

(No. 81.)



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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

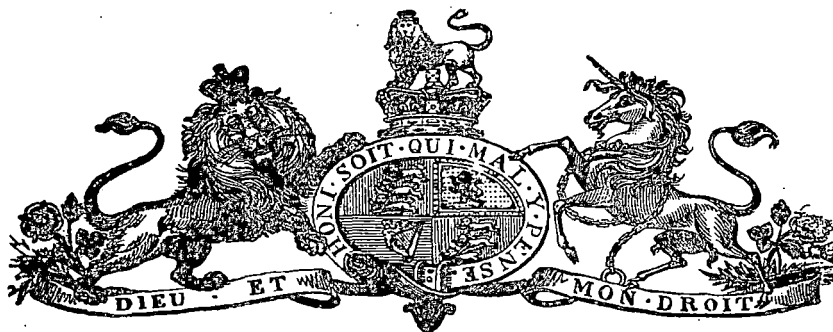
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TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

PETITIONS IN FAVOUR OF.

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Presented by Messrs. Lette and Fitzgerald, July 21, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, Wednesday, August 3, 1887.



[Presented by Mr. Lette.]

*To the Honorable the Speaker and the Members of the House  
of Assembly of Tasmania.*

The humble Petition of the Artisans and Tradesmen of Tasmania,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That we desire to see the formation of Technical Schools in Hobart and Launceston.

We beg to draw your attention to the fact that no country can attain prosperity, or even exist as a country, unless it possesses artisans and skilled workmen able to compete with and hold their own in their various trades in fair competition with craftsmen of other States. This fact has been widely recognised in the Mother Country, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Holland, and even in so small a community as Switzerland, where good Technical Schools exist.

In New South Wales and Victoria the necessity for such establishments has been recognised, and not only Technical, but Trade Schools, have been established.

In Tasmania the few manufactories we possess are in a languishing state, owing mainly to the want of any provision for the education of the skilled working class.

Ample provision has been made for the education of the upper and middle classes, and scholarships granted for their benefit.

It is true a very clever son of an artisan may occasionally win such scholarships, but he is too heavily weighed in the race against those whose ample means give them the opportunity of buying the services of the best teachers, and, therefore, very few of the artisan class have been successful, and those few who have succeeded, finding themselves in a false position here, have emigrated to other colonies, and their services have been lost to the Colony. We draw your attention to the fact that the education demanded for the scholarships is by no means acceptable to or fitted for artisans, as, a scholarship being won, it leaves only such professions as law, medicine, and such like branches of study open. We therefore pray that Technical Schools be established, suitable to and fitted for Tasmania's needs only, so that our best intellects be retained in this Colony.

We, your humble Petitioners, think that, had we the opportunity of study in the various technical branches, we could hold our own against other craftsmen, and obviate the necessity of importing strangers upon testimonial recommendations only.

And we desire to impress upon you the fact that a Tasmanian has as much patriotism and love of his country as other men, and that therefore a Tasmanian would more faithfully and energetically serve his own country than an imported stranger.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that their Petition for an education more suited to their needs—viz., Technical education,—may be taken into your favourable consideration.

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

[Here follow 32 signatures.]

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[Presented by Mr. G. Fitzgerald.]

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Hobart,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That we desire to see the formation of Technical Schools in Hobart and Launceston, as no country can attain prosperity unless it possesses artisans and skilled workmen able to compete with and hold their own in their various trades in fair competition with craftsmen of other States. Owing to far-seeing statesmanship, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Holland, and Belgium, as also so small a community as Switzerland, have for many years possessed most excellent Technical Schools, supplemented by Trade Schools, and, from this cause, have been not only able to compete with British manufactures, but in many cases drive them out of the market. The Mother Country has recognized this fact, and is now energetically establishing Technical Schools.

That in New South Wales and Victoria the absolute necessity for such Schools is recognized, and not only Technical, but Trade Schools, have been established.

That in Tasmania, though it has abundance of raw material, few manufactures exist. They are in a languishing condition, owing mainly to the want of any provision for the education of a skilled artisan class.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to give its assent to any Bill that may be introduced into Parliament to provide for the founding of Technical Schools as above set forth.

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

[Here follow 124 signatures.]

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[Presented by Mr. Lette.]

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Artisans and Tradesmen of Tasmania,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That we desire to see the formation of Technical Schools in Hobart and Launceston, as no country can attain prosperity unless it possesses artisans and skilled workmen able to compete with and hold their own in their various trades in fair competition with craftsmen of other States. This fact has been widely recognised in the Mother Country, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Holland, and even in so small a community as Switzerland, where good Technical Schools exist.

That in New South Wales and Victoria the necessity for such institutions has been recognised, and not only Technical, but Trade Schools, have been established.

That in Tasmania the few manufactures are in a languishing state, owing in a great measure to the want of any provision for the education of a skilled artisan class.

Your Petitioners thereof humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to give its assent to any Bill that may be introduced into Parliament to provide for the founding of Technical Schools as above set forth.

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

[Here follow 150 signatures.]