

(No. 68.)



1866.

T A S M A N I A.

PUBLIC LOANS SECURITY BILL.

PETITION FROM WESTBURY AGAINST.

Presented by Mr. Gregson, and ordered by the House to be printed, 29 August,
1866.



To the Honorable Members of the House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Memorial of the undersigned Land and Householders, Leaseholders, Ratepayers and others of the Electoral District of Westbury.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT a Meeting convened by the Ratepayers of the District, through the Warden, was held at Westbury on Wednesday, the 22nd day of August, for the purpose of considering the proposed important changes in the fiscal scheme of the Government.

That at such Meeting a Resolution was proposed by Edward Martin, Esquire, and seconded by Alexander Clerke, Esq., to the effect that the Public Loans Security Bill, and the Bill to abolish Customs Duties and in lieu thereof to impose a Property and Income Tax, are viewed by this Meeting with the strongest feelings of disapprobation, anxiety, and alarm, for reasons as follows :—That the same would tend to lessen the value of public lands, to injure the credit of the Colony, and depreciate the value of Debentures ; and that the abolishment of Customs Duties would be unjust ; that the imposition of an Income and Property Tax would be obnoxious and inquisitorial in its character.

An Amendment was proposed by Mr. John Barber, and seconded by Mr. William Luck, as follows :—“That, in the opinion of this Meeting, reduction should be made in every department of the Government, coupled with an Income and Property Tax on a modified scale.” The Chairman then put the Amendment ; a division took place resulting, for the Amendment of Mr. Barber Forty-four, for the original Motion Fifty.

Your Petitioners are favourable to the Amendment, *i. e.*, a Property and Income Tax, modified both as to rate and limit, in order to protect and encourage the working classes ; but they are seriously adverse to the Bill, intituled “The Public Loans Security Bill,” for the paying of Debentures, as they are of opinion that the said Bill would tend to depreciate the value of the public lands, materially depreciate property, and would take the rating of the country out of the hands of your Petitioners’ Representatives.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will withhold your assent to the Public Loans Security Bill, but will assent to the abolition of Customs Duties, and in lieu thereof impose a Property and Income Tax as proposed in the Draft Bill, but modified both as to rate and limit ; and further, that your Honorable House will cause a material reduction of expenditure in all departments of the Public Service.

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

[*Here follow 189 Signatures.*]