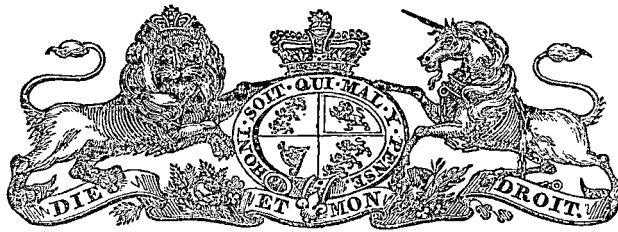


(No. 58.)



1856.

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T A S M A N I A.

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N E W S L A U G H T E R - H O U S E S.

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Presented by Mr. Nutt, and ordered by the House to be printed, 27 February, 1857.



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

The Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are Butchers, resident and carrying on their trade in the City of Hobart Town.

That your Petitioners' interests being seriously affected by the proposed measures for confining the slaughtering of Cattle to the Slaughter-house now in course of erection near the termination of the Creek, they have examined that building, and are compelled respectfully to represent to your Honourable House that the accommodations provided by it are totally inadequate to the requirements of the body of the trade; and not only so, but the deficiencies are such as to militate as much against the interests of the public at large as those of the body whom your Petitioners represent: and this will appear from the following reasons:—

1st. The number of Licences to slaughter Cattle granted in the present year are 59: of that number at least one-third are held by Carcase Butchers who kill for the trade, and who would each require a separate and private Slaughter-house with its usual accessories. There are only 10 such provided by the building now in progress; and it follows, therefore, that about one half of the trade would have no accommodation, whence a monopoly injurious to the public and to the trade must necessarily ensue.

2nd. The separate Slaughter-houses now in course of provision are not more than half the size necessary to a Butcher carrying on an average business. The wildness of the cattle renders space indispensable for the safety of the men employed,—besides which, all animals slaughtered on one day have to remain until the next. The space allotted for yard-room is only one-fourth of what is required, it being impossible to yard bullocks, sheep, calves, lambs, and pigs together; and, inasmuch as the market is almost entirely dependent upon imports, and the supplies are uncertain, large stocks are often required to be kept on hand, which renders room still more necessary.

3rd. The ventilation provided will be almost totally insufficient, there being none direct from the sea; and the air obtained from the sides being not only deficient in quantity, but certain to be contaminated by the odours arising from the cattle packed in the sheds immediately adjoining, which cannot but have an injurious effect upon the meat.

4th. The situation is highly objectionable, inasmuch as it must at certain periods of the year, (being lower than the adjoining ground, and almost all what is termed "made ground,") be exceedingly wet and damp, being most injurious to both living and dead animals intended for human food.

Your Petitioners confidently assert that if the present arrangements are carried out, many thousands of pounds' worth of meat will be destroyed, and consequently great loss be sustained not only by them, but by the Colony at large.

That your Petitioners submit to your Honourable House that, failing the supply of the required accommodation at the new building, facilities may be given to such of the trade as may require them, either by licence or otherwise, to kill their cattle out of the city, by which a less number of Slaughter-houses would be required, and great injury to your Petitioners prevented.

That your Petitioners have in all cases incurred expense, and some to a large extent, in providing the necessary accommodation in their respective premises for slaughtering

cattle; and, should they be compelled to give up the use of these, they would respectfully submit that they will be entitled to compensation for the loss that must accrue from their present facilities of trade being taken away without others being supplied in their stead, such compensation being ascertained and awarded by arbitration in the usual way.

That your Petitioners respectfully pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to refer the allegations herein to a Select Committee of your Honourable House, to examine, hear evidence on, and report thereon; that the works at the new Slaughter-houses may be suspended in the interim; and that such relief may be afforded to your Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House may in its wisdom think fit.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

*Signed for the Master Butchers of the City, by their request, at a Meeting held at the  
Bird-in-hand, Argyle-street,*

SAMUEL LORING, *Butcher,*  
35, Campbell-street, Hobart Town, Tasmania.

Ordered to be printed, 27 February, 1857.