

(No. 76.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SCALE OF VOTING IN MUNICIPALITIES :

PETITION FROM CAMPBELL TOWN.

Presented by Mr. Crowther, August 30 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 6, 1882.



To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Tasmania.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ratepayers and Inhabitants of the Municipality of Campbell Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT on the first introduction of Municipal Institutions into this Colony your Petitioners generally hailed the new scheme with satisfaction, as affording them the means of more efficiently managing their immediate local interests, at the time many of them feared that the measure would prove unequal and unjust, inasmuch as the power conferred on the different classes of Ratepayers might enable the wealthier sections, when combined, to dominate over the poorer and more numerous.

Your Petitioners regret to state that those fears have proved to be well founded ; for it is well known that in every Municipality it is only necessary for some ten or twelve of the greater Ratepayers to unite, when their own votes of *ten* each, together with the influence naturally attendant on their social positions, enable them to rule at will their respective Municipalities to absolute exclusion from all share of power (if they so wish it) of the general body of the Citizens.

Your Petitioners having felt the evils consequent on the law as it now stands, they feel themselves powerless to oppose in their own interests a combination too certain to prevail ; they are thus rapidly lapsing into a condition of indifference, and a healthy state of public spirit is plainly becoming extinct among them.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House may introduce and pass such measure of reform as will place the Ratepayers of this and other Municipalities on a more equitable footing as to the scale of voting.

They would respectfully suggest that every Ratepayer of six months standing should be entitled to a vote, and not any one be allowed a greater number than five.

They deem such a provision would afford ample security to the rights of property, which they fully recognise, whilst it would prove eminently conducive to the promotion of a proper and active interest in local and public subjects of general value and importance.

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

[Here follow 64 Signatures.]