'David, Charles, ditto.  
Donoghue, John, splitter.  
Garbutt, George, ditto.  
Burgess, John, sen., farmer.  
Peppard, Joseph, splitter.  
Studiev, William, farmer and carter.  
Brickliffe, Robert, farmer and splitter.  
Warren, Thos., farmer.  
Plunkett, Charles, sawyer.  
Humes, Charles, sawyer and splitter.  
Smith, James, splitter.  
Beech, W. Henry, farmer.  
Lumsden, Andrew, ditto.  
Ready, Michael, ditto.  
Eavens, James, farmer and carter.

J. LAFFER,  
12th March, 1869.

*RETURN of Timber Licences issued at Flight's Bay, Honeywood, Castle Forbes and Cairns Bays during the Year 1868.*

| Honeywood.             | Amount paid. |    |                |
|------------------------|--------------|----|----------------|
|                        | £            | s. |                |
| Pritchard, Thomas..... | 1            | 8  |                |
| Pritchard, Mark.....   | 1            | 0  |                |
| Morgan, William ....   | 1            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Morgan, Richard ....   | 1            | 0  | does not sign. |
| Burgess, John .....    | 1            | 0  |                |
| Ray, Joseph.....       | 0            | 4  |                |
| Conolly, John .....    | 0            | 16 |                |
| Robertson, Henry ....  | 0            | 12 | does not sign. |
| Live-stone, John ..... | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Neale, George.....     | 0            | 12 |                |

| Honeywood.            | Amount paid. |    |                |
|-----------------------|--------------|----|----------------|
|                       | £            | s. |                |
| Regan, William .....  | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Lincoln, Thomas.....  | 0            | 16 | does not sign. |
| Peckles, David .....  | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Geeves, William ..... | 1            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Risely, John .....    | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Green, George .....   | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |
| Bennett, George ..... | 0            | 12 |                |
| Holmes, William ....  | 0            | 8  | does not sign. |
| Isaacson, Edward .... | 0            | 12 | does not sign. |
| Hough, James.....     | 0            | 4  | does not sign. |



| <i>Honeywood.</i>        | <i>Amount paid.</i> |    |                |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----|----------------|
|                          | £                   | s. |                |
| Bennett, George, jun..   | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Warren, James .....      | 0                   | 8  |                |
| Devereux, William....    | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Bush, William.....       | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Smith, James .....       | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Robertson, William ...   | 0                   | 4  |                |
| Rose, Charles .....      | 0                   | 16 | does not sign. |
| Donnelly, James .....    | 0                   | 12 | does not sign. |
| Lumsden, Samuel .....    | 0                   | 4  |                |
| Exlow, Henry.....        | 0                   | 16 |                |
| M'Devid, Charles .....   | 0                   | 4  |                |
| Exlow, Thomas .....      | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Clark, Robert .....      | 0                   | 4  |                |
| Geeves, Thomas .....     | 0                   | 12 | does not sign. |
| Sharpe, Frederick .....  | 0                   | 8  |                |
| Sharpe, William .....    | 0                   | 12 |                |
| Brickliffe, Robert ..... | 0                   | 8  |                |
| Wheatman, Thomas ...     | 0                   | 12 |                |
| William, John.....       | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Coyle, Henry .....       | 0                   | 8  | does not sign. |
| Hare, John .....         | 0                   | 8  |                |
| Clark, Patrick.....      | 0                   | 8  |                |

Out of 62 Licencees 42 do not sign.

| <i>Honeywood.</i>       | <i>Amount paid.</i> |    |                |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----|----------------|
|                         | £                   | s. |                |
| Ankins, George.....     | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Escester, Thomas .....  | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Lynch, Thomas .....     | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Close, James .....      | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Peage, Joseph .....     | 0                   | 8  | does not sign. |
| Grace, Percy ... ..     | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Rateliffe, Robert ..... | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |
| Thompson, Richard ...   | 0                   | 4  | does not sign. |

| <i>Castle Forbes Bay.</i> |   |    |                |
|---------------------------|---|----|----------------|
|                           | £ | s. |                |
| Carr, Peter .....         | 0 | 4  | does not sign. |
| Rasher, William .....     | 0 | 16 | does not sign. |
| Bonham, Joseph.....       | 0 | 4  | does not sign. |
| Badger, Charles .....     | 0 | 4  | does not sign. |
| Douahoo, John .....       | 1 | 2  | does not sign. |
| Smith, James.....         | 1 | 4  |                |
| D'Arcy, Martin .....      | 0 | 16 | does not sign. |
| Reid, James.....          | 0 | 12 | does not sign. |
| Daley, Michael .....      | 0 | 18 | does not sign. |
| Daley, Peter .....        | 1 | 0  | does not sign. |
| Pilling, Charles.....     | 0 | 8  | does not sign. |
| Carr, William .....       | 0 | 4  | does not sign. |

J. LAFFER,  
12th March, 1869.

*INFORMATION respecting 48 Persons of Flight's Bay, Honeywood, Castle Forbes and Cairns Bays who sign the Petition for the reduction of the Timber Licence Fee from Half-a-crown to One Shilling.*

| <i>Names.</i>         | <i>Occupation.</i>              | <i>How many Weeks licensed in all 1868.</i> | <i>Names.</i>           | <i>Occupation.</i>  | <i>How many Weeks licensed in all 1868.</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
|                       |                                 | WEEKS.                                      |                         |                     | WEEKS.                                      |
| Beech, Henry          | Farmer                          |   | Hosking, Richard        | Splitter            |   |
| Bennett, George, jun. | Farmer and splitter             | 12  | Hosking, William        | Ditto               |   |
| Brickliffe, Robert    | Ditto                           | 8   | Hurnes, Charles         | Sawyer              |   |
| Burgess, John, senior | Farmer                          | 20  | Lumsden, Andrew         | Farmer              | 4   |
| Clarke, Patrick       | Farmer and splitter             | 8   | M'David, Charles        | Farmer and splitter | 4†  |
| Clarke, Robert        | Splitter                        | 4   | M'Intosh, John          | Ditto               |   |
| Connelly, John        | Farmer and splitter             | 16  | Neale, George           | Ditto               | 12  |
| Connelly, Michael     | Ditto                           |   | Nichols, David          | Ditto               |   |
| Costain, Michael      | Ditto                           |   | Pepper, Joseph          | Splitter            |   |
| Donoghue, John        | Splitter                        |   | Plunkett, Charles       | Sawyer              |   |
| Eavens, James         | Farmer                          |   | Pritchard, Mark         | Farmer and splitter | 20  |
| Exilly, Henry         | Farmer and splitter             | 16*   | Pritchard, Thomas, jun. | Ditto               | 28  |
| Ford, Henry           | Ditto                           |   | Ray, Joseph             | Ditto               | 4   |
| Ford, James           | Ditto                           |   | Reedy, Michael          | Farmer              |   |
| Ford, Robert          | Ditto                           |   | Riely, James            | Farmer and splitter |   |
| Garbutt, George       | Splitter                        |   | Robertson, William      | Splitter            | 4   |
| Geeves, John          | Farmer                          |   | Sharpe, Frederick       | Farmer and splitter | 8   |
| Green, Edward         | Farmer and splitter             |   | Sharpe, Henry           | Farmer              |   |
| Hammond, William      | Carrier                         |   | Sharpe, William         | Splitter            | 12  |
| Hoare, John           | Shoemaker, farmer, and splitter | 8   | Smith, James            | Ditto               | 24  |
| Hosking, John         | A youth, never paid Licence     |   | Studly, William         | Farmer and carter   |   |
| Hosking, Joseph, jun. | Ditto                           |   | Warren, James           | Farmer and splitter | 8   |
| Hosking, Joseph, sen. | Farmer                          |   | Warren, Thomas          | Ditto               |   |
|                       |                                 |   | Wells, Robert           | Ditto               |   |
|                       |                                 |   | Wheatman, Thomas        | Ditto               | 12  |

\* This Name is spelled "Exloir" by Mr. Laffer.

† Name spelled "M'Devid" by Mr. Laffer.

*RETURN showing the Names of all the Persons, 62, who paid the Timber Licence Fee in 1868 at Flight's Bay, Honeywood, Castle Forbes and Cairns Bays, with Number of Weeks paid for; and also showing which of them signed the Petition and which did not.*

| <i>Names.</i>         | <i>Signed Petition or otherwise.</i> | <i>How many Weeks licensed in 1868.</i> | <i>Names.</i>      | <i>Signed Petition or otherwise.</i> | <i>How many Weeks licensed in all 1868.</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|                       |                                      | WEEKS.                                  |                    |                                      | WEEKS.                                      |
| Aukins, George        | Does not sign                        | 4                                       | Isaacson, Edward   | Does not sign                        | 12  |
| Badger, Charles       | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Lincoln, Thomas    | Ditto                                | 16  |
| Bennett, George       | Signs                                | 12                                      | Livestone, James   | Ditto                                | 4   |
| Bennett, George, jun. | Does not sign                        | 4                                       | Lumsden, Samuel *  | Signs                                | 4   |
| Bonham, Joseph        | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Lynch, Thomas      | Does not sign                        | 4   |
| Brickliffe, Robert    | Signs                                | 8                                       | M'David, Charles   | Signs                                | 4   |
| Burgess, John         | Ditto                                | 20                                      | Morgan, Richard    | Does not sign                        | 20  |
| Bush, William         | Does not sign                        | 4                                       | Morgan, William    | Ditto                                | 24  |
| Carr, Peter           | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Neale, George      | Signs                                | 12  |
| Carr, William         | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Peage, Joseph      | Does not sign                        | 8   |
| Clark, Patrick        | Signs                                | 8                                       | Peckles, David     | Ditto                                | 4   |
| Clark, Robert         | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Pilling, Charles   | Ditto                                | 8   |
| Close, James          | Does not sign                        | 4                                       | Pritchard, Mark    | Signs                                | 20  |
| Connelly, John        | Signs                                | 16                                      | Pritchard, Thomas  | Ditto                                | 28  |
| Coyle, Henry          | Does not sign                        | 8                                       | Rasher, William    | Does not sign                        | 16  |
| Daley, Michael        | Ditto                                | 18                                      | Ratcliffe, Robert  | Ditto                                | 4   |
| Daley, Peter          | Ditto                                | 20                                      | Ray, Joseph        | Signs                                | 4   |
| D'Arcy, Martin        | Ditto                                | 16                                      | Regan, William     | Does not sign                        | 4   |
| Devereux, William     | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Reid, James        | Ditto                                | 12  |
| Donahoo, John         | Ditto                                | 22                                      | Risely, John       | Ditto                                | 4   |
| Donnelly, James       | Ditto                                | 12                                      | Robertson, William | Signs                                | 4   |
| Escester, Thomas      | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Rolandson, Henry   | Does not sign                        | 12  |
| Exlair, Henry         | Signs                                | 16                                      | Rose, Charles      | Ditto                                | 16  |
| Exlair, Thomas        | Does not sign                        | 4                                       | Sharpe, Frederick  | Signs                                | 8   |
| Geeves, Thomas        | Ditto                                | 12                                      | Sharpe, William    | Ditto                                | 12  |
| Geeves, William       | Ditto                                | 24                                      | Smith, James       | Ditto                                | 24  |
| Grace, Percy          | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Smith, James       | Does not sign                        | 4   |
| Green, George         | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Thompson, Richard  | Ditto                                | 4   |
| Hare, John            | Signs                                | 8                                       | Warren, James      | Ditto                                | 1   |
| Holmes, William       | Does not sign                        | 8                                       | Wheetman, Thomas   | Ditto                                | 12  |
| Hough, James          | Ditto                                | 4                                       | Williams, John     | Ditto                                | 4   |

\* Qy. "Andrew"

*Colonial Treasury, 7th May, 1869.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Petition presented by yourself and the Hon. Mr. Foster to His Excellency the Governor in February last, from certain persons residing at Oyster Cove, Peppermint Bay, and other parts of the District of Kingborough, praying that the Order in Council in reference to the Licence Fees payable for permission to cut Timber on crown lands might be cancelled, and the Fees allowed to remain as before, was referred to the Surveyor-General for his report.

I have now the honor of informing you that, after full enquiry and consideration of the subject, His Excellency the Governor in Council has no sufficient grounds for reducing the existing rates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

*The Hon. CHARLES MEREDITH, Esq., M.H.A., Hobart Town.*

*94, Davey-street, Hobart Town, 11th May, 1869.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from you dated the 7th instant, conveying to me the decision of His Excellency the Governor with reference to the Petitions presented by the Honorable Charles Meredith and myself, asking for a reduction of the Timber Licence Fee.

I now beg to return thanks for the trouble which has been taken in the investigation of the subject matter of the Petition; at the same time I beg to express my regret that His Excellency has not been able to accede to the request of the Petitioners, to whom I shall forward a copy of the letter which I have received from you.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN FOSTER.

*The Hon. THOS. D. CHAPMAN, M.H.A., Colonial Treasurer.*