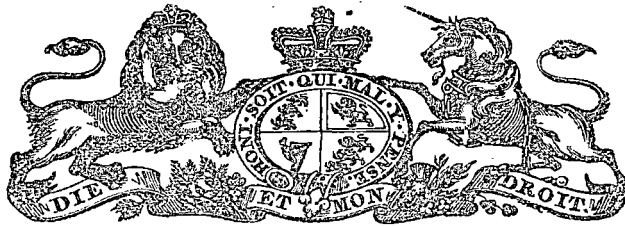


(No. 56.)



1868.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CUSTOMS AND STAMP DUTIES.

PETITIONS.

1. From Mr. W. Hart.
 2. From Chamber of Commerce, Launceston.
-

Presented by Mr. Sherwin, August 26 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 27, 1868.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Launceston in Public Meeting assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT they are of opinion that any attempt to augment the Revenue by means of increased Customs and Stamp Duties as proposed must be highly prejudicial to the Commercial interests of the Country.

That the Trading and Working Classes do already bear more than their fair share of the burden of Taxation through the existing Package Duties ; and that the proposed increase in those Duties will fall principally upon them, and will, therefore, be most oppressive and unjust.

That we believe there are other modes of Taxation that would bear more equally, and in no way affect the Commerce of the Colony ; but we are of opinion that the present Revenue is sufficient to cover all necessary expenditure, and that the Ministry, having taken office distinctly pledged to retrenchment, is called upon to bring the expenditure of the Colony within its Revenue.

We therefore pray that your Honorable House will withhold its sanction to the proposed alteration of the Tariff.

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

WILLIAM HART, *Chairman.*

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council 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.