

(No. 44.)



1857.

---

T A S M A N I A.

---

P E T I T I O N

FROM TRADERS OF HOBART TOWN RELATIVE TO THE  
REGULATION FOR THE SALE OF GUNPOWDER.

---

Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed, 19 November,  
1857.



*To the Honourable the House of Assembly of the Parliament of Tasmania,  
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Traders and others within the City of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners observe that the draft of a Bill, intituled "The Hobart Town Improvement Act," has been laid before your Honourable House, and has passed through various stages therein.

That several Clauses of that Bill viz.—from the sixtieth to the sixty-fourth Sections inclusive—directly affect the business which your Petitioners carry on in this City.

That the sixtieth Clause, your Petitioners would respectfully suggest, might be safely altered, so as to allow of the sale of unopened canisters of Gunpowder by candle or other artificial light, and of the sale of unopened canisters or loose Gunpowder in such establishments as are lighted by means of gas-light: inasmuch as, in the first case, there is really no danger whatever; and in the second, the chance of an accident occurring is so remote as to render it almost without the verge of possibility.

That the limitation fixed by the sixty-first Clause is, your Petitioners respectfully submit, too narrow, and should be extended to five hundred pounds at the least; and as a reason, therefore, your Petitioners would urge upon your Honourable House the fact, that there are no less than fifteen different descriptions of saleable Gunpowder, and that quantities of each kind are constantly in demand. That your Petitioners are not allowed, by the present regulation at the Government Magazine, to draw a less quantity than Twenty-five Pounds at one time; and that therefore, if the Clause stands as proposed, your Petitioners would be prevented altogether from keeping in store quantities of each kind of Gunpowder, and would therefore be deprived of the benefits of selling the same.

That your Petitioners would represent to your Honourable House, that it is necessary, and highly convenient, for them to keep in their Stores, or other places of business, one or two pounds of each kind of Gunpowder, for the purpose of more readily supplying their respective customers; and that, therefore, the limitation in the sixty-second Section of the proposed Bill would prove most inconvenient to them and to their customers, inasmuch as under that Clause they would be able to keep at hand for sale one-third of a pound only of each description of Gunpowder; and your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that the limitation in this Section should be extended to Twenty-five Pounds.

That, inasmuch as your Petitioners will be subjected to some considerable expense in the erection of suitable Magazines under the provisions of the sixty-second Section of the Bill, and to the annual Licence Fees provided by the sixty-first Section, they respectfully submit to your Honourable House that the present high rates for storage in the Government Magazines—viz. one penny per week for every twenty-five pounds weight of Gunpowder—should be reduced, if not the whole system of storage altogether abolished, and every importer allowed to store his own Gunpowder,—he, of course, erecting proper fire-proof Magazines, and giving security for its being properly disposed of.

And your Petitioners, believing that the several matters now respectfully urged upon your Honourable House are in justice due to them, and that they are not inconsistent with that regard for the public safety which your Honourable House displays, pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take the same into your consideration when the proposed Bill shall again come before your Honourable House.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

James Harcourt.  
William Jno. Rout.  
G. Hutton.  
H. Jas. Marsh.

John Moir.  
Donald M'Gregor.  
Robert Henry.  
John M'Connell.