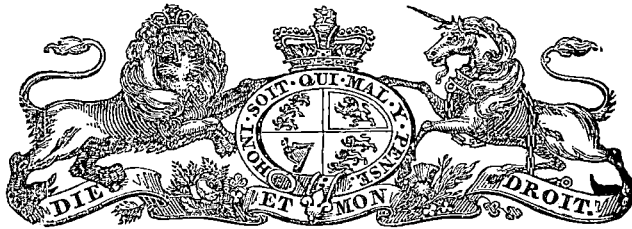


(No. 55.)



1895.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY:

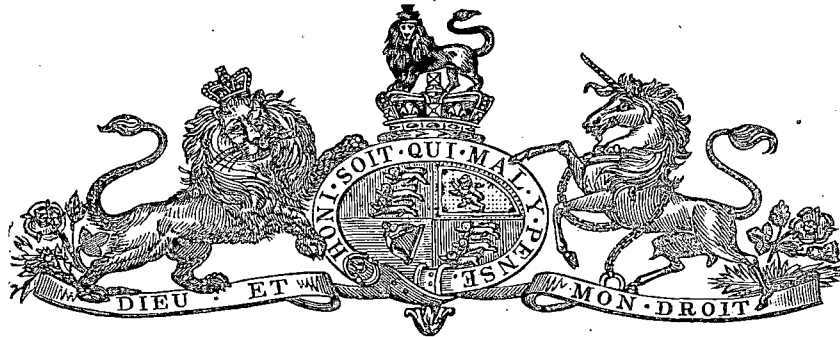
PETITION FROM STUDENTS.

*(Mr. Rooke, August 13, 1895.)*

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Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.

Cost of printing—17s.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Students of the University of Tasmania,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

1. That the University of Tasmania was established in 1890 as an examining body, and in 1893 became a teaching body, giving instruction in (1) Mathematics and Physical Science, (2) History, Political Science and Law, and (3) Classics and English Literature.

2. That some such centre of instruction is necessary to enable the youth of Tasmania to compete on equal terms with the youth of other countries. Nearly all positions in Tasmania requiring to be filled by specially qualified men have hitherto been filled by other than Tasmanians, for the sole reason that, with a few isolated exceptions, it has been impossible for Tasmanians to obtain the necessary qualifications. The University will in course of time obviate this necessity for having recourse to outsiders, by enabling Tasmanians to obtain in their native land educational advantages formerly open only to those whose means permitted a course of university study elsewhere.

3. That the maintenance of the University by State aid is the only way in which higher education can be provided for Tasmania. All the Australian Universities have been founded and maintained with assistance from the State, and, though some of them have been liberally endowed by private individuals, such endowments were not made until the Universities so endowed had been in existence long enough to give reasonable hope that they would be permanent institutions.

4. That, as a young and growing institution, the University of Tasmania can compare favourably with her sisters of Melbourne and of Sydney. Although supported by a population more than four times that of Tasmania, the two latter Universities, after having been established for the same period as that during which the Tasmanian University has existed, had each a considerably smaller number of students than are now attending the lectures of the University of Tasmania.

5. That there are at present 28 students (matriculated) at the University, and of these a considerable number will in all probability take their degrees within the next 18 months. There are also at the various Grammar Schools of the Colony a large number of youths preparing with the express intention of studying at the University and qualifying for its degrees. Moreover, the Lecturers, through the medium of Extension Lectures, afford to the general public means of obtaining instruction in branches of knowledge access to which would otherwise be practically closed to them for want of assistance.

6. That the present sum granted by the State in aid of the University is only about £150 more than the endowment which was received by the Council of Education for nearly 40 years.

7. That the Council of Education out of their endowment gave no instruction at all, but simply furnished once every year the means for undergoing a course of study at a British University for two students only, and in most instances the students fortunate enough to obtain the Scholarships given by the Council did not return to their mother colony, and the money expended by the State for their benefit was, as far as the State was concerned, practically wasted. The University, on the other hand, with an increase in endowment of merely £150, has, after an existence of less than five

years, the services of three highly qualified resident Lecturers, by whom instruction is given in the subjects above set forth to an annually increasing number of students, the majority of whom, after the completion of their University course, will remain in the Colony, and thus become a potent factor in the dissemination of knowledge throughout the community.

8. That, in the event of the abolition of the University as a *teaching* body, both the tone and prestige of the University itself, and that conferred by its degrees, will be irretrievably shattered; a marked injustice will be done to the students who have entered upon a long course of study; the value of the degrees commercially will be nil; the students in consequence will, one by one, drop off, and the University become a mere name, a mere incubus upon the country, and not the benefit to the community which it now promises to be if left undisturbed.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will take such steps as may seem necessary for the continuance of the University in its present state.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[*Here follow 30 Signatures.*]