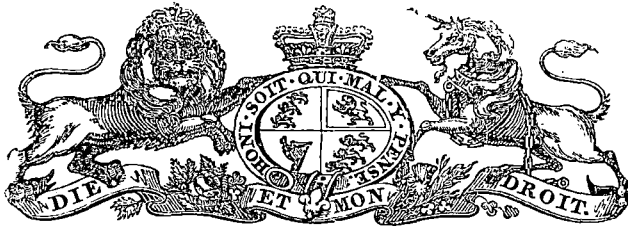


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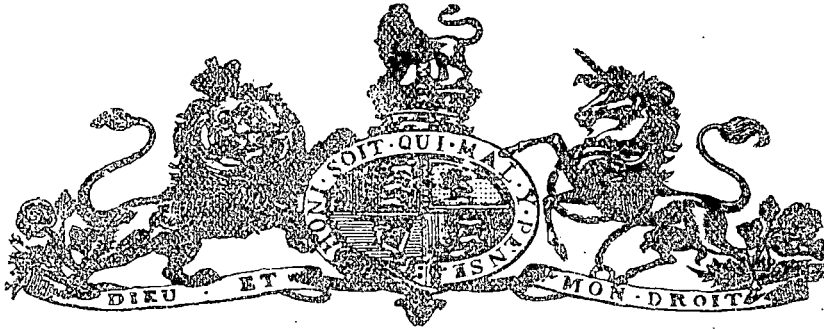
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART GAS BILL, 1889 (No. 23).

PETITION, DIRECTORS OF HOBART GAS COMPANY.

Presented by Mr. Crosby, August 13, and ordered by the Legislative Council
to be printed.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania.

The humble Petition of the Directors of the Hobart Gas Company, on behalf of themselves and all other Shareholders of and in the said Company,

SHOWETH :

THAT a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable Council the title whereof is, "The Hobart Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill, 1889," and the said Bill is stated to be "to enable the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart to supply the inhabitants of the City and Suburbs with gas and electricity;" and the said Bill having been read a first time, now stands for its second reading before your Honorable Council.

That if the said Bill be passed into law, powers will be granted to the Corporation of Hobart which, in the opinion of your Petitioners, will virtually confiscate the property of your Petitioners, a property which was brought into being by, and which has for a period of upwards of thirty-three years been worked under, a special Act of the Legislature of Tasmania.

That your Petitioners in the construction of their undertaking and works, and for years subsequently, had many serious and great difficulties of all kinds to contend against, necessitating a very large outlay and a very great risk, both financial and otherwise, for which they have received a most inadequate return; and your Petitioners would desire to draw the attention of your Honorable Council to this very important consideration that up to the present time the annual profits for the carrying on of their operations have always been below the amount mentioned in and fixed by the very Act of the Legislature under which they have been working.

That your Petitioners unhesitatingly assert that the manner in which they have complied with and carried out the provisions of their Act, and the duties cast thereby upon your Petitioners, have ever given and do now give entire and complete satisfaction not only to the citizens of Hobart, but also to the inhabitants of the important and rising suburbs of Glebe Town, New Town, and Sandy Bay, to which, at very great cost and trouble, your Petitioners have extended their mains and pipes in order that gas may be supplied thereto.

Your Petitioners further desire to bring before your Honorable Council the fact that so far the profits for the gas supplied to the suburbs have not been nearly sufficient to pay for the laying down of the last-mentioned mains and pipes, and your Petitioners would respectfully urge that the said mains and pipes were put down and the cost thereof incurred in reliance upon the Act which the Legislature of Tasmania passed as above-mentioned, and with the hope and trust that your Petitioners would be allowed to carry on their works for many years, in order that such cost might be recompensed to them, and that a fair profit might result therefrom.

Your Petitioners, with a conscious pride, call the attention of your Honorable Council to the fact—a fact which is capable of being demonstrated—that the gas supplied to the citizens of Hobart and the inhabitants of the suburbs of New Town and Sandy Bay is of a higher standard of purity and illuminating power than that supplied to Melbourne, the metropolis of the Southern Hemisphere, and that the prices charged by your Petitioners will compare most favourably with those charged in any city of Australasia similarly situated and of equal extent.

Your Petitioners have in their possession, and are prepared to lay on the Table of your Honorable Council, copies of the six latest Acts passed by the Imperial Legislature of Great Britain and Ireland, giving to six different Corporations the powers asked for to ratify agreements previously entered into between the several Corporations and the Gas Companies; and they affirm that, according to the rules and regulations of the said Imperial Parliament, and the precedents afforded thereby, this antecedent agreement to purchase on the part of the Corporation is an absolute requirement before such a Bill would be entertained by Parliament.

Your Petitioners pray that your Honorable Council will not pass the Bill now before you, as it is contrary to the precedents recognised by the Imperial Parliament, and that the same, if passed, would inflict on your Petitioners an irreparable wrong.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

GEO. CRISP,
CHAS. E. WALCH, } *Directors.*

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.