

(No. 74.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A.

CUSTOMS' DUTIES.

PETITION FROM LAUNCESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Presented by Mr. John Scott, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 26,
1868.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of
Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the undersigned Members of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT whilst your Petitioners are of opinion that the Customs afford the most legitimate means of collecting a Revenue, they are also of opinion that any alterations in the Tariff of Customs Duties must of necessity cause serious inconvenience to the Mercantile and Trading community, will operate unequally and injuriously, and ought not therefore to be resorted to unless upon some extreme and urgent necessity.

That your Petitioners are unable to realize such necessity at the present time: but if it should be determined by Parliament to increase the amount to be collected from Customs Duties, your Petitioners desire respectfully to protest against the imposition of different rates of Package Duty upon goods imported in similar packages, believing it will open the door for fraud, which can only be effectually prevented by the Customs' authorities opening and examining every package imported,—a course of proceeding which would entail great expense upon the Government, and cause great annoyance, inconvenience, and loss to all concerned.

Your Petitioners also desire to express their regret that the Government has not seen fit to propose the repeal of the "Stamp Duties Act," which your Petitioners believe has been found obnoxious in its working, and prejudicial to the interests of the community; and your Petitioners therefore further respectfully protest against the proposed increase of Stamp Duties, both as regards Colonial and Foreign Bills, and the conveyance of Property and Mortgages.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to impose different rates of Duty upon Goods imported in similar packages, and not to extend the provisions of the "Stamp Duties Act."

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

RICH. GREEN.
JAMES ROBERTSON.
W. W. WHITE.
JOHN MURPHY.
F. L. FYSH.
W. J. NORWOOD.
J. S. HADFIELD.
WILLIAM HART.
ALEX. WEBSTER.
J. H. SMITH.
WM. JOHNSTONE.
ALFRED HARRAP.