

(No. 66.)



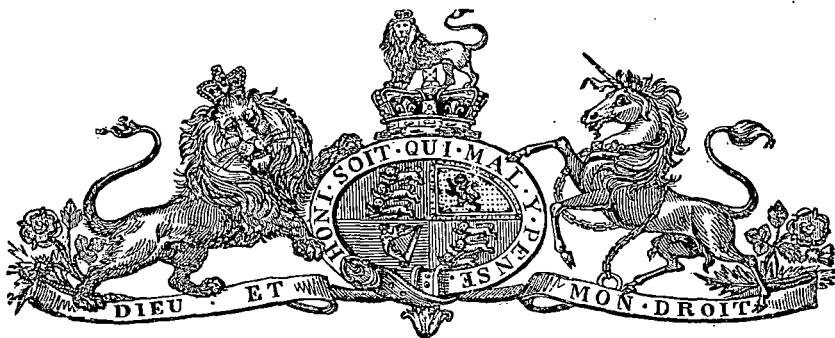
1856.

T A S M A N I A .

P E T I T I O N

O F C E R T A I N B U T C H E R S .

Presented by Mr. Allison, and ordered by the House to be printed, 3 April, 1857.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Council assembled.

The Memorial of the undersigned Butchers of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY beg to lay before your Honourable House copies of certain letters and documents, herewith annexed, for the purpose of receiving redress in certain grievances between the Commissariat and the public at large.

1. A Letter to A. C. G. Owen, with computed scale of Tenders, showing a loss to the Government between our Tenders and Messrs. Brown & Son, the parties selected to supply the Contract.
2. A. C. G. Owen's reply thereto, where he declines to state his reasons for deviating from the general rule of accepting Tenders.
3. A Memorial to His Excellency the Governor, with copies Nos. 1 and 2 annexed, to which no reply has been given, although the same has been submitted since the 13th instant.

That your Memorialists, in laying before your Honourable House their grievances, respectfully request that an inquiry may be instituted, when it will be seen by a schedule of the Tenders that, in most cases, the lowest Tenders have been heretofore accepted according to custom; but in this instance it appears more like a private arrangement than a public Tender.

Your Memorialists feel that they have not been fairly dealt with; and feel it to be a delusion to the public, as well as to your Memorialists, that Tenders shall be called for and the lowest not selected, when the party tendering is an efficient party to carry out the contract,—and that each or any of your Memorialists are competent to do so.

That your Memorialists, in conclusion, would respectfully submit that Mr. Thomas Stump ought to be the legal Contractor for the ensuing twelve months, commencing from the 1st April, 1857, and ending on the 31st March, 1858.

That your Memorialists pray that your Honourable House will adopt their prayer, that justice may be done; and any abuse or waste of the public money existing may be dealt with in its proper manner.

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

THOS STUMP.
SAMUEL LORING.
STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & CO.

No. 1.

Sir,

Hobart Town, 5th March, 1857.

WE, the undersigned Butchers of Hobart Town, who have had Contracts with the Government for several years past, and having again tendered to supply the Military and Convict Services at Hobart Town as per advertisement calling for Tenders in the Hobart Town Newspaper, respectfully submit for your consideration the following rates of our Tenders, they being lower than Brown & Son, the persons selected to supply the Contracts; and that it has been the custom on the part of the Government to accept the lowest Tender if the party tendering was responsible, with efficient persons as security to enter into the bond executed for its due performance with the Officer for that purpose on the part of the Government, and believing such to be fully so on our part.

We very respectfully request that we may be informed the particulars for such preference being given to Brown & Son, who have never been contractors for meat in Hobart Town, showing as per annexed scale of computations.

S. OWEN, *Esq.*, *Assistant-Commissary-General.*

SCALE of PRICES TENDERED, showing Loss to the Government as per January Returns.

MR. T. STUMP.		MESSRS. BROWN & SON.		<i>Difference or Loss.</i>
	£ s. d.			
Military, 14,823½ lbs., at 4d.		Military.. 14,823½ lbs.		
per lb.	247 1 2	Convict .. 16,872½ lbs.		
Convict, 16,872½ lbs., at 2½d.		<i>Total.. 31,696 lbs., at</i>		
per lb.	206 10 3	4d. per lb.	£528 5 4	
<i>Total.....</i>	<u>£453 11 5</u>			£74 13 11 per month.
MR. S. LORING.				
Military, 14,823½ lbs., at 4d.				
per lb.	247 1 2			
Convict, 16,872½ lbs., at 3½d.				
per lb.	224 1 9			
<i>Total.....</i>	<u>£471 2 11</u>			£57 2 5
MESSRS. STANFIELD & Co.				
Military, 14,823½ lbs., at 4d.				
per lb.	247 1 2			
Convict, 16,872½ lbs., at 3½d.				
per lb.	263 12 8			
<i>Total.....</i>	<u>£510 13 10</u>			£17 11 6

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

THOMAS STUMP.

SAMUEL LORING.

STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & CO.

No. 2.

Commissariat, Tasmania, Hobart Town, 6th March, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,

IN reference to your letter of the 5th instant, although I cannot admit the *right* of any party tendering to be informed of the reasons which induced me to recommend the acceptance or otherwise of any Tender, I think proper to state, as a matter of courtesy, in answer to your representations, that it has been my desire in the selection of Contractors to make what appeared to be on the whole the best arrangement for the interests of the Government, without reference to any other considerations.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN OWEN, *A. C. G.*

P.S.—I beg that the present communication may be understood to close the correspondence on the part of the Commissariat.—S. O.

Messrs. STUMP, LORING, and STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & Co.

No. 3.

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, Knt., Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania.

THE Memorial of the undersigned Butchers of Hobart Town, who have had Contracts with the Government for several years past, respectfully submit for your perusal and consideration the copy of a letter and scale annexed, forwarded to Assistant-Commissary-General Owen, and his reply thereto, respecting our Tenders to supply Fresh Meat to the Military and Convict Services, our prices being lower than the persons selected to supply the Contracts; viz.—Brown & Son, Liverpool-street.

That Your Excellency will find upon reference to the Commissariat that our Tenders were put into that office in due time, as called for in the Hobart Town newspaper, signed by us and our sureties for the performance from the 1st April, 1857, to 31st March, 1858.

That Your Excellency, upon enquiry, will find that it has been the custom hitherto by the Commissariat to accept the lowest Tender, provided the person tendering was an efficient party to carry out the Contract.

That your Memorialists respectfully submit that they are so, and that they have not been fairly dealt with; and pray that Your Excellency will be pleased, as the representative of Her Majesty for this Colony, to institute an enquiry, that justice may be done to your Memorialists in this matter, thereby re-establishing that system which has hitherto always been the practice between parties tendering and with the Government in accepting the lowest tender from responsible parties. The present system for the ensuing year appears to your Memorialists more like a private arrangement than a public tender.

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

THOMAS STUMP.
SAMUEL LORING.
STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & CO.

Hobart Town, 13th March, 1857.

Hobart Town, 6th March, 1857.

SIR,

WE deem it our duty to bring under your notice, for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Governor, the recent proceedings of the Commissariat Department in connection with the Annual Contracts for Fresh Meat for the Military and Convict Services, in which we feel that we have been unfairly treated, and the interests in the Public Service prejudicially abandoned.

Our Tender, under the published Conditions, for the supply of the Military was 4*d.* per lb., and for the Convict Service 3½*d.* per lb. These offers having been rejected, while at the same time the offer of Messrs. Brown and Sons for both these Departments have been received at 4*d.* per lb.; thereby a loss of about £40 per month to the Public Service has been unwarrantably created.

We have had an interview with Assistant Commissary Owen on the subject; and the only grounds given for the unfair preference was that Messrs. Brown and Sons had given a guarantee that their Tender was for twelve months certain.

These grounds we respectfully submit are totally untenable; for if such a guarantee was given, either with the Tender or subsequently, such a proceeding was not in accordance, but entirely subversive of the published Conditions; and if after the opening of the Tenders it was at all thought to be necessary, it was certainly due to those whose offers were below Messrs. Brown and Sons that they should have been made acquainted that such extra Condition was requisite.

(No. 66.)

6

We therefore request that His Excellency will direct an enquiry to be made into the recent proceedings of the Commissariat Department in this matter; and that steps may be taken to secure justice to the Public Service, and fairness to those persons who may be induced to submit Tenders.

We have the honor to be,
Your most obedient humble Servants,

STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & CO.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 17th March, 1857.

THE Colonial Secretary has to acknowledge the receipt of Messieurs Stanfield, Luckman, and Company's Letter of the 6th instant, in which they complain of the non-acceptance by the Commissariat Department of their Tender to supply Fresh Meat for the Military and Convict Services; and to inform them in reply, that, after fully enquiring into the circumstances, the Governor, on due consideration, declines to interfere.

T. G. GREGSON.

Messieurs STANFIELD, LUCKMAN, & Co., Hobart Town.

Ordered to be printed, 3 April, 1857.