

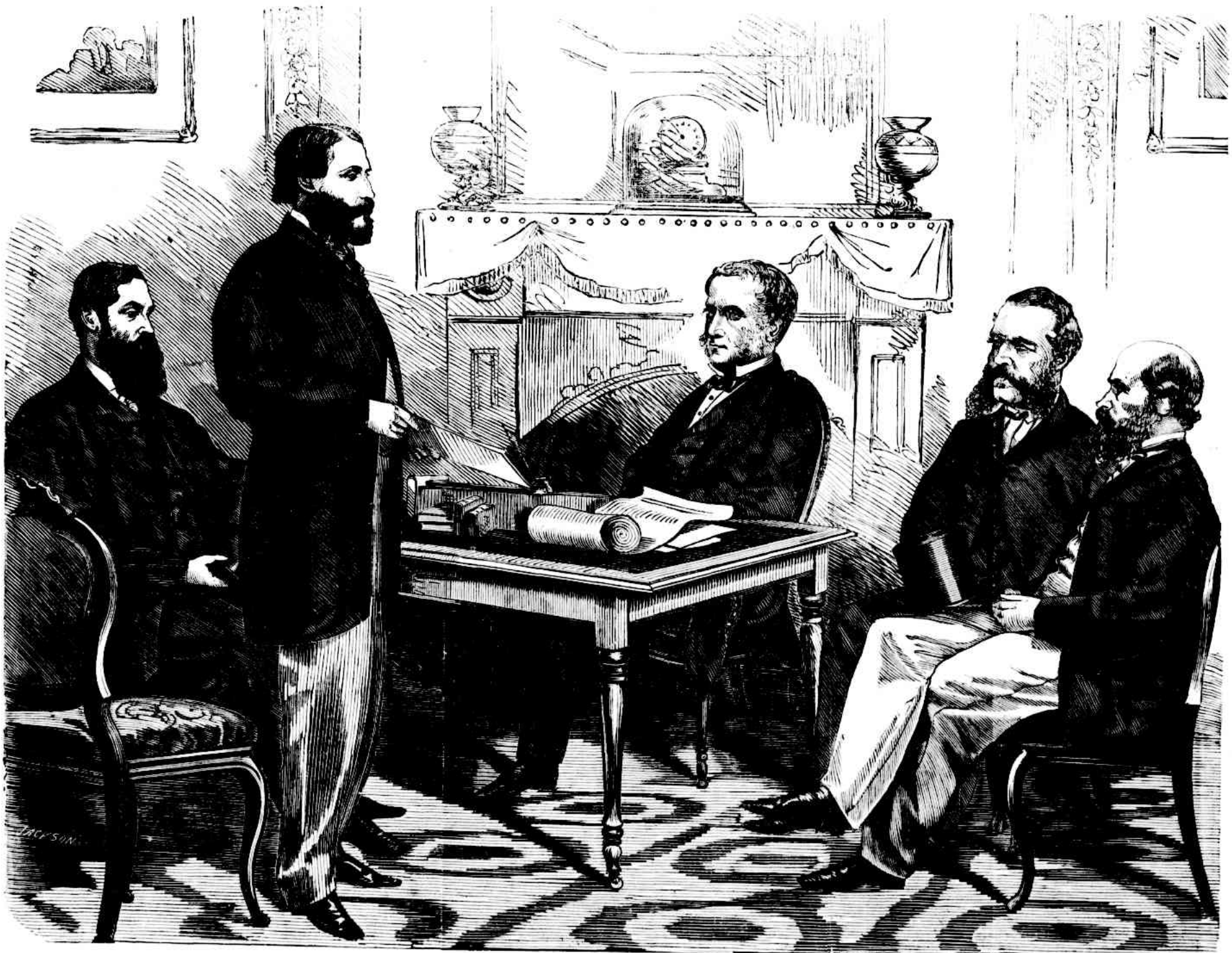
AMERICAN CREEK, WOLLONGONG, THE SITE OF THE FIRST DISCOVERY IN NEW SOUTH WALES OF KEROSENE-BEARING SHALE.—[FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.]

OIL BEARING DEPOSITS NEAR WOLLONGONG.

THE discovery in three different portions of the colony of oil-bearing shale, may be of far greater importance than many persons at present attach to it. It is quite true that we have not the pleasure of announcing that wells yielding mineral oil are in operation in New South Wales, but there is no reason why such a sequence is impossible, present prospects are quite as favourable as those which rewarded the earlier efforts of the first petroleum seekers of Pennsylvania. The subject of our engraving

is the place where the first oil-bearing shale was discovered. It is situated in the Illawarra district, a short distance from the town of Wollongong, a port of shipment from whence cheap water carriage may be had to Sydney and Melbourne, so that if the deposits prove as valuable as some persons sanguinely predict they will, the advantage of locality will tend to make them more valuable. One advantage which has already accrued from these discoveries is, that it has induced an examination of similar mineral deposits in other parts of the colony; one at Hartley

proves to be the richest yet found; several others in the Hunter River district have also been tested with most satisfactory results. Indeed it is not without the range of probability, that liquid petroleum will yet be discovered, and that some of our quiet valleys may yet become redolent of kerosene, thereby adding to the prosperity of the colony, and affording a new source of industry.



RIVERINE DEPUTATION PRESENTING PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN YOUNG, K.C.B.—[SEE PAGE 3.]

That the Constitution of New South Wales recognises numbers alone—the basis of representation being manhood suffrage with electoral districts equal in population.

That much hardship has been suffered by your petitioners, owing to the inadequacy of the arrangements for the administration of justice, and to the distance and inaccessibility of the Courts of criminal and civil law.

That the population of the Riverine district is estimated as equal to that of the Moreton Bay district when it was formed into the colony of Queensland.

That the live stock possessed by the inhabitants of the Riverine district exceeded 2,000,000 sheep, 400,000 horned cattle, and 25,000 horses.

That the country has hitherto been depastured only along the rivers and natural water-courses, leaving nearly 100,000 square miles of the pastoral land wholly unavailable, besides a large area only partially reclaimed.

That in order to effect this important change a very large amount of capital must be invested under peculiarly difficult circumstances; and your petitioners feel convinced that under a government in Sydney the occupations suitable to the soil and climate of the Riverine district will always be held subordinate to the interests of Eastern New South Wales.

Your Majesty's petitioners therefore humbly appeal to your Majesty for relief from their present anomalous position. Although very extensive producers of the most durable staple of these colonies, and notwithstanding that they have invested largely in the improvement of the Riverine district, your petitioners have virtually no voice in the Parliament of New South Wales.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray— That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take these matters into consideration, and grant to your petitioners a separate Government, with such a Constitution as your Majesty may deem fit.

His EXCELLENCY said he was bound by his royal instructions to forward all such petitions, addressed, as this was, to the Secretary of State, with such explanatory observations as their contents might appear to him to require.

Mr. ROBERTSON inquired whether an opportunity would be afforded them for making any remarks on those observations.

His EXCELLENCY said he could see no reason why they should not do so, excepting that it might lead to a long contest about the matter.

Mr. ROBERTSON remarked that their case was varying from day to day. It might be shown that in consequence of the recent alteration with regard to the border customs, their position had been altered, but not improved, and that they were now worse off than before.

His EXCELLENCY said he thought it would be better for the deputation to put their whole statement in one petition, than to have a long controversy, the effect of which might be that it would not be read.

Mr. LANDALE inquired whether they would be able to see the observations that were forwarded with their petition.

His EXCELLENCY said he could not promise that they should see his remarks; but he supposed they knew what observations the Ministers here would make.

Mr. DESAILLY said their condition was changing from day to day. For instance, the late treaty with Victoria had only placed them in a worse position than when the customs' duties were imposed.

His EXCELLENCY observed that their statement of grievances would not be altered by anything that the Ministers might say.

Mr. ROBERTSON considered—as it appeared from what his Excellency said that they could not expect to have the opportunity of answering the statement of the Ministers—it was of importance that they should be enabled to anticipate it.

His EXCELLENCY promised that he would do so. Mr. ROBERTSON inquired whether the petition would go home by the next mail.

His EXCELLENCY replied that it would not, but that he would immediately bring it before the Ministers, and get their observations upon it.

Mr. ROBERTSON asked up to what time would his Excellency receive the supplementary petition.

His EXCELLENCY answered that the petition could be sent by the next mail. At all events, there would be plenty of time for them to send their supplementary petition; for they might depend upon it that the English Government would not decide upon a matter of such importance in a hurry.

Mr. PHELPS said it was probable that the Ministers, in their remarks upon the petition, might state that they had remedied one of the grievances complained of by their change in the Border customs. Now, they would like to have some opportunity, if such a statement were made, of showing that that change had only made matters worse for them.

His EXCELLENCY said he did not think it would require any counter-statement to show that.

Mr. ROBERTSON said it appeared to him that the course for the deputation to take would be to rebut by anticipation the objections that would be made to their complaints by the Ministry.

His EXCELLENCY said he did not know what observations the Ministers would make upon the petition, but if the deputation knew, they could answer them by anticipation. He had no doubt that the papers would all come out from England long before any determination was arrived at.

Some members of the deputation expressed their belief that the petition would receive the mature consideration of the Home Government.

The deputation thereupon withdrew.—Herald.

[The supplementary petition was presented to his Excellency Sir John Young on Monday, 5th June, and will be found in our advertising columns.]

INSOLVENCY RECORD.

Table with columns: May, Estates Surrendered and Schedules Filed, Liabilities, Assets. Lists names like Thomas Bottrall, Mary McGill, Ashdown & Co., etc.

BIRTHS.

ADAMS—May 27, at 167 South Head Road, Mrs. H. Adams, of a son. BRAMBY—At Mill Town, Bathurst, Mrs. Frederick Bramby, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ALLEN—ABBOTT—May 24, by the Rev. Mr. Stirling, Mr. John K. Allen, of the Burdekin River, Queensland, to Miss Phoebe Jane Abbott, of Dungog, New South Wales.

DEATHS.

ANDERSON—May 22, suddenly, on board the ship British Sovereign, at Campbell's Wharf, Sydney, Captain William Jamieson Anderson, Lieut. Royal Naval Reserve, aged 42 years.

PARSONS—May 16, at Boolooroo, Gwydir River, Mr. Edward Parsons, aged 44 years. SAUNDERS—May 28, at Miller's Point, Mrs. Louisa Saunders, aged 24 years.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—JAMES H. ADGER desires to acquaint the numerous patrons of his Establishment that, having recovered his health, he is now enabled to resume business.

AUSTRALIA HOUSE, 404 GEORGE STREET, THIS DAY will be offered at JOHN SKINNER'S

FRENCH MERINOS, fine qualities, 1s. 11½d. per yard. French Twills, extra qualities, 10½d. per yard.

CLOTH MANTLES and JACKETS, all the latest shapes, commencing at 7s. 6d. each.

FLANNELS, real Welsh and Saxony, in all qualities, and very low prices.

LONGCLOTHS and SHEETINGS, the best makes, at prices that defy competition.

COUNTERPANES, from one and a-half to four yards, warranted to wear well, all REDUCED in PRICE.

TABLE LINEN.—In this department some great bargains are to be had.

BOYS' KNITTED BERLIN WOOL TUNICS, imported expressly for the cold weather.—Having purchased a large lot of the above very useful and durable goods at an immense discount, I am in a position to offer some REAL BARGAINS, viz., Tunics that cost 14s. 6d. to produce are marked to be sold at 4s. 9d. each.

SEPARATION OF THE RIVERINE DISTRICT.

A DEPUTATION OF GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING the Riverine Association waited, on the 5th instant, on his Excellency Sir John Young, at Government House, for the purpose of presenting a supplementary petition to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen, praying for the separation from New South Wales of the portion of the colony known as the Riverine District.

Upon the deputation being introduced, Mr. DESAILLY presented to his Excellency the following petition, remarking that it set forth the alteration that had taken place in the position of the petitioners since the previous petition was drawn up:—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council. The humble petition of George Peter Desailly, J.P., President of an Association styled "The Riverine Association," formed for the purpose of procuring the erection of the western portion of New South Wales into an independent colony; of Robert Landale, J.P., member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales; of Joseph J. Phelps, J.P., member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales; and of Thomas Robertson,

HUMBLY SHOWETH: That your petitioners are members of a deputation appointed to wait on his Excellency Sir John Young, Governor of New South Wales, for the purpose of presenting to his Excellency, for transmission to your Majesty, the humble petition of the inhabitants of that part of the colony known as the Riverine District, setting forth the grievances and disabilities under which that portion of your Majesty's subjects labour, and praying for the formation of that district into a separate colony.

That your petitioners did, on the 17th day of May, 1865, present said petition to his Excellency.

That your petitioners have to represent that in said petition it was set forth, amongst other things, that the long subsisting free trade across the Victorian boundary had been suspended in consequence of disagreements between the Governments of the two colonies, and that the establishment of custom-houses along the river Murray had, amongst other inconveniences, subjected the inhabitants of the Riverine district to the payment of double duties on goods, included in the tariffs of the two colonies, which were imported by way of Victoria; that in said petition it was also set forth that petitioners likewise imported commodities, by way of the river Murray, through South Australia, and that the hardship of which petitioners had to complain consisted in the Government not having, before imposing these border customs, taken measures to clear that river, inasmuch as this neglect had left no alternative to a large number of the inhabitants but to purchase supplies in Victoria during such portion of the year as the Murray happened not to be navigable.

That in the month of April of the present year, and subsequently to the signing of said petition, the disagreements between the two Governments were arranged, and a treaty in respect of the border customs agreed upon, whereby the state of things described in the petition has to some extent been altered; and the object of your present petition is to explain in what respect the case therein set forth is affected by the arrangements now in force, as well as to point out the new disabilities under which your petitioners, in common with the other inhabitants of the Riverine district, are placed by this treaty.

That it is necessary, in order to demonstrate the effect of this treaty on the interests of the inhabitants of the Riverine district, to note the extensive alterations recently made in the tariff of Victoria, inasmuch as the adoption of what is called a protective policy by that colony has made it a far less desirable market to purchase in than when the petition was drawn up, rendering the alternative line of traffic by way of South Australia proportionally more valuable to the petitioners.

That the following statement of the changes made in the tariff of Victoria will enable a judgment to be formed of the commercial position in which the inhabitants of the Riverine district now stand with regard to that colony, as contrasted with that in which they were previously placed. By these alterations four articles of import, namely, tea, sugar, opium, and dried fruits, of the aggregate value of £1,798,000, are now subject to lower duties than formerly, but against these reductions duties have been imposed on several hundred articles, classified under sixty-nine heads, previously admitted duty free, of the aggregate value of £5,440,000. Of the total imports of Victoria, which amounted in 1863 to £18,487,000, commodities to the value of £3,444,000 only were taxed under the former tariff, whereas under the new tariff the taxation extends over commodities of the value of £8,884,000. The additional duties are imposed on articles of universal consumption, chiefly manufactures of the United Kingdom; and, as regards the onerous character of the new tariff, it was shown in a petition from the leading importers of British manufactures in Melbourne, presented to the Legislative Council of Victoria, that the duties paid under the new system ranged from five per cent. to 190 per cent. on the invoiced cost of the goods, and that to these high rates have to be added to profits and charges on the duties paid by the importers. It may further be noted in connection with this altered state of things, that the simplicity of the former tariff of Victoria, which enhanced the price of only a small number of articles, not only induced the traders and other settlers in the Riverine district to draw the great bulk of their supplies from there, but it led to their including in their orders articles which could be purchased cheaper in South Australia, whereas, the circumstances being now reversed, it would be their interest to import by way of South Australia miscellaneous cargoes, including not only the large number of articles embraced in the new Victorian tariff, but many articles which are untouched by it.

That the articles of this treaty between the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, which has caused so profound a sensation of surprise and disappointment amongst every class throughout the Riverine district are as follows:—