

1853.

VICTORIA.

STOCKYARDS AT PUBLIC HOUSES.

PETITION.

Ordered by the Council to be printed, 2nd November, 1853.

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA, IN
COUNCIL ASSEMBLED.

*The Petition of Squatters, Stockholders, and others engaged in the driving of
Stock to and from Market,*

HUMBLY SHEWETH—

1. That very heavy losses are annually sustained by the Stockholders in the Western Districts, solely in consequence of the extremely insufficient and insecure accommodation provided at the public houses on the lines of road leading to market.

2. That at some public houses there are neither yards nor paddocks to receive stock. That where such have been erected in almost no case are they either extensive or strong enough to ensure the safety of cattle placed in them.

3. That publicans are almost universally under the impression that they are not bound to provide the accommodation referred to, and your Petitioners have frequently been told by publicans that it was only as a favour that they were permitted to put stock in their yards.

4. That complaints and representations of these circumstances have repeatedly been made to the different Licensing Benches wholly without effect.

5. That the Licensing Act contains no clause whereby publicans are compelled to provide proper accommodation for cattle.

6. That although by that Act magistrates do (perhaps) possess the power to make such accommodation a condition in the recognizance, yet an experience of many years proves that magistrates will not exercise such power if they do possess it; and even if they do possess it, they have no power to enforce a penalty in case of non-compliance.

7. That at no public houses are hurdles kept for penning sheep.

8. That the provision of means for the safe keeping of stock while on the road to and from market is a matter of vital importance both to stockholders and to the public at large, and is consequently a most legitimate subject for legislation.

We therefore pray that your Honorable House will pass an Act compelling country publicans to erect secure paddocks capable of holding two separate lots of cattle of at least five hundred each, and to provide a sufficient number of hurdles for sheep; and that the Act shall further provide that the Police Magistrate for each district be empowered to enforce the Act of Council with reference to the aforesaid particulars, and to establish a fair scale of charges for the use of said paddocks and hurdles.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

(Here follow twenty-three signatures.)