

(No. 39.)



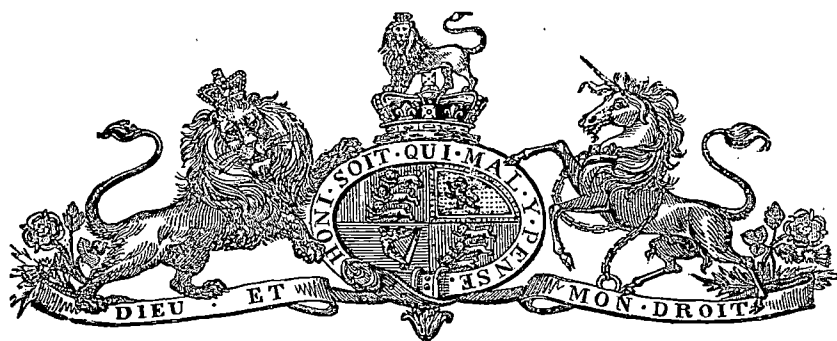
1856.

TASMANIA.

PETITION.

PROPOSED CUSTOMS' DUTIES.

Presented by Mr. Dunn, and ordered by the House to be printed, 16 January, 1857.



To the Honourable the House of Assembly of Tasmania in Council assembled.

The humble Petition of William Carter, Merchant, of the City of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner is induced to approach your Honourable House in consequence of the proposed Tariff, as published in the Government *Gazette* of the 10th instant.

That your Petitioner most earnestly hopes that the same may not become the Law, upon the grounds that it will, if passed, press most heavily, and your Petitioner thinks most distressingly, and most unjustly, upon the working, trading, and poorer classes of the community.

That your Petitioner has given his best consideration to each of the items contained in the said Tariff, as well as to the effect each will have upon the various ranks of persons ; and hesitates not to assert that, instead of attaching to the wealthier classes of the community a greater share to the contributions to the Public Revenue than they have hitherto borne, it will have a *contrary effect*.

That your Petitioner ventures to submit, for the information of your Honourable House, the statements attached to and forming part of his Petition, by which your Petitioner makes it appear that the labouring man earning only 30s. per week pays, through the Tariff, to the general Revenue the sum of £8 3s. 4d. per cent., whilst the wealthy man, enjoying an income of £1500 a year, pays, through the same channel, only 12s. 9d. per cent.

That your Petitioner, in Statement No. 1, has divided the articles subject to duty under three heads;—

- 1st. Those taxed for manufacturing purposes,—molasses, malt, and hops.
- 2nd. Those consumed by the wealthier classes, such as spirits, wines, cigars, tea, coffee, refined sugars, rice, fruits, and bottled beer.
- 3rd. Those consumed by the working and lower classes, viz., spirits, tobacco, tea, sugar, and beer.

That the sums of £2900 is produced by articles used for manufacture,—£38,292 for articles consumed by the wealthier classes,—£121,830 for articles consumed by the working and lower classes.

That by Statement No. 2 your Honourable House will perceive that a man whose income is £75 per annum, pays to the public Revenue £8 3s. 4d. per cent. ; a man earning £100 per annum will pay £6 2s. 6d. per cent. ; £150, ditto £4 1s. 2d. per cent. ; £200, ditto £3 1s. 3d. per cent.

That by Statement No. 3 your Honourable House will perceive that a gentleman enjoying an income of £600 per annum will only pay £1 11s. 9d. per cent. ; £800 ditto £1 3s. 10d. per cent. ; £1000, ditto 19s. per cent. ; £1200, ditto 15s. 11d. per cent. ; £1500, ditto 12s. 9d. per cent.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honourable House will be pleased to take his Petition into its consideration, and so alter the proposed law, that it may in verity equalise the duties, by making the wealthier classes pay more, and the working and poorer classes less, than they have hitherto done towards the public Revenues.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WM. CARTER.

Hobart Town, 16th January, 1857.

No. 1.

A STATEMENT classifying the Duties upon Articles included in the Tariff under Three Heads.

	For Manufacturing Purposes.			Consumed by the Wealthier Classes.			Consumed by the Working Classes.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Spirits .....	..	..	..	10,000	0	0	68,000	0	0
Wines in wood and bottles.....	..	..	..	9100	0	0			
Tobacco .....	..	..	..				26,250	0	0
Cigars .....	..	..	..	3750	0	0			
Tea .....	..	..	..	6250	0	0	6250	0	0
Refined Sugars .....	..	..	..	1400	0	0			
Other Sugars .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,000	0	0
Molasses	150	0	0	..	..	..
Coffee .....	..	..	..	3125	0	0			
Dried Fruits .....	..	..	..	1567	0	0			
Hops	1250	0	0	..	..	..
Malt.....	1500	0	0	..	..	..
Beer in wood .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	3330	0	0
Ditto in bottles .....	..	..	..	2600	0	0			
Rice .....	..	..	..	500	0	0			
	£	2900	0 0	38,292	0 0		121,830	0 0	

Articles consumed by the Working Classes pay Duty	£	121,830	0 0
Ditto by the Wealthier Classes.....	38,292	0 0	
Ditto for Manufacture	2900	0 0	

No. 2.

A STATEMENT showing the Pressure of the New Tariff Duties upon the Working Classes, or Persons earning from £75 to £200 a Year.

Say each person consumes weekly—	s.	d.	
2 lbs. raw Sugar, the duty upon which is	0	1½	
¼ lb. Tea.....	0	1½	
¼ lb. Tobacco.....	0	7½	
1 pint Spirits	1	6	
Total weekly.....	2	4½	
Equal to £6 2s. 6d. per year: being upon the earnings of			
£	£	s.	d.
75 per annum.....	8	3	4 per cent.
100 ditto	6	2	6 ditto.
150 ditto	4	1	2 ditto.
200 ditto	3	1	3 ditto.

No. 3.

A STATEMENT showing the Operation of the New Tariff Duties upon the Wealthier Classes: Persons enjoying Incomes from £600 to £1500 per Annum.

Say each person consumes weekly—			
2 lbs. refined Sugar, the duty on which is	0	2	
¼ lb. Tea.....	0	1½	
2 oz. Cigars	0	7½	
1 quart Wine	0	9	
1 dozen Beer	2	0	
Total weekly.....	3	8	
Equal to £9 10s. 8d. per year: being upon an income of			
£	£	s.	d.
600 per annum	1	11	9 per cent.
800 ditto	1	3	10 ditto.
1000 ditto	0	19	0 ditto.
1200 ditto	0	15	11 ditto.
1500 ditto	0	12	9 ditto.